

Summary from Wikipedia:

In ***The Grand Duke***, Gilbert and Sullivan come full circle, back to the theme of their first collaboration, ***Thespis***: a troupe of actors taking political power. The plot hinges on the mis-interpretation of a 100-year-old law regarding statutory duels (decided by drawing cards). The baffled leading comedian of the troupe, Ludwig, spearheads the rebellion against the hypochondriac, miserly Grand Duke and becomes engaged to four different women before the plot is resolved. The frugality and phoniness of the wealthy classes and the nobility are lampooned and, as in ***Princess Ida***, ***The Mikado***, ***The Gondoliers***, and ***Utopia, Limited***, the foreign setting emboldens Gilbert to use some particularly pointed satire. Sullivan's varied score includes lilting Viennese waltz music.

In his introductory notes for this libretto, John Wolfson explains:

In 1896 Gilbert and Sullivan produced their last opera, ***The Grand Duke***, at the Savoy Theatre. The initial production was not a success, and if one examines Gilbert's original libretto closely, it is difficult to imagine how it could have been. It is overcrowded with incident. It has an abundance of minor characters who take on major significance and a storyline which Gilbert all but abandons in the second act. These weaknesses, however, crept into the original libretto as a result of circumstances which were, to a large extent, beyond the author's control.

....

The present revisions have been executed strictly along lines suggested by Gilbert's own plot sketches. No sequence has been added to the libretto unless some justification could be found for it in Gilbert's notes. No sequence has been eliminated unless little or no reference to such incident appeared in Gilbert's outlines. In this way Gilbert's original story of Emest Dummkopf and Grand Duke Rudolph at last becomes clear, and the many faults and complexities which have long plagued productions of ***The Grand Duke*** no longer interfere with the public's enjoyment of the opera.

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Bennett Raccach Charitable Fund



presents

John Wolfson's Adaptation of



Music Director

Jeffrey Jones-Ragona

Staging Director

Allison Price

Production Manager

Jennifer Rogers

Stage Manager

Monica Kurtz

Pianist

Carrie deLapp Culver

McCallum Fine Arts Academy Theatre
November 2, 2025

Dramatis Personæ

Rudolph (<i>Grand Duke of Pfennig Halbpfennig</i>)	Beauregard Elliot
Ernest Dummkopf (<i>a theatrical manager</i>)	Francis José Nieves
Ludwig (<i>his Leading Comedian</i>)	Trinidad Agosto
Dr. Tannhauser (<i>a Notary</i>)	Garrett Cordes
The Prince of Monte Carlo	Brooks Taylor
Ben Hashbaz (<i>A Costumier</i>)	Jeff Phillips
Herald	Anthony Ashley
The Princess of Monte Carlo (<i>betrothed to Rudolph</i>)	Haley Malin
The Baroness Von Krakenfeldt (<i>betrothed to Rudolph</i>)	Hillary Schranze
Julia Jellicoe (<i>an English Comédienne</i>)	Amy Selby
Lisa (<i>a Soubrette</i>)	Leann Fryer
Olga	Rosa Mondragon Harris
Grechen	Sarah Hernandez
Bertha	Rebecca Tulbah
Elsa	Bonnie Bogovich
A Messenger	Paul Provence
Noble	Julius Young
Actor	Jay Young
Chamberlain	Andy Fleming

**We are particularly grateful to the following
for their valued assistance with this production of *The Grand Duke*:**

Dr. Hannah Neuhauser for serving as Production Assistant

Andy Heilveil for help with props

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Ben Stennis for projecting supertitles

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coordinating our use of the theater

David Little for videography

Sue Caldwell for still photography and the playbill

Marc Shepherd for his edition of the vocal score

and most especially

John Wolfson for allowing us free use of his libretto

Musical Numbers

ACT I

Public Square of Speisesaal

"Won't it be a pretty wedding"	Elsa, Bertha, Olga, Gretchen, and Chorus
"Pretty Lisa"	Ludwig, Lisa, and Chorus
"By the mystic regulation"	Ludwig and Chorus
"Were I a king"	Ernest and Chorus
"My goodness me!"	Ludwig and Chorus
"About a century since"	Notary, Julia, Lisa, Ernest, and Ludwig
"Strange the views some people hold!"	Notary, Julia, Lisa, Ernest, and Ludwig
"Now take a card"	Notary, Julia, Lisa, Ernest, and Ludwig
"The good Grand Duke of Pfennig Halbpfennig"	Chorus of Chamberlains
"A pattern to professors of monarchical autonomy"	Rudolph
"As o'er our penny roll we sing"	Rudolph and Baroness
"When you find you're a broken down critter"	Rudolph
"Come hither, all you people" (Finale Act I)	Company

ACT II

Entrance Hall of the Grand Ducal Palace

"As before you we de-file"	Chorus and Ludwig
"Your loyalty our Ducal heartstrings touches"	Ludwig and Chorus
"Take care of him"	Ludwig and Lisa
"Your Highness, there's a party at the door"	Chorus, Baroness, and Ludwig
"Now away to the wedding we go"	Baroness and Chorus
"So ends my dream"	Julia
"Now bridegroom and bride"	Chorus
"Come, bumpers, aye ever so many"	Baroness and Chorus
"Why, who is this approaching"	Ludwig and Chorus
"The Prince of Monte Carlo"	Herald and Chorus
"We're rigged out in magnificent array"	Prince, Princess, Costumier, and Nobles
"Take my advice"	Prince and Chorus
"Hurrah! Now away to the wedding"	Chorus, Notary, Ernest, and Rudolph
"Well, you're a pretty kind of fellow"	Rudolph and Chorus
"Happy couples, lightly treading" (Finale Act II)	Company