The Austin Gilbert & Sullivan Society April 1990 Newsletter

Next Meeting

First Monday: Monday. April 2nd, at 7:30 pm at the home of Susan Adams-Johnson: 5908 Nasco Drive, 323-2555. There's lots to plan and do and find out about. Bring yourself and some goodies to munch on. Many Thanks to Susan for offering her home, see below for directions; Enid Hallock is out of town on vacation, and could not have us at her house this month.

Last Meeting

On March 12th fourteen members gathered at Enid's house: Susan Adams-Johnson, Bob Bobo, Michael Drousche, Reba Gillman, Loel Graber, Bob Greenwood, Enid Hallock, Janette Jones, Bob Kusnetz, Allen Lawshae, Bill Hatcher, Robert Mellin, Janita Robbins, and Anne Smith. President Bob K. called the meeting to order and welcomed Reba back. He thanked Allen Lawshae, Executive Vice President, for a fine job taking the minutes in the absence of Reba Gillman. secretary, who had been in Seton Hospital undergoing back surgery. Bob then commented on some corrections to the minutes of the last meeting. He stated that he wished to clear up any misunderstandings regarding the position of Don Toner, Artistic Director of Live Oak Theatre. Bob regretted that his statement at the last meeting had not made the situation clear. He explained that whenever we work with a theater, the artistic director of that theater exercises overall control, but does not serve as director of our show, or artistic director of the Gilbert & Sullivan Society. This is standard practice. Bob also emphasized that no formal offer had yet been made by Live Oak Theatre, and that any proposals that we approved would be have to be presented to the Live Oak Board of Directors for their approval.

- I. City Funding: Jacki Chapman, assisted by Bill Hatcher, Janette Jones and Allen Lawshae did a lot of work on an application to the Austin Commission for the Arts. Unfortunately the application was not completed and was not turned in by the deadline.
- II. Report Concerning Proposed Production of *Pirates*: Don Toner will be talking to the Live Oak Theatre Board about plans for their next season. Bob K. has an appointment on March 20th to talk to Don about the results of these discussions. If a quick decision is needed then, a special meeting of our Executive Board may called or conducted by telephonic poll.

- III Committee Reports: A. Bob Bobo reported as Chair of the "Teaser Committee", for members Susan A.-J. Carla Hammock, Janette Jones, and Bob Kusnetz. This committee was to work on a plan for preparing G & S scenes in repertory to be used for different purposes in public schools, houses of worship, Wimberley and other places to be developed by the committee. Committee members had all been sick or out of town, and there was no report. Allen suggested that the committee look into the possibility of providing scenes for school assemblies. At one time there was a need for this.
- B. Michael Drousche, Chair of the Committee, with members Susan A.-J. and Janette Jones, to find a theater for a fall production, reported on the availability and conditions for use of various locations in Austin. Many have been reported on before. Theaters that would not be available for a Fall 1990 production were:

ACC Rio Grande Campus: will be heavily used by Zachary Scott Theatre Center in the fall.

Paramount Theatre: there are some open dates (October 15-20, November 4-17), but the basic rates are very high, and beyond our scope.

Capitol City Playhouse: not available Fall 1990.

Austin Independent School District High School theaters are generally not available; specifically Austin H.S., Lanier H.S., and McCallum H.S. (See exceptions below.)

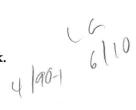
Available space included the Austin Opera House, and the smaller Ballroom. These are available in October and November 1990; but might pose many problems.

The committee reported in glowing terms on the new Reagan High School theater. The acoustics are great; the house seats 512; a short run (possibily 6 performances on two weekends) would suffice; there is a pit for the piano and other instruments; Mr. Kellner, the Assistant Principal, was very cooperative. Negative factors would be expense, the tendency of the public to think of a production in a high school as amateurish, and the lack of administrative support. This last is a major problem ... no one to take ticket orders, for instance. Bob K. suggested that we refer the Reagan H.S. space to the "Teaser Committee" as a possibility for a community venture. Michael asked that Secretary Reba write a letter of thanks to Mr. Kellner.

Next Meeting: Will be on Monday, April 2nd.

