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WAGGA SCHOOL OF ARTS
RIVERINA OPERA & LIGHT OPERA COMPANY
PRESENTS GILBERT & SULLIVAN'S

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

Directed by Leigh Ladd - Musical Director Nicky Rosengren



IN CONJUNCTION WITH RIVERINA CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC

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WAGGA WAGGA



The Daily Advertiser



**NEXT PRODUCTION FOR THE
WAGGA SCHOOL OF ARTS**

RIVERINA WATER TEN X 10 PLAY FEST

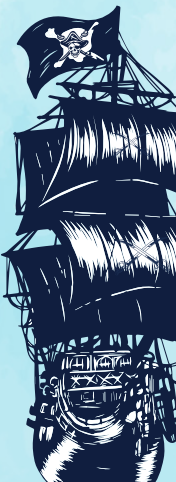
**INTRIGUE &
INSPIRATION**

JUNE 23,24,25 RIVERINA PLAYHOUSE



SPECIAL THANKS

Mayor of Wagga Wagga - Dallas Tout
Wagga Civic Theatre - Isobel McCallam
Tracey Simond, Sally Douglas, Russell Stewart.
Freeroam Theatre Company
Harrisons Joinery
CSU Riverina Playhouse - Andrew Harris
CSU Riverina Conservatorium of Music - Hamish Tait





DIRECTOR'S NOTES- LEIGH LADD

Directing the classic Gilbert and Sullivan Opera, *"Pirates of Penzance"* is a somewhat daunting prospect in comparison with most stage undertakings. It is the first undertaking of the Riverina Opera and Light Opera Company (ROLOC) and we hope it won't be the last! Second, it is an opera and not a musical. This requires a pure classical treatment of its music which is more demanding on its large cast than for normal musicals. Third, so many people know this by heart that there's no room for error! Fourth, it has been directed more times than many of us have had hot dinners. It is impossible to come up with something new that is both meaningful and does not depart from the central purpose of Gilbert's work, namely satirising a political and social system that still largely exhibits the self-same faults as when the work was written in 1879.

No doubt some things are different, perhaps most importantly the way society sees the roles of men and women in respect of each other. Hopefully no audience member will be offended at the idea of arbitrarily marrying the women against their wills, but will overlook this as a product of its time. After all, true pirates do far worse things without respect of woman or man alike, now as then. But the plot's idea is ageless, that the stupidity of "the system" and the reckless abandonment of youth can teach us about ourselves while we laugh and have a great deal of fun. After all, in Gilbert's words, "He who'd make his fellow creatures wise must always gild the philosophic pill!" I have therefore determined to stay as true as possible to the master craftsmanship of the pens of both William Schwenck Gilbert and Sir Arthur Seymour Sullivan, whose works not only defined English light opera, but as their own genre, *"Savoy Operas"*. I hope you enjoy the fabulous offering of the work of the many people involved: a wonderful cast, the Wagga School of Arts, (and in an agreement with the Riverina Conservatorium of Music) as well as Wagga Civic Theatre, our many helpers and of course, sponsors. It has been hard work for all of us, but I hope you find it well worth the while.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Born in Brisbane and weaned on the music of Gilbert and Sullivan, Leigh first learned piano and later was trained in singing under the Royal School of Church Music. With a clinical degree he moved to Sydney as a clinical teacher but side-stepped into medical research. During PhD studies in medicine, he also commenced his theatre involvement. In the next 10 years he was a principal in around 30 opera and light opera offerings (some semi-professional) as well as working in other capacities in almost 50 shows, a few times director. He moved to Wagga to set up hospitals and teaching in anaesthesia and critical care for the Charles Sturt University Vet School and first performed with School of Arts in a Chekov play, (nominated for best actor in Canberra area theatre "CAT" award). While in Wagga, he completed his AMusA training in classical voice largely through the Riverina Conservatorium of Music. You may also have seen him as Fagin in *"Oliver"* at the Civic theatre.



MUSICAL DIRECTOR'S NOTES- NICKY ROSENGREN

Welcome to our production of *"Pirates of Penzance"*. This is my fourth Gilbert and Sullivan show, have previously done *The Mikado* (twice) and *The Gondoliers*, although it has been a long time between drinks!

I have always loved the music and humour of G and S shows, and have thoroughly enjoyed *Pirates* it has been a lot of fun.. We have been fortunate to have assembled a lot of beautiful voices. My thanks go to all the cast for their very hard work at rehearsals. Thanks and much appreciation to Katherine Choi and Larissa Burak, for their help in their roles as Mistresses of the Chorus.

Thanks also to Tamara Spencer from the Riverina Conservatorium of Music for her help and guidance with the orchestra, and of course a big thank you to all the players in the orchestra for their time and effort.

