

Gilbert and Sullivan refers to the Victorian-era theatrical partnership of the dramatist W. S. Gilbert (1836–1911) and the composer Arthur Sullivan (1842–1900) and to the works they jointly created. The two men collaborated on fourteen comic operas between 1871 and 1896, of which *H.M.S. Pinafore*, *The Pirates of Penzance* and *The Mikado* are among the best known.

The Gondoliers (or *The King of Barataria*) tells the story of two charming Venetian gondoliers, Giuseppe & Marco, who are informed that due to an error of identity when they were young boys, one of them is the heir to the throne of Barataria. They are delighted with the situation and agree to share the responsibilities of governing their new kingdom until it can be ascertained which of them is which, but matters are complicated when the Duke and Duchess of Plaza Toro reveal that their beautiful daughter, Casilda, was married to the future king as an infant. The problem? Giuseppe and Marco are both newly married to the contadine Tessa and Gianetta, and Casilda is in love with her father's attendant, Luiz. Since its premiere in 1889, *The Gondoliers* has delighted audiences with its memorable score by Sullivan, and its political satire, cleverly tucked into Gilbert's witty plotline.

THE CAST

David Bamberger, *Stage Director*, has staged internationally over 250 productions ranging from *Aida* and *Carousel* to Sophocles' *Oedipus at Colonus*, and lots of Gilbert and Sullivan.

Marlon Chen, *Luiz*, returns to Lyric Theatre for his first operatic part. He was Crow/Ensemble in *The Wizard of Oz* (Lyric Theatre), & Jacob/Potiphar in *Joseph et al....* (West Valley College).

Katie Francis, *Duchess of Plaza-Toro*, is in her 5th production with Lyric Theatre. She has been spotted around the SF Bay Area dabbling in various musical endeavors from Opera to Big Band.

Angela Harrington, *Gianetta*, sings her fourth Lyric Theatre production after *Mademoiselle Modiste* (Nanette), *Erminie* (Marie), and *Babes in Toyland* (Polly).

Asha Kelly, *Tessa*, works with a filmmaking collective producing independent shorts, recently wrapping a dystopian adaptation of *Measure for Measure*. She will appear at Tabard Theatre this fall.

Jeff Lampert, *Duke of Plaza-Toro*, has amassed many impressive theatrical ranks, including Major-General (*The Pirates of Penzance*), Colonel (*Patience*), & Lord Chancellor (*Iolanthe*).

Jessica Smith, *Casilda*, returns to Lyric Theatre where her past roles include the title role in *Iolanthe*, Teresa in *The Mountebanks*, and Glinda in *The Wizard of Oz*.

Michael Stahl, *Marco*, most recently portrayed Colonel Fairfax (*The Yeomen of the Guard*) for Lyric Theatre, where he also was the Tin Man (*The Wizard of Oz*), & the Duke (*Patience*).

Jay Steele, *Don Alhambra*, has performed with Lyric Theatre in 1776 and Camelot. His G&S roles at Lamplighters include *The Mikado*, Lord Mountararat, and Sergeant of Police.

Paul Zawilski, *Music Director*, sings as well as conducts for Lyric Theatre, last season heard as Arac in *Princess Ida*. He works with many youth programs, including San Mateo High School.