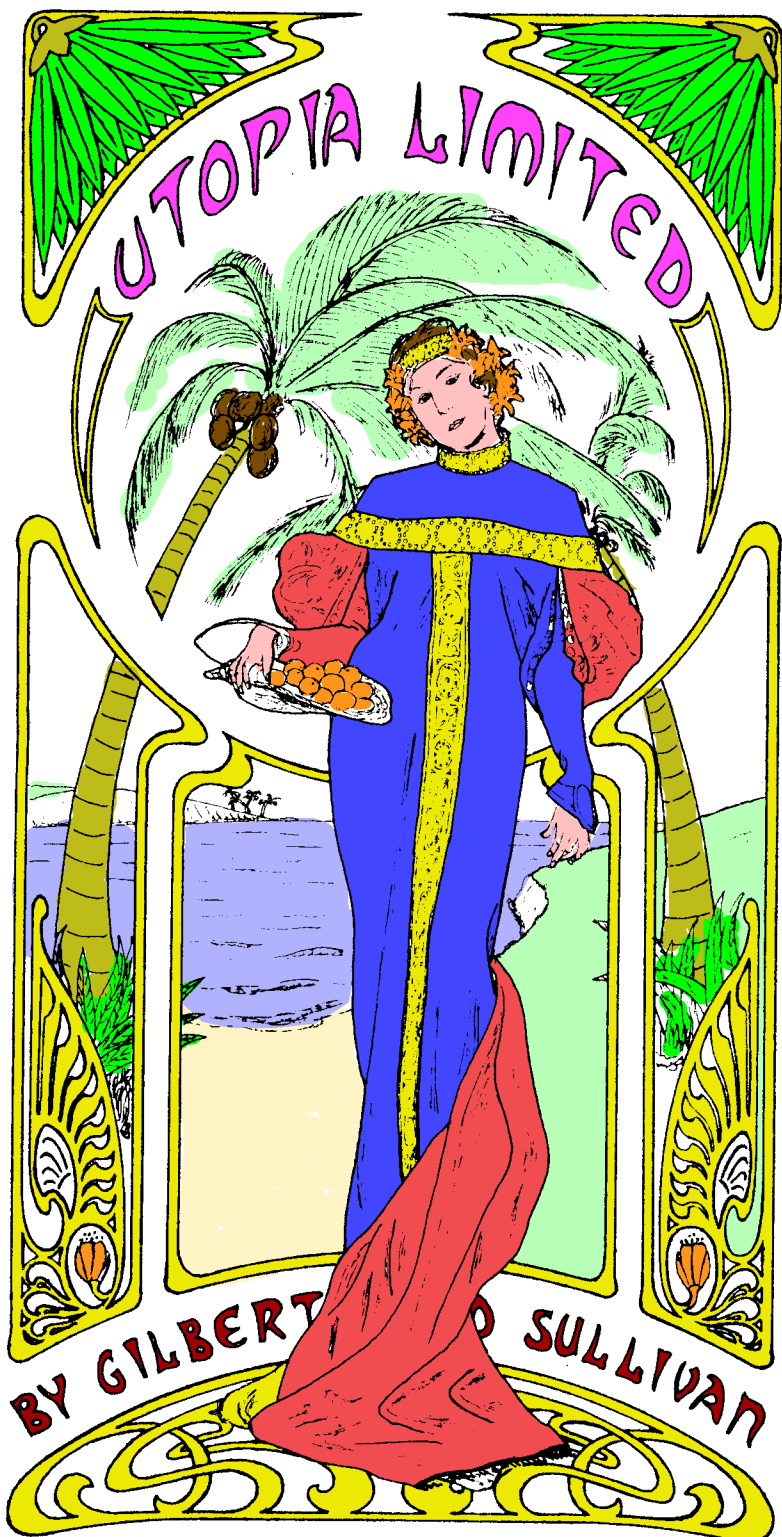


AMERICAN COLLEGE OPERATING SOCIETY



UTOPIA LIMITED

BY GILBERT AND SULLIVAN

UTOPIA LIMITED

OR: THE FLOWERS OF PROGRESS

BY W.S. GILBERT & ARTHUR S. SULLIVAN

OVERTURE SPECIALLY COMPOSED BY MAX TAYLOR

Producer	<i>Ian Gledhill</i>
Musical Director	<i>Michael Withers</i>
Musical Accompanists	<i>Pat Nuttall</i> <i>Gill Froom</i>

THE COMMITTEE

Chairman	<i>Mike Tripp</i>
Vice-Chairman	<i>Steve Bodle</i>
Secretary	<i>Alison Mould</i>
Treasurer	<i>Steve Bodle</i>
Publicity Officer	<i>Ian Morrison</i>
Ticket Manager	<i>Geoff Reynolds</i>
General Adviser	<i>Tim Frain</i>

Utopia Limited is one of the more rarely performed operas of Gilbert and Sullivan. Perhaps this is due to the technical difficulties involved in production. For example, no less than eighteen soloists are required in Utopia, or maybe it is because the intensely topical satire lost some of its relevance after its first run of 245 performances in 1893.

In this opera Sullivan wrote some of his most untypical music, incorporating quotes from popular pieces like 'Rule, Britannia', the National Anthem, an earlier opera of his own, 'H.M.S. Pinafore', and 'Johnnie, get a gun', a plantation song, on which the septet is based.

Gilbert is seen at his most satirical, attacking English manners, customs and traditions. His Utopia is considerably different to the civilized state envisaged in 1516 by Sir Thomas More, when he invented the word.

Gilbert's Utopia is a South Pacific island. Its King, theoretically autocratic, is in practise not a despot, as he is watched by two tyrannical wise men. One cannot help seeing Gilbert in the position of the monarch, continually kept in order by the 'Wise men', Richard D'Oyly Carte and Sullivan.

The King has sent his eldest daughter, Zara, to be educated in England, so his state can be remodelled on that country. His younger daughters have an English gouvernante, who is used by Gilbert to satirize the false modesty of the Victorian lady, (later he praises the more natural, 'larger' English girl in Mr. Goldbury's song. Initially this song sounds insulting; it is not intended to be).

Zara returns to Utopia, having fallen in love with a captain of the First Lifeguards, from whom she is never separated during the opera. This is an unusual feature of a Gilbertian plot. After hearing Mr. Goldbury's song in which Gilbert expresses his opinions of the Joint Stock Company Act of 1862, the King decides that Utopia should become a limited liability company.

In Act II the King holds his first Cabinet Council with the Flowers of Progress. Gilbert burlesques the Downing Street procedure as it is presented "in accordance with the practise of St. James' Hall. This hall was the performing place of the famous Christy minstrels. The King's song which follows is based on a performance of theirs. The satire continues with a drawing room scene modelled on those of Queen Victoria's court.

The Wise men plot a revolt, but to crush this the King introduces government by party, advised by Zara, on the County Councillor's prompting. And so the opera ends; the Utopians once more contented as their country is no longer a monarchy (limited), but a limited monarchy.

As Sullivan's overture has not survived, that used in this production was specially composed by Max Taylor.

TIM FRAIN

CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

PHYLLA (UTOPIAN MAIDEN)	<i>SALLY HESLOP</i>
CALYNX (UTOPIAN VICE-CHAMBERLAIN)	<i>TIM CARTER</i>
MELENE (UTOPIAN MAIDEN)	<i>DENISE CLARK</i>
TARARA (THE PUBLIC EXPLODER)	<i>TIM FRAIN</i>
SCAPHIO) (JUDGES OF THE	<i>ROGER WOODWARD</i>
PHANTIS } UTOPIAN SUPREME COURT)	<i>ROGER NICHOLLS</i>
KING PARAMOUNT THE FIRST	<i>JOHN BARRATT</i>
PRINCESS NEKAYA	<i>LINDSAY BOTT</i>
PRINCESS KALYBA	<i>HEATHER DAVIS</i>
LADY SOPHY (ENGLISH GOUVERNANTE)	<i>DEBORAH KEMP</i>
PRINCESS ZARA	<i>DELITH BROOK</i>
<u>Imported Flowers of Progress:</u>	
CAPTAIN FITZBATTLEAXE	<i>TIM JOHNSON</i>
SIR BAILEY BARRE, Q.C., M.P.	<i>STEVE BODLE</i>
LORD DRAMALEIGH (A BRITISH LORD CHAMBERLAIN)	<i>STEVE CHAYTOW</i>
MR. BLUSHINGTON (COUNTY COUNCILLOR)	<i>RICHARD WILSON</i>
MR. GOLDBURY (A COMPANY PROMOTER)	<i>MAX TAYLOR</i>
CAPTAIN SIR EDWARD CORCORAN, K.C.B.	<i>DICK STOCKTON</i>

