



Forty Years On



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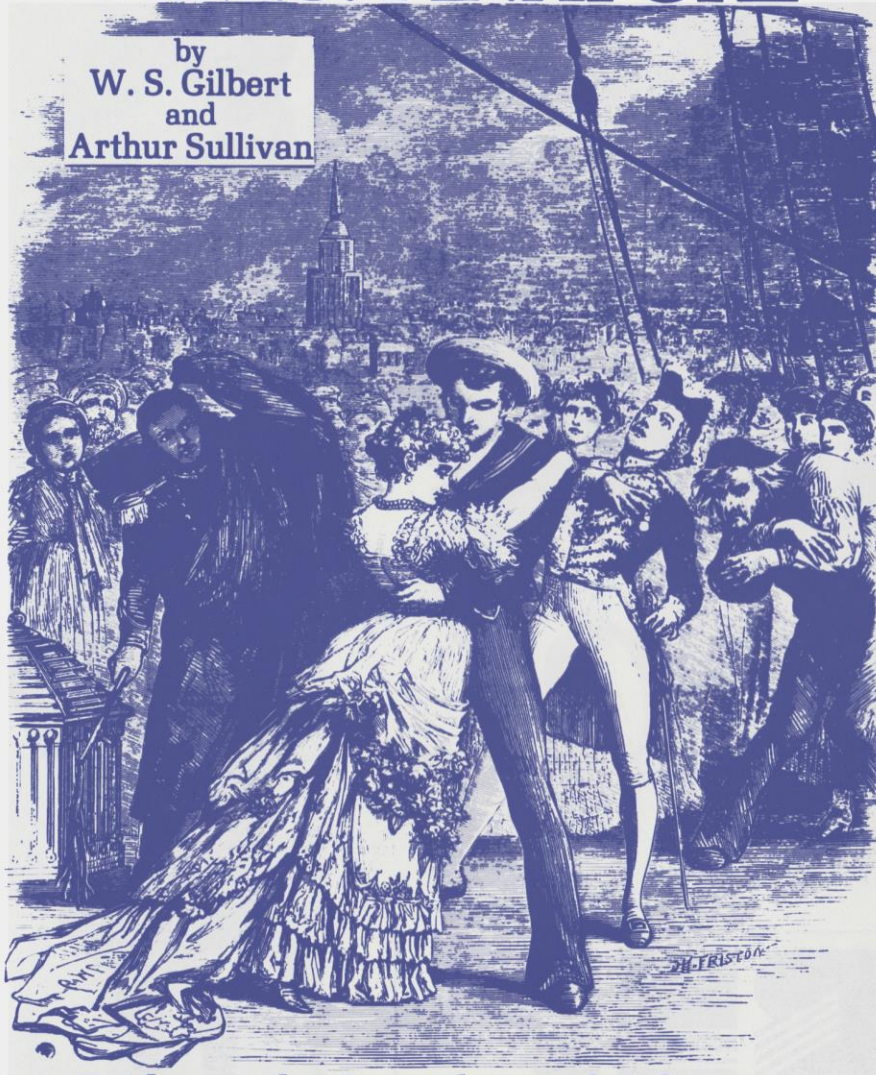
Stoke-on-Trent Repertory Theatre
College Road, Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent
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The Repertory Theatre
announces its production of

H.M.S. PINAFORE

by
W. S. Gilbert
and
Arthur Sullivan



Friday 18th - Saturday 26th July, 1986

The pure joy of the original
with full chorus and orchestra.

Forty Years On

by Alan Bennett

Director
KEN LOWE

Set and Lighting Designer
BRIAN HADLEY

General Stage Manager
RICHARD MASTERS

Construction Consultant
JOHN SHENTON

The Theatre gratefully acknowledges the help of
Edensor High School Drama Group
Newcastle Rugby Club

C A S T

Headmaster	LOUIS SASSI
Franklin, Senior Housemaster	GEORGE SLATER
Tempest, a junior master	JOHN WALLEY
Matron	MARY BARTHOLOMEW
Miss Nisbitt, school secretary	DEBBIE MOUAT

Boys of Albion House School

Wigglesworth	PAUL MILLER
Charteris, the prompter	PAUL WOOD
Cartwright	LEE WEST
Lord	SIMON PALMER
Tupper	JIM KNIGHT
Skinner	ANDREW OATES
Crabtree	JOHN COLLIER
Rumbold	STEVEN BAGGALEY
Tredgold	DAVID ROWE
Wimpenny	PETER WIGGINS
Foster	DOMINIC MASON
Leadbetter (Sandy in the play)	RICHARD LAWRENCE
Dishforth (Gerald in the play)	CRAIG NICHOLLS
Jarvis	NEIL BRICKLEY

The play is set in the assembly hall of Albion House,
a public school on the South Downs.

