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MAYHEM IN THE COURTROOM ENSUES IN GILBERT AND SULLIVAN'S "TRIAL BY JURY"

The Rice Light Opera Society will present Gilbert and Sullivan's famous comic one act light opera "Trial By Jury" in six performances October 8 – 12, 2008.

The first highly successful of Gilbert and Sullivan's collaborations, "Trial By Jury" takes place during a breach of promise case, and is set in the 1920's. Angelina is suing Edwin for breaking off their engagement; whose side will the jury choose? The beautiful and wronged Angelina, or Edwin, a man to whom they can relate? And what will the judge rule? This satirical farce combines witty social commentary with catchy melodies and is bound to be fun for the whole family.

"Trial By Jury" will be performed on the Rice University campus at Hamman Hall. Performances will be October 8 - 12, with all evening shows beginning at 8 p.m. and the Saturday and Sunday matinees beginning at 2 p.m. After the matinees, the cast, crew, and orchestra will be available for a question-and-answer session for interested parties, with much information aimed directly at young performers interested in musical theatre. Tickets are \$10 for the general public and \$5 for the Rice community and children under the age of 12. 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 "H.M.S. Pinafore" in February 2008. The mission of the society is to increase awareness and appreciation of light opera in the Rice and greater Houston communities.

"Trial By Jury" was the second collaboration between W.S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan. On March 25, 1875, "Trial by Jury" opened at the Royalty Theatre, and the very witty, tuneful and "English" piece was an immediate hit with Londoners and continued to be played until the Royalty closed on 12th June for the summer. "Trial by Jury" was again on the bill when the theatre reopened on 11th October 1875. 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.

Editors: For information and high-resolution photos: www.ruf.rice.edu/~rlos/shows/trial/press.html.