

**For Immediate Release**

**Opera Las Vegas Presents *H.M.S. Pinafore* Bringing**

**Gilbert and Sullivan and High Seas to the Desert**

**Las Vegas, NV – (April 25, 2025)** - Gilbert and Sullivan’s rollicking operetta, *H.M.S. Pinafore* will close out Opera Las Vegas’ Twenty-sixth Anniversary “Season of Smiles” with two performances on June 6th and 8th at the Judy Bayley Theatre on the campus of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

A comic opera in two acts, *H.M.S. Pinafore* is a tale of love, honor, and duty which pokes fun at overblown patriotism, party politics, forbidden love, social class structure, the Royal Navy, and the personal ambition of unqualified people who rise to positions of power.

H.M.S. Pinafore is Gilbert & Sullivan’s fourth composition as a duo and originally premiered May 25, 1878. The opera was a smash success and ran for 571 performances, the second-longest run for any opera when it closed. It was so popular that it also became an international sensation making Gilbert & Sullivan household names around the world. Their prolific output includes such world famous titles as *The Mikado, Pirates of Penzance* and *Trial By Jury.*

A co-production with Pacific Opera Project (POP) in Los Angeles, H.M.S. Pinafore will be directed by POP Artistic Director Josh Shaw, recently cheered for his staging of Opera Las Vegas’ (OLV) Hollywood version of *The Barber of Seville.* OLV Music Director Joshua Horsch will conduct, with members of the Las Vegas Philharmonic in the pit.

The cast is a delightful mix of OLV and POP favorites. Captain Corcoran is played by baritone André Chiang, with his daughter Josephine portrayed by soprano Olivia Yokers - a dynamic pair well remembered for their starring roles in last season’s *La bohème.* POP regulars include the renowned Gilbert and Sullivan stylists: tenor Brian Wallin as Able Seaman Ralph Rackstraw; bass-baritone E. Scott Levin as the deadly Dick Deadeye; comic baritone Jake Stamatis as Sir Joseph Porter; and contralto Emily Geller as the mysterious Mrs. Cripps (aka Little Buttercup), a Portsmouth Bumboat Woman.

Rounding out the Las Vegas casting are mezzo-soprano Ashley Stone (Voices Raised for Vets, The House Without a Christmas Tree) as Cousin Hebe; baritone Jawan Jenkins (Opera Legends in Black) as Boatswain’s Mate, Bill Bobstay; and bass Joshua Thomas as Carpenter’s Mate, Bob Becket.

A large chorus of First Lord’s Sisters, Cousins Aunts, Sailors, and Marines are embodied by members of the Las Vegas Master Singers, Joseph Svendsen, conductor; and the Opera Las Vegas Youth Chorus under the direction of Athena Mertes.

OLV General Director Jim Sohre commented: “It is hard to believe that in its twenty-six year history, Opera Las Vegas has never performed a Gilbert and Sullivan title. We are looking forward to demonstrably correcting that omission with this high-spirited, laugh-packed, musically thrilling co-production with the acclaimed Pacific Opera Project.”

Don’t miss the boat. The best seats are now available for performances on June 6th at 7:30 pm, and June 9th at 2:00 pm, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV. For information and tickets please visit: [www.operalasvegas.com](http://www.operalasvegas.com)

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**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Jim Sohre, General Director, Opera Las Vegas

(270) 499-7075

jimsohre@yahoo.com

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