

# PIRATES OF PENZANCE

Contributed by Dean Beedell (webmaster)

The Victorians loved a sense of duty, and this musical is subtitled "A Slave to Duty". Our hero is Frederic a young man just finishing his apprenticeship as a pirate. (It should have been a pilot but Ruth his nursemaid was hard of hearing.) Frederic cannot abide the thought of piracy but following his conscience he has been a loyal and dutiful apprentice. Today he is 21 and finished his apprenticeship. He is to leave the pirates and then he can return to bring them to justice! He has never seen a young lady, just his nursemaid Ruth, so he falls in love with the first pretty face he meets, Mabel, the daughter, (amongst many) of Major & General Stanley. The Pirates seize the daughters and plan to marry them, but they relent because the Major General pleads he is an orphan and pirates always release orphans. Frederic and Mabel leave the pirate band hoping to wed. Just as Frederic is to lead a force of reluctant police to capture the pirates he learns that he was born on the 29th February and is only five years old!

A paradox! He has to rejoin the pirates to finish his apprenticeship. Being a slave of duty he confesses that a punitive task force is on its way, worse, the Major-General is not an orphan. The ever-faithful Mabel decides to lead the police (with lots of "Tarantula's") but they are all captured by the pirates because they have cat-like tread. The police implore the pirates to yield in the name of Queen Victoria. Pirates too, are slaves of duty so naturally they relent.

Much relieved the Major-General gives up his daughters to the pirates (the daughters are delighted!). This is doubly fortunate for the girls because the pirates are all nobles of the realm who have "gone wrong". So it all works out rather well and they all take each others hearts at the end.

Characters  
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Jonathan Heard - Frederic, our hero, noble to the end. A true Englishman.

Catherine Rendle - Mabel, the heroine who loves Frederic for his high ideals (and his other attributes).

Michael Rice - The Pirate King. Athletic charismatic leader of the pirates.

Samuel. His right-hand man, a loyal seadog.

Major-General Stanley, a man with many daughters, very learned, but inclined

to be lenient with the truth.

Ruth, the slightly deaf nursemaid who tries to kid Frederic she is reasonably young but gradually got older.

Sergeant of Police. A solid, upright guardian of the law, who knows when to use his truncheon. This could be played by a woman!!

Edith, Kate and Isabel three more daughters.

Chorus of more pretty daughters of the Major-General.

Chorus of deadly, dastardly pirates

Chorus of upright policeman

## Cast

Major-General Stanley Clive Berry

Mabel Catherine Rendle

Pirate King Michael Rice

Sergeant of Police Ian Head

Samuel Steve Corless

Ruth Julie Huntington

Frederic Jonathan Heard

Edith (singing) Laura Pye

Twins Peta Bowyer & Jill Hughes

Isabel

Angharad Jones

Kate (singing)

Anna Yeates

Kate (speaking)

Jenny Jackson

Queen Victoria

Leah Corlett

Wards

Kathy Stein

Madeline Dowden

Cherry Tyer

Beryl Vaux

Jacquie Haigh

Lynn Clarkson

Melba Pitt MBE

Avril Rangoni-Machiavelli

Christine Price

Pirates

Robert Jones

Andrew Finlay

Geof Horsnell

Philip Stieber

Bill Port

Gordon Richins

Neil Ings

Policemen

Terry Rymer

Peter Dayton

Norman Pope

Rob Fernall

James Deveroux-Quille

Neil Allen

Alan Phillips

Alice Bowen

John Reeves

David Parsonson

HTML clipboard

Director

Michael Huntington

Musical Director

Angela Pengilley

Choreographer

Jennifer Scott

Production Assistant

Rowena McMenamin

Stage Manager

Wendy Bowsher

Asst. Stage Manager

Jackie Snellgrove

Lighting

Derek Gilbert

Sound

Hugh Legh

Properties

Jane Shaw

Props Assistant

Rachael Barnett

Wardrobe

Julie Huntington

Crew

Penny Lindley

Hannah Snellgrove

Laura Snellgrove

Andrew Lewis

Dressers/Helpers

Sarah Lloyd, Kay Macara, Jenny Haywood

Caroline Hopkins, Victoria Cooper, Issi Norgrove

Make-up

Kate Carter-Windel

Hair

Hazel West-Manning

Set Design

Michael Huntington