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Hyde Park Theatre, 43rd and Guadalupe, April 13 - May 14, 1989

.... Pinafore

Message from Jacki Chapman, the Director:

Hail Ye Gilbert & Sullivan Lovers:

Give three cheers and one cheer more for the cast and production crew of this year's production of *H.M. S. Pinafore*. We are off and running and the cast promises to bring an exciting new spirit to the wonderful Pinafore refrains we all love so much.

Because of that icy bout in the first part of February, we had some audition complications but all of that has been ironed out. Because our performance space is an intimate one (Hyde Park Theatre), this year's production is being scaled down to miniature size. (A ship in a bottle.) The cast consists of 16 people. WOW! you say: How can this show be done with such a small cast? Come and find out. You will be pleasantly surprised.

A unique development in this production is the fact that the role of Hebe is being expanded. Gilbert originally had made this role more of a speaking part, but as fate would have it the original actress became ill before the opening and the singer who took her place refused to do the lines because she wasn't an actress. Gilbert consequently cut the lines. We have expanded the role also, through some research notes and communication with the University of Colorado at Boulder, which did a production of *H.M.S.* last summer (1988) that was directed by John Reed, who also expanded the Hebe role to what he conceived may be close to Gilbert's original intention.

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First Rehearsal: On February 20th the cast of sixteen gathered, with two absent. Under the direction of Music Director Jerry Peperone, they got right to work on the Finale to Act I, the most difficult ensemble of the entire opera. Also present were Director Jacki Chapman, Reba Gillman, Enid Hallock, and Bob Mellin, who chatted quietly while the others sang. Enid told me that the casting had been harrowing, with difficult choices among good singers and good friends. The result was the casting of only five members: Frank Delvy (Captain), Michael Drousche (Sir Joseph), Bill Hatcher (Sailor), Jan Jones (Hebe), and Allen Lawshae (Bosun's Mate). The parts of Ralph and Josephine were double cast, which will strengthen the chorus. The full cast listing will appear in next month's Newsletter, when I know how to spell all their names.

All aspects of production are in progress. About 30 people are actively involved in on-and-off stage production activity. But we can always use more assistance. We are still looking for some specific prop pieces and some help in costumes and set building. If you would be interested in assisting, even if just for one or two work sessions, please call me at 478-0645.

There is going to be a fun-filled opening date weekend. More information will follow soon. If you want to know more, call the above number.

Pinafore Mania is striking us and soon it will be striking you. Please waste no time in getting involved or getting your tickets.

I will leave you with an anecdote I found that you may appreciate.

When Pinafore first came to the US, everyone who saw the show was struck with a Pinafore Mania. Everyone was repeating the Pinafore refrains. As the story goes ... One American newspaper editor is said to have called all his reporters into his office and complained that *the phrase* had appeared twenty-five times in the previous day's paper. "Never let me see it again," he ordered. "What, never?" came the inevitable reply. "Well, hardly ever," he found himself responding.

Pinafore Mania will be here for you to be a joyful part of in April!!!!

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Little Buttercup



News of Members:

Thanks to Jan Jones, who is now a Patron.

Keith Larson has moved to Fort Worth.

Liz Opal now lives in Falls Church, Virginia.

Reba

Reba Gillman, Secretary