Katherine and Larissa teach at the Conservatorium, and our orchestra is the Riverina Youth Orchestra, so we have been very fortunate to have them give us such support. More thanks goes to Leigh Ladd, the Director, for his vision and direction of the show, and all the volunteers of the Wagga School of Arts. Enjoy the show!



CHOREOGRAPHER NOTES- JULIAN SMITH

I have been involved with Wagga School of Arts since 1975 and have worn many hats of that time. Remembered as the male lead of the Inland Ballet Company and currently running the Wagga Fencing Club it seem that I was a good choice as choreographer for this production.

Again the chance to wear many hats, as Stage Manager, Choreographer, Production assistant are now in my purview. The chance to work with Leigh Ladd has been a true delight. His knowledge and vision have been inspiring and allowed a good working relationship. A great Comic Opera, excellent music, songs and voices give us a great production.



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CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE PRESIDENT - BOB HITCHENS

From its inception in 2012, the launching of ROLOC's inaugural production is a fitting tribute to the history of the Wagga School of Arts and its involvement in the 60th anniversary of the Civic Theatre's opening.

Congratulations to the Directors, Cast, Musicians and Crew. A huge thank you to Wagga City Council for their support in making this a landmark event.

CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Samuel
The Pirate King
Frederic

Ruth

Kate

Edith

Isobel

Mabel

Major-General Stanley

Sergeant of Police

Max Schneider

David Gilbey

Iain Wright

Cassandra Nicholson

Jenna Downey

Erin Brown

Fi Ziff

Lynette Hogan

Alasdair Billingham

Tom Middlemost



OUR THANKS TO UNDERSTUDIES:

Mabel

Pirate King

Sergeant of Police

Kate/Edith

Jenna Downey

Kevin Foley

Laurie Thiele

Rosemary Vella

CHORUS

Pirates, Police, Major-General Stanley's Daughters

Netty Aylward, Margaret Davies, Katherine Choi, Lynden Clark, Catherine Dawson, Tracey Lonergan, Donna McLean, Kristil - Rae Mobbs, Rosemary Vella, Leia Thiele, Richard Carroll, Peter Crozier, Kevin Foley, Peter Lonsdale, George Martin, Laurie Thiele, Michael Trinidad, Balin Willis, Colin Rush.



PRODUCTION TEAM

Director
Musical Director, Conductor & Repetiteur
Production Manager
Chorus Mistresses

Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Choreographer
Weaponry Props Maker
Props

Costumes
Lighting Design
Set Design
Lighting Operator
Sound Operator
Mic Jockey
Make up and Hair

Set Construction
Marketing Design and Planning
Follow Spot Operators

Leigh Ladd
Nicky Rosengren
Fay Walters
Larissa Burak
Katherine Choi
Julian Smith
Siobhan Scott-Neilson
Julian Smith
Chris Roe
Margaret Bannister
Pam Buchanan
Damian Triulcio
Lee Kennedy
Leigh Ladd
Leigh Ladd
Nathan Pippin
Deri Hadler
Antonella Salvestro
Cat May
Imogen Hadler
Chris Kanck
Fay Walters
Urzy Hadler
Damian Dawson

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CAST BIOGRAPHIES



Lynette is a singing and piano teacher and choral director. She is currently having a blast with "UNISONG", a women's choir. She graduated from UNSW with a Bachelor of Music (Performance, Hons 1), has an Associate of Music (AMusA) in Classical Voice and a Master of Teaching (Primary) from UNE. Some of Lynette's performance highlights locally are as Mrs Banks in 'Mary Poppins' (Bidgee Productions), Mrs Corney in "Oliver!" (Wagga Civic Theatre), "I Love A Piano" - a revue (Wagga School of Arts), Christine in "Phantom of the Opera" (Life in the Spotlight) and soprano soloist for the Cantilena Singer's Opera Choruses Concert.



Iain is a professional stage and screen actor that has been a mainstay in Wagga Theatre for the past decade and a half, working with Wagga School of Arts on hits like "Hair", "Love Bites", and "Sherlock Holmes"; as well as productions of Dublin by Lamplight, Fame, and "Mamma Mia". He is a self-taught dancer and singer (with heavy reliance on the amazing choreographers and musical directors that make up Wagga's community) and has worked on productions across NSW in every position from roadie, lighting design, sound engineer, and director as well as everything in between. This is Iain's first G&S and is honoured to play Young Frederick. He thanks his found family and friends of Wagga for their support the past months of production and welcome his family and friends visiting from across the state. Finally Iain thanks his ever suffering husband, Jono Wright, for his eternal support and love.



"Pirates of Penzance" marks Erin's 7th show for the School of Arts, after her 2019 debut in "The 20s and All That Jazz", leading through to her most recent outing this February in "The 60s Singing Sensations." Outside Wagga School of Arts, she is a postgrad student, and a regular writer, musician and performer on the Wagga Arts scene, including recent turns in The Green Beetle Company's "Thief of Stars" (2020) and "The Alchemist's Jar" (2023). She looks forward to a G&T when she gets home, and a long-awaited nap sometime around October 2025.



