



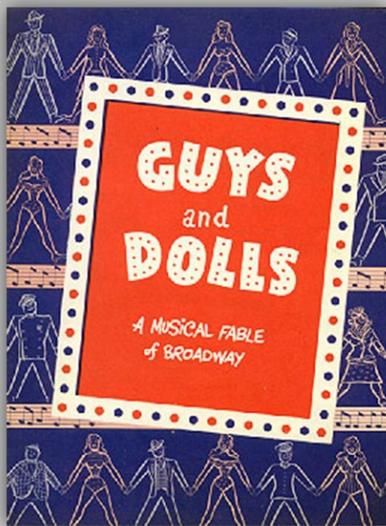
The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of SA Inc.



# G&S Newsletter

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

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## The Society's 2015 Season

The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of South Australia

Established 1937 ABN 45 510 475 165

PO Box 306

HINDMARSH SA 5007

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

Email: [contact@gandssa.com.au](mailto:contact@gandssa.com.au)

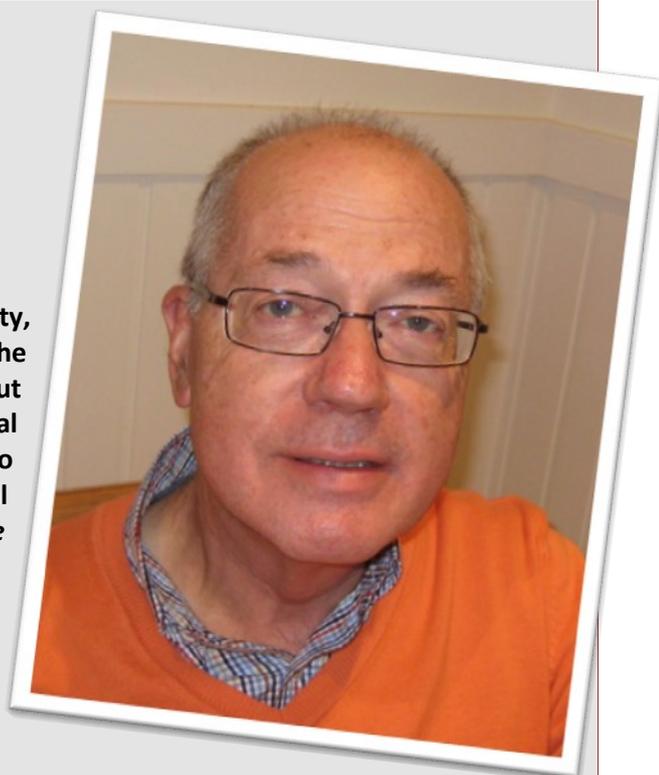
# President's Report

Welcome to the final newsletter for 2014.

## 2015 Productions

It gives me great pleasure to announce the program for 2015.

We will begin by presenting a totally new concept for the Society, but one which fits perfectly with the object of perpetuating the works of Gilbert and Sullivan. We will be presenting not one but *three* of the G&S operettas – all within a two week normal season timeframe in April/early May, and each one designed to be an entertaining night out. Three directors and three musical directors will produce *HMS Pinafore*, *Princess Ida* and *Ruddigore* sequentially over the fortnight, all on the one set. Intriguing? A true G&S gala! You will be able to purchase tickets for the shows individually or for two of them or all three. Dates and information on the process for purchasing tickets appear later in this newsletter. We know that G&S lovers will delight in this concept.



*Guys and Dolls* has been selected for our second season of the year in late September/early October. First staged on Broadway in 1950, it ran for 1200 performances and won the Tony Award for Best Musical. You will no doubt also recall the 1955 film adaptation starring Marlon Brando, Jean Simmons, Frank Sinatra and Vivian Blaine.

Preparations for this 2015 program have commenced and we trust that you will continue to strongly support the Society.

