

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin

October 1993 Newsletter

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• Next Meeting - Our Monthly Musicale •

• Monday, October 4th, 1993 at 7:30 pm. at Pearl Amster's, 2304 Hartford Road, 472-7028.

• Come One, Come All! Eat, Drink, and Be Merry! Meet the directors for *Pinafore*. Allen Lawshae is arranging a great program. Please bring munchies.

• Message from your President •

Cassandra Knobloch is the new head of the Theater Department at the Rio Grande Campus of Austin Community College. Now, I know that we had planned to do *H. M. S. Pinafore* in the spring or summer of '94, but Cassandra made us an offer that just couldn't be refused. We were honored to be one of three Austin art organizations invited to perform in the newly renovated 280-seat main ACC Theater. On behalf of the Society our Board of Directors agreed to produce *H. M. S. Pinafore* there, opening Friday January 28, 1994 for a 9 performance, three-week run. Expect a cast of about 30, an orchestra, and elaborate sets and costumes.

It is true that this date gives us only about half the time I had originally thought necessary to raise the \$15,000 front money needed to mount the production. But I guess I'm a cockeyed optimist. I think we can do it. I know we can do it, if some who read this think and act in some way to help us raise the money. There are three ways: 1) Corporate sponsorship; 2) Individual contributions; and 3) Playbill advertising.

• H.M.S. PINAFORE • • OPENING •

January 28 - February 13, 1994

Austin Community College Main Theater
12th and Rio Grande

My bosom swelled with pride, when at the Austin Circle of Theaters' B. Iden Payne Awards Ceremony our own Frank Delvy won the coveted prize for Lead Actor in a Musical for his portrayal of the Lord Chancellor in our production of *Iolanthe*. Thank you, Frank, you do us proud, sir.

Between now and *Pinafore*, in addition to our monthly musicales, one other important G & S event should be placed on your calendar. There will be a Gala, All-Star, Very Special, Holiday Season, G & S Revue on Saturday, December 4th at 8 pm. There will be a Champagne Buffet at 7 o'clock. This will be a joint fund raiser with the First Unitarian Church of Austin, in whose beautiful sanctuary we will be performing. Freddy Carnes will direct, as he did for our last year's fund raiser. All monies we receive for this event will go towards our Orchestra Fund.

• Last Gathering and Musicale •

We opened the new season with a bang on Tuesday, September 7th (displaced by Labor Day). 24 friends, old and new, gathered at Pearl Amster's. A surprise was Michael Drousche, who came all the way from Hawaii (if you're going his way do let him know - he misses us! His address can probably be obtained by calling me at 327-2277). Others present were members Pearl, Wren Anderson, Patrick Bennett, Frank Delvy, Reba Gillman, Doug & Sheila Glenn, Loel Graber, Kristina Havenhill, Janette Jones, Noel Koran, Allen Lawshae, Robert Mellin, Lucy Shoe Meritt, Joan Pearsall, Bee Harris Polomé, Diane and Charles Radin (their first time although they're old members and come to every production), Lord High Pianist Bob Wall, and Terri Wilson; guests were Joy Andersen, Tim Havenhill and Julia Lawshae.

***** Robert Mellin *****

Frank started things off with Sir Joseph's entering song "When I was a lad" from *Pinafore*, with a rousing chorus from the members. President Robert welcomed us all from far-flung vacations (Georgetown, Port Aransas, Amarillo, Middletown NY, Nova Scotia, and Scotland, for instance). There were introductions all around and Robert urged that we each invite a friend (member or not) to the next musicale.

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• Eplanation from Reba •

Many people were distressed as they read the list of "Regular Members" in the September Newsletter. Not seeing their names they wondered if they were delinquent in their dues, or I had gone haywire. The list was indeed just of regular \$10 memberships. Anyone who paid \$25 or more was listed in the June Newsletter as Patron, Lord High Patron, and on up. Sorry I didn't make that clearer.

How can you help raise money for the Society?

Let us count the ways: 1) Help us find corporations willing to sponsor our production. 2) Continue to give individually as you so generously have. 3) Help us find advertisers for the Playbill (we've been calling it the Program).

LB 6/10

Last Gathering and Musicale, cont. from p.1

Robert announced that Frank Delvy had been nominated for an ACOT Award as Lead Actor in a Musical, and Wren Andersen had received the Critic's Table Award for her part in *The Christmas Carol* last December. Congratulations!!!

We will put on a Fund Raiser in collaboration with the Unitarian Church, sharing the proceeds half and half. There will be a Champagne Buffet. Tickets will be \$25 per person for reserved seats, with a lower price for general admission

Robert asked us to think about two Boards for the Society: the Executive Board to do the work, and the other an expanded Board of important names. We need more input from our members. Robert is working to set up a regular meeting for the Executive Committee on the last Monday of each month so that interested members can plan to attend.

Correction to September Newsletter: The very informative Cultural Connections Conference, which Robert attended in August, was held for three days, not one.

Master of Ceremonies Allen Lawshae then took over, performing a duet with Janette, "I have a song to sing-o" from *The Yeomen of the Guard*. In a digression from Gilbert & Sullivan Wren Andersen sang "If I had a fine white horse" from *The Secret Garden*, and later "My doll is dainty as a sparrow" from *South Pacific*. Frank gave us yet another flawless "Nightmare Song" from *Iolanthe*. In another digression Julia Lawshae sang "I dreamed a dream" from *Les Miserables*. From *Pinafore* Frank and Janette sang the duet "Things are seldom what they seem", and Janette sang "I'm called Little Buttercup".

In the grandest digression of all Allen presented the entire opening scene from the new musical *Where There's a Will...* dying dramatically at the end. We then returned to *Pinafore* with the dramatic scene "The hours creep on apace" sung by Kristina Havenhill, followed by the "Bell Trio" sung by Kristina, Allen, and Frank, with everyone joining in for the lusty chorus. Robert passed out music and we all sang "Now to the banquet we press", from *Sorcerer*, as we went to eat.

Robert showed us the three GSD&M *Iolanthe* posters, so beautiful we will sell them for \$10 apiece (less for members).

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin
Reba Gillman, Secretary
1606 The High Road
Austin, TX 78746

• News of Members •

• Congratulations and warmest best wishes to Jess and Emma Walters who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in September with a bang-up party. The night before Jess observed his 85th birthday in proper style by singing a recital in Jessen Auditorium. Son Emil Wolk came from England to join the festivities. With him were his wife Margaret and daughter Jemma (appropriately named for her grandpa and grandma). Warm love and laughter abounded on this very special occasion.

• Yeah Frank! You did it! After many nominations Frank Delvy brought home a "Bippie" for Lead Actor in a Musical, for his wonderful performance as the Lord Chancellor in *Iolanthe*. And we are pleased to bask in his reflected glory; this was the first B. Iden Payne Award our Gilbert & Sullivan Society has had any part of. (Well, we've been nominated --)

• Janette Jones is singing with the Lyric Opera chorus this season. Good for her! But it means we won't see much of her at meetings, which conflict with opera rehearsals.

• Allen Lawshae is playing in the new musical *Where There's a Will ...* at the Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Road. Playing Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 pm through October 23. Call 482-1770. Sunday matinees at 2:30 pm on October 10 and 17.

GALA FUND RAISER

All Star Cast

Food & Drink

Champagne Buffet

Very Special Holiday Season

Saturday December 4th

First Unitarian Church of Austin

4700 Grover



Come to our Musicale, Monday October 4th at 7:30 pm, Special Program
At Pearl Amster's, 2304 Hartford Road; Welcome to All!