

News from the Hall

Summer 2017



Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Gondoliers*

from Venice to
Pultneyville
July 14-16

It's a very operatic operetta.... but don't let that frighten you! Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Gondoliers* is a delightful, musically rich romp through a glorious time in Venice, when the Contadine (peasant girls) and Gondolieri (Gondoliers) enjoyed life on the Grand Canal. That is, until fortune strikes one of the Palmieri brothers, the long-hidden son of the King of the Spanish island, Barataria.

Marco (Lonnie Hohenboken) and Giuseppe (Kit Hohenboken) are taken from their new brides, Gianetta (Larissa Myhowych) and Tessa (Ann Rhody), to go to the island to determine which is the true king. In classic G&S fashion one was "switched at birth" and hidden in infancy, explained in a song by the Grand Inquisitor Don Alhambra (Dean Johnson). The brothers are to go to Barataria and rule jointly until they can sort out who is the true king.

Meanwhile, the somewhat-moth-eaten Duke of Plaza Toro (John Gaehring) and Duchess (Karen Skerrett Nail), AND "suite" Luiz (Sam Wersinger), come to Venice with their daughter, Casilda (Karen Seidel Karnisky), who was – you guessed it – married in infancy to the mystery prince. To thicken the plot, she and Luiz have fallen in love.

The quintessential G&S "topsy-turvy" ending unfolds through beautiful musical numbers and lively dances, including PCLOC's iconic "Cachucha", with a fresh new look from choreographer Katrina Kaplin, with director Nan Hanna-Paquin.

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Some of the
Gondoliers
cast, ready
for fun!



*Gates Hall, home to community
theatre since 1867.*

President's Message

Steve Mullin

As we close our 2016-17, and move into our 2017-18 season, it's important to me to simply say *Thank You*. *Thank You* to all the directors, show staff, performers and musicians who shared their vision, passion and talents and time to make great shows for the community to enjoy. *Thank You* to all the patrons, donors, sponsors and supporters that help Gatesingers sustain its mission and be able to pay the bills. *Thank You* to all those that worked tirelessly behind the scenes to help in so many unsung ways. *Thank You* to the Board Members that kept the Gatesinger Company on track with its business obligations and continue to be forward thinking for a sustainable future. And *Thanks* to the audiences for embracing and supporting the theatre so many love to share with you!

We are excited to be part of the Gates Hall "150th year of theatre" celebration this season, and we have fantastic shows in store for the year. So *Thank You* in advance for your continued support, and please enjoy the wonderful theatre we have in store for you! Cheers!

Steve Mullin, President
Gatesinger Board of Directors

Burned Over

Getting Fired Up at Gates Hall!

Burned Over, by Bess Atlas, was originally commissioned by the Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society to be performed at Gates Hall in the 1970's to celebrate the nation's Bicentennial. It is being presented again this year to commemorate 150 years of theatre at Gates Hall, purported to be the longest continually active community theater in the U.S.

The play is the story of two sisters and their families dealing with the evangelistic fervor and new religions that arose in western New York between the opening of the Erie Canal and the start of the Civil War. One sister joins an apocalyptic cult and prepares for the rapture on March 21, 1844. Conflict arises when her daughter falls in love with a non-believer. (Spoiler alert -- the world did not end.)

The production team for the September production of "Burned Over" has been hard at work putting the show together. Director Lindsay Baker held auditions, and the cast should be announced by the time this appears in print. The production team is being assembled; assisting Lindsay will be Stage Manager Joe Montondo, set designer Gordy Leonard, and Producer Dan Montondo. We are still looking for a Lighting Director, Technical Director and Costumer.

Obtaining set pieces is one of the challenges of this production. The setting is an 1840s farming community, and we need furnishings such as a trestle table with benches and chairs that indicate the time period. If you have any pieces that you are willing to lend for the production please let us know.

If you are interested in joining the production team or have set pieces to share, please contact Producer Dan Montondo at dan.montondo@rochester.rr.com.

Burned Over runs on September 8-10 and 15-17 at Gates Hall. We hope to see you there!

1867-2017: 150 Years of Theatre at Gates Hall

Don't miss your chance to celebrate this historic milestone!

