



The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of SA Inc.



# G&S Newsletter

[www.gandssa.com.au](http://www.gandssa.com.au)

No. 1 September 2012



The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of South Australia

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Royal Flying Doctor Service

The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of South Australia is proud to support the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

# Announcing Our 2013 Season!

*Two classic musical stories feature in the G&S Society's 2013 season!*

## ***The Secret Garden***

From 31 January 2013 to 10 February 2013, the Society will present *The Secret Garden* at the Arts Theatre.

Based on the book by Frances Hodgson Burnett, the musical tells the tale of the orphaned Mary Lennox who comes to live in Yorkshire with her cousin and uncle, both of whom are crippled in different ways. The discovery of a neglected, walled garden helps the three begin to heal.

Featuring songs such as the beautiful 'Lily's Eyes' and the catchy 'Winters on the Wing' this musical has something for everyone.

Also visiting the Secret Garden is talented musician Daniel Brunner, who makes his debut with the Society as Musical Director.

Daniel has been repetiteur for many of the Society's productions and assisted Ian Andrew with the musical arrangements for the Society's recent production of *The Gondoliers*.

The Society is looking forward to producing an innovative new staging of this enchanting family classic which is sure to delight all ages.

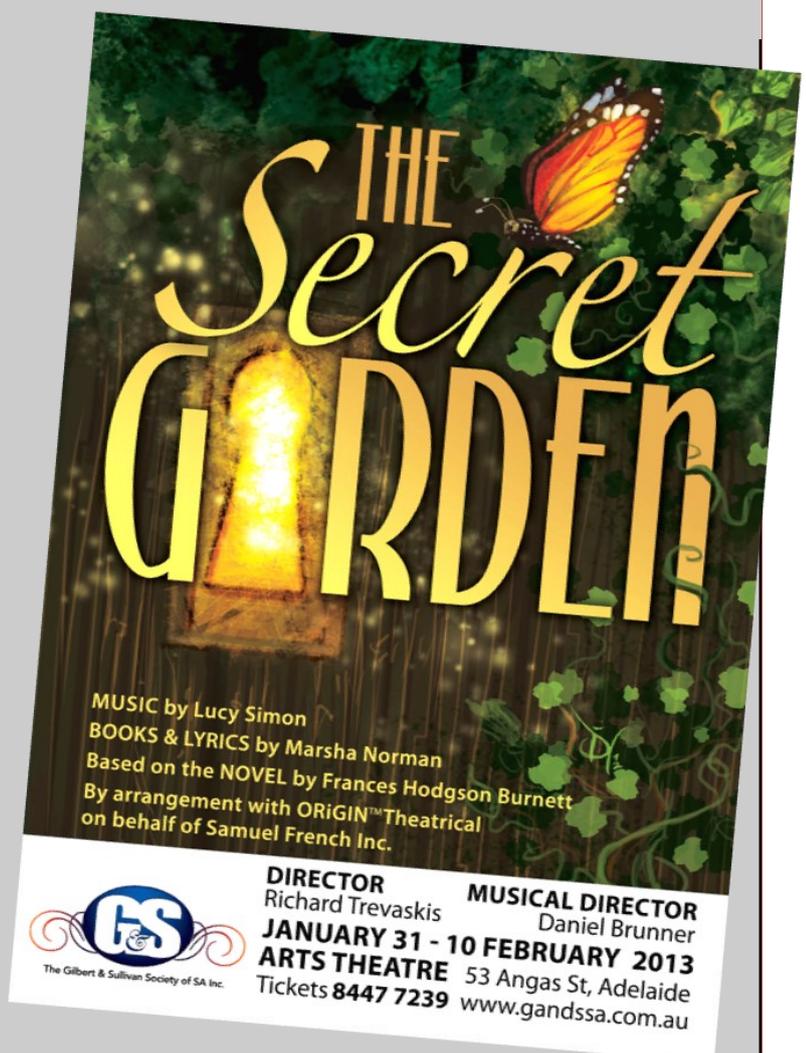
## ***You Want More?!***

## ***Oliver!***

In July 2013, director David Lampard and musical director Peter Johns bring you the much loved *Oliver!*

Based on the novel by Charles Dickens, follow the orphaned boy as he meets the Artful Dodger, the larcenous Fagin and the tragic Nancy before finding love and family.

Also staged at the Arts Theatre, further details will be posted to the G&S website in due course.



**THE Secret GARDEN**

MUSIC by Lucy Simon  
BOOKS & LYRICS by Marsha Norman  
Based on the NOVEL by Frances Hodgson Burnett  
By arrangement with ORIGIN™ Theatrical  
on behalf of Samuel French Inc.

**DIRECTOR**  
Richard Trevaskis

**MUSICAL DIRECTOR**  
Daniel Brunner

**JANUARY 31 - 10 FEBRUARY 2013**

**ARTS THEATRE** 53 Angas St, Adelaide  
Tickets **8447 7239** [www.gandssa.com.au](http://www.gandssa.com.au)

  
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## ***An Exciting Cast***

### ***No Secret for Carolyn***

Carolyn Ferrie will return to *The Secret Garden* in the role she performed opposite Anthony Warlow as part of the original Australian production.

Carolyn, who is perhaps internationally best known as the voice of Dorothy the Dinosaur, will play Lily in our production directed by Ric Trevaskis .

'It's a beautiful piece of theatre and a perfect way to spend a few hours', says Carolyn. 'To sing Lily again is a little sprinkle of fairy dust on my life'.

Carolyn has appeared in a long list of professional productions both nationally and internationally, including *Cats*, *Phantom of the Opera* and *The Turn of the Screw*.

Adelaide born Carolyn says she was particularly fortunate to have been given the opportunity to play the role of Maria in *The Sound Of Music* at the Festival Theatre.

### ***Mark Returns To The Garden***

Playing opposite Carolyn as Archibald Craven is celebrated local performer Mark Oates who won awards for his portrayal of Jean Valjean in *Les Misérables* for the Society and who most recently played John Styx in *Orpheus in the Underworld* for State Opera SA.

Mark is also looking forward to returning to the role of Archibald, having worked with Ric on a prior production of *The Secret Garden*.

'I am excited to be reconnecting with Ric and having the chance to look at Archie's story again', says Mark. 'It is exciting to have another chance to inhabit the character and share the story with a new audience.'

**To book your tickets, call Paula on  
8447 7239**

**Email [paula@gandssa.com.au](mailto:paula@gandssa.com.au)  
Or visit [www.gandssa.com.au](http://www.gandssa.com.au)**

## A Diamond Jubilee



As the sister of the Bishop of Digné in the 2009 production of *Les Misérables*.

The year was 1952 and whilst in London, a young Queen Elizabeth began her reign, another young slip of a girl set foot into an audition and thus commenced 60 years of active involvement in the G&S Society, both on and off stage, for Dame Marjorie Quin DGCICP, GSD, SSD. (For those of you wondering the meaning of the honorifics, on her 50th Anniversary with the Society Marj was created a Dame Grand Cross of the Order of the Chamber Potte and awarded the Orders of Gilbert and Sullivan.)

She began as a bridesmaid in *Ruddigore* and with the latest production of *The Gondoliers* she has now played a bridesmaid 11 times. With that production, Marj has appeared in 75 full Society productions and in numerous soirees, concerts and one-off performances. Behind the scenes she has worked on costumes, prompt, props, millinery and wigs.

She served as Board Member from 1969-74 and 1976-77 and was appointed an Honorary Life Member of the Society in 1981.

At cast parties, she presents *The Marj and Marie Show* with her 'partner-in-crime' Marie Taylor, honouring cast members with humorous presentations. (This is another way that Marj is associated with a throne, albeit the plastic potty that appears every time!) Not even Marj knows how long this tradition has continued but it is well over 30 years.

Marj is well known for her portrayals of Queen Victoria and it was in this role that she attended the 1992 production of *The Gondoliers*, sitting in the Royal Box each night with various attendants. She has also appeared at Ayers House in the role, accompanied by her slightly dotty lady in waiting, Miss Taylor (with hip flask!)



Queen Victoria (Marj Quin) and Princess Beatrice (Liz Olsson) meet Richard D'Oyly Carte (Richard House) when they attend *The Gondoliers* in 1992

There is very little that Marj does not know about the G&S repertoire and she has a quote for every occasion. She has always been supportive of young performers in the Society (and as Ric has said before - directors!) Her theatre case has the characteristics of Mary Poppins' carpet bag - if you need it in the theatre, she has it in her case!

Her generosity is immense. Costumes are altered if you cannot sew, props and accessories found to set the costume off, advice and support will be given, all without asking and always just when it is needed. And her wry sense of humour is legendary. Such is the love and respect that she engenders that she is now sought for cameo roles, such as the Lord Chancellor's Nanny in *Iolanthe* and in *Les Misérables*.

Quite simply, Marj is a living treasure. Three cheers for the Jubilee Girl! Long may Dame Marjorie reign!



Marj with Tim Blackshaw in 2012's *The Gondoliers*.

## G&S in the News

### Hatches

Congratulations to:

Gemma and Tim Wilson

(Tessa - *The Gondoliers* 2007 and Willis - *Iolanthe* 2006) on the arrival of their daughter, Harriet Emily, on 20 April 2012.

