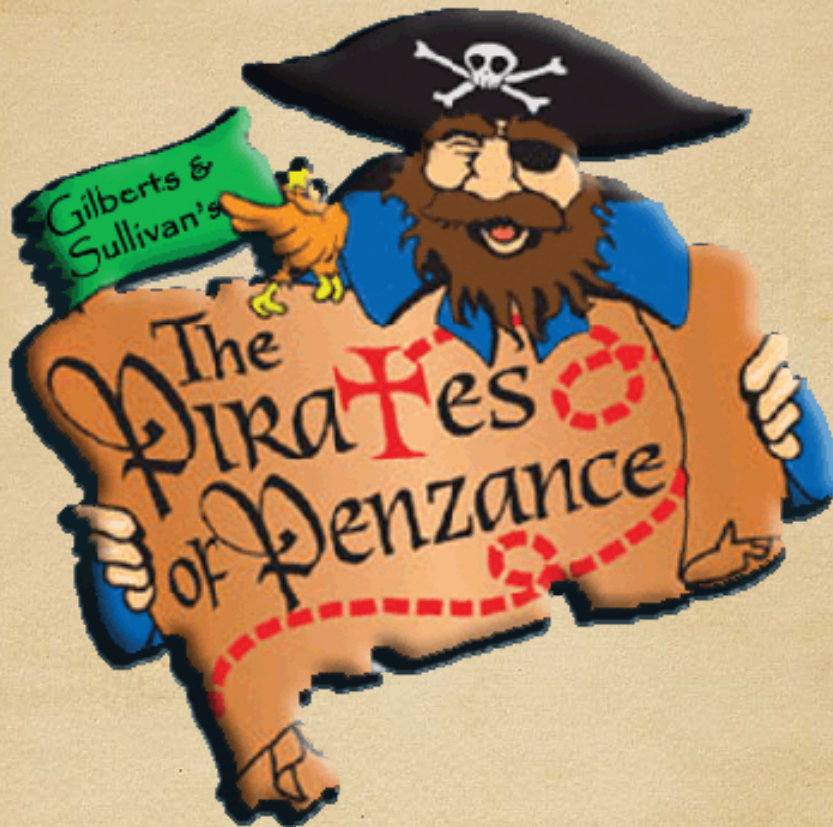


Albury • Wodonga Theatre Company



DIRECTOR — CHRIS PIDD  
MUSICAL DIRECTOR — BOHDAN KROWICKY  
CHOREOGRAPHER — ALISON JONES

## AUDITION INFORMATION

BOOKINGS OPEN MONDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER  
PHONE 0409 454 119

## AUDITION DATES

Venue: Wodonga Senior Secondary College, Woodland St, Wodonga  
Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> January 2010  
Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> January 2010

## CALL BACKS

You will be notified of call back dates and times if required.  
Venue: Wodonga Senior Secondary College, Woodland St, Wodonga

## AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

Please arrive at least 20 minutes before your audition time to complete any administrative work. It will also give you time to get into a comfortable zone before your audition, and remember we are looking for potential not for a highly polished performance. So come early go over your music and try and relax and have some fun with us. Auditionees must be 16 years or older.

### Singing

We would like you to come prepared with **one (1) song, preferably from the show, which demonstrates your full vocal range and ability as a performer.** All auditionees must supply their own sheet music in the appropriate key. We will provide the pianist and piano. No backing CDs will be accepted.

### Acting

All auditionees will be asked to perform a small improvisation exercise and a 'cold read' of the script if you are auditioning for a character role.

### Dance

We will ask you to complete a small movement routine, again to gauge your potential.

**N.B.** If the panel has heard enough to judge your ability, you may be asked to stop singing/reading before you finish. Do not be upset by this. It is done simply in the interest of time and is not a reflection of how your audition is going.

If you have not already received the audition form, please go to [www.awtco.org.au](http://www.awtco.org.au) and use the Contact form to request one. Please bring the completed form to your audition. Auditionees must bring their own non-returnable headshot.

## REHEARSAL/PERFORMANCE DATES

Rehearsals will commence 7<sup>th</sup> February, initially being once a week, building to three times a week as we get closer to the performance. Further details will be made available after auditions.

Performances will be from 20<sup>th</sup> May to 22<sup>nd</sup> May with three evening performances plus a matinee.

## CHARACTER BREAKDOWNS

### **Mabel** – (Soprano, lead role)

Major-General Stanley's youngest daughter; quickly falls in love with Frederic. Very much a young woman of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Mabel has an out-front, uncovered, natural, expressive voice. Excellent, unaffected diction is essential.

### **Frederic** – (Tenor, lead role)

A pirate trainee, Frederic was apprenticed to the pirates by mistake. He is a noble young man who falls in love with Mabel but puts his sense of duty above everything else, including love. Young, manly, genuine and an innocent, Frederic is funny because he is so sincerely trying to do the honourable thing.

