



Braidwood Youth Performing Arts
Association Presents



GILBERT & SULLIVAN'S

**THE
PIRATES OF PENZANCE**

**A community production.
Directed by Elisa James and Nikki Kennedy.**

Set sail with this classic comedy that boasts one of the most famous patter songs in musical theatre history. The wit and whimsy of Gilbert and Sullivan's classic score is suffused with a modern sensibility in *The Pirates of Penzance JR.*, a swashbuckling musical journey!

Set on the rocky coast of Cornwall, England, *The Pirates of Penzance* begins with a group of pirates who are celebrating the birthday of one of their own, Frederic, who has reached his 21st year. Finally having served the full length of his required time with the pirates, he decides to strike off on his own and become an upstanding citizen – which may even mean bringing the pirates to justice. Thus turns out to be a tricky prospect indeed, especially when Frederic's freedom is called into question!

***The Pirates Of Penzance* is a light, comic introduction to the work of Gilbert and Sullivan, featuring opportunities for singing.**

Please note: our production will likely use site-specific staging and minimal costumes. We aim for a 'Nothing but Us' aesthetic. We will challenge ourselves as performers to create times, places and personas using only our bodies and the natural surrounds of our performance environment. We encourage all performers to collaborate and contribute ideas to collectively create a fabulous final product and experience for our audience. More details to come.

Casting

Cast Size: Flexible Cast Size

Casting— This is an ensemble production. Gender can be twisted. All cast may audition for all roles

Singing—whilst a major aspect of the original production is not necessary to audition and perform any of the lead roles. Directors will adapt as necessary.

Character Breakdown

Frederic

A member of the Pirates. He is unaffected and possesses an unself-conscious sex appeal. Youthful, genuine and innocent.

Mabel

Daughter of the Major-General. Mabel is a classic beauty similar to Lillian Gish or Mary Pickford.

An astute young woman, she is sympathetic in nature. She and Frederic fall in love.

Pirate King

leader of the pirates. Despite his sharp and loud bark, he is actually a whole-hearted romantic with a soft bite. A handsome man typically found with an open shirt and wind in his hair.

Major-general

A father with many daughters. He resembles a male Queen Victoria in his sensibilities. Possesses kindness, warmth, and good-humor. The love for his daughters is undeniable.

Ruth

Frederic's lifelong nanny. A sneaky Mrs. Potts, she is attractive enough for her age but cares very little about such things. She wants nothing more in life than to see Frederic happy, healthy, and by her side.

Sergeant

The leader of the police. He is Groucho Marx-esque and uncomfortably clumsy. Though their duty to protect is clear, the Sergeant and his police are more accustomed to fear and hide.

Audition, Show and Rehearsal Information:

Auditions Tuesday June 8. 5pm—7pm at Braidwood Scout Hall.

Auditions will be in front of a panel.

Auditionees wishing to take a singing role will need to sing a song of their choice. This will be done without a backing track or other accompaniment.

Auditionees will all be asked to read an extract of the script, with a particular focus on the character they're interested in taking on. These can be found in this booklet (for participants wishing to prepare).

They will also participate in movement and expressive exercises to see how they respond to direction and other performers.

It is not necessary to audition in order to participate in the chorus/ensemble.

All members of the chorus/ensemble will play the range of minor roles. These include pirates, police and the Major General's daughters.

Rehearsals for Pirates of Penzance will not take place in school holiday breaks.

Rehearsals will be during the school term on Monday afternoon/evenings at the Braidwood Scout Hall.

Rehearsals will take place from 5 pm to 7pm. *Students travelling from out of area may arrive late, as per Canberra/Goulburn bus return times. Parents of very young performers may also wish to pick up their child at 6pm. All participants must sign in and out of rehearsals at front door.*

For auditions and rehearsals participants are advised to dress warmly and comfortably so they are able to move freely.

They are encouraged to bring snacks and must bring water.

The important dates are as follows:

- Auditions June 8, 5pm—7pm. If call backs are necessary families will be contacted. This can occur over zoom or in person. Cast announced by 11 June (see BYPAA).

- Orientation for all cast 14 June 5pm to 7pm.

Includes film viewing (Pirates of Penzance, 1983 [rated G—Australian Classification])

- First read through 21 June 5pm to 7pm.

- Rehearsals 12 July to 13 September (10 weeks), 5pm—7pm.

