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The Nairobi City Players

and

The Nairobi Music Society

Proudly Present

THE GONDOLIERS

THE KING OF BARATARIA

or

by

W.S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan

Directed by

Benny Goodman

Musical Director

Anne Malcolm-Green

at

The Kenya National Theatre

From 29th June to 7th July 1984



THE INTERNATIONAL much more than mere

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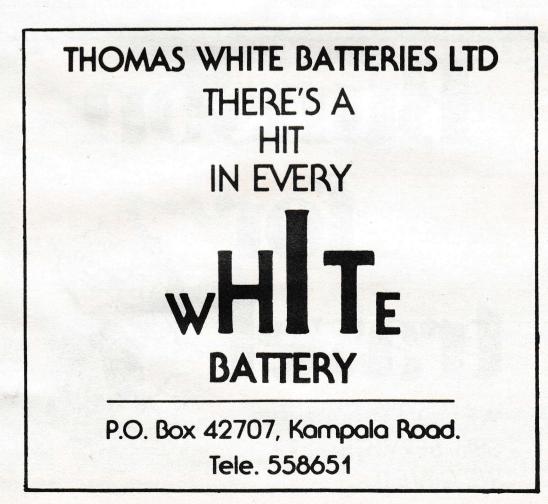
Gilbert and Sullivan

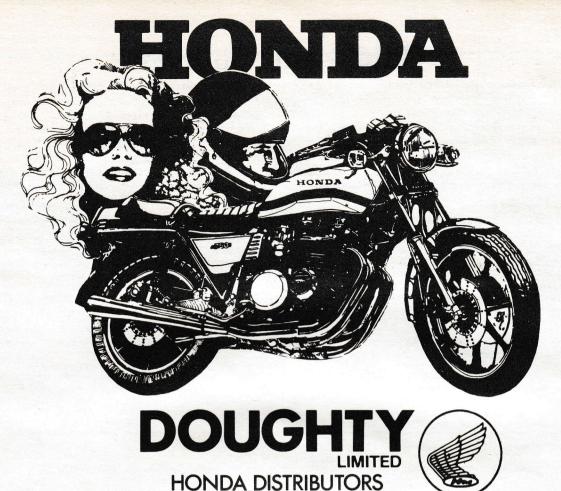
THE fourteen comic operas created by librettist William S. Gilbert and composer Arthur Sullivan were among the hallmarks of the late Victorian era. The G&S partnership began with *Thespis* in 1871 and ended with *The Grand Duke* in 1896. Most of their operas — *Trial by Jury, Pinafore, Pirates of Penzance, The Mikado, Yeomen of the Guard,* and so on — took the English-speaking world by storm. *The Mikado,* for example, had a first run of 672 performances in London, beginning in March 1885, and in August began a 250-performance run in New York. *The Gondoliers,* opening on December 7th, 1889, had a first run of 554 performances. Audiences delighted in Gilbert's topsy-turvy situations, in his wittily rhymed and beguilingly rhythmic verses, with their deft insertions of social and political satire, and in the equally beguiling music to which Sullivan set them, often parodying the works of Verdi and Rossini.

Gilbert (1836-1911) and Sullivan (1842-1900) were both Londoners and had both begun to make their mark in the theatre before 1871. From 1861 Gilbert had regularly contributed sketches and witty verses to *Fun* magazine. In 1866 his first stage work — a burlesque of a Donizetti opera — was accepted and he gave up his unsuccessful law practice. Sullivan was a musical prodigy; his first important work was published when he was only nineteen and in 1867 he composed his first comic opera.

The fourteen G&S operas are generally known as the Savoy Operas because, beginning with *Patience* in 1881, they were performed at the Savoy Theatre, London, newly constructed for the impresario Richard d'Oyley Carte, who had persuaded Gilbert and Sullivan to collaborate on a second opera, *Trial by Jury*, in 1875 and thereafter held them together despite their often stormy relationship (portrayed so well in *Savoy Knights*, presented by the Nairobi City Players in 1981).

