

The Finborough Theatre is now fully heated and air conditioned

Rediscoveries2012 Season

February to April 2012

Part of the Finborough Theatre's
Celebrating British Music Theatre
series

The first fully staged professional UK production since 1896
The New Actors Company in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre presents

Gilbert and Sullivan's **THE GRAND DUKE** **or, The Statutory Duel**

Music by Arthur Sullivan Libretto by W.S. Gilbert

Directed by Martin Milnes

Directed by Martin Milnes. Musical Direction by John Owen Edwards. Choreographer and Assistant Director Brendan Matthew. Associate Choreographer Laura Hyde. Designed by David Shields. Lighting Design by Matthew Tarbuck. Assistant Musical Director and Repetiteur Ross Leadbeater. Costume Design by Emma Lloyd and Christine Granger.

Cast: Stefan Bednarczyk. Victoria Byron. Sylvia Clarke. Curtis Dabek. Tammy Davies. Bruce Graham. Martin Lamb. Mark Lawson. Philip Lee. Matthew Markwick. Guy Mott. Ciara O'Connor. Stiofàn O'Doherty. Charlotte Page. Jane Quinn. Robin Rayner. Ben Newhouse Smith. Richard Suart. Matthew James Willis.

The Finborough Theatre's acclaimed 'Celebrating British Music Theatre' series continues with the first fully staged professional UK production of Gilbert and Sullivan's final operetta, *The Grand Duke*, since the original 1896 production. It opens at the Finborough Theatre for a strictly limited run of six Sundays and Mondays from Sunday, 1 April 2012 (**Press Night: Monday, 2 April 2012 at 7.30pm**).

In the Grand Duchy of Pfennig Halbpennig, the theatrical troupe of Ernest Dummkopf is plotting a conspiracy to overthrow the tyrannical Grand Duke Rudolph. Ludwig, the troupe's leading comedian, fights a number of "statutory duels" and finds himself taking the place and the title of the Grand Duke...but when legions of women arrive to claim Ludwig in marriage to become his Grand Duchess, including an indignant leading lady, an enormously wealthy old battleaxe, and even the Princess of Monte Carlo, how will matters resolve themselves?

With the aid of an eclectic array of travelling players and aristocrats, four weddings and enough sausage rolls to last several lifetimes, Gilbert and Sullivan's final 'Savoy Opera' is full of Topsy Turvy paradoxes, legal conundrums and absurdities of etiquette. Far more than just a historical curiosity, *The Grand Duke* displays a much sharper satirical edge than any of Gilbert and Sullivan's other works.

Apart from a concert version produced by D'Oyly Carte Opera Company in the mid-seventies and a handful of amateur productions, Gilbert and Sullivan's final operetta, *The Grand Duke*, has not been seen in a fully staged professional production in the UK since the original production in 1896.

Composer **Sir Arthur Sullivan** (1842-1900) and Librettist **Sir William Schwenk Gilbert** (1836-1910) collaborated on a total of fifteen quintessentially British comic operettas, most of which are continually performed all over the world with *The Mikado* and *H.M.S. Pinafore* being amongst the best known. Gilbert and Sullivan's complete repertoire includes *Thespis* (1871), *Trial by Jury* (1875), *The Sorcerer* (1877), *H.M.S. Pinafore* (1878), *The Pirates of Penzance* (1879),

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Patience (1881), *Iolanthe* (1882), *Princess Ida* (1884), *The Mikado* (1885), *Ruddigore* (1887), *The Yeomen of the Guard* (1888), *The Gondoliers* (1889), *Utopia, Limited* (1893) and *The Grand Duke* (1896).

Stefan Bednarczyk Ludwig

At the Finborough Theatre, Stefan appeared in *The Killing of Mr Toad* (2009).