There will be a fifteen minute interval between
Acts 1 and 2

S T A G E C R E W

Stage Manager
RICHARD MASTERS

Assistant Stage Managers
GEORGE GOODHALL NICK BLOOR
MARGO PERKINS BILL HANCOCK
GRAHAM MOUAT CARL THORNTON
MADELEINE POTTINGER

Costumes
ALISON TOWNSEND

Properties
GILL CHESWORTH

Lighting Technician
TINA RICHARDSON

Production Photographer
PETER CROFT

A special thanks to Glyn Johnson and Beverley Halfpenny of
BBC Radio Stoke.

Car parking

The Rep does not own any parking space and patrons are respectfully requested to observe the usual bye-laws regarding parking in the neighbouring streets and to avoid inconveniencing local residents as much as possible. No responsibility for parking can be accepted by the Stoke Repertory Theatre.

Refreshments

The theatre bar is open from half an hour before the curtain rises until the end of normal licencing hours. Interval drinks may be ordered before the performance.

Coffee will be served to patrons in their seats during the interval. Coffee tickets are available from attendants before the performance and a full range of confectionery is also available.

Smoking

Smoking is permitted during the interval only. Please use the ashtrays provided. Smokers on the front row should ask an attendant for an ashtray.

T H E P L A Y

The time is the mid 60s. It is the last day of term at Albion House School, the occasion on which the old, traditionally-minded headmaster is to retire. To celebrate the event, instead of the usual orthodox school play, his successor, Mr. Franklin, has specially written "Speak for England, Arthur", which the staff and pupils of this run down, second rate public school are to perform. This 'play-within-the-play' is located in the basement of Claridge's Hotel, London, which is being used as a shelter by an aristocratic family, throughout the years of the Second World War. But their dialogue is interrupted by flash backs to various incidents and people, real and imaginary, that record features of English life from 1900 to 1940. The play is, in some ways, a kaleidoscope of England over 50 years and Alan Bennett seems to imply that the country has changed, changed significantly, and perhaps not for the best. Albion House School is England: losing its old traditions and replacing them with new, liberal ideas.

Is this really a play? Well, there's no plot and no real action. The only dramatic tension is the antagonism between the headmaster and his successor. We have treated it, therefore, as a series of cartoons, or revue sketches, some farcical, some serious, all rather eccentric. Written in Alan Bennett's inimitable style, some scenes are mere jokes - such as the send-up of an Oscar Wilde play - whereas others make significant comments on the condition of our country, throughout the first half of the century.

In the first production of the play in 1968, John Gielgud played the headmaster, Paul Eddington played Franklin, and Alan Bernard Linsey, Tempest. In a revival of the play in the West End last year Paul Eddington took over the part of the headmaster.

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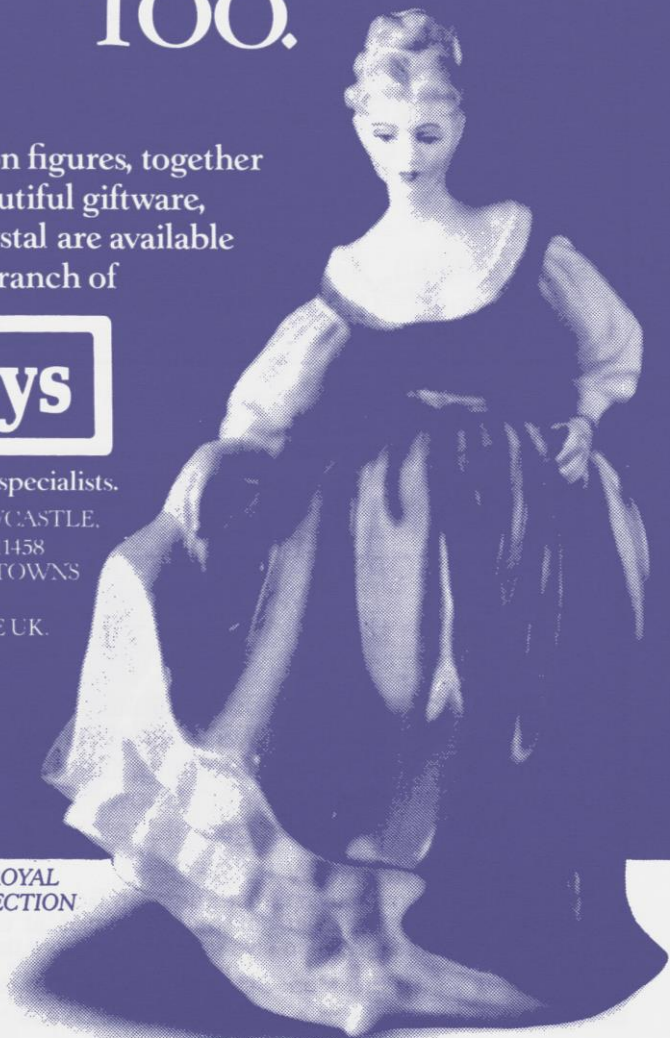
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