An interesting sidelight to *The Gondoliers* is that as a baby William Gilbert was stolen from his nurse during a family holiday in Italy and had to be ransomed for £25.





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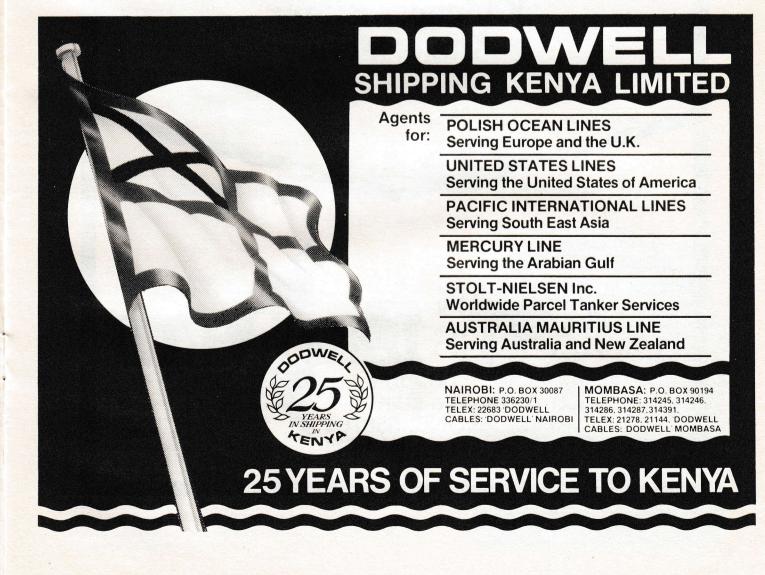
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The Story of the Gondoliers

LMOST twenty years before the scenes enacted, the old King of Barataria had had his baby son married to Casilda, the baby daughter of the Duke of Plaza-Toro, a grandee of Spain. While the prince was still a baby the old king suddenly became a fanatical Wesleyan Methodist and converted his entire court to that protestant faith. The Grand Inquisitor, Don Alhambra del Bolero, not wishing the future king to follow his heretical path, had the baby prince stolen and brought to Venice, where he placed him in the care of a gondolier named Palmieri, to be brought up with the gondolier's own son. Unfortunately, the gondolier, now dead, lived in such an alcoholic haze that he never could remember which son was really the prince.

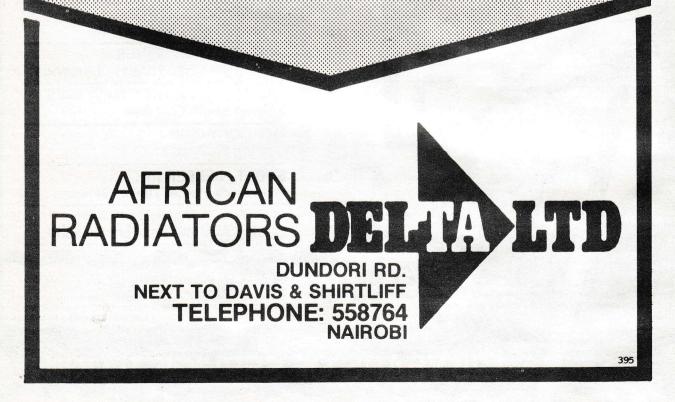
A fortnight before Act One begins, the Methodist king and his Wesleyan ministers have been killed in an insurrection. Therefore, the Duke of Plaza-Toro has set sail for Venice to learn from the Grand Inquisitor the whereabouts of the new King of Barataria, so that his daughter may claim her rightful position as the new Queen. This is rather important to the Duke, as he is in financial difficulties and has had to turn himself into a limited company and issue shares to keep afloat. Casilda, however, is most unhappy at the prospect of reunion with her unknown husband, being in love with the Duke's drummer, Luiz.