Theatre includes *Forever Young* (Nottingham Playhouse), *The Importance Of Being Earnest* (Riverside Studios), *The Picture* (Salisbury Playhouse), *The Game Of Love And Chance* (National Theatre and Tour), *Laughter On The 23rd Floor* (Queen's Theatre and National Tour), *The LA Plays* (Almeida Theatre), *The Devil Wears Tweed*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, and *Young Dick Barton* (Warehouse Theatre, Croydon), *ZIP!* (National Tour), *The Glee Club* (Bush Theatre), *Semi-Monde* (Lyric Theatre), *The Jermyn Street Revue* (Jermyn Street Theatre), *Whenever* (Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough), *Five O'Clock Angel* (Edinburgh Festival, Hampstead Theatre and King's Head Theatre).

Film includes *Composed*, *Sea Change*, *Friends Pictured Within*, and *Topsy-Turvy*.

Television includes *EastEnders*, *Crocodile Shoes*, *Crown Prosecutor*, *Love Hurts*, *Harry Enfield and Chums*. Solo Cabaret Performances include seasons at The Pheasantry Pizza on the Park, King's Head Theatre, New End Theatre, Jermyn Street Theatre and overseas in Cannes, Antibes, Monaco, San Francisco, New York, Los Angeles, Barbados, Vienna and Adelaide.

Victoria Byron Lisa

Trained at The Royal Academy of Music (Opera Course and Musical Theatre Course).

Theatre includes *Iolanthe* (Chichester Festival Theatre and Buxton Opera House), *Ruddigore* (National Tour and Buxton Opera House), *The Yeoman of the Guard* (Tower of London, Buxton Opera House and Gawsworth Hall), *H.M.S Pinafore* (Buxton Opera House), *The Mikado* (National Tour and Buxton Opera House), *Patience* (Buxton Opera House), *The Gondoliers* (Buxton Opera House), *The Sorcerer* (Buxton Opera House), *The Pirates of Penzance* (Buxton Opera House), *Princess Ida* (Buxton Opera House), *La Belle Helene* (Iford Opera Festival, The Bridewell Theatre and National Tour, Carmen Theatre Alberes, France, and The Grand Opera House, Belfast), *Così fan Tutte* (Queen Elizabeth Hall), *The Rape of Lucretia* (Queen Elizabeth Hall), *The Rakes Progress*, *Lotario*, *Matilde* (Britten Theatre) and *A Chorus Line* (Sir Jack Lyons Theatre).

Film includes *Chasing Liberty* (Warner Bros).

TV includes *A Motley Pair* (Sky Arts).

Forthcoming productions include *The Gondoliers* and *The Grand Duke* (Buxton Opera House).

Sylvia Clarke Baroness

Studied in Sydney at the Conservatorium of Music Opera School.

Theatre includes *The Mikado*, *HMS Pinafore* (Carl Rosa Opera Company USA and UK Tours), *The Pirates of Penzance* (Carl Rosa Opera Company USA and UK Tours 2009), *Iolanthe* (Carl Rosa Opera Company at the Chichester Festival Theatre) and *The Sorcerer* (Opera della Luna UK Tour).

Sylvia was a member of Opera Australia and resident Mezzo with the West Australian Opera Company. Since coming to Britain, Sylvia has sung with various opera companies including Glyndebourne Festival Opera, Carl Rosa Opera Company and Opera della Luna. She regularly sings as a soloist with Choral Societies throughout the country and performs Classical Recitals in Australia and the UK. Sylvia regularly performs the Contralto roles in all the Gilbert and Sullivan repertoire.

Curtis Dabek Herald

Trained at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Theatre includes *The Black and White Minstrel show* (National Tour and the Victoria Palace Theatre), *Smilin' Through* (Prince of Wales Theatre and National Tour), *The Dancing Years* (National Tour), *Lilac Time* (National Tour), *The Desert Song* (National Tour), *The Danny la Rue Show* (National Tour, Great Yarmouth season and O'Keefe Centre, Toronto), *Perchance to Dream* (Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich), *Oklahoma!* (Palace Theatre and National Tour), *The Wind in the Willows* (National Tour), *The Sound of Music* (Connaught Theatre, Worthing), *Just a Verse and Chorus* (National Tour), *Gilbert and Sullivan seasons* (Carl Rosa Opera Company at the Gielgud Theatre and Tower of London, National Tours in UK and USA), *Aladdin and Dick Whittington* (Middlesbrough Theatre), ninety operas and operettas with Opera de Nice, France, *Princess Ida*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Ruddigore*, *Iolanthe*, *The Gondoliers*, *The Yeomen of the Guard* (Buxton Opera House) and *Cinderella* (London Palladium).