### **Ruth** – (Mezzo, lead role)

A pirate maid-of-all-work and Frederic's nursery maid, Ruth mistakenly bound Frederic to a pirate instead of a pilot. She is in love with Frederic and feels betrayed when he falls in love with Mabel. A proper English nanny, she has raised her young charge, Frederic, to be a polite, honourable and respectable gentleman.

### **Sergeant of Police** – (Baritone, supporting role)

The leader of a bumbling squad of policemen, the good-natured sergeant of police is committed to stopping the pirates. He is stiff, yet agile.

### **The Pirate King** – (Baritone, supporting role)

A largely unsuccessful commander, the pirate king, although a flamboyant braggart, is too tender-hearted to do what pirates are supposed to do. He is a whole-hearted romantic, a member of the peerage who has gone native, so to speak. He is the King, no doubt, because it's his ship. He is hurt and dumbfounded that Frederic would leave the romantic life for "respectability".

### **Major-General Stanley** – (Baritone, supporting role)

A one star-general in the British Army, Major-General Stanley is the protector of many young women, his daughters. He is quirky, warm and good-humoured.

### **Edith** – (Soprano, supporting role)

One of Major-General Stanley's daughters and Mabel's sister. She is proper, young and snappy.

### **Samuel** – (Baritone, supporting role)

The pirate king's lieutenant and right-hand man. Not awfully bright.

### **Isabel** – (Speaking, cameo role)

One of Major-General Stanley's daughters and Mabel's sister. She is proper, pleasant and bright.

### **Kate** – (Mezzo, cameo role))

One of Major-General Stanley's daughters and Mabel's sister. She is proper, pleasant and bright.

### **A chorus of Pirates, Police and Major-General Stanley's Daughters**

**Daughters** – The more individual and vivid each daughter is, the better. Big, legitimate voices are essential (there are more Pirates and Police than Daughters, and they have to balance them out in vocal power.)

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

### Act I

*Overture* – Orchestra

*Pour, Oh Pour, the Pirate Sherry* – Pirates, Samuel

*When Frederic Was a Little Lad* – Ruth

*Oh, Better Far to Live and Die* – Pirate King, Pirates

*Oh, False One, You Have Deceived Me!* – Frederic, Ruth

*Climbing Over Rocky Mountain* – Girls, Edith, Kate

*Stop, Ladies, Pray* – Frederic, Edith, Kate, Girls

*Oh, Is There Not One Maiden Breast* – Frederic, Mabel, Girls

*Poor Wandering One* – Mabel, Girls

*What Ought We To Do* – Edith, Kate, Girls

*How Beautifully Blue The Sky* – Girls, Mabel, Frederic

*Stay, We Must Not Lose Our Senses* – Frederic, Girls, Pirates

*Here's A First Rate Opportunity* – Pirates, Girls

*Hold, Monsters!* – Mabel, Samuel, Major-General, Girls, Pirates

*I Am the Very Model of a Modern Major-General* – Major-General, Girls, Pirates

*Oh, Men of Dark and Dismal Fate* – Major-General, Samuel, Pirate King, Frederic, Mabel, Edith,  
Kate, Ruth, Girls, Pirates

### Act II

*Oh, Dry the Glistening Tear* – Girls, Mabel

*Then Frederic, Let Your Escort Lion-hearted* – Major-General, Frederic

*When the Foeman Bares His Steel* – Sergeant, Mabel, Edith, Major-General, Police, Girls

*Now for the Pirate's Lair* – Frederic, Pirate King, Ruth

*When You Had Left Our Pirate Fold* – Ruth, Frederic, Pirate King

*Away, Away! My Heart's on Fire!* – Ruth, Pirate King, Frederic

*All Is Prepared* – Mabel, Frederic

*Stay, Frederic, Stay* – Mabel, Frederic

*No, I Am brave* – Mabel, Sergeant, Police

*Sergeant, approach!* (chant) – Mabel, Sergeant, Police

*When a Felon's Not Engaged In His Employment* – Sergeant, Police

*A Rollicking Band Of Pirates We* – Pirates, Sergeant, Police

*With Cat-like Tread* – Pirates, Police, Samuel

*Hush, Hush! Not a Word* – Frederic, Pirates, Police, Major-General

*Sighing Softly to the River* – Major-General, Ensemble

## SYNOPSIS

Frederic, apprentice pirate, is feted in drink and song by the pirate band. It is his twenty-first birthday and his indenture completed, he is now eligible to take his place among them as a full-fledged pirate. To their shock and dismay, Frederic announces that he loathes piracy. Although he felt himself to be a "slave of duty" while he completed his apprenticeship, now he is free to devote his life to piracy's extermination. Ruth, once his nursery-maid, confesses that, when he was just a little lad, she was slightly hard of hearing, and misheard his parents' instruction to apprentice him to a seafaring pilot. Ashamed to return to them and reveal her monumental mistake, she remained with the pirates as a maid-of-all-work. Now she plans to leave the pirate band with Frederic, and hopefully to become his wife. The Pirate King warns Frederic that it is better to be a pirate in fact than