Soon after the curtain rises, the Palmieri 'brothers', Marco and Giuseppe, marry two beautiful Venetians — and then learn that one of them is the King of Barataria, who is already married to Casilda and is thus a bigamist! The Grand Inquisitor has summoned Inez, the baby prince's foster mother, from Spain to identify the true king. Until her arrival, Marco and Giuseppe reign as one king, very democratically, on the Island of Barataria.

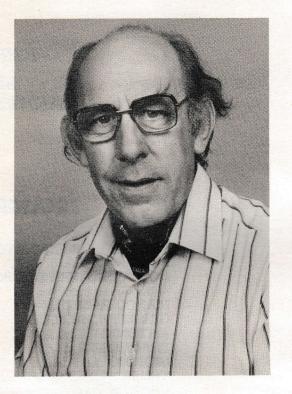


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The Director — Benny Goodman



BENNY is affectionately regarded as the 'Resident Genius' of the Nairobi City Players. He has done almost everything in theatre and, since coming to Kenya in 1950, mostly for them. Benny the actor has played memorably The Cowardly Lion in The Wizard of Oz, Nicely-Nicely Johnson in Guys and Dolls, Sancho Panza in Man of La Mancha, and Fagin in Oliver. In The Fantastics he played The Girl's Father in 1977 and Henry, the old actor, in 1982, and directed both productions. Last July he directed Happy as a Sandbag and played various roles in it. Among other City Players shows directed by Benny: Kiss Me Kate, The Real Inspector Hound, The Pirates of Penzance and H.M.S. Pinafore. He has designed the sets for many shows; in that regard he remembers best My Fair Lady - it required eleven sets! Benny has also been Lighting Designer and Operator for the City Players and other groups, doing outstanding work on Godspell, The King and I, Oklahoma and Side by Side by Sondheim! He was to play Nicely-Nicely Johnson again in the 1979 production of Guys and Dolls, but instead was flown to London for open heart surgery; he bounced back in time to be Lighting Operator for that show, helpful friends pushing him up ladders. In real life Benny is a director of Data Centre Ltd. If he isn't slaving over a hot computer he can be seen resting in the shade of the tomato plant growing in his office. Benny's wife Brenda and their two children share his infectious enthusiasm for all things theatrical.

The Musical Director — Anne Malcolm-Green

ROWING up in Zimbabwe, Anne showed early promise as a pianist and singer. She won a scholarship to the Royal College of Music, London, and while there continued to perform in numerous recitals and operatic productions. (It was while singing in lolanthe, produced by the students of the Imperial College of Science, that she met her husband, Rollo, the Production Chairman for The Gondoliers.) In 1969 Anne was chosen to sing in a special memorial rendering of Verdi's Requiem Mass, conducted by Sir John Barbirolli. Anne and Rollo came to Kenya in 1974. Since then Anne's glorious contralto voice has been heard in virtually all the major oratorios presented by the Nairobi Music Society. In 1983 she was the one resident soloist in Verdi's Requiem Mass. She has sung major roles in all the Music Society's recent operas - Carmen, The Bartered Bride, The Beggar's Opera and Dido and Aeneas. Anne has also conducted for the Music Society — most recently a trio of works by Vivaldi, Mendelssohn and Vaughan Williams. Every year she directs her Loreto Convent Valley Road students in a musical production; this year it was the very popular Hansel and Gretel, at the National Theatre.



PRODUCTION CHAIRMAN

Rollo Malcolm-Green

PRODUCTION SECRETARY Frances Cattermole

THE MUSICIANS

Piano - Anne Malcolm-Green Flute - Natsuhiko Sakimura Clarinet - Jeannette Kassam Double Bass - Peter Huxley Percussion - Loreto Convent Valley Road