Television includes *War and Peace*, *The Black and White Minstrel Show*, *'alloy'allo*, *Dr Who* and *Swallows and Amazons*.

Radio includes *Friday Night is Music Night*.

Tammy Davies Bertha

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Trained at Northbrook College, West Sussex, and the Royal Academy of Music. Theatre includes two seasons of the *Thursford Christmas Spectacular* (Thursford), *Iolanthe*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Ruddigore*, *The Yeoman of the Guard*, *The Gondoliers*, *Princess Ida and Utopia Limited* (The Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company at Buxton Opera House), *Anthems - The Concert* (Royal Albert Hall), *Chess - in Concert* (Royal Albert Hall), Solo artist (Beach Break Live, UK Student Music Festival), Solo Artist (Gilbert and Sullivan Nile Cruise, Osiris Ship, Egypt), *The Mikado and Iolanthe* (Carl Rosa Opera Company), *The Wizard of Oz* (Welsh Tour) and *Concert for Diana* (Wembley Stadium).

Bruce Graham Notary

Studied at the University of Edinburgh.

Theatre includes *Camelot* (Apollo Victoria Theatre), *Me and My Girl* (Adelphi Theatre), *Follies* (Shaftesbury Theatre), *Budgie* (Cambridge Theatre), *The Phantom of the Opera* (Her Majesty's Theatre), *She Loves Me* (Savoy Theatre), *Sunset Boulevard* (Adelphi Theatre) and *Cats* (New London Theatre and National Tour).

Bruce joined the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company in 1978 and, since then, Bruce has appeared in over two thousand performances of Gilbert and Sullivan worldwide, and is a frequent visitor to the International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival in Buxton.

Further commitments in Bruce's varied schedule have included work with the major British opera companies and concert promoter Raymond Gubbay, as well as film, television, pantomime, and music hall engagements and a recent foray into the Verdi repertoire. By appearing in *The Grand Duke*, Bruce will have made appearances in all thirteen operas in the Gilbert and Sullivan canon.

Martin Lamb The Prince of Monte Carlo

Trained at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Opera includes *The Marriage of Figaro* (English National Opera), *The Money Man*, *The Letter*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *La cenerentola* (Scottish Opera), *Jenůfa*, *Tosca* (English Touring Opera), *Ariadne auf Naxos*, *The Rake's Progress* (Garsington Opera), *The Barber of Seville*, *Così fan tutte*, *The Merry Widow* (Opera UK), *HMS Pinafore*, *The Yeomen of the Guard* (D'Oyly Carte Opera Company), *The Sorcerer* (Opera della Luna) and *Spilt Milk* (Arcola Theatre).

Theatre includes *Peter Pan: The Return of Captain Hook*, *A Christmas Carol* (Brewery Arts Centre), *Possessed* (Oxford Playhouse), *W.S. Gilbert's Eminent Victorians* (written and performed for the VandA).

Directing includes *Aladdin* (Brewery Arts Centre), *Annie Get Your Gun* and *Our House* (Bloody Bones).

Mark Lawson Otto

Trained at Guildford School of Acting.

Theatre includes *Health and Safety* (Old Vic Tunnels), *The Bakers Wife* (Union Theatre), *Kid Arthur* (The Space), *Slay it with Music* (Greenwich Playhouse), *Songs For A New World* (Battersea Barge), *La Boheme* (Soho Theatre), *Thursford Christmas Spectacular* (Thursford), *Calamity Jane* (Upstairs at the Gatehouse) and *Pericles Prince of Tyre* (Ballerby Studios).

Film includes *The Art of Life* (Short, Munsch Productions) and *Royal Flush* (Met Film School).

Philip Lee Ernest

Studied Music at Lancaster University and trained at the Central School of Speech and Drama.

