

# RICE LIGHT OPERA SOCIETY

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## **ADVENTURE ON THE HIGH SEAS IN GILBERT AND SULLIVAN'S "H.M.S. PINAFORE" AT RICE UNIVERSITY**

The Rice Light Opera Society will present Gilbert and Sullivan's famous comic light opera "H.M.S. Pinafore" in six performances February 15 – 23.

Possibly the most famous of Gilbert and Sullivan's collaborations, "H.M.S. Pinafore" takes place over the course of one day on the ship for which the opera is named. Sir Joseph Porter, ruler of the navy, has come for the Captain's annual inspection, with intentions of asking for the Captain's daughter Josephine's hand in marriage. But what will happen when Sir Joseph brings his sisters, cousins, and aunts along and Josephine tries to sneak away to marry a sailor? This satirical Victorian piece combines witty social commentary with catchy melodies and a happy ending for all and is bound to be fun for the whole family.

"H.M.S. Pinafore" will be performed on the Rice University campus at Brown College. Performances will be February 15-17 and 21-23, with all shows beginning at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for the general public and \$5 for the Rice community. For directions, parking information, and ticket reservations, please visit <http://www.hailpoetry.com>.

The Rice Light Opera Society has staged productions since 2002, most recently performing "Ruddigore" in March 2006. The mission of the society is to increase awareness and appreciation of light opera in the Rice and greater Houston communities.

"H.M.S. Pinafore, or The Lass That Loved a Sailor" was the fourth collaboration between W.S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan. The opera opened on May 28, 1878 at the Opera Comique in London and ran for 571 performances. Gilbert and Sullivan wrote 14 operas together between 1871 and 1896, most of which were produced by the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company. Gilbert, the duo's librettist, was an accomplished satirist known for a series of illustrated verses written under the pen name Bab. Sullivan, the composer, was often called the "English Mendelssohn," but his genius was most evident in the lighter comic songs he wrote with Gilbert. Sullivan's solo works include the opera *Ivanhoe* and the hymn "Onward Christian Soldiers." Gilbert and Sullivan's operas were wildly popular in their time and are still performed worldwide today.

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**Editors:** High-resolution press photos are available at <http://www.hailpoetry.com/shows/pinafore/press>