STAGE MANAGER Ron West

CONSTRUCTION MANAGER Ivor Maynard

SET DESIGN Benny Goodman

COSTUME DESIGN Juli Rowson

THE GOND

Directed b BENNY GOOD

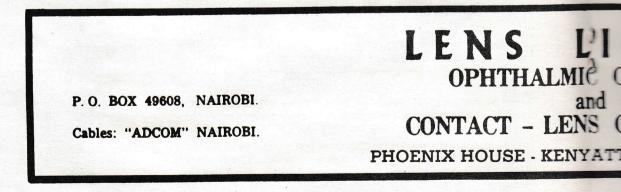
Musical Dre ANNE MALCOL

DRAMATIS PER

THE DUKE OF PLAZA-TORO
LUIZ (his Attendant)
DON ALHAMBRA DEL BOLERO
(the Grand Inquisitor)
MARCO PALMIERI
GIUSEPPE PALMIERI
ANTONIO
FRANCESCO
GIORGIO
THE DUCHESS OF PLAZA-TORD
CASILDA (her Daughter)
GIANETTA
TESSA
FIAMETTA
VITTORIA
GIULIA
INEZ

ACT I - THE PLALETT An interval of three ACT II - PAVILION DN OF BABATAN

The Year 17



ONDOLIERS

GOF BARATARIA

Directed by NNY GOODMAN

Musical Director

ATIS PERSONAE

FORO	CHRISTOPHER FURNISS CHRISTOPHER COUTINHC JOHN HUMPHRIES
ZA-TORO	JOHN KEMPSELL STEPHEN CHOWNS DAVID JACKSON BRUCE BRAND CHARLES MOORE ROSEMARY GARDNER SARAH SHELTON ELEANOR STEVENS PATRICIA EAMES STEPHANIE CURTIS MARY KASHANGAKI JANE CATCHPOLE MAUREEN TURNER

- THE PLAZETTA, VENICE interval of three months. PAVILION IN THE PALACE OF BARATARIA

The Year: 1750

GONDOLIERS, MEN-AT-ARMS HERALDS, AND PAGES

Hugh Cowie Mike Taylor Charles Baraza Basil Allsopp Mike Nunn Stephen Mitchell Bruce Hyland

REHEARSAL PIANISTS

Tony Davies Kate Lynall

CHORUS MASTERS

John Humphries Anne Malcolm-Green

CONTADINE

Emma Catchpole Nina Mattock Jill Curtis Nicole Jones Gillian Marwick Alison Hall Mieke Bastiaansen Rosemary Owen Jo Darlington Hannah Park Susan Barduhn Paula Allsopp Jennifer Huxley





CHRISTOPHER FURNISS (The Duke) has taught in England and Jamaica and came to Kenya in 1980 to teach at Nakuru High School. While there he appeared in four Nakuru Playgroup Theatre productions, among them *Death of a Salesman* and *Sailor Beware!* Since moving to Nairobi Chris has been a member of the chorus in several Nairobi Music Society oratorios. He now teaches at Brookhouse School, where he produced *Oliver* in 1983. He has spent the past month directing Brookhouse's 122 students in rehearsals of *The Jungle Book*, for which he wrote the dialogue.

Rosemary GARDNER (The Duchess) has always lived in Kenya, apart from school in England, and has appeared in countless roles here — she refuses even to attempt to remember them all. She was the Duchess in the Nairobi Music Society production of *The Gondoliers* several years ago and she's also appeared in *The Pirates of Penzance* and two or three times in *The Yeomen of the Guard*. Most recently she was the Witch in the Loreto Convent Valley Road production of *Hansel and Gretel* — a role she played in 1971 opposite Pat Eames' Hansel. Rosemary has also acted in straight plays, such as The Theatre Group's *Separate Tables* in 1982, and she is frequently a member of a quartet or other ensemble in Music Society concerts.





SARAH SHELTON (Casildà) came here from London with her husband, Paul (the Nairobi City Players' treasurer), in 1982, having virtually never acted. Her stage appearances began last July with 'bits and bobs' in the City Players' *Happy as a Sandbag*. In March she was the tempestuous Clare Norman in The Theatre Group's *Murder with Love* and in recent weeks she has juggled rehearsals for *The Gondoliers* with her role as the daughter-in-law in the Phoenix Players' *Children*.

