

GILBERT & SULLIVAN

SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

DECEMBER 2005 NEWSLETTER

From Your President

Dear Friends:

Our energetic members and friends will be staging *Trial By Jury* twice in December. I hope you will go. It will be in the “concert” style format we have used so successfully before. It’s a very cute show with great music, and I’m sure many of you have seen it before. In fact we have staged it with full staging several times in the past. Many thanks to Arthur DiBianca for putting this together. Go twice! Bring your friends!

We are looking forward to the new year and the election of our Board of Directors at the annual business meeting on Monday January 9. **Allan Longacre** is chairing the Nominating Committee. He may be calling you. Make Allan’s job a little easier — why don’t you call him! Call Allan at 301-5611 or write to alongacre@austin.rr.com to say you interested in serving on our Board of Directors or want to suggest a nominee.

By serving on this Board, you can see to it that the good work we do is continued. You can see to it that quality and inspiring music and theater are available to our community. Plus, you may have a special idea for a new project, and you can see it accomplished. That’s what you can do. Service on the Board is the bedrock foundation that all our wonderful activities are built on. It’s volunteer work, because nobody is forced to do it. Volunteer today!

Best wishes to all, *Bill Hatcher*

Please come to
Our concert version of
Trial by Jury
Harris Bell Hall, Westminster Manor
4100 Jackson Ave.

Friday December 2nd and
Sunday December 11th
8:00 PM

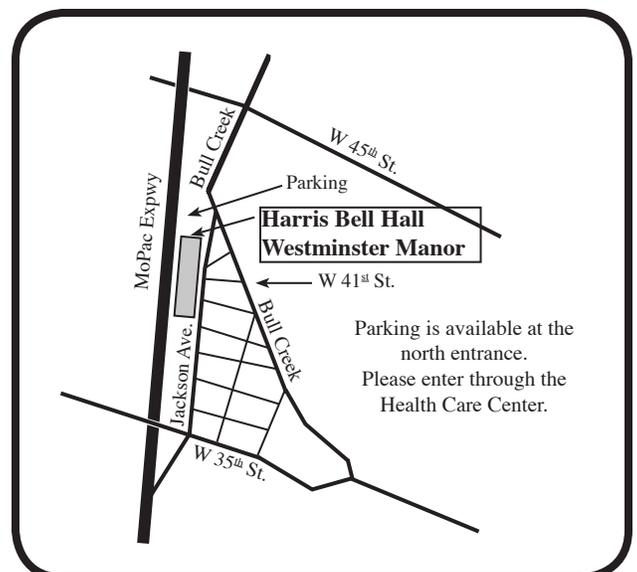
Only \$5.00 admission
(free to residents of Westminster Manor)



Produced &
Directed by
Arthur DiBianca

Cast:

Plaintiff - **Meredith Groeschel**
Defendant - **Holton Johnson**
Usher - **Sam Johnson**
Counsel - **Scott Hetrick**
Judge - **Arthur DiBianca**
Foreman - **Randall McIntyre**
Bridesmaids, Jury, and Public:
Stephanie Blackwood
Ann Coltman
Cecily Johnson
Sarah Wendtlandt
Daniel Brookshire
Andy Fleming
William Jackson
Pianist - **Brett Bachus**



CELEBRATION!!!

Please help us out!

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin will observe its 30th Anniversary in 2006. It is the second oldest and long-running dramatic organization in Austin. This is certainly worthy of Notice, and we hope to interest the local journals in reporting some of our history and outstanding performances. Will all members please come forward with newsworthy reminiscences? We especially hope to hear from those who were active in those exciting early days.

There is a family element to be publicized: We have three generations of Hallocks who have been involved with various aspects of production, starting with the first. And our original pianist, Felicity Coltman, is now represented by her daughter, Ann, serving on the Board, and one of her granddaughters who will sing in the upcoming production of *Trial by Jury*. What other interesting facts can we turn up with your help?



