

Presenting

GILBERT & SULLIVAN'S

YEOMEN OF
THE GUARD



*The
Toronto Light Opera
Association*

Bloor Collegiate Institute

Nov. 24th and 25th, 1949

1949 FALL PRODUCTION

The
Toronto Light Opera Association



President Howard Mawson

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Fred Mawson

Stage Director:

Alfred Kidney

At the piano:

Winnifred Smith Stewart

Assistant Stage Director:

Margaret Jacob

* * *

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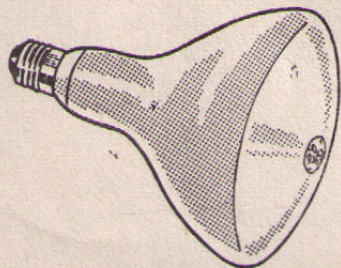
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The YEOMEN OF THE GUARD

OR

THE MERRYMAN AND HIS MAID

Date: 16th Century

Scene: The tower green of the Tower of London

ACT ONE

Colonel Fairfax is to be beheaded for sorcery on tower green. He is innocent, so Sergeant Meryll, a yeoman, his daughter Phoebe, and his son Leonard, plan to save him by having Fairfax shave off his beard and take Leonard's place in the Guards. Leonard has just been appointed to the Guards and as yet no one in the tower has seen him. In the meantime, Fairfax has asked Sir Richard Cholmondeley to find him a wife to leave his money to, in order to stop his kinsman Sir Clarence Polt-whistle, who is responsible for him being unjustly imprisoned, from inheriting the estate. The Lieutenant approaches Elsie Maynard, and after acquiring Jack Point's (a jester nearly engaged to Elsie) consent, takes her blindfolded and with her face covered to Fairfax's cell where Fairfax and Elsie are married. Phoebe in an aisle-rolling scene with Wilfred obtains Wilfred's keys, and Sergeant Meryll releases him. His escape is discovered when the Lieutenant sends Fairfax in the guise of Leonard to bring the prisoner to be beheaded. The Lieutenant offers a thousand marks reward for his return, dead or alive, and the curtain closes on a crowd gone mad with desire to find him.

ACT TWO

Time: Two days later — Night

Scene: Same

The curtain rises to discover the people berating the Yeomen for allowing Fairfax to escape. Point is left alone on stage feeling very sad because Elsie is engaged to him but is married to Fairfax. Wilfred enters and Point makes a deal with him to pretend he has shot Fairfax on the wharf and in exchange Point will make Wilfred a jester. They do this, and Wilfred is lauded as a brave man; but in the meantime Elsie has fallen in love with Fairfax (as Leonard). When Fairfax is presumed dead Elsie agrees to marry Fairfax (as Leonard) and all is prepared for the ceremony, when Fairfax's reprieve arrives. Fairfax (as himself) claims Elsie as his bride, and in a very touching scene in which Elsie is at first terrified of Fairfax and then joyous when she discovers that he is the man she fell in love with as Leonard, they are reunited. The opera closes with Wilfred and Dame Carruthers having blackmailed Phoebe and Sergeant Meryll into marriage, and with poor Jack Point dying of a broken heart over his loss of Elsie.