CHRISTOPHER COUTINHO (Luiz) has appeared in *The Gondoliers* once before — at the age of nine at St. Mary's School, in 1973. Since then he has had solo parts in Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado* and *The Pirates of Penzance*, also at St. Mary's, and has appeared in the Nairobi City Players' *The King and I* and *Guys and Dolls*. In 1982 he starred in the Kenya Music Festival; competing in the classes for those over eighteen years of age,he won three first prizes — in the tenor, folksong and oratorio classes.





JOHN KEMPSELL (Marco) appeared in the Nairobi Music Society's *Trial by Jury* soon after his arrival here in 1972 and several more Gilbert and Sullivan roles followed. In 1981 he played A.S. Sullivan himself in the Nairobi City Players' *Savoy Knights*. His most recent NCP appearnces was in last July, in *Happy as a Sandbag*, in which his wife, Rosemary, also played. Meanwhile, he has been chairman of the Music Society and has sung in countless oratorios, often as the tenor soloist. This is probably John's last stage role in Nairobi; he is to return to London at the end of this year.

ELEANOR STEVENS (Gianetta) began singing as a child with 'The Little Dublin Singers'. While at college she joined a group of friends to sing in folk clubs around Dublin. Eleanor came to Kenya in 1972 but soon moved to Dar es Salaam, where she appeared in many plays and musicals, including No Sex Please, We're British and My Fair Lady. Since moving back to Nairobi in 1979, Eleanor has appeared in several variety shows in town and up country, including the 1983 Nairobi Variety Show. Every fortnight she sings with the 'Hootenanny' folk group. In December she appeared in the Phoenix Players' Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.





PATRICIA EAMES (Tessa) first appeared on stage at the age of ten in Humpty Dumpty, in Zimbabwe. Later, in London, she appeared often in college and repertory company productions. Pat came to Nairobi in 1971 and within six weeks was playing Sandie in The Theatre Group's The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie and Hansel in the Nairobi Music Society's Hansel and Gretel. Other starring roles in Theatre Group productions followed, for example in The Dream and Hedda Gabler, both directed by her husband, John. Pat is head of the Art Department at Banda School and has been heavily involved in theatrical productions there — as assistant director, choreographer, costume designer, set designer and make-up artist!

STEPHEN CHOWNS (Giuseppe) has no theatrical biography apart from appearing as the female 'Babe in the Wood' in a Boy Scouts pantomime. But he has been a member of the Nairobi Music Society chorus for several oratorios since moving to Nairobi from the cultural backwater of Mumias in January last year. This will be his first and last appearance on the Nairobi stage, as he and his family will return to the U.K. in August.



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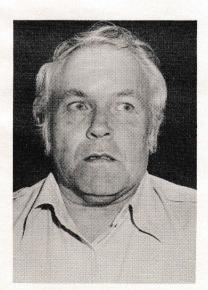


JOHN HUMPHRIES (Don Alhambra) has sung tenor parts in choral concerts for over 20 years. His last Gilbert & Sullivan role was in *Ruddigore* in 1965. As well he has directed musicals in various schools in the U.K., often composing them himself. Coming to Kenya in 1982, he has continued this habit at Braeburn School, composing and directing *The Pearl Reef* last year and *Persephone* this year — John is another cast member who has had to juggle rehearsals and performances this past month.

AUREEN TURNER (Inez) has been a City Player since her arrival in Kenya in 1969. That year she played in *Kiss Me Kate* and last July she was in *Happy as a Sandbag*, her sixteenth NCP show. She also appeared in the Music Society's *Trial by Jury* and *The Mikado*. Most recently she's caused side-splitting laughter with her roles in the Phoenix Players' Dry Rot and Can't Pay? Won't Pay!