Theatre includes *The Mikado* (Charles Court Opera), *La Boheme* (Soho Theatre), *The Coronation of Poppea* (King's Head Theatre), *The Magic Flute* (Mantissa Opera), *Robin Hood* (Charles Court Opera), *H.M.S. Pinafore* (Carl Rosa Opera Company at Chichester Festival Theatre), *The Pearl Fishers* (UK Tour), *The Barber of Seville* (UK and Eire Tour) and *The Yeomen Of The Guard* (Carl Rosa Opera Company)

Forthcoming productions include covering Mr Snow in *Carousel* for Opera North and tenor soloist in Rossini's *Petite Messe solennelle*. www.phillee.co.uk

Matthew Markwick Chamberlain/ Supernumerary

At the Finborough Theatre, Matthew appeared in *The Painted Lady - The Tale of Princess Caraboo*, part of *Vibrant – An Anniversary Festival of Finborough Playwrights* (2010).

Trained at the Central School Of Speech and Drama.

Theatre includes - *Patience* (Union Theatre), *Royal Cunard Singers* (Queen Mary II), *West Coast - A Celebration Of The Beach Boys* (National Tour), *The Painted Lady - The Tale of Princess Caraboo* (Bristol Old Vic), *Once Upon A Time At The Adelphi* (Union Theatre) and *Robin Hood* (National Tour).

Film includes *Nuestra Madre*, *The Special Relationship*.

Guy Mott Chamberlain / Supernumerary

Trained at Birmingham School of Acting.

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Theatre includes *Thursford Christmas Spectacular* (Thursford), *Rumpelstiltskin's Daughter* (Earls Court Festival), *Sleeping Beauty* (King's Theatre, Glasgow), *Joseph* (UK Tour), *Ruddigore*, *The Yeoman Of The Guard*, *Iolanthe*, *The Mikado* (The Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company at Buxton Opera House), *The Pirates of Penzance* (USA and Canada Tour), *H.M.S Pinafore*, *The Yeomen Of The Guard*, *Patience*, *The Pirates of Penzance* (Carl Rosa Opera Company National Tour) and *The Jungle Book* (National Tour).

Film includes *The Corpse Wore White* (Mica Films) and *Dies With Me* (Squelen Productions).

Television includes *Break A Leg!* (Break A Leg Productions) and *Songs of Praise* (BBC).

Ciara O'Connor Elsa

Trained at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Theatre includes *Grande Messe des Morts* (Wratislavia Cantans Festival, Poland), *Albert Herring* (Guildhall School of Music and Drama Theatre), Verdi's *Requiem* (Barbican Hall), *Cavalleria Rusticana* (Barbican Hall), *Trial by Jury* (The David Josefowitz Recital Hall at the Royal Academy of Music, London) and *The Pirates of Penzance* (Waterford International Festival, Ireland).

Stiofàn O'Doherty Rudi

Trained at the Central School of Speech and Drama.

Theatre includes *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (National Tour), *Salad Days* (Bristol Old Vic), *Keeping the Faith* (Embassy Theatre) and *Patience* (Union Theatre). Theatre while training includes *Victory*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Sweeney Todd*, *A View from the Bridge* and *Romeo and Juliet*.

Charlotte Page Julia

Studied at the Royal Academy of Music with Joy Mammen.