Allen Lawshae, Andy VanThullenar, Russell Gregory, Frank Delvy, Bill Hatcher, Curtis Wade, and Bart Sprabery in our 1989 production of *H.M.S. Pinafore* (at the Hyde Park Theater).

Sad News

On Sunday November 6, 2005, **Bee Harris Polomé** died at the age of 72, after a two and a half year battle with lung cancer. This was ironic, because Bee never smoked and followed a very healthful life style. Bee was a familiar figure at our G&S Musicales, and well-known in the Austin musical community. Her three daughters all have played in the Austin Symphony. She herself played viola with the Austin Civic Orchestra and served on their Board. She worked tirelessly to promote all things musical, and she led a full and interesting life. She asked that memorial donations be sent to one of four musical organizations she was active in, including the G&S Society of Austin. A memorial service is planned for Sunday November 20th at the Crestview United Methodist Church. The family also hopes to organize a musical commemoration at a later time and has invited the G&S Society to participate.

Trial by Jury

by Reba Gillman

Trial by Jury is only the second operetta Gilbert and Sullivan worked on together, but its success established them as a fantastic team. The plot draws on Gilbert's rather unrewarding experiences as a barrister. He gained insight into the peculiarities of English legal procedures but found he was far happier writing satire than practicing law.

As was often the case, Gilbert first developed the theme in a short form, this time to be published in the April 11, 1868, issue of *FUN*. He later fleshed it out with humorous details about the Judge, the Plaintiff, and the Defendant. There was no spoken dialog, and Sullivan was free to compose a cantata-like work. The delightfully funny result was first used by D'Oyly-Carte in 1875 as an end-piece after a production of Offenbach's *La Périchole*. It proved to be so popular that it far outshone the original attraction, and was regularly performed by the original D'Oyly Carte company as a double bill with either *H.M.S. Pinafore* or *The Pirates of Penzance*.

Isaac Goldberg, in *The Story of Gilbert and Sullivan or the 'Compleat' Savoyard* (Crown Publishers, New York, 1935), tells how Sullivan first heard Gilbert's libretto for this opera:

"From Sullivan himself we have a vivid picture of Gilbert calling upon him with the libretto, clad in a heavy fur coat against the thick snow and the intense cold. 'He read it through, as it seemed to me, in a perturbed sort of way, with a gradual crescendo of indignation, in the manner of a man considerably disappointed with what he had written. As soon as he had come to the last word he closed up the manuscript violently, apparently unconscious of the fact that he had achieved his purpose so far as I was concerned, inasmuch as I was screaming with laughter the whole time. The words and music were written, and all the rehearsals completed within the space of three weeks time.'"



1982 *Trial by Jury*, with Susan Boswell and Jess Walters

Contributors to *The Mikado* 2005

Underwriters: Chris Buggé • Lawrence Shepley • Jean & Ed Smootz • Michael & Libby Weed. Contributors: Anonymous • Richard & Jennifer Arndt • Ken & Emily Ashworth • Mr. & Mrs. John C. Besperka • Larry & Becky Brenner • Chris Buggé • John Dailey • Marion DeFord • Betty B. Evans • Charlotte & William Flynn • Len & Reba Gillman • Loel Graber • Russell Gregory • William P. & Naomi Haight • Bruce & Enid Hallock • Betty R. Hatcher • James A. Hitt • Karen & Bob King • Edward Kluth • George & Nancy McQueen • James S. Moore • Mr. & Mrs. James Plugge • Prudential Foundation Matching Gifts • Charles & Diane Radin • James Robinson • Dorothy A. Rutishauser • Lawrence Shepley • Mrs. D.J. Sibley • Jean & Ed Smootz • Earl R. Hunt & Susan C. Spruance • Still Water Foundation, Inc. • Cleve H. Tandy

Foundation • Jean Tolman • Paula Tyler • Bill & Mary Weaver • Michael & Libby Weed • Westminster Manor • Eve & John Williams • John & Betty Wood. We wish to thank especially the following individuals for their continuing support: Byron Arnason • Marion DeFord • Russell Gregory • Andrew, Chris, & Gary Hallock • Kristine M. Olson • Allen Lawshae • Barbara Lee • Randall McIntyre • Rosemary Russell-Vines • Cynthia Ryan & Valerie Ryan in memory of James C. Ryan • Katharine Shields • Patricia Spurr • Rose Taylor • Steve & Louise Weinberg.