Dues: Members who joined last spring now need to renew their membership.

If yours are due there will be an insert in this newsletter. Also look on your label for <u>DUES</u> in red ink.



There is still the possibility that Hyde Park Theatre would be available. Bob K. offered to try to find time to talk with Ken Johnson about this. After a discussion of the choice between Hyde Park Theatre and the Reagan High School Theater Bill Hatcher moved that we try to arrange to put on a show in Fall 1990 at Hyde Park Theatre. Janita Robbins seconded the motion. The vote was 6 For and 3 Against, with several abstaining.

Susan A.-J. reported that Michel Jaroschy had suggested to her that the G&S Society plan a production to alternate with the opera at Capitol City Playhouse, playing alternate nights during the opera run. Some felt it would be better to avoid an alternating situation and to try to plan a production in the Fall of 1991 at Capitol City. Bob Mellin moved that the Society authorize Bob K. to enter into negotiations with Michel to put on a production at CCP in Fall 1991. Susan seconded the motion. The vote was 11 For, 1 Opposed with several abstaining.

• IV. Standing Committees: Michael suggested that we needed a permanent committee to plan productions. Bob K. replied with an outline of a heirarchy of standing committees he thought we needed, some small and some large. These were:

Two production committees: one, headed by the Vice President for Production, to plan major productions in the Fall and Spring; and a smaller committee ... the "Teaser Committee" ... to plan other types of performances. The latter might also be called the Portable Production Committee.

Other committees needed: 1) Fund Raising, to work on corporate sponsorships, grants and other sources. 2) Volunteer, to coordinate volunteers. 3) Communication, a small committee to keep people informed, especially via a telephone network. 3) Publicity-Public Relations, to be headed by the Vice President for Publicity. 4) Meetings, to plan smaller meetings every month and a few major meetings a year, with special features or entertainment. 5) Small Material Tracking, to keep track of props, etc.

• V. Board of Directors: Bob K. also said we needed to work on putting together a Board of Directors. At one time he had discussed this with Bill Girard.

Bob Bobo said that we must have a Board of Directors to operate legally. Several members stated that the Executive Committee served as a Board, but Bob B. did not agree. He offered to read our By Laws and Articles of Incorporation and make suggestions. The Secretary gave Bob B. a copy of the By Laws and promised to mail a copy of the Articles of Incorporation to him. Bob K. remarked that we had been advised about this by our lawyer member, Kent Smith. We should consult him again.

• Announcements: Bob K. is directing a one-act play at Agudas Achim. It will be performed on Sunday, May 13th.

Steve Chambers, the Assistant Director and Stage Manager for *The Sorcerer*, told Bob K. that he intends to return to the Society the check he received for his services. Thank you, Steve, for such generous support.

The final performance of *The Mikado* at Saint Stephen's School was to be on Thursday, March 8th.

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on April 2nd, at a place to be announced. The meeting was adjourned to the buffet for refreshments and sociability. Thanks to all who brought goodies.

Information for Members

• The Teasers Committee reports that they have lined up a performance date on Friday evening, May 4th, at Saint Stephen's Church in Wimberley. Call Susan Adams-Johnson by April 3rd, if you want to perform (323-2555). The committee has set the following program:

I am a Pirate King!
Climbing over Rocky Mountain
Poor Wandering One
Now for the Pirates' Lair
When a Felon's Not Engaged
Now to the Banquet We Press

• Bill Girard has been appointed Assistant Conductor for the Dallas Lyric Opera's performances in June and July. Also, the Girards are expecting a new baby soon, their second. Congratulations for both!!!

Directions to Susan's house: From Mopac, get off at Northland (Rte 2222) and drive east past Covenant Presbyterian Church and Shoal Creek Blv'd (traffic light). Two blocks east of Shoal Creek Blv'd turn north on Nasco Drive. If you are driving west on Koenig Lane or Allandale (also Rte 2222), cross Burnet Road and go 5 blocks to Nasco Drive.

Northland
Rte2222

Mopac Shoal Creek Burnet Rd

Susan Adams-Johnson
5908 Nasco Drive
323-2555

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