Theatre includes *Phantom of the Opera* (Her Majesty's Theatre), *Follies* (London Palladium), *A Little Night Music* (Menier Chocolate Factory), *Peter Grimes* (Royal Opera at Savonlinna Festival, Finland), *Pelleas et Melisande* (Atelier Lyrique, Orleans, France), *The Merry Widow* (Opera Holland Park), *Street Scene* (The Opera Group at The Young Vic, and Opera de Toulon, France), *La Belle Helene* (Court Opera for Holland Park Opera), *Hansel and Gretel* (Welsh National Opera and Opera Northern Ireland), *Don Pasquale* (Crystal Clear Opera), *L'elisir D'amore* (Bernini Ensemble and Chichester Festival), *The Beggars Opera* (First Act Opera), *The Threepenny Opera* (The Opera Group), *Candide* (The Opera Group), *Die Fledermaus* (Crystal Clear Opera and Opera Holland Park), *Acis and Galatea* (English Bach Festival Royal Opera House), *Così fan Tutte* (Bernini Ensemble), *Don Giovanni* (Pimlico Opera), *The Magic Flute* (Opera of the South), *Le Nozze Di Figaro* (Stowe Opera), *Lucia Di Lammermoor* (Haddo House Opera), *Vera of Las Vegas* and *Erismena* (Opera Theatre Company, Ireland), *La Duenna* (English Touring Opera), *La Bohème* (The Opera Project), *The Mikado* (D'Oyly Carte Opera Company at Royal Festival Hall and Savoy Theatre), *Iolanthe* (D'Oyly Carte Opera Company tour and at the Savoy Theatre; and a Carl Rosa Opera Company tour and at the Gielgud Theatre), *The Pirates of Penzance* (D'Oyly Carte Opera Company, Savoy Theatre; and Carl Rosa Opera Company US and UK tours; and The Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company at Buxton Opera House), *Patience* (Carl Rosa Opera Company at Normansfield Theatre and tour), *Yeomen Of The Guard* (Carl Rosa Opera Company at the Tower of London and tour, and The Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company at Buxton Opera House), *HMS Pinafore* (Carl Rosa Opera Company US tours), *Trial By Jury* (D'Oyly Carte Opera Company Public workshops), *Ruddigore* (The Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company at Buxton Opera House), *Roswell Incident* (Music Theatre Wales), *Watch Your Step* (Batignano Festival, Italy), *The Moon On A Stick* (Genesis Project at the Royal Opera House), *Let's Make An Opera*, a new play by Simon Butteriss, and *The Little Sweep* (Aldeburgh Festival).

Jane Quinn The Princess of Montecarlo

At the Finborough Theatre, Jane appeared in *Florodora* (2006).

Studied at the Royal Academy of Music and Royal Holloway, University of London.

Theatre includes *Lend Me a Tenor* (Gielgud Theatre and Theatre Royal Plymouth), *The Sound of Music* (UK tour), *Little Women* (Lost Theatre), *Company* (Union Theatre), *Iolanthe*, *The Pirates of Penzance* (Carl Rosa Opera Company at the Gielgud Theatre, UK and USA tours), *My Fair Lady* (Esplanade Singapore at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre), *Enchanted Evenings* (Pitlochry Festival Theatre), *The Merry Widow*, *Lakme* (Opera Holland Park), *Grease* (UK tour), *Eloquent Protest* (Trafalgar Studios), *We'll Gather Lilacs* (Bridewell Theatre), *The Magical Rhythms of Ireland* (European tour), *West End Gala* (Queen's Theatre), *Fanny* (Sadler's Wells Theatre), *Oh! What A Lovely War* (Theatr Clwyd Cymru), *Lady Diana* (German tour), and as a Guest Singer at *Jermyn Street Concert* - showcasing the work of new award-winning composers, Pan European Voice Conference, Monaco Grand Prix and Lord's.

Film includes *De-Lovely* (MGM) and *Enduring Love* (Paramount).

Television includes *Y Factor* (Sky).

Recordings include *De-Lovely* (MGM) and *City Travellers* album (MM Productions).

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Jane also has her own cabaret show Jane Quinn in Cabaret. www.janequinn.biz

Robin Rayner Ben Hashbaz

Trained at the Arts Educational Schools.

Theatre includes *Peter Pan* (Abu Dhabi), *The Thing About Tom* (Workshop), *Respect La Diva* (Workshop), *Constance and Sinestra* (Edinburgh Festival), *A Clockwork Orange* (Edinburgh Festival and Camden Peoples Theatre), *DEFECT* (Perfect Pitch), *A Slice Of Saturday Night* (Upstairs at the Gatehouse), *Iolanthe* (Union Theatre), *Seven Brides For Seven Brothers* (UK Tour), *A Spoonful of Stiles and Drewe* (Her Majesty's Theatre) and *Barbara Cook and Friends* (London Coliseum).

