


The Pirates of Penzance

W.S. Gilbert , Arthur Sullivan

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(Vocal Score). The Pirates of Penzance, premiered in 1879, confirmed the comic genius of librettist W.S. Gilbert and composer Arthur Sullivan, following on the heels of their wildly successful H.M.S. Pinafore . Pirates invade the rocky coast of Cornwall in this topsy-turvy tale of love and duty, highlighted by the famous strains of "Poor Wandering One," "I Am the Very Model of a Modern Major-General," "Oh, Is There Not One Maiden Breast" and "With Cat-Like Tread, Upon Our Prey We Steal." This vocal score includes the complete music and all dialogue, a plot synopsis, articles on the famous partnership and the history of The Pirates of Penzance, a filmography and a discography.

The Pirates of Penzance Details

Date : Published November 1st 1986 by G. Schirmer, Inc. (first published 1879)

ISBN : 9780793525867

Author : W.S. Gilbert , Arthur Sullivan

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From Reader Review The Pirates of Penzance for online ebook

Karen Heart says

The very talented people at Librivox.org made a fantastic, full cast, audio version of this play. You can find it here.

Maggie says

just pure fun. listened to the LIBRIVOX collective presentation of this timeless item and am here to report that they have done a most worthy job!! well done, librivox.

goto: <http://librivox.org/the-pirates-of-pe...>

second listen and just as much fun as the first time. well done, librivox. (monday 2 september 2013)

Katrina says

This is a hilarious satirical play on Victorian society. It mocks the whole idea of the "sense of duty", which was a common theme during the 19th century. It also mocks the "modern major general", the house of peers (which turn out to be a band of hooligan pirates), and the police force. Overall, it is a hilarious comedy and worth the read (it's a quick one, too!) We read it aloud in literature class, and there was a bit of extra laughter mixed in for sure. :) And don't forget to listen to the musical!

Abigail says

Basically sang the whole way through ^^ Quite fun. I had the movie running through my head the whole time which is probably part of why it was so fun!

Katelyn says

This is hilarity at its best. I'm quite a theater buff, to the extent wading in the vast waters of script-writing myself, so this was food for my theater-loving soul. I adore it. I wish I would have read this years ago.

There are moments as a true bookworm reads where a smile will creep onto his face almost unconsciously-- he can do nothing to contain it. This little play brought those smiles to my face countless times. The characters, the dialogue, and the songs! Oh, the songs! Hilarious. The Pirates of Penzance, is theatrical hilarity at its best.

Newly Wardell says

It is still really funny. A pilot vs. pirate mixup.

Killian says

It's been years since I've listened to this play or seen it on stage, but I do remember loving it. But, come on... PIRATES!

Elizabeth says

I've performed this twice, in 1993 and 2015. It's a lot like "H.M.S. Pinafore", but I think I prefer it because pirates. ;)

The plot is paper-thin and makes no sense, in true G&S fashion. It's probably not the most amazing, musically, of their works, but it is fun to sing and the tunes are catchy.

Robert Stewart says

Some of the lyrics are of the wittiest of the G&S oeuvre. But as with all G&S, I'm always left feeling there's something lacking.

Kaethe says

Singing skill is required for Gilbert and Sullivan. Alas, I am tone deaf. I so wanted to be one of the sisters. Or a pirate, that would have been fun, too.

There's no objectivity here. I love this script unreservedly. I love the stage productions I've seen, and the film with Kevin Kline. Love, love, love: "with cat like tread/upon our prey we steal/in silence dread/our cautious way we feel/no sound at all/we scarcely speak a word/a fly's footfall would be distinctly heard."

Production company script

Wolfshadow says

yes. I was in it.

Simon says

Seen several productions of this. I've become, somewhat by accident, a bit of a G&S fan. My favourite show was probably a small cast jolly at the SJT in Scarborough.

Steven Walle says

This was a faboulasly popular play done by the genius of Gilbert and Sulavan in the year of 1879. The pirates attack the shore of Cornwall in this rollicking little venture of love and duty. This book is replete with complete score and a filmographyand discography. I would highly recommend you read it and go to see it preformed. Enjoy and Be Blessed.
Diamond

Amber says

Thou gildest e'en the pirate's trade.

Konstantin says

What a wonderful play. Brilliant songs matched with witty and memorable lyrics. The characters are funny and true to life. Nothing is amiss in this tale of duplicity and scandal!

Greg Kerestan says

There's no matching "The Pirates of Penzance" as far as Gilbert and Sullivan operettas or early musical theatre in general goes. Wacky, unpredictable, full of high art and low culture, poetry, slapstick and the absurd, it's a bit of farcical fluff that nonetheless resonates over a century after its premiere. Though the Joseph Papp revival in the 1980s DID perform some necessary structural updates as far as the evolution of musical theatre as a craft, it's impossible to deny that the basic bones of musical comedy were truly born here, and not with the Princess Theatre farces of Coward and Wodehouse a few decades later.

Leslie says

Read as part of The Complete Plays of Gilbert and Sullivan on my Kindle as I watched (and listened) to it on video.

As I said on my review of *H.M.S. Pinafore*, I would never recommend reading these without watching or at least listening to the performance, as the songs are at the heart of Gilbert and Sullivan's operas. However, I

often find it hard to tell what the words are so watching while having the text in front of me was a great help (especially in those cross-singing duets!).

Bettie? says

[Bettie's Books (hide spoiler)]

Manny says

If, by some unlikely mishap, you don't already know *The Pirates of Penzance*, then try and put that right! It's still one of the funniest things of its kind ever done. Fredric's kind but rather deaf nursemaid was told to apprentice him to a pilot, misheard, and indentured him to a pirate instead. Now Fredric is 21, or so he thinks, and stuns the gang by telling them he's leaving. But he falls in love with the beautiful Mabel, who also happens to be one of the adopted daughters of the redoubtable Major General Stanley, and after that things get seriously complicated.

Bonus: once you've seen it, you'll also be able to appreciate the innumerable parodies of the Major General's Song, which I think is supposed to be the most parodied song of all time. In particular, check out Tom Lehrer's *The Elements* and Kevin Wald's *I Am The Very Model Of A Heroine Barbarian...*

Jessica Barkl says

I've read and seen this play several times, but I re-read it and watched the movies again because I am thinking of producing this as the Summer Musical for Walla Walla in 2012. I really love this play and, I think, that the community will like it as well. I've been criticized the past three years I've been directing the summer musical for the genres I've been choosing. The community seems to want me to a classic. But, I can't do just any classic, and they've never done a Gilbert and Sullivan for the summer musical, so...what better one to do than the cult classic of Pirates! Hmmm...we are thinking steam punk (since it's so hip) and ariel work from the ropes on the ship...anyway, I'm excited, if it does happen.