This project is funded in part by the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division and by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts.



Member of the Month

All dues-paying members are eligible to be our "Member of the Month" (who is randomly selected). The Member of the Month is entitled to receive a CD of our 2005 *Mikado*. The Member of the Month for this month is:

Mr. & Mrs. William M. Coffey

Congratulations! Please call our office (472-4772) to let us know where we should send your CD.

The Mikado 2005 On DVD and CD

Thanks to Nancy Jay, we have high quality recordings of our 2005 production of *The Mikado*. The two-disc DVD is available for \$20, and the two-disc CD (audio only) is available for \$10. Please include a \$2.00 shipping fee per item ordered. These recordings may be ordered through our website

www.gilbertsullivan.org

or by calling our office at 472-4772.

Randall's/Tom Thumb Good Neighbor Program

Please register your Randall's Remarkable Card —Randall's will donate 1% of your bill to us (and up to two other charitable groups, if you wish). To register, visit the customer service counter and use our name and number:

Gilbert and Sullivan Society 10090

This is an easy and cost-free (to you!) way to help us out.



Membership Form

We encourage you to join our Society. If you are a member, please check your membership renewal date on the top of the mailing label. If expired or near expiration, your membership needs to be updated! To correct your address, renew your membership, or become a member, complete this form, and mail it to us at:

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin
P.O. Box 684542
Austin, Texas 78768-4542 Phone: 472-4772 (472-GSSA)

Name (as you want it to appear) _____

Phone (Day) _____ (Night) _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

E-mail address _____

What company do you work for? _____

Please check a membership category. Membership benefits include our Newsletter and 10% discount on tickets.

- Individual: \$20 or more
- Family/Group: \$30 or more
- Donation only (no membership)
- I'm interested in volunteering.

Please consider becoming a member at one of the following **Donor Levels**: **Patron** (\$50-\$99), **Grand Duke or Duchess** (\$100-\$249); **Major-General** (\$250-\$499); **Pooh-Bah** (\$500-\$999); **Pirate King** (\$1000-\$2499); **Savoyard** (\$2500 & up). Donor members receive additional benefits. Please call our office or visit our website (www.gilbertsullivan.org) for further information.

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin

Since 1976, we have been spreading the joys of
Gilbert & Sullivan through

**Annual Grand Productions • Pirates in School
Musicales • Musical Scholarships
Monthly Newsletters • Holiday Season Shows**

G&S Office: 4604 Burnet Road, Austin, TX 78756

Mail Address: P.O. Box 684542, Austin, TX 78768-4542

Phone: (512) 472-4772 [472-GSSA]



The Society holds non-profit status under 501(c)(3) of the IRS code. We are pleased to receive funding from the City of Austin under the Cultural Arts Division and by a grant from the Texas commission on the Arts.



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	Allan Longacre	301-5611
	Randall McIntyre	422-3565
	Brad Merrell	257-1742
	Larry Shepley	327-1511

Newsletter Editor **Reba Gillman**
Layout **Larry Shepley**
Web Master **Cecily Johnson**

Our web site: www.gilbertsullivan.org
E-mail: info@gilbertsullivan.org

Trial by Jury

Friday December 2
and
Sunday December 11
at 8:00 pm
Harris Bell Hall
Westminster Manor
See page 1 for details

Coming:

H.M.S. Pinafore
will be our big production in
2006

AUDITIONS
for *H.M.S. Pinafore* will be held on
Saturday and Sunday, March 4 and 5, 2006.
Look for information later on times and
how to sign up.

The
Gilbert & Sullivan
Society
OF AUSTIN

PO Box 684542
Austin TX 78768-4542

Return Service Requested

Are you the Member of the Month?
See Page 3!

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