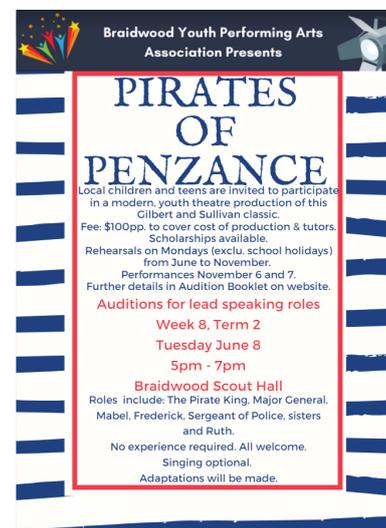
- Final Monday rehearsals 11 October to 25 October, 5pm to 7pm.

- Dress Rehearsal (weekend) 23 October, 10am—4pm.

- Tech Rehearsal (weekend) 30 October, 10am to 4pm.

What to Bring to auditions/rehearsals:

- Your completed AUDITION FORM at the end of these pages.
- Comfortable clothing and shoes to move in.
- tie hair back
- pencil
- Water.
- Plenty of food.



Monologue/readings for auditions:

Frederick

Well, then, it is my duty, as a pirate, to tell you that you are too tender hearted. For instance, you make a point of never attacking a weaker party than yourselves, and when you attack a stronger party you invariably get thrashed.

Then, again, you make a point of never molesting an orphan!

Every one we capture says he's an orphan. The last three ships we took proved to be manned entirely by orphans, and so we had to let them go. One would think that Great Britain's mercantile navy was recruited solely from her orphan asylums – which we know is not the case.

Mabel

Sergeant, approach! Young Frederic was to have led you to death and glory. No matter; he will not so lead you, for he has allied himself once more with his old associates.

You speak falsely. You know nothing about it. He has acted nobly.

Dearly as I loved him before, his heroic sacrifice to his sense of duty has endeared him to me tenfold. He has done his duty. I will do mine. Go ye and do yours.

Pirate King:

Well, it's the top of the tide, and we must be off. Farewell, Frederic. When your process of extermination begins, let our deaths be as swift and painless as you can conveniently make them.

I don't think much of our profession, but, contrasted with respectability, it is comparatively honest. No, Frederic, I shall live and die a Pirate King.

Police Sergeant

This is perplexing. No matter. Our course is clear: we must do our best to capture these pirates alone. It is most distressing to us to be the agents whereby our erring fellow creatures

are deprived of that liberty which is so dear to us all – but we should have thought of that before we joined the force. It is too late now!

The Major-General

Frederic, in this chapel are ancestors: you cannot deny that. With the estate, I bought the chapel and its contents. I don't know whose ancestors they were, but I know whose ancestors they are, and I shudder to think that their descendant by purchase (if I may so describe myself) should have brought disgrace upon what, I have no doubt, was an unstained escutcheon. I thank you for your proffered solace, but it is unavailing.

Ruth

You are glad now, I'll be bound, that you spared us. You would never have forgiven yourself when you discovered that you had killed two of your comrades.

We insist on nothing; we content ourselves with pointing out to you your duty.

Sisters

KATE. What a picturesque spot! I wonder where we are!

EDITH. And I wonder where Papa is. We have left him ever so far behind.

ISABEL. Oh, he will be here presently! Remember poor Papa is not as young as we are, and we came over a rather difficult country.

KATE. But how thoroughly delightful it is to be so entirely alone! Why, in all probability we are the first human beings who ever set foot on this enchanting spot.

ISABEL. Except the mermaids – it's the very place for mermaids.

KATE. Who are only human beings down to the waist!

EDITH. And who can't be said strictly to set foot anywhere. Tails they may, but feet they cannot.

KATE. But what shall we do until Papa and the servants arrive with the luncheon?

EDITH. We are quite alone, and the sea is as smooth as glass. Suppose we take off our shoes and stockings and paddle?

ALL. Yes, yes! The very thing!

NOTES TO AUDITIONEES

PLEASE READ THESE CAREFULLY BEFORE AUDITIONING

Being in a show is both fun and rewarding; however, in order to have a quality production, we do require a certain amount of commitment from cast members. It costs money to stage a show, therefore we must charge people money for tickets. Because we are charging audience money, we need to give them as professional a production as possible. Please read these notes carefully and decide whether or not you can provide this level of commitment before you audition.