## Welcome John Greene

Since I last wrote to you we have appointed John Greene to an ex officio position on the Board of Management with a specific task to thoroughly review the condition, use, storage and security of our premises at Hindmarsh. We have such a huge store of production paraphernalia that there is scarcely a nook or cranny to be found unfilled by costumes, sets, props and more. This indicates very positively the amazing wealth of materials in our possession, but we are now at a critical point with respect to storage, and, frankly, safety. John's task over the coming months will be to thoroughly assess what we have, document it, and to recommend a direction for us that maintains the assets we need, but provides safer and quicker access to them.

Thank you for your support in 2014, and I wish you a very pleasant Christmas/New Year break.

*Brian McLauchlan*

## ***Welcome Kathryn!***

At the end of *The Sound of Music* we were pleased to welcome Kathryn Smiles as our new Treasurer. After four months in the job, Kathryn is well and truly settled in the role and making a great contribution. Our grateful thanks to Jan Hooper, who returned to the role of Treasurer at short notice and helped us out for the first half of the year.

## ***Thank you Megan!***

Our Secretary Megan Doherty will shortly be leaving the Board to head off on an exciting new adventure in Wales. We wish her all the best and hope she has exciting experiences and opportunities ahead of her in 2015.

## ***Welcome John!***

We welcome our new Secretary, John Hochwald.

# The Festival of Gilbert & Sullivan



## Triple Your Pleasure!

For our 2015 April/May season the G&S Society is presenting not one, but three Gilbert and Sullivan treasures! Each will be presented in a semi-staged concert style — with plenty of fun surprises for audiences both new and old. The three lucky shows are: *HMS Pinafore* (last staged 2008), *Ruddigore* (last staged 1995) and *Princess Ida* (last staged 1996).

That's princesses, sailors and ghosts... oh my!

We are also excited to announce that *HMS Pinafore* will be directed by Peter Hopkins, *Princess Ida* will be directed by David Lampard and *Ruddigore* will be directed by Ric Trevaskis.



We'd love you to join us for this very exciting event. With an onstage orchestra, fun and surprising sets, a bevy of beautiful costumes and more G&S characters than you can shake a cat o' nine tails at, this new festival is sure to be a highlight of the 2015 theatrical year.

*The Festival of Gilbert and Sullivan* opens at The Arts Theatre on Thursday 23rd April 2015 and will finish on Saturday 2nd May 2015.

## Guys and Dolls

*"without a doubt the greatest of all American musicals!"* - Time Magazine

Featuring some of Broadway's most iconic tunes including *Luck be a Lady* and *Sit Down, You're Rocking the Boat*, *Guys and Dolls* takes you back to 1940's New York where small-time gambler Nathan Detroit bets his big-time pal Sky Masterson that he can't make the next "doll" he sees fall in love with him. When that doll turns out to be the local neighbourhood missionary, the scene is set for an unforgettable evening of entertainment.

This Tony Award winning musical directed by Karen Sheldon with musical direction by Martin Cheney, will delight musical theatre lovers of all ages.

*Guys and Dolls* will be staged at The Arts Theatre between 1—10 October 2015.

For more information and details as to when tickets go on sale visit our website

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



# The Notice Board!



## ***Bittersweet & Song***

Our talented Secretary, Megan Doherty, last seen in a brilliant performance of Eliza Doolittle for the Met's *My Fair Lady* (not to mention risqué Sister Margaretta in *The Sound of Music*) is off to live in Cardiff in February 2015.

To celebrate Meg is holding a farewell concert (and fundraising at the same time). Bringing together the best bits of her cabaret shows *The Girl Who Won't Grow Up* and *Dirty Thirty*, plus some new bits, some special guests, and a whole lot of fun the concert is to say farewell to her hometown and to the people here who have helped her come as far as she has to date.

To have some of the proceeds up front will help in ensuring that this concert goes ahead, so Meg is fundraising via Pozible. Tickets purchased there will be at a lower cost to you than those that go on sale later.

Meg is offering extra special packages including:

- Champagne with Meg in the dressing room before the show;
- A song of your choice to be sung in the concert;
- Personally sung Christmas Carols; and
- If you can't make the concert various types of thank you gestures from Meg when she is in Cardiff

Pledges of support need to be made before December 15, so please head to the website and help make this concert a success by buying a ticket or just donating!