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DRAMATIC CHARACTERS

SIR RICHARD CHOLMONDELEY (Lieut. of the Tower)S. C. MERCHANT
 COLONEL FAIRFAX (under sentence of death)HAROLD TILBURY
 SERGEANT MERYLL (of the guards)JOHN WOODYARD
 LEONARD MERYLL (his son)KENNETH MILLER
 JACK POINT (a strolling jester)HOWARD RUSSELL
 WILFRED SHADBOLT (head jailer and assistant tormenter).....NORMAN DAWSON
 THE HEADSMANVICTOR PATTERSON
 ASSISTANT HEADSMENKEN McCLELLAND, JIM LLOYD
 CONFESSORS. MAWSON
 ELSIE MAYNARD (a strolling singer)NICKI VALE
 PHOEBE MERYLL (Sgt. Meryll's daughter)CONSTANCE DAWSON
 DAME CARRUTHERS (tower housekeeper)PEGGY LIDSTONE
 KATE (her neice)DORIS McCLYMONT
 YEOMEN OF THE GUARD—
 FIRST YEOMANTHOMAS WHITESIDE
 SECOND YEOMANLAURENCE VALE
 OLIVER CROCKFORD THOMAS McCLELLAND MONTY WOOLLEY
 MURRAY IRWIN ERIC PARTRIDGE SANDY WILSON
 HOWARD MAWSON VICTOR SCOTT
 CITIZEN'S CHORUS—
 FIRST CITIZENJACK MACKNESS
 SECOND CITIZENGEORGE SOUTHALL
 THIRD CITIZENDOUGLAS SAMBLESON
 DON FOSTON RUTH EDWARDS ANITA VALE
 LEO STORM BETTY ELBOURN DORIS VALE
 VIC PATTERSON PHYLLIS JOHNS MARY WALKER
 ROSS FULTON VERA MERCHANT JESSIE WHYLIE
 PEGGY ALDRED BEATRICE McCLELLAND MARY WRIGHT
 MURIAL BARRET BERYL NIGHSWONDER JUNE ZEATS
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YEOMEN OF THE GUARD

ACT I

1. Introduction and Song (Phoebe)....."When maiden loves she sits and sighs"
2. CHORUS (people and Yeomen)....."Tower Warders and This the Autumn"
3. Song with Chorus (Dame Carruthers and Yeomen)...
....."When our Gallant Norman Foes"
4. Trio (Phoebe, Leonard and Meryll)....."Alas! I Waver To and Fro"
5. Ballad (Fairfax) "Is Life a Boon"
6. Chorus (entrance of Crowd, Elsie and Point)....."Here's a Man of Jollity"

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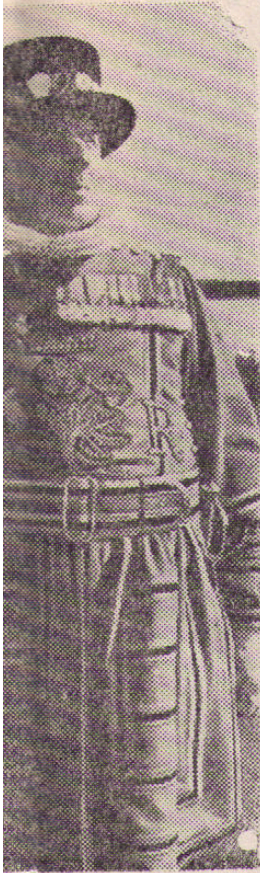
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7. Duet (Elsie and Point) "I have a song to sing, O"
8. Trio (Elsie, Point and Lieutenant)..... "How say you maiden, will you wed"
9. Recit. and Song (Point)..... "I've jibe and joke and quip and crank"
10. Recit. and Song (Elsie)..... "Tis done! I am a bride"
11. Song (Phoebe)..... "Were I thy bride"
12. Finale..... "Oh, Sergeant Meryll, is it True"

ACT II

- 13. Chorus....."Night has spread her pall once more"
- 14. Solo (Dame Carruthers)....."Warders are ye"
- 15. Song (Point)....."Oh! a private buffoon is a light-hearted loon"
- 16. Duet (Point and Wilfred)....."Hereupon we're both agreed"
- 17. Ballad (Fairfax)....."Free from his fetters grim"
- 18. Quartet "Strange adventure"



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- 19. Scene....."Hark! What was that, sir?"
- 20. Trio (Elsie, Phoebe and Fairfax)....."A man who would woo a fair maid"
- 21. Quartet....."When a wooer goes a-wooin"
- 22. Duet (Dame Carruthers and Sergeant Meryll)....."Rapture! Rapture!"
- 23. Finale....."Comes the pretty young bride"