*"...to play a sanctimonious part,  
With a pirate head and a pirate heart.  
Away to the cheating world go you,  
where pirates all are well-to-do."*

After parting with the pirates, Frederic expresses some doubts about his true feelings for Ruth. After all, he has never seen another woman. How does he know if she is truly as lovely as she has told him? In a parody of many operatic love duets, he states his feeling of betrayal, while she protests:

Frederic: *"You told me you were fair as gold."*  
Ruth: *"And master, am I not so?"*  
Frederic: *"And now I see you're plain and old!"*  
Ruth: *"I'm sure I'm not a jot so."*

Ruth begs him not to leave her with the dowry of ardour that she has been accumulating for 47 years. Frederic angrily rejects her pent-up passion, casting her aside. When he spots a merry band of young ladies on their way to the beach, he conceals himself in a cave, so as not to frighten them with his pirate attire. When they start to remove shoes and stockings to wade in the surf, he bursts out to stop them, as they would surely not want to make a scandalous display of bare ankles if they knew a man was watching. Of course, they are horrified, but he begs just one of them, any one of them, to rescue him from his past and reform him. All but one reject his blanket offer. Mabel chastises her sisters for their lack of pity. They wonder aloud if she would feel such a sense of duty to reform him if he weren't quite so attractive. Mabel finds the reformation of a handsome man very attractive indeed. Her sisters know propriety demands that they chaperone this pair, already cooing a love duet. Knowing that one day any one of them may be in a similar situation, the girls decide.

*"...we'll compromise. Let us shut our eyes, and talk about the weather."*

Frederic comes to his senses and urges the girls to vacate the beach at once, before the pirates see them. It is too late! The pirates swoop down on them before they can escape, each one seizing a girl and a chance for instant matrimony. The girls warn them that their father is a Major-General.

General Stanley immediately strides on the scene with a tongue-twisting soliloquy on the merits of being a modern Major-General. He then shamelessly lies and presents himself as a lonely orphan boy, and begs the pirates to release his girls, the only family that he has. This appeals to their one weakness. As everyone knows, they are all orphan boys themselves. Bathed in emotion, all join in an operatic paean to Poetry. Frederic spurns Ruth's last desperate plea for reconciliation, and the curtain falls on a choral excess of self-congratulations by all others present.

The second act opens as the girls discover their father weeping in the family chapel, full of remorse for lying to the pirates. They try to comfort him, but it is Frederic who lifts his spirits with the news that he and the local police are off to battle the pirate band. Mabel and the girls try to send them off with a rousing appeal reminiscent of the opening of *Aida* and "*go and die in combat gory.*" The police become less enthusiastic about this venture by the moment, and have to be virtually heaved out the door by the Major-General.

Frederic briefly waxes eloquent on the joys of atoning for his acts of theft and pillage while a "*slave of duty*" to the pirates. Before he can lead his strike force, he is confronted by the Pirate King and Ruth, who beg him to hear their "*delightful paradox.*" It seems that Frederic was born on February 29<sup>th</sup>, and so is only five years old! He'll really be 21 in 1940. Regretfully, Frederic changes allegiance yet again, and dutifully reports the Major-General's lie. Vowing to take his vengeance "*this very night, or early tomorrow*", the Pirate King rushes off. Frederic breaks the bad news to Mabel, who initially begs him to stay with her, but then promises to wait until 1940, when he will be 84 and free. He leaves sorrowfully.

Without their leader, the police bemoan their lot, but Mabel urges them on. When they hear the pirates approaching, they wisely hide. While the pirates stealthily enter, they sing of this new escapade to the tune that later became known as "*Hail, Hail the Gang's All Here*" (although those are not the original words). Hearing footsteps, they also hide. The Major-General, wracked by guilt and insomnia, comes to investigate a noise. Clad in nightgowns, the girls come to see why their father is up in the middle of the night.

The pirates burst out of hiding to capture the Major-General. The police burst out to arrest the pirates. A brief scuffle ensues, and the police are quickly subdued. With one last weapon in his arsenal, the Police Sergeant charges the pirates to "*yield, in Queen Victoria's name!*" Humbled, the pirates yield at once, "*because for all our faults we love our Queen!*" Ruth intercedes for them "*as noble men who have gone wrong*". The Major-General offers reconciliation, and his beautiful girls in marriage. The girls offer the pirates their hearts, as all join in the final rapturous chorus.