Jenna is a born and bred Wagga Wagga local, who has previously performed in several local productions including SMRF's Life in the Spotlight and Wagga School of Arts "Cole". She first trained as a violinist, followed by 2 years of vocal training. Jenna is thrilled to have the opportunity to perform Kate in Gilbert and Sullivan's "Pirates of Penzance". She is thoroughly enjoying her first opera and is grateful to her family for their support.



David Gilbey has become a Pirate King after being banished, again, by the Charles Sturt University Empire, after more than forty years lecturing in many varieties of English. He co-founded Booranga Writers Centre (as Wagga Wagga Writers Writers, 1987) and has edited the annual anthology FourW: new writing for more than thirty years. David is a poet with three collections to his name, most recently "Pachinko Sunset" (2016). His theatrical credits include Rivcoll Drama's "West Side Story", Shakespeare's "As You Like It" (both directed by Colin Anderson) and "Equus"; Riverina Trucking Company's "John, Paul, George, Rings & Bert and Female Transport"; and Colin Anderson's "Anything Goes" Recently, after singing lessons with Larissa Burak at the Riverina Conservatorium, he has sung a range of solos around Wagga. He has always wanted to sing in a Gilbert & Sullivan production so this production of "Pirates of Penzance" is both his initiation into light opera and his biggest theatrical/musical role.

CAST BIO'S



Tarantara! Tarantara! Tarantara,! Tarantara!....The Sergeant of Police and his energetic, however octogenarian regiment is ra ra ra-ing their way into your hearts, which I assume is in your boots - performing their constabulary duties. Endeavouring to be the agents whereby our erring fellow creatures are deprived of that liberty which is so dear to us all. For a policeman's lot is not a happy one!



Alasdair commenced his theatrics at age 8 and hasn't stopped yet. He paid his way through university as a pit trumpeter in Melbourne's theatre scene then was forcibly elevated to the stage many years later in Sydney. This subtle approach worked for "Pirates" too with Wagga musical identities Tamara Spencer and Aaron Oldaker simultaneously suggesting that he make himself known to the production team. Alasdair's other musical activities in the District are with the Riverina Concert Band and the Junee Town Band. By day Major General Stanley inhabits his alter-ego, Major Alasdair Billingham who works at Kapooka.



Max Schneider is in year 9 at Mater Dei Catholic College. He has been singing with Meredith Adams for 5 years, and in more recent years has picked up piano and guitar to self accompany. He does drama classes with Louise Blackett, performing in many of her Children's Theatre Workshop plays, including "Pinocchio" and "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory". Music is a huge part of his life, in particular the genre of Musical Theatre. He performed in "Strictly Ballroom the Musical" with Bidgee Theatre Company in 2019, and last year had the lead role of Drew in his high school musical, "Rock of Ages." He is excited to be given the opportunity to perform on stage again in his first Comic Opera, as the youngest of the Pirates, playing the role of Samuel.



Cassandra is well known to the Wagga Stage and the role of Ruth offers her a great opportunity to work with one of the most popular Gilbert & Sullivan Comic Operas on the Wagga Civic Theatre Stage. Cassandra is well known for her musical theatre talents and she regularly takes part in Wagga Takes Two.



Fi Ziff is very excited to be in her first comic opera and working with such an experienced musical director. "Pirates of Penzance" has offered me a golden opportunity to further my singing and acting skills. ROLOC is making a footprint into the world of classical music and being a part of this inaugural production is an honour.

CHORUS HEADSHOTS



Lynden Clarke



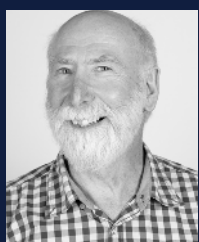
Balin Willis



Katherine Choi



Margaret Davies



George Martin



Kevin Foley



Kristil-Rae Mobbs



Tracey Lonergan



Rosemary Vella



Peter Lonsdale



Leia Thiele



Laurie Thiele



Colin Rush



Netty Aylward



Catherine Dawson



Michael Trinidad



Richard Carroll



Donna McLean



MEMBERS OF THE RIVERINA YOUTH ORCHESTRA

FLUTES

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Louise Baker
Sarah Scott
Grace Tynan
Peter Lothian

OBOE

Heidi Sarantakos

CLARINETS

Jenna Ladd
Maria Tynan

BASSOONS

Rachel Hall
Cade Lette

HORNS

Lucy Walsh
Josh Sarantakos (Bass clarinet)

TRUMPETS

Katherine Scott
Jack Julian

TROMBONES

Zac Stallsmith

PIANO/STRING REDUCTION

Kate Hodgson

DOUBLE BASS

Tom Oczkowski

PERCUSSION

Harold Gretton
Tamara Spencer

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Tamara Spencer
Kara Williams
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Harold Gretton





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