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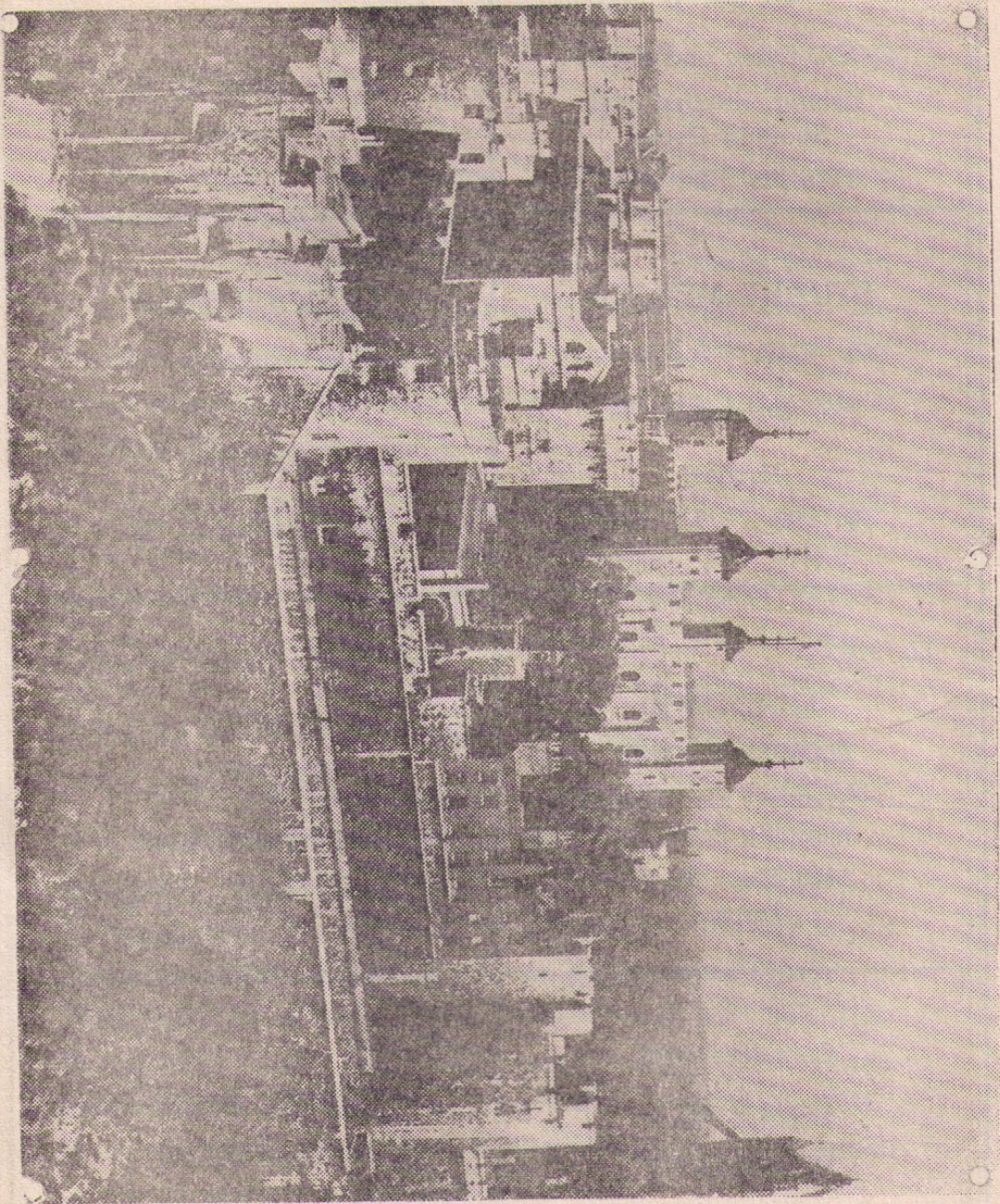
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"TRIAL BY JURY" was the first production in March 1942, and then again in October. "H.M.S. PINAFORE" was presented next in March and November, 1943. The manpower shortage prevented the organization from producing in 1944, but during all that time it carried on as well as possible, rehearsing "PIRATES OF PENZANCE" with a very small number.

In May, 1945, we were able to stage "H.M.S. PINAFORE" with some of the more experienced G. & S. Players of Toronto as principals. "PIRATES OF PENZANCE" was at long last produced in March, 1946. In 1947, plans were made to stage two operas during the year. "PATIENCE" was presented in March and "THE MIKADO" in December. In 1948 we started with "PIRATES" in April and "IOLANTHE" in November. In May, 1949, we presented "H.M.S. PINAFORE" again and with it "TRIAL BY JURY". Now we are doing "YEOMEN OF THE GUARD" with the biggest cast we have ever had on the stage.

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