

Media Release: for immediate release

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The Gilbert & Sullivan Society
of Western Australia presents

HMS Pinafore

May 18 - 27, 2017

Dolphin Theatre, The University of WA

Singing sailors, tipsy admirals ... yes, 'the terror' of the seas, HMS Pinafore is back!

Musical theatre mayhem will be launched on the high seas, when *H.M.S Pinafore* sails into the Dolphin Theatre this May for the annual production of the Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Western Australia.

The outrageous comic opera is set at the height of the British Empire which ruled the waves with awesome warships called Victory, Goliath, Audacious and ... Pinafore? Well, yes, dear old Pinafore is in a class of her own with singing sailors, tipsy admirals and young lovers that dare to challenge the inequality of the times.

The inaugural production of The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of WA in 1953, the 1878 comic masterpiece was Gilbert & Sullivan's first international hit and to this day has everything a musical could wish for. Outrageously funny dialogue and lyrics, engaging characters, and addictive music that will have you toe-tapping and humming long after you've left the theatre.

The 2017 production which runs from May 18 to 27 is directed by Alan Needham, one of WA's leading exponents of the G&S repertoire and a veteran of over 100 musical theatre productions.

Needham will direct a cast of over 30 and is joined by musical director, Michael Brett and his orchestra in bringing the musical to brilliant life. Needham said that he was excited by the challenge of refreshing an iconic work that is a masterpiece of comic ideas and timing.

"The genius of Gilbert & Sullivan is in their creative silliness of setting a love story on a warship," he said. "*H.M.S. Pinafore* is great fun from its unlikely title to even more unlikely admiral with a great love story, great show tunes and a surprise at the end which turns everything upside down in classic G&S fashion."

"*Pinafore* is a great night out. For G&S diehards it's a must and for those experiencing it for the first time, you will understand what all the fuss is about. Its cheeky, irreverent humour and hummable tunes will stay with you for a lifetime."

Founded in 1951, The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Western Australia has produced over 50 productions of Gilbert & Sullivan's extraordinary contribution to the musical theatre. Founded by Bernard Manning, the Society is supported by The Gilbert & Sullivan / AN Bullock Trust created in 1983 through the bequest of the late Arnold Bullock. Distinguished entertainer, Max Kay became the Patron of the Society after the late Sir Charles Court. Over seven decades, the Society has brought laughter and joy through the comedy and melody of WS Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan to generations of Western Australians.

ALL MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Western Australia presents

When: May 18 to 27
Evening shows @ 7.30pm
Matinees @ 2pm May 20 & 27

Where: Dolphin Theatre, The University of Western Australia
Duration: 2½ hours (including interval)

Suitable Age Range: Suitable for all ages

Ticket Prices: from \$19.90 to \$59.90

Bookings/Enquiries: ticketswa.com (24/7 - no online booking charges)
or phone 6488 2440 (Mon - Fri 12-4pm)

FOR LISTINGS: Musical theatre mayhem is launched on the high seas, when *H.M.S Pinafore* sails into the Dolphin Theatre this May for the annual production of the Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Western Australia. The outrageous comic opera is set at the height of the British Empire when it ruled the waves with awesome warships called Victory, Goliath, Audacious and ... Pinafore? Outrageously funny dialogue and lyrics, singing sailors, tipsy admirals, and young lovers that defy the system, along with addictive music will have you toe-tapping and humming long after you've left the theatre. Directed by leading G&S exponent, Alan Needham with musical direction by Michael Brett and an orchestra live on stage.

Composer: Arthur Sullivan
Librettist: WS Gilbert
Performers: Cast of 30
Director: Alan Needham
Musical Director: Michael Brett

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Western Australia

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