### Matches

Congratulations on their recent engagement to:

Alexandra Gard and Lachlan Scott

(*Iolanthe* - *Iolanthe* 2012 and Sir Lionel - *Camelot* 2004)

### A Very G&S Engagement!

Audiences at the matinee of *The Gondoliers* were treated to a special event. During the bows, Giuseppe (Patrick Witcombe) was absent from the stage, only to appear in civvies and announce in song to Tessa that his heart belonged to another. In true G&S style, various cast members joined in to ask if they were Pat's true love.

Even Phyllis from *Iolanthe* (Pat played Strephon opposite Desiree Frahn in March this year) appeared! With a little help from the Director David Lampard, our President, Paul Talbot and pianist Daniel Brunner, Pat declared that his heart belonged to Lady Liana (who was playing Casilda) and popped the question!

She said 'Yes!' to the applause of all present!

### And The Winner Js!

Congratulations to Society participants in the Adelaide and Balaklava Eisteddfou.

Ian Andrew won the Arnold Matters Vocal Scholarship, with Tahlia Ries in second place. Ian also won the Gilbert & Sullivan section, with Patrick Witcombe and Dione Palmer as the other prize recipients.

Tahlia and Patrick were also successful in other sections.

Congratulations also to Bethany Ide, Lucy Baldock, James Murphy and Alistair Brasted.

At Balaklava, Susan Brooke-Smith scored a win and a place.

**If your contact details have changed, let us know - 8447 7239 or [contact@gandssa.com.au](mailto:contact@gandssa.com.au)**

## From the Editor

We're baaack!!!!

It's been a long time between drinks, but the newsletter is back in business.

Please let me know what you would like to see in the newsletter and any items you want included. Liz Olsson

Contact me on:

[liz@gandssa.com.au](mailto:liz@gandssa.com.au) or 0414 866 952



### Having A Hell of A Time

State Opera recently staged the version of *Orpheus in the Underworld* that the Society produced in 2009. This production was very much a Society affair with past and current members in roles and the chorus.

Amongst the principals were Joanna McWaters (Cupid), Mark Oates (John Styx) pictured below, as well as Deborah Caddy (Diana), Andy Turner (Eachus), and Nicolas Lock (Minos).



They were joined in the Chorus by :

Meran Bow, Desiree Frahn, Lara Francis, Alexandra Gard, Daniel Goodburn, Lyn Harris, Barbara Heidrich, Norbert Hohl, Reece Keane, David Lampard, Patrick Lim, Kate Macfarlane, Tom Millhouse and Paul Talbot.

The show was a great romp with stunning costumes and excellent performances.

## From the President...

Welcome back to the G&S newsletter. As always there are so many jobs to do and never quite enough hands to do them all so it was with grateful delight that the Board accepted Elizabeth Olsson's generous offer to co-ordinate and distribute the G&S newsletter. I know many of you have decried its absence and so we are very happy to be able to return it to circulation. Thanks Liz!

2012 is, as most of you would already know, the 75th anniversary of the G&S Society in South Australia. Thus far we have done great service to one of our constitutional mandates "to foster, preserve and promote the Gilbert & Sullivan repertoire as a vital part of contemporary and popular theatre" by producing *The Mikado*, *HMS Pinafore*, *Iolanthe*, *Trial by Jury* and *The Gondoliers* - all in the last 12 months. All of these productions were incredibly well received by those who saw them and our consequent associations with The Arts Theatre, The Maritime Museum in Port Adelaide, The Courts Administration Authority and the State Opera of South Australia are exciting collaborations which we hope to continue into the future.

Our production of *The Mikado* saw us farewelling the Scott Theatre. Sadly it appears that the likelihood of us returning to this venue which traditionally has suited us so well, is very small.

Nonetheless, this *Mikado*, directed by Ric Trevaskis, musically directed (and rescored) by Ross Curtis and designed by David Lampard, was a triumph applauded by all who saw it.

Meanwhile John and Barb Turner have been feverishly working away at producing some small scale more traditional versions of G&S, with *HMS Pinafore* at the Maritime Museum and *Trial By Jury* at the Law Courts. Both of these productions, whilst small, created quite a buzz, particularly amongst the participants as they saw some of the older members of the Society treading the boards



and having a regular right royal time....we'll keep you posted on what is to come from John and Barb.

David Lampard then recreated his 2006 version of *Iolanthe*, this time experimenting with a reduced chorus and in a new venue at the State Opera of South Australia. This production also saw Ian Andrew very capably music directing for the Society for the first time.

Amongst fairy lights and illuminated Big Ben Clock Towers the State Opera Studio was transformed into a suitable stomping ground for fairies and peers alike.

Finally, *The Gondoliers*. Again, David reworked the staging of this piece and set it in a Venetian art gallery - with characters from most of the G&S repertoire literally falling out of the paintings and participating in various scenes. Ian Andrew returned as MD again and this show saw our long awaited return to the Arts Theatre. I am sure those of you who saw this production will agree that it was a VERY clever take on *The Gondoliers* and a stunning homage to the entire G&S cannon. And those of you who were there on the Saturday matinee will no doubt join me in congratulating Patrick and Liana...

