

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Joanne Kay or Sarah Vardigans  
Email: [press@lamplighters.org](mailto:press@lamplighters.org)  
Phone: 415-227-4797  
Updated: 07/11/11



## **The Lamplighters Set Sail on the *H.M.S. Pinafore***

### **Gilbert & Sullivan's *H.M.S. PINAFORE***

Tickets: \$14 - 50

July 22-24: Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek (tickets: 925-943-7469 or [lesherartscenter.org](http://lesherartscenter.org))

July 30-31: Lincoln Theater Napa Valley in Yountville (tickets: 707-944-9900 or [lincolntheater.org](http://lincolntheater.org))

Aug 5-7: Novellus Theater at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco (tickets: 415-978-2787 or [ybca.org](http://ybca.org))

Aug 13-14: Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts in Mountain View (tickets: 650-903-6000 or [mvcpa.com](http://mvcpa.com))

Aug 20-21: Bankhead Theater in Livermore (tickets: 925-373-6800 or [bankheadtheater.org](http://bankheadtheater.org))

For more information call The Lamplighters at 415-227-4797 or go to [www.lamplighters.org](http://www.lamplighters.org)

Lamplighters Music Theatre is delighted to open its **59th Season** with Gilbert & Sullivan's classic musical comedy *H.M.S. Pinafore*. Audiences will join the Lamplighters onboard one of England's great Navy ships, the H.M.S. Pinafore, where the beautiful Josephine must choose between marrying the First Lord of the Admiralty - with all of the wealth, prestige and power his title affords - or the "simple sailor, lowly born" who has won her heart. Gilbert's plot makes fun of patriotism, social class snobbery and incompetence in high places, and over 130 years later we can still laugh!

When *Pinafore* crossed the Atlantic to open in the U.S. in 1878 it was incredibly well received, becoming an instant sensation. In those days, however, copyright laws in the U.S. were barely in place and a mania of copycat productions were launched hot on the tail of the original. Many years later it is still one of the most popular operettas ever produced. Stage Director Jane Erwin Hammett and Conductor Brett Strader are at the ship's helm. This creative team plus their cast and orchestra will carry you off to as lively a *Pinafore* as exists today right from the opening notes of *We sail the Ocean Blue*.

For more information visit [www.lamplighters.org](http://www.lamplighters.org) or call the Lamplighters at 415-227-4797.

**Leshler Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek**

Friday, July 22 8:00 PM  
Saturday, July 23 2:00 PM & 8:00 PM  
Sunday, July 24 2:00 PM

**Lincoln Theatre Napa Valley, Yountville**

Saturday, July 30 8:00 PM  
Sunday, July 31 3:00 PM

**Novellus Theater at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco**

Friday, August 5 8:00 PM  
Saturday, August 6 2:00 PM & 8:00 PM  
Sunday, August 7 2:00 PM

**Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, Mountain View**

Saturday, August 13 2:00 PM & 8:00 PM  
Sunday, August 14 2:00 PM

**Bankhead Theatre, Livermore**

Saturday, August 20 2:00 PM & 8:00 PM  
Sunday, August 21 2:00 PM

**Principal Roles**

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| RALPH RACKSTRAW                  | Michael Belle                               |
| SIR JOSEPH PORTER                | F.Lawrence Ewing                            |
| CAPTAIN CORCORAN                 | Behrend Eilers<br>Jonathan Spencer          |
| JOSEPHINE CORCORAN               | Jennifer Ashworth<br>Lindsay Thompson-Roush |
| MRS. CRIPPS (“Little Buttercup”) | Sonia Gariaeff                              |
| DICK DEADEYE                     | Robby Stafford                              |
| COUSIN HEBE                      | Eliza Leoni<br>Michele Schroeder            |
| BILL BOBSTAY (The Boatswain)     | Chris Uzelac                                |
| BOB BECKET (Carpenter’s Mate)    | Ryland Hale                                 |

## **Chorus of Ship's Crew, Sir Joseph's Sisters, Cousins and Aunts**

George Ashworth, Melissa Butcher, Tony Cavalleri, Robert Dorsett, Katherine Leah Feller, Megan K. Fleischmann, Rose Frazier, Drew Green, Andrew Gustafson, Angela Jarosz, Kristen Jones, Steven Kahlich, Colin Ketcham, David Kirby, Rachel Larsen, William Loney, Marina Ma, Brenna MacIlvaine, Caitlin Nuckolls, Kathryn Schumacher (Buttercup understudy), Abram St. Amand Poliakoff, Holly van Hoey, Abigail Vass.

### **A Brief History and Bio of Lamplighters Music Theatre**

Lamplighters Music Theatre was founded in 1952 to produce the comic operas of librettist W.S. Gilbert and composer Arthur Sullivan, and is now recognized as one of the world's pre-eminent Gilbert & Sullivan companies. The Lamplighters' repertoire includes all the surviving works of these creative geniuses, as well as a select group of comic operas and classic musicals by other composers that exemplify their artistic vision.

Critically acclaimed artistic successes for the Lamplighters include honors for Best Production and Best Director at the International Gilbert & Sullivan Festival in Buxton, England and local awards in nearly every performance, direction, and design category. The hallmarks of a Lamplighters production are lavish costumes and sets, live orchestra, excellent comic acting, and gorgeous unamplified singing that showcases the beauty and purity of the human voice.

Gilbert & Sullivan created a new kind of music theatre. Their music is largely classical in style, but lyrics and music are perfectly matched; librettos are complicated, but highly literate, thought-provoking and hugely entertaining. Between 1875 and 1896 they took the world of music by storm with their 13 comic operas, including *H.M.S. Pinafore*, *The Pirates of Penzance* and *The Mikado*. Today, their topsy-turvy, melodic creations continue to inspire, intrigue and delight performers and audiences of all ages.

In addition to an active performance schedule, The Lamplighters provide performance and training opportunities in this unique style of classic music theatre to local theatre artists, and seek to promote appreciation for the works of Gilbert & Sullivan through youth programs, school performances and other types of community outreach.