Film includes *Lost Boy* (Met Film School) and *Break A Leg* (Break A Leg Productions).

Ben Newhouse Smith Chamberlain / Supernumerary

Trained at the Royal Academy of Music.

Theatre includes *Thursford Christmas Spectacular*, (Thursford), *H.M.S Pinafore* (D'Oyly Carte Opera Company National Tour) and *The Pirates of Penzance* (D'Oyly Carte Opera Company Savoy Theatre), *The Gondoliers* (Carl Rosa Opera Company National Tour), *The Mikado* (Barbican, Theatre Royal Bath, US and Canada Tour), *H.M.S Pinafore* (Carl Rosa Opera Company US and Canada Tour), *The Pirates of Penzance* (Carl Rosa Opera Company US and Canada Tour), *The Mikado*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *H.M.S Pinafore*, *The Gondoliers*, *Iolanthe*, *Patience*, *The Sorcerer*, *Ruddigore*, *Utopia Limited* (The Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company at Buxton Opera House), *Così fan Tutte*, *Merry Widow*, *Lakmé*, *The Barber of Seville*, *Il Trovatore*, *Magic Flute*, *Tosca*, *La Gioconda*, *La Bohème*, *Orpheus in the Underworld*, *Le Nozze di Figaro* and *La Rondine* (Opera Holland Park).

Television includes *Popstar to Operastar* (ITV) and *Songs of Praise* (BBC).

Richard Suart Rudolph

Studied at St John's College, Cambridge and the Royal Academy of Music where he was recently elected Fellow.

Theatre includes *Candide* (LA Philharmonic at The Hollywood Bowl), *After Life* (Opera de Lyon, The Netherlands Opera and the Barbican), *Playing Away* (Bregenz and St Polten Festivals), *Of Thee I sing and Paradise Moscow* (Opera North and Bregenz), *The Merry Widow*, *Agrippina*, *The Mikado* and *Die Fledermaus* (English National Opera), *Iolanthe* (San Francisco Symphony), *The Duenna* (English Touring Opera), *The Tell-Tale Heart* (Royal Opera House, Covent Garden), *Salad Days* (Riverside Studios), *After Life* (Barbican), *The Pirates of Penzance* (Queens Theatre), *Patience* and *Princess Ida* (The International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival Buxton), *The Parson's Pirates* (Opera della Luna, Bridewell Theatre), *The Marriage of Figaro* (Garsington Opera),

As a member of D'Oyly Carte Opera Company since 1988, he has sung many of the Savoy Operas, as well as *Orpheus in the Underworld* and *La Vie Parisienne*.

Future engagements include *Trial by Jury* in Vancouver, *After Life* in Melbourne and the return of *The Mikado* to English National Opera.

www.richardsuart.co.uk

Matthew James Willis Franzel

Studied in Sydney at the Conservatorium of Music Opera School and NIDA's Actor's Studio.

Theatre includes *My Fair Lady* (Opera Enterprises for Australian Tour), *Floyd Collins* (City Recital Hall), *Tannhäuser* (Opera Australia), *Christmas at the House* (Sydney Opera House), *Titanic the Musical* (Theatre Royal Sydney), *The Withered Arm* (Tête à Tête at Riverside Studios), *Cinderella* (King's Head Theatre), *The Pirates of Penzance* (Kilworth House Theatre), *Thursford Christmas Spectacular* (Thursford), *Patience* (Union Theatre), *La Bohème* (Soho Theatre) and *Iolanthe* (Union Theatre).