Both in rehearsal & during performances the Directors, Musical Director, Choreographer and other tutors/volunteer parent helpers are in charge and you will be expected to work to their directions. Attending rehearsals must be a priority for all cast, especially individuals in lead roles.

Please notify in advance if you can't attend rehearsals.

If you cannot make a rehearsal notify the directors in advance so the rehearsal schedule can be adapted. We will run additional rehearsals on weekends leading up to the production.

If you know you will be unavailable on specific weekends, please let the production team know at auditions. (We will not automatically consider you ineligible for the cast, but we do need to know absences so that rehearsals can be structured accordingly.)

The production is open to young people of Braidwood.

We strongly encourage students in the senior years of their schooling to consider their other commitments, like examinations.

Attendance at rehearsals during Production week and at performances is essential.

A full length stage production is fairly demanding, both in time and effort. It can be both physically and mentally stressful.

If you have a medical condition which you think we may need to know about please inform the production team.

We run our shows on a very small budget and are planning a 'nothing but us' approach. We ask that all cast members supply their own black pants and shirt as a blank canvas costume for this show. You will be informed whether or not you are successful in the auditions as soon as possible after we finish auditions. Good luck!

AUDITION/PARTICIPATION FORM FOR: Pirates of Penzance.

NAME: _____ **AGE:** _____

EMAIL: _____

PARENT NAME: _____

PARENT CONTACT : _____

VOCAL TRAINING (*where, when*): _____

DRAMATIC TRAINING (*where, when*): _____

DANCE TRAINING (*where, when*): _____

THEATRICAL EXPERIENCE (*use back of form if more space required*): _____

IF YOU PLAY ANY MUSICAL INSTRUMENT/S NOTE WHICH ONE/S AND LEVEL OF PROFICIENCY ATTAINED:

VOICE (*tick*):

Soprano (High female) - Mezzo-soprano - Alto (Low male) - Non singer -
Tenor (High male) - Baritone - Bass (Low male)- Don't know -

AUDITIONING FOR (*tick- you may nominate more than one category*):

- Principal Role(s) (*please specify which character*) _____

- Chorus (*Please also tick 'chorus' if you are willing to be a chorus member if not selected for a principal role*)

If you want to be involved but not as a performer, are you prepared to participate in another capacity? (please circle)

No Yes (*specify*) _____

(*eg. front-of-house, backstage crew, publicity*)

Do you have any commitments that would conflict with rehearsal and production dates?

No Yes (*specify*) _____

I acknowledge that I have read, understood and agree to accept the conditions and responsibilities described in the 'Notes for Auditionees':

SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____

(*As auditionees are under 18, this form must be signed by a parent or guardian*)

Production - Code of Conduct

I will respect the space and the many different things it is used for. I will not interfere with equipment that is not relevant to our production/ role. I will be respectful to other performers and not hinder their performance through negative comments or unsupportive behaviour.

Before

1. Students are not to enter the drama room/studio/theatre without permission. All students are to be actively supervised.
2. ALWAYS WALK into the room/studio/theatre and never run or push anyone.
3. Students are to personally prepare for their roles and not unnecessarily disrupt others
4. Sound checks are only to be made with relevant performers. No other performers should use micro-phones.

During the Production

1. ALWAYS know exactly what you are doing - listen and concentrate. If not sure, see stage manager
2. ALWAYS put your bag, coat in the area where your teacher tells you to put it.
3. ALWAYS be aware of other students safety during active scenes - never push, punch, hit, strike out at another student.
4. ALWAYS report an accident or breakage immediately.
5. NEVER interfere with equipment particularly electrical or large scenery.
6. NEVER sit, stand, climb, jump off, chairs, tables or benches without supervision.
7. NEVER remove or interfere with any Safety notices or labels on equipment, walls, doors.
8. Large scenery items should not be dismantled or moved unless under strict supervision by the teacher.

After

1. ALWAYS leave the room/studio/theatre clean and tidy.
2. ALWAYS collect your bags and belongings from the safe area.
3. ALWAYS leave the room/studio/theatre in an orderly manner.

I understand ALL of the above instructions and promise to behave according to our Code of Conduct during all rehearsals and performances.

SIGNED:

DATE:

WITNESSED: