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The Austin Gilbert & Sullivan Society

October 1989 Newsletter

Next Meeting

This month our meeting will be on Tuesday, October 10th, at 7:30 pm at Enid Hallock's: 4001 Cherrywood. We'll be working on our next production: *The Sorcerer*, opening Friday, November 10th at Live Oak Theatre. There's lots to do! Please come and bring munchies.

Last Meeting

Eleven members gathered on Monday, September 11th at the home of Enid Hallock. Those present were David and Karen Collier, who helped on the production of *Pinafore*, and have just become Patrons; old members Michael Drousche, Reba Gillman, Loel Graber, Bob Greenwood, Enid Hallock, President Bob Kusnetz, Bob Mellin, Janita Robbins; and Anne Smith who recently joined and was attending her first Society meeting. Welcome all!

There was discussion of the selection process for the B. Iden Payne Awards given annually by the Austin Circle of Theatres (ACOT). We were delighted that our production of *Pinafore* received nominations in 6 categories. Members of ACOT vote on the nominations by mail; the winners will be announced at the annual Awards Celebration on Monday September 18th, at Laff Stop. ACOT serves as the umbrella organization for theater in Austin. As an organization member we have been able to use their bulk mailing permit to send out publicity mailings for our shows. It was voted to renew our membership, which is overdue. Bob K. volunteered to take care of this.

Next Production: Bob K. brought the members up to date by reporting on the options discussed at a meeting of the Executive Committee on August 30 (see REPORT in the September Newsletter). At that meeting the decision was reached that since we were behind schedule, and had lost Jacki Chapman as director (due to her accident), we would not attempt to produce the ambitious *Gondoliers* at this time. It was agreed instead, to put on the less difficult, although little-known work, *The Sorcerer*. It was also decided that the Director would be Dr. Marian Hampton of the UT Drama Department, recommended by Jacki; the Musical Director would be Eric Daub, Doctoral candidate in the UT Music Department, who was recommended by Bill Girard.

Marian will be remembered by *Pinafore* cast members, as the person whom Jacki brought in during rehearsals to help with the dialect. At UT she has directed *Dracula* and *Do Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Upward*. Eric is planning to use one piano and no other instruments. He hopes we will be able to get a grand for him to play for the performances. Bob K. reported a good response to our summer notice in the Austin American Statesman, asking for volunteer crew members for the November production. He is calling people back now, to tell them of the change in opera.



The Sorcerer

Dr. Daly: Time was when Love and I were well acquainted.
Time was when we walked ever hand in hand.
A saintly youth, with worldly thought untainted,
None better-loved than I in all the land!

...

Ah me, I was a pale young curate then!

Auditions were held on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, and will be held again on Thursday, September 14th from 7 to 10 pm, at Enid's. Special thanks go to Bob Wall for playing the piano for the auditions. He is so pleasant and willing! We need to find a costumer, and someone to head up the Opening Night Gala. We need to work hard to sell ads for the program. Jacki has promised to work on audience development. Bill Hatcher is working already on publicity, and hopes to set up photography sessions early. We need to do everything possible to ensure a good house for this production.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 10th at 7:30 pm, at Enid Hallock's

4001 Cherrywood; 477-0858

Please come! It's dues-paying time for some of us. Look on your label for DUES in red ink.

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News of Members and Friends:

Frank Delvy was to receive the ACOT First Choice Award, for the Lead Actor in a Musical with the most votes from the ACOT selection committee for the B. Iden Payne Awards. Russell Gregory was to receive the ACOT First Choice Award for Featured Actor in a Musical. We're proud of you both!!

Bill Girard has completed his doctorate at UT. Congratulations "Dr. Bill"!!

Loel Graber and Carole Graber are getting a divorce. We're sorry to hear it. Theirs was a real G&S romance. They met during our production of *The Gondoliers*, and married after our *Ruddigore*. Carole's new address is: Rte. 2, PO Box 206, Burton, TX 77835. She is teaching English in Brenham Junior High School this year.

Bob Kusnetz is pleased to announce that he has a new nephew, Mark Ross Kusnetz.

Barbara Irvine has written an open letter to the Austin theater community from New York City, where she has been since last December. I have a copy and anyone who wants to read it is welcome to.

Our young friend Todd Walker is moving to California in October. While he was out there last summer he discovered the San Jose G&S Society and laid the ground work for a tape swap with our society.

Other Business: Bob K. reported that the Dougherty Cultural Arts auditorium, which was closed after a fire a year or more ago, is now available for rehearsal use at the fee of \$10 per hour. It is not yet open for performances.

Bob also reported that he opened a group membership for the Society at Sam's Wholesale Club. Call Bob to arrange to make discounted purchases using our membership cards.

It was agreed that at the next meeting we would reconsider our dues-paying schedule. Membership now runs from September to the end of the following August, but recently we have added many new members in February, March, April and May, associated with our spring productions. Various suggestions included renewing membership on the anniversary of joining, prorating membership, and establishing two membership due dates per year. In the meantime, look at the label on your Newsletter. If the word **DUES** appears in red ink, please pay your dues now. It will save us a lot of trouble! Thanks.

Bob K. thanked Enid officially for turning her home into The Gilbert and Sullivan House in recent weeks. When other spaces fail we go to Enid's! With a hearty vote of thanks the meeting adjourned for refreshment of mind and body.

Other News

Jacki Chapman enjoyed the B. Iden Payne Awards celebration, looking beautiful in her svelte aqua jump suit. She hopes to be out of her neck brace in a few more weeks. Make a note of her new phone number: 836-7599

Old friend John McNeill has a small part in the new production of *Hamlet* playing Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, through October 21st, in the auditorium on the 3rd floor of the First State Bank Building, 15th and San Antonio. For information call 442-6136.

Chris Caswell, who sang in the *Gilbert & Sullivan Sampler* at Hyde Park Theatre in 1987, is now in New York City, where he has performed in the chorus of *The Pirates of Penzance*. Ask Bill Girard for details.

Director Marian Hampton reports a superb cast for *The Sorcerer*, except that we still don't have a tenor lead. Dr. Daly, the vicar, is being played with delightful humor by Leonard Johnson, UT Professor of Voice. The full cast will be announced in the next Newsletter.

Reba Gillman, Secretary

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B. Iden Payne Awards

Presented by the Austin Circle of Theatres to honor Outstanding Achievement in the Theatre.

No, we didn't win. But those 6 nominations for *Pinafore* were a great honor, and Frank Delvy and Russell Gregory received First Choice Awards from the ACOT Selection Committee (see above). The Awards celebration on September 18th was great fun for the ten G&S members who attended. Entertainment included excerpts from the 5 nominated Musicals, and our own Frank Delvy sang in two of them. He and Cindy Sadler did the scene "Things are seldom what they seem" from *Pinafore*, and Frank sang "Jackie" from *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris*, a Ken Johnson Production. Another Ken Johnson Production *Is There Life After High School?* won 5 awards! Congratulations Ken!!!

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The Austin Gilbert & Sullivan Society

Time to pay dues. Give something extra if you can.

___ Member \$10.00 ___ Patron \$25.00 ___ Lord High Patron \$50.00 ___ Donation

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