Martin Milnes Director

At the Finborough Theatre, Martin Appeared in *Perchance to Dream* (2011)

Performance credits include *Utopia Limited* (Buxton Opera House), *Perchance to Dream* (Finborough Theatre), *The Pirates of Penzance* (Kilworth House Theatre, Leicestershire), *Little Shop of Horrors* (White Bear Theatre), *Much Sound and Little Sense* (Opera della Luna), *Thursford Christmas Spectacular* (Thursford), *Crazy For You* (Kilworth House Theatre, Leicestershire), *The Pirates of Penzance* (National Tour for Carl Rosa Opera Company), *Promises and Lies* (Birmingham Rep), *All Male Mikado* (Union Theatre), *Iolanthe*, *The Mikado*, *The Pirates of Penzance* (Carl Rosa Opera Company at the Gielgud Theatre), *Tosca and Il Trovatore* (Opus 1 Opera National Tour), *La Bohème* (Soho Theatre) and *The Yeomen of the Guard* (the Tower of London). Television includes Gilbert and Sullivan: *A Motley Pair* (Sky Arts), *The Andrew Marr Show* (BBC), *Popstar to Operastar* (ITV), *Songs of Praise* (BBC) and *The Welsh in the West End* (ITV Wales). Martin Milnes' most recent production *The Falsetto* received five star reviews at the Edinburgh Festival and has been seen at The Pheasantry, Buxton Festival and King's Head Theatre. It has also been the support act for Alistair

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John Owen Edwards Musical Director

Studied at Worcester College, Oxford

For a number of years he was Music Director of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company, for which he has conducted *Patience*, *The Yeomen of the Guard*, *H.M.S Pinafore*, *The Mikado*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Iolanthe*, *Orpheus in the Underworld*, *Die Fledermaus*, *The Count of Luxembourg* and *La Vie Parisienne*. Theatre includes *Orpheus in the Underworld* (Opera Holland Park), a series of Gilbert and Sullivan concerts (Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra), *Les Miserables* (Germany), *The Mikado* and *The Gondoliers* (D'Oyly Carte Opera Company), *Orpheus in the Underworld* (British Youth Opera), *The Merry Widow* and *Die Fledermaus* (Opera Holland Park), *Beautiful and Damned* (Lyric Theatre), *Showboat* (Broadway), *Oklahoma!* (National Theatre), *The Wizard of Oz* (Hong Kong) and *The Yeomen of the Guard* (British Youth Opera). Recordings include *Kismet*, *West Side Story*, *Showboat*, *My Fair Lady*, *Kiss me Kate*, *The King and I*, *The Dancing Years*, *Anything Goes*, *South Pacific*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Salad Days*, *Patience* and *Oliver!*.

Brendan Matthew Assistant Director/ Choreographer

Trained in Music Theatre at the Royal Academy of Music and in Choreography at Doreen Bird College of Dance and Theatre Performance. Theatre includes *The Musical of Musicals* (Rose and Crown Theatre), *Songs for a New World* (Battersea Barge), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Greenwich Playhouse), *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, *Saucy Jack and the Space Vixens*, *Elegies for Angels Punks and Raging Queens*, *The Ruling Class* and *Stepping Out* (SLT Theatre Company). Directing includes *Slay it with Music* (The Space and Greenwich Playhouse), *Dracula and Beautiful Thing* (SLT Theatre Company), *Grease*, *Pippin* (Artemis Studios) and his own production *Counted Sheep*, a physical theatre piece.

Laura Hyde Assistant Choreographer

Trained at the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts and the Advanced Performers Studio.

Theatre includes *Cinderella* (Battersea Arts Centre), *Macbeth* (Opera De Lille), *La Boheme* (Soho Theatre), *Saucy Jack and the Space Vixens* (South London Theatre), *Macbeth* (Glyndebourne Festival Opera) and *Albert Herring* (UK Tour). Assistant Choreography includes *Dick Whittington* and *The Blue Room* (South London Theatre).

David Shields Designer

Studied Advanced Theatre Design at Croydon College. Theatre includes *Crescendo*, *Artifices*, *Jalouise*, *Oui J'Adore*, *Je Veux Rever* (Royal Palace Kirwiller, France), *Secrets from The Long Frass* (Brockley Jack Studio), *1888* (Union Theatre), *Project Snowflake* (Brockley Jack Studio), *Strictly Come Dancing The Professionals* (UK Tour), *Remains of the Day* (Union Theatre), *Saturday Night Fever* (Coliseum, Madrid), *Shamlet* and *Diamond* (King's Head Theatre), *Saturday Night Fever* (Apollo Victoria Theatre) and *Grease* (Scandinavian Arena Tour).

