

Wakefield Gilbert & Sullivan Society

Open Forum held 31st July 2012

Fundraising – For the touring productions of the show, the society is able to charge a higher fee, therefore bringing more money in than our normal concerts. Two touring productions after the show is probably enough and these need to be in the following week after the show. A suggestion to do touring productions in August and September with perhaps 3 rehearsals to brush-up was made, but principal availability gets more difficult the further from the show they are.

Show – By having Jim as both Musical and Artistic Director will save the society money. The chairman has already spoken to him about the show, and Jim knows what he wants the chorus to do and he will be asking for volunteers for certain characters within the chorus. The chairman read out the full cast list of principal parts. Dates are needed from Jim for principal rehearsals as soon as possible.

Theatre – the chairman and secretary have had a discussion with Murray Edwards at the theatre and Murray is keen for the society to perform a Victorian show in a Victorian theatre in a Victorian fashion. This effect can be helped by using footlights and marketing a heritage theme! A Victorian style poster has already been produced. The society will be the last amateur group in the theatre before the refurbishment. The theatre will close in summer 2013 to have new seats in the auditorium and air-conditioning. During the closure, Unity Hall should be available to use for our March 2014 show.

President – The society need to decide how to market our association with John Godber to gain the most from this relationship. John wants to write a musical and during the discussions with John and Murray, the society has offered its services for this purpose (to be guinea pigs)! The spotlight will be on the society due to John's association with us and he will expect a high degree of professionalism from us.

Three year plan –

- March 2014 (Unity Hall) **Pirates of Penzance** – new theatre and a popular show.
- March 2015 (first amateur society back in the refurbished theatre) **The Grand Duke**
- March 2016 – **The Mikado** (in case Grand Duke bombs)

Grand Duke has got novelty value, and will hopefully pull an audience from further afield! The society need to generate the biggest ticket returns that we can. Grand Duke is an all age show for all the society to participate in. Is there an opportunity to have a third party involved with the society i.e. similar to the Sea Cadets with Pinafore?

Unity Hall – This will hopefully be a 650 seat auditorium, so that it will be a concert venue in the future. But during the theatre refurbishment, the theatre shows will carry on in Unity Hall with tiered seating.

Rehearsals –

- Need to start at 7.30pm promptly.
- Break time to be set at 15 minutes with perhaps staggered breaks
- A choice of hot and cold drinks to be offered and perhaps in cups rather than mugs.
- Notices are to be done before break and a time given to come back.
- The tea fund is making more money than the 50-Club!

Social – The society don't get chance to have a drink after rehearsal any more as we are not at the Sports Club. After discussion, Jenny will contact Sandal Cricket Club, to see if this can be made available to us after rehearsal on a Tuesday night!

Addendum to the accounts – The society assets need to be listed i.e. costumes, electric piano, musical scores, Martin will look at this.

Library – The society does not have any Ruddigore scores in stock. Perhaps a few can be obtained from Harrogate G&S. The membership need to be asked about this.

Costumes – Jen still has some Gondoliers costumes and Nadine still has some Yeomen costumes.