At the AGM we said farewell to Peter Herriman (who was also award honorary life membership) and Karen Muller. Thankyou to both of them for their outstanding contributions to the board in their time with us.

We also welcomed David Williams and Michelle Wickett to join our ranks, both of whom have already proven themselves worth their weight in gold.

We have one more event this year and that is the G&S 75th anniversary quiz night. If you haven't bought your tickets yet get a wriggle on. This will be no ordinary quiz night....October 27 at the Opera Studio...be there.

Finally I would like to thank all those who contributed to our donation drive this year. The response was overwhelming and I can assure you that every bit of the money donated has ensured that we can continue to keep our doors open. The Society will be mounting productions of *The Secret Garden* and *Oliver!* next year and there are even more exciting projects in the works after that....I look forward to spending the next few months helping the Society do what it does best...entertain.

Enjoy! Paul

## What a Trooper!



A little thing like a broken hip was not going to stop Marie Taylor from being part of the Society's 75th Anniversary production, *The Gondoliers*.

Six weeks after surgery Marie was onstage, her only sign of injury being the use of a walking stick, painted a theatrical gold - of course!

## Our Grateful Thanks!

Thank you to all of those who donated to the recent fund raising drive. Your generosity helped us jump the financial hurdle we faced and with the success of *The Gondoliers*, has provided us with a buffer against further difficulties.

Whilst we still have a way to go, the finances are slowly improving and will continue to do so with your ongoing support in buying tickets for the upcoming shows and telling and encouraging your friends to come and see them too.

Thank you once again.

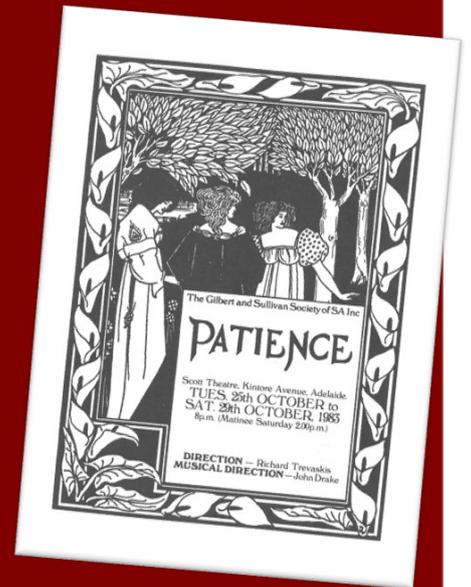
## Ruth Goble

A set and graphic designer for the Society, Ruth passed away on 22 August 2012, aged 89. The niece of artist Dorrit Black, Ruth was one of the first female architects in South Australia and she combined her training and artistic skills to create beautiful sets, including a painted backdrop for *Iolanthe* which was described as 'awe inspiring' and earned her a standing ovation.

Ruth's family were also involved in the Society. One daughter, Christine Smith, assisted with the production of *Patience* in which Ruth designed a set and program based on the works of Aubrey Beardsley, (see right). Ruth's eldest daughter, Ghillian Sullivan, international opera singer, director and designer, commenced her career with the G&S Society.

Ruth's links with Gilbert and Sullivan were close indeed. Her great aunt was Helen Lenoir (Black), wife and secretary of Richard D'Oyly Carte, who brought WS Gilbert and AS Sullivan together. Ruth gifted to the Society some of the costumes of early G&S productions by the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company, which had been sent to the Black family in Adelaide by their famous relative.

Our condolences to Ruth's family.



## Our Deepest Sympathy

To Society Secretary and Publicist Kate Warren and her children Lucy, Georgia and Tom Russell (all Society members) on the death of their mother/grandmother.

To Front of House Manager Louise Gillan on her father's recent passing.

## Ross Clark

Former Props person and backstage crew member Ross passed away suddenly on 22 July 2012. With a dry wit and erudite writing, Ross was a regular during the late 1980s and '90s and often wrote a humorous commentary on the show that he was involved in.

Our best wishes to his family.



The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of SA presents... 

Showcasing the Society's talent, artefacts, costume collection and more

# Gala Quiz Night

Celebrating 75 Years in 2012

7:30pm October 27,  
The Opera Studio, 216 Marion Rd, Netley

All tickets \$25, book at 8447 7239  
or [www.gandssa.com.au](http://www.gandssa.com.au)



## Board of Management 2012

- President: Paul Talbot
- Vice President: Ric Trevaskis
- Secretary: Kate Warren
- Treasurer: Jan Hooper
- Board Members: Ian Andrew
- Susan Henderson
- Manik Meah
- Michelle Wickett
- David Williams
- Ticket Secretary: Paula Pamment