Ross Leadbeater Repetiteur/ Assistant Musical Director

At the Finborough Theatre, Ross was Musical Director for *The Roar of the Greasepaint – The Smell of the Crowd* (2011). Ross is a Musical Director, pianist, singer, arranger and vocal coach from South Wales. He trained at Trinity College of Music, specialising in piano, voice and conducting and studied English at the University of Warwick. Recent Musical Direction includes *The Pirates of Penzance* and *Into The Woods* (Guildford School of Acting), *Betwixt* (Trafalgar Studios), *A Feast of Snacks* (King's Head Theatre), *Fred and Gladys* (Landor Theatre), *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Borough Theatre, Abergavenny), *Maya* (Barons Court Theatre), *Peak 10* (Greenwich Theatre) and as Assistant Musical Director on *H.M.S Pinafore* (Battersea Barge and King's Head Theatre). Ross also works as a Vocal Animateur for Welsh National Opera MAX Department and was Assistant Director to John E. McGrath for the inaugural production of National Theatre Wales. As a performer, Ross appeared in the world premiere of *My Land's Shore*, directed by Craig Revel Horwood, and is a member of the Classical BRIT award-winning choir Only Men Aloud. He has sung with the choir at a host of events including the Royal Variety Show, *Children in Need*, *Proms in the Park* and two critically acclaimed sell-out National Tours.

The Costume Design House Wardrobe

The Costume Design House, founded in 2010 by Emma Lloyd and Christine Granger bringing experience from their backgrounds in both Art and Costume. They have designed and supervised many projects most notably, designing the Off West End Theatre Award nominated *They Came to a City* (The New Actors Company at Southwark Playhouse) and *Mixtape*, the 2009 BAFTA nominated short film. Theatre includes *Out of the Sun* (The New Actors Company) and *The Marriage of Figaro* (English National Opera). Film includes *War Horse*, *Anna Karenina*, *Jack the Giant Killer* and *Tamara Drew*. Television includes *Downton Abbey* and *Spooks*.

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The New Actors Company

The New Actors Company were formed in 2009 by Robert Laycock, Tom Miller, Daniel Souter and Thomas Shirley. A core of the New Actors Company's artistic policy is to discover forgotten theatrical gems and to re-stage them for contemporary audiences. Their productions to date include *A Dinner Party* (Camden Peoples Theatre), *The Night Before Christmas* (Barons Court Theatre), *Out Of The Sun* (Hen and Chickens Theatre) and, most recently, J. B. Priestley's *They Came To A City* (Southwark Playhouse).

The Celebrating British Music Theatre series at the Finborough Theatre

In 2006, the Finborough Theatre began the Celebrating British Music Theatre series with a sell-out production of Leslie Stuart's *Florodora*. Productions since then have included sell-out rediscoveries of Lionel Monckton's *Our Miss Gibbs*, Harold Fraser-Simson's operetta *The Maid of the Mountains*, A "Gilbert and Sullivan" Double Bill featuring Gilbert's play *Sweethearts* and Sullivan's opera *The Zoo*, Dame Ethel Smyth's opera *The Boatswain's Mate*, Sandy Wilson's *The Buccaneer*, Oscar Asche's *Chu Chin Chow*, Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley's *The Roar of the Greasepaint – The Smell of the Crowd* and two shows by Ivor Novello – *Perchance to Dream* and *Gay's The Word*.

PRESS NIGHT: MONDAY, 2 APRIL 2012 AT 7.30PM

PHOTOCALL: BY ARRANGEMENT. PLEASE EMAIL admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk

Finborough Theatre, 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED

Box Office 0844 847 1652. www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk

Sundays and Mondays, 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16 April 2012

Sunday and Monday evenings at 7.30pm

EXTRA MONDAY MATINEE - 16 APRIL AT 2.00PM

Tickets £18, £15 concessions

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

Neil McPherson on e-mail admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk or **07977 173135**

Download press releases and images at <http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk/press-resources.php>

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