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Austin Gilbert & Sullivan Society
September 1984 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING: Back to the FIRST MONDAY ... Monday, October 1st at 7:30 pm at Enid Hallock's, 4001 Cherrywood; 477-0858. Please bring munchies.

AGENDA: 1) Our January production of *Ruddigore*. The Executive Committee has been hard at work selecting a Director and Music Director from a fine group of applicants. We will announce results, and continue planning.

2) Plans for an appearance at the Amster's Soiree on Sunday, November 25th at 7 pm. 45 minutes of music has been requested.

3) We will sing through *Ruddigore*. If you have a score please bring it.

LAST MEETING: Fourteen members and our old friend, John Gaehring, gathered at Enid's to start off the new year. President Bob Kusnetz welcomed us back, and reported on the history of our application for funds to co-produce *Ruddigore* with Zachary Scott Theatre Center. Bob shepherded the application through the first stages. In August, Loel Graber, Executive Vice-President, and Carole Smith, Treasurer, went to an Austin Arts Commission review meeting to present a letter on our behalf. Members Cathy Brock and Sydney Brammer, who were there on other business, also spoke for us. So far we seem to be hanging in there with only a small cut from the amount we requested.

Bob also reported that the ACTV Video tape of our 1983 production of *The Gondoliers* is now inching its way toward completion. We need vintage pictures of early productions to use in the prolog. Anyone with such material should get in touch with Bob. Call 838-8777. If he is not there leave a message on his answering machine.

Most of the rest of the meeting was given over to discussion of suggested Directors and Music Directors. We then adjourned to enjoy sociability and refreshments as customary.

ACOT: On Monday night, September 10th, Enid, Bob and I attended the B. Iden Payne Awards ceremony. Cathy Brock, President of ACOT, presided. Our member, Jim McGrew, was present to receive a special award for his many years of outstanding service to the Austin theater community. Among the many worthy nominees were G & S members Enid and Sydney. Other nominees, friends of ours from recent G & S productions, included Jess Walters, Frank Delvy and Marilyn Pierce. None of these received an award, but it was an honor to be nominated, and we are proud to know them all.

It was an exciting evening, well planned and executed. We were treated to medleys from past and future musical shows, and came away amazed at the prospects for the year, and the growth that has hit the Austin theater scene.

I have been appointed to the selection committee for next year's B. Iden Payne Awards. A new system is being instituted to ensure fair coverage of the 140 productions planned for the coming year. (!!!)

OTHER NEWS: *Cox And Box* opened Thursday, September 20th at the Hyde Park Show Place, starring Alfredo Villarreal, and G & S'ers Jim Kellogg and Dorothy Allen. Ann McCutchan gave it a very favorable review in Friday's AMERICAN-STATESMAN. DON'T MISS IT!

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~~Brigade~~ will open Friday, September 28th at ZSTC. The cast includes our members Sharon Beehler and Allen Lawshae. Be sure to see the show!

DUES AND CONTRIBUTIONS: are flowing in. Thank you! We will be publishing acknowledgments in a later Newsletter. A reminder to those who haven't "got around to it yet": checks payable to Austin Gilbert and Sullivan Society may be brought to the meeting or mailed to:

Carole Smith, Treasurer
3911 Eton Lane
Austin 78727

(Note the new zip code)

Some institutions have a matching program. If there is any chance of doubling your contribution in this way, please look into it, and let Carole know.

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If you have any news, please send it to me for the Newsletter!



Reba Gillman
Secretary

The Austin Gilbert and Sullivan Society

The Austin Gilbert and Sullivan Society began with an informal meeting at the Creek Theatre in September, 1976. Encouraged by the public's reception of Zachary Scott Theatre Center's *H.M.S. Pinafore* in April, 1976, the group decided to form a local society to share enjoyment of the G & S operas through periodic performances and regular meetings. A very successful *Ruddigore* was staged at the Creek Theatre in February, 1977.

In November, 1977, the centenary of Gilbert and Sullivan's rarely performed *The Sorcerer* was celebrated with an extremely well-received production at Hancock Center's Town Hall.

The Society associated with ZSTC for *The Pirates of Penzance* in August, 1977, and *The Mikado* in September, 1978. In December, 1978, we produced *Iolanthe* in cooperation with St. Edward's. We returned to cooperation with ZSTC for *Patience*, performed in March and April of 1980, *An Evening With Gilbert and Sullivan* in May, 1981, and *Trial By Jury* (with ZSTC in January, 1982, and later at the Capitol City Playhouse). This last featured guest artist Jess Walters as The Learned Judge; appropriately, the run included a special showing for the State Bar of Texas. We returned to ZSTC to perform *The Gondoliers* in May, 1983. Our next production will be *Ruddigore* at ZSTC in January, 1985.

In addition to these full-scale productions, we have given numerous informal recitals (in churches, clubs, a private home) of excerpts from the G & S operas.

The Society meets monthly (except in summer). Dues are \$5.00 a year. Contributions, large or small, will help defray costs. We have also invented two formal categories:

Patron: \$25
Lord High Patron: \$50

Contributors will be acknowledged in our programs and newsletter, unless they request otherwise. Contributions to The Austin Gilbert and Sullivan Society are tax deductible.

For further information about the Society, consult:

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836-1853 or 838-8777

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327-2277

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