MARY KASHANGAKI (Vittoria)



(Francesco)



STEPHANIE CURTIS (Fiametta)

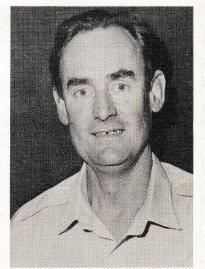




JANE CATCHPOLE (Giulia)



DAVID JACKSON (Antonio)



CHARLES MOORE (Giorgio)

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The Production Team

Production Chairman Production Secretary Assistant to the Director Stage Manager Stage Crew	Frances Cattermole Iris Igonya Ron West
Set Design and Decor	
Construction Manager	
Set Construction	Jim Hebrard, Ivor Maynard, Joe T. Muirwa Daniel N. Mungai, Francis M. Njagi, Ron West
Lighting Design	Benny Goodman
Lighting Operators	David Newman, Jason Mwai
Sound	Peter Stratford
Costume Designer	
Costume Seamstresses	
	Juli Rowson, Jan Simpson
Properties	Frances Cattermole, Rajal Shah
Front-of-House Manager	
Assisted by	
Publicity	Bryan Epsom
Programme	Gillian Marwick
Advertising	Joe Murithi
Programme Printing	Majestic Printing Works Ltd.
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Acknowledgements

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- for paint
- for rehearsal facilities
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The Nairobi City Players and the Nairobi Music Society wish to acknowledge all those persons and organisations who willingly gave their assistance in many ways after this programme went to press. We are most grateful for their cooperation.

The Nairobi Music Society

THE 'Nairobi Musical Society' (as it was then more formally known) began in the thirties with a sitting room a 'gramophone' and an enthusiastic and hospitable founder. This modest beginning was the precursor of more active music making, and for forty years the Society has sponsored concerts, chamber recitals, operas, musical plays and oratorios, often, as now, in successful collaboration with other groups. Today the Society has an international membership of nearly 300 (we would like more!), with an equally rich variety of musical tastes, for as many as possible of which we try to cater. We regularly put on operas, oratorios, lunchtime recitals, musical evenings, a traditionally annual (but we hope not fossilized) *Messiah*, even sometimes, with help from abroad, an entire Music Festival. We are currently extending our range even further to make both the members and the music as representative as possible of this complicated city.

This production of *The Gondoliers* is our first collaboration with City Players. Both groups have long experience of presenting musical theatre; our talents and experience are complementary, and should be formidable in combination. We hope everyone will enjoy the result.

To join the Music Society, write to:

The Membership Secretary, P.O. Box 41799, Nairobi.

The Nairobi City Players

IN 1956 four dedicated theatre people formed an acting group and called it the Nairobi City Players. The founder members were professional actors John Ebdon and Donald Whittle together with the late Noreen Antrobus and Bryan Epsom, who is the group's Chairman at present.

Their first production, at the Kenya National Theatre in November 1956, was Peter Ustinov's *The Love of Four Colonels*. Since that time the group has presented a total of 99 productions, including 40 musicals, mostly at the Kenya National Theatre.

The Constitution of Nairobi City players sets down the following aims and objects:

- (a) Regularly to present theatrical productions of a good dramatic and artistic standard by utilising and coordinating the best available talent, directors, set designers and technical stage assistants.
- (b) Towards the fulfilment of (a) above, to be unstinting in the cost of production, subject to the limit set by the Standing Committee.
- (c) To take all necessary steps to encourage the drama and to improve the facilities available for theatrical productions.

Since their formation the City Players have adhered rigidly to these aims, and they look forward to many more years of entertaining the Kenyan theatre public both in Nairobi and on tour. In recent years the group has successfully toured a number of smaller musicals and revues.

The group has an open membership on payment of an annual subscription and those interested should apply to the Membership Secretary, P.O. Box 40026, Nairobi.

The Kenya National Theatre

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Box Office	JAMES MUTHAMA
Master Carpenter	HUMPHREY NJOROGE
Electrician	JASON MWAI

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