Where: The Goodwood Institute.

Date: 23 January 2015

Time: 8 pm

Cost: \$30.00

Tickets: <http://www.pozible.com/project/187965>

## ***Summer Showcase***

Director of the upcoming *Princess Ida* and our two successful seasons of *Oliver!* in July 2013 and January 2014, David Lampard is 2014 Emerging Artist director in residence through the James and Diana Ramsay Foundation Opera Program with the State Opera of South Australia.

David is directing *Summer Showcase*, featuring the next generation of opera stars together with instrumentalists from the Adelaide Youth Orchestra.

The Showcase will be a snapshot of semi-staged opera scenes from favourites including; *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Falstaff*, *Suor Angelica*, *Der Rosenkavalier*, *Eugene Onegin* and *Lucia di Lammermoor*.

Musical Direction is by David Barnard.

"This concert will have something for everyone and will give the performers an opportunity to showcase their talents in the intimate- friendly setting of SOSA's Opera Studio," says David.

Where: The Opera Studio, Netley

Date: 14 December 2014

Time: 3 pm

Cost: \$10.00

Tickets: 8226 4790

## ***And Speaking of the State Opera of SA***

Honorary Life Member and former President of the Society Elizabeth Olsson was appointed to the Board of the State Opera in October 2014.

She is very excited at the challenge and is rather impressed that so many members of the State Opera Chorus have appeared with the G&S Society.

# *Coleton Fishacre—What's That?!!*

## **Long Term Society Member, Tony Phillips, explains...**

In August of this year my wife and I were fortunate enough to visit Dartmouth, Devon in the U.K.

Dartmouth is a beautiful, picturesque old English port on the south coast. Part of the English fleet that defeated the Spanish Armada sailed from there. It is also the home of the first steam engine in the world, invented by Thomas Newcomen in 1710 and often subsequently known as the 'Common Engine'. The Common Engine preceded James Watt's engine by several decades and can rightly be claimed to be the start of the Industrial Revolution.

Dartmouth is still the home of the Royal Naval College and close to Slapton Sands, site of one of the US Army's biggest disasters of World War II (Google 'Operation Tiger, Slapton Sands') - and on British soil!

A few miles up the river Dart is the home of Agatha Christie, now open to the public.

Whilst there we were also able to visit Coleton Fishacre, home of Sir Rupert D'Oyly Carte. Rupert was the son of Richard D'Oyly Carte, founder of the Savoy and other famous London Hotels and, of course, the founder of The Savoy Opera in conjunction with Messrs Gilbert and Sullivan. Whilst sailing around the Devon coast in the early 1920s, Rupert spotted this beautiful, sheltered valley and was subsequently able to purchase it. The wealth left to him by his father enabled him to build a magnificent country retreat where he could spend his weekends away from London. The house is now owned by The National Trust and has retained all its 1920s furniture as well as many G & S memorabilia.

Around the house are 24 acres of magnificent gardens leading down to the sea and connecting with a coastal pathway.

If you ever visit that part of the UK, Coleton Fishacre is a must! A one minute Youtube video is available (Google Coleton Fishacre and just go down the list) - but is only a very brief 'taster'! Just remember that most Devon country roads seem slightly narrower than most modern cars and heaven help you if you meet a cyclist!





## ***Beefeaters help celebrate St George's Day at The Navy, Military and Air Force Club***

The 23rd of April is Saint George's Day—the patron Saint of Soldiers and England. The Society was asked to supply two "beefeaters" to be on guard at the dinner held at the Club to celebrate the day.

Members Peter Cannon and Michael Cochran volunteered to go on duty and their appearance was a great success! Dinner included traditional Beef Wellington and Yorkshire pudding, Scotch Eggs and Bakewell Tarts. The night was a huge success with speeches by the President and Vice-President of the Saint George's Society, and toasts by Supt Bruce James-Martin and Event Champion, Capt Mark Williams.

We are told that the event may be held again next year, so we may be looking for two more volunteers next April! Thank you Mike and Peter for your time!

## ***The Cast, Orchestra and Crew of The Sound of Music***