CHORUS OF UTOPIAN MAIDENS:

JANEY BALES
CHRISTINE BARSON
ANGELA FAIRHEAD
ANGELA McCULLAGH
ALISON MOULD

ANN O'SHEA
NICKY RIDGWELL
PHILLIPPA RYAN
KATHRYN SAMBROOK
BARBARA TANSEY

ELIZABETH TAYLOR

DANCERS

ANN ALDERSON
ROSE CARDON

DENISE CLARK
MIRIAM PONSFORD

CHORUS OF UTOPIAN GENTLEMEN:

ANDREW BELL
GRAHAM BENT
DAVID HORN

IAIN McLEAN
TONY MOORBY
IAN MORRISON

GEOFF REYNOLDS

TROOPERS

PAUL OVERTON
JOHN REDDIE

PETE TOTTERDELL
MIKE TRIPP

PROGRAMME

ACT I. A UTOPIAN PALM GROVE

ACT II. THRONE ROOM IN KING PARAMOUNT'S PALACE

There will be an interval of 20 minutes between acts

Refreshments will be on sale

*New members are always welcome to join the Society.
Rehearsals are at 7.30 p.m. every Tuesday evening at
53, Prince's Gate. Come along to any rehearsal or
contact M. Tripp, via Maths II, or Union Letter Racks.*

ORCHESTRA

LEADER: *David Greed*

VIOLINS

Lynda Bill
Edna Burrow
Annabel Jones
Hilary Minto
Mervyn Pitcher
Dave Seal
Theresa Smith

VIOLAS

Pat Perret
Anthony Ruston

CELLOS

Peter Saunders
Joanna Green

DOUBLE BASS

Steve Parrott

FLUTES

Marianne Herring
Jonathan Heitler

OBOE

Ian Craig

CLARINETS

Gill Froom
David Lester

HORNS

Barry Dwyer
Fred Shaub

BASSOON

Alistair Mitchell

TRUMPETS

David Burgess
Harold Sim

TROMBONES

Susan Dodd
Richard Fairhead

PERCUSSION

Andrew Fairhead

ORCHESTRA ARRANGER

Christine Barson

FOR THE COMPANY

Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Set Design
Lighting Design
Properties
Lighting Operator
Stage Assistants

*Steven (Fred) Cann
Ian Lacey
Nigel Stevens
Niel Pielou
Paul Jarvis
Ken Haley
Ross Darling
Tony Haddrell
John Midlane
Robert Pickup
Andy Potter
Moira Robinson
Duncan Turner
Walter Plinge, etc.
Lindsay Bott
Thelma Hill
Catherine Fetherston
Rosannagh Lucas-Clements*

Wardrobe Mistress
House Manager
House Staff

The Society extends its thanks to I.C. Dramatic Society for their invaluable help in the staging of this production.

Cover Design

Ian Gledhill

Photograph

John Blackwell

1 P.M. THURS.

THE ZOO

18TH MARCH

A MUSICAL FOLLY BY

SULLIVAN & ROWE

IN THE GREAT HALL. ADMISSION FREE.

I.C.O.S. TOUR . JULY 24TH TO AUGUST 7TH 1976.

PIRATES OF PENZANCE

AND THE ZOO

