



Affiliated to the National Operatic  
and Dramatic Association

The Burton-on-Trent and District Operatic Society

*presents*

“H.M.S.  
PINAFORE”

Written by . . . W. S. Gilbert

Composed by . . . Arthur Sullivan

*in*

THE LITTLE THEATRE

BURTON - ON - TRENT

Monday, May 17th to Saturday, May 22nd, 1954

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An Amateur Performance by permission of Bridget D'Oyly Carte

# "H.M.S. P

OR "THE LASS THA

## BURTON-ON-TRENT AND DISTRICT OPERATIC SOCIETY

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Stage Manager	.....	.....	.....	.....	John Kelly
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Prompter	.....	.....	.....	.....	Alwyn Powell
Make-up	.....	.....	.....	.....	Sheila Divine, Alfred G. Cottrell Maurice A. Smalley
Accompanist at rehearsals	.....	.....	.....	.....	Evelyn Woodhouse, L.R.A.M.
Performance Secretary	.....	.....	.....	.....	Joy Edwards
Secretary	.....	.....	.....	.....	Mr. R. Brunning 75 Beacon Drive, Rolleston-on-Dove
Treasurer and House Manager	.....	.....	.....	.....	Mr. H. N. Hasshill 90 Eton Road, Burton-on-Trent

The setting designed by Ann Hatfield and  
constructed and painted by John Woodcock, Ray Welton, Ann Hatfield  
and Walter Woodthorpe

### THE ACCOMPANIMENT

Pianist	.....	.....	.....	Evelyn Woodhouse, L.R.A.M.
Assisted by	.....	.....	.....	Gillian Richardson
Drums	.....	.....	.....	Norman Dowson

**THE OVERTURE**—The audience is respectfully requested to be silent during the playing of the  
Overture

**NO SMOKING**—The audience is requested to refrain from smoking during the performance

**ICES** will be available during the interval

# NAFORE"

LOVED A SAILOR"

## CAST

The Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph Porter, K.C.B. <i>(First Lord of the Admiralty)</i>	.....	.....	William P. Beddow
Captain Corcoran <i>(Commanding H.M.S. Pinafore)</i>	.....	.....	Alan Thompson
Ralph Rackstraw	} <i>(Able Seamen)</i>	.....	Reginald Brunning
Dick Deadeye		.....	Ernest Bailey
Bill Bobstay <i>(Boatswain's Mate)</i>	.....	.....	Bernard Bourne
Bob Becket <i>(Carpenter's Mate)</i>	.....	.....	Alan Shotton
Josephine <i>(The Captain's Daughter)</i>	.....	.....	Joy Edwards
Hebe <i>(Sir Joseph's First Cousin)</i>	.....	.....	Effie Cottrell
Little Buttercup <i>(A Portsmouth Bumboat Woman)</i>	.....	.....	Molly Kidger

Chorus of First Lord's Sisters, his Cousins, his Aunts and Sailors

### LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE CHORUS

Doreen Barnes	Beryl Painter	Monica Smith	Clifford Howse
Glenise Blant	Dorothy Flowright	Mabel Whiteland	John Jones
Edith Broughton	Dorothy Sillita	Patricia Wright	Herbert Macey
Clarice Hill	Ivy Smith	Leonard Farley	Richard Thomas

Midshipman . . . Derek Bell

SCENE—QUARTERDECK OF "H.M.S. PINAFORE," OFF PORTSMOUTH

ACT I—NOON

Interval of ten minutes

ACT II—NIGHT

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The Music Directed by  
ARTHUR ORMEROD, L.R.A.M.

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The Opera Produced by  
GEOFFREY SHARP

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The audience is asked not to break the continuity by insisting on encores when the action and dialogue is being carried straight on by the artistes



"H.M.S. PINAFORE" is the ship that sailed the Gilbert and Sullivan partnership to victory. First produced at the Opera-Comique in May, 1878, few people realise how nearly this opera failed, and how nearly the Gilbert and Sullivan partnership foundered. "Trial by Jury" and the "Sorcerer" had hardly established Gilbert and Sullivan's reputation, and the warm weather in the summer of 1878 kept audiences at the Opera-Comique pitifully small. It was not until Sullivan conducted a selection from "Pinafore" at a Promenade Concert at the Covent Garden Opera House that the music suddenly burst into popularity; that the Opera-Comique became filled to capacity; that the "Pinafore Mania" started. A direct result of this was an agreement between Gilbert, Sullivan and Carte to work together and share equally the profits after all expenses had been paid—the seeds of the long association which was to produce so many well-loved characters, melodies, situations and catch-phrases.

"H.M.S. Pinafore" ran for 700 performances at the Opera-Comique besides which there were many versions (authorised and unauthorised) given in America and elsewhere—and a pirate version even appeared for a short while in London.

The style of the opera admirably illustrates the Gilbertian formula for a successful musical entertainment—"to treat a thoroughly farcical subject in a thoroughly serious way." And if members of the audience are ever in doubt as to the seriousness of Gilbert and Sullivan operas (as they often appear to be) they should remember this formula and burst into spontaneous laughter whenever they wish!

Nevertheless, "H.M.S. Pinafore" is less "comic" than some of the other Savoy operas, and in many respects is more realistic. For this reason we have given the opera a less stylised production than usual—and the excellent music is often left to speak for itself without the encumbrance of unnecessary "business."

"H.M.S. Pinafore" was the first Gilbert and Sullivan opera ever to be performed by amateurs—it will certainly not be the last to be produced by the Burton and District Operatic Society and we look forward to the pleasure of receiving your generous and continued support.

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#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Our grateful thanks are extended to the following:

Our Patrons for their support.

The Horne Thompson Honorary Concert Direction for carrying out the booking arrangements.

The Municipal School of Speech and Drama for the use of workshops.

The Argosy Dramatic Club and the Trent Players for loan of scenery, etc.

Messrs. May and Armstrong, Ltd.

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Costumes and Wigs by B. J. Simmons & Co. (1941) Ltd.

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#### PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS

"THE GONDOLIERS"	.....	.....	February, 1952
"THE MIKADO"	.....	.....	November, 1952
"PATIENCE"	.....	.....	October, 1953