- Pultneyville Homecoming Opening Ceremony, July 15, 10:00 AM
- W-PHS Program on the Burned Over Period; August 16 at 6:30 PM, Gates Hall
 - W-PHS Home Tour including a presentation at Gates Hall, September 9
 - Gatesinger Company presents *Burned Over*, September 8-10 and 15-17

Please check gateshall.com or w-phs.org for updates and details!

Day of Caring Brings Volunteers to Gates Hall

Thursday, May 11 saw many volunteers participate in the Day of Caring, helping community organizations like the Gatesinger Company and W-PHS. Together, teams worked to spruce up Gates Hall as well as the W-PHS house and grounds. Many thanks to all who participated!



Nathan Martin of
Allstate
helps with painting at
Gates Hall

Can You Help?

- Do you have website management skills? We are in search of a webmaster! Contact Steve Mullin at smullin1@rochester.rr.com
- Want to help fund our shows? Become a patron, sponsor, or issue a patron challenge! Contact Ann Rhody at annrhody@gmail.com

YouTheatre 2017

Seussical!

Autumn Pollock, Director

Seussical, by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty, brings to life well-known Dr. Seuss characters in a musical extravaganza. This family-friendly show is told by The Cat in the Hat. Horton, an elephant, discovers a speck of dust that contains the Whos, including Jojo, a Who child sent off to military school for thinking too many "thinks." Horton faces a double challenge: not only must he protect the Whos from a world of naysayers and dangers, but he must guard an abandoned egg, left in his care by the irresponsible Mayzie La Bird. Although Horton faces ridicule, danger, kidnapping and a trial, the intrepid Gertrude McFuzz never loses faith in him. Ultimately, the powers of friendship, loyalty, family and community are challenged and emerge triumphant. From the town of Whoville to the Circus McGurkus and the Jungle of Nool, *Seussical* is filled with lighthearted fun and wonderful music that everyone can enjoy.

An optional audition workshop to introduce auditioners to the vocal and dance sections that will be taught at the auditions will be held on Saturday, August 12th. Auditions will be taking place the following Saturday, August 19th. Watch for more detailed information regarding auditions to be posted on our website, gateshall.com, in the near future.



From left: Gondoliers Production Team members Marcia Sheremeta, Nan Hanna-Paquin, Eric Thompson, and Audrone Gecas

Gondoliers, continued from page 1

"*Gondoliers* holds so many magical memories for me," said Nan. "My uncle, David E. Cooper, cast me in my first leading role as Tessa in the 1967 production. In 1997, a stellar cast led by Rob Dingman, Jerry Gombatto, Meagan Sullivan, Lorinda Dingman, John and Anne L'Hommedieu, Barb Hunn, Patrick Becker and Steve Covey – joined by my mother, Jean T. Cooper as Inez – gave memorable performances. It was Mom's final performance with the company she co-founded, before her death in 1998."

In addition to Nan and Katrina, the production team includes Eric Thompson, director of the opera chorus (he chose that title); Marcia Sheremeta, accompanist and vocal coach for principals; Audrone Gecas, assistant director; and Scott Smith, producer. Production dates are July 14 and 15 at 8 pm and July 16 at 3 pm. Tickets can be ordered through the box office (315.589.3326), or online at gateshall.com. We are proud to be part of the celebration of 150 years of theatre at historic Gates Hall.

Our 2017-18 Season

The Gondoliers

By Gilbert & Sullivan
Nan Hanna-Paquin, Director
July 14-16, 2017

Burned Over

By Bess Atlas
Lindsay Warren Baker, Director
September 8-16, 2017

Seussical

2017 YouTheatre Production
By Lynn Ahrens & Stephen Flaherty
Autumn Pollock, Director
November 24-December 3, 2017

Pippin

By Stephen Schwartz & Roger Hirson
Karen Skerrett Nail, Director
April 6-15, 2018



Jay Hanagan

"I write plays. I tell stories. Create characters. How in the world did I ever learn to do that?"

One could talk, and indeed one has talked, about how important a tiny yet significant theatre troupe has been, is currently, and undeniably shall be, to the community it serves as a whole and individually.

One could also talk about opening sentences that grammatically may be referred to as "run-on", but one won't.

Certainly we've seen our fair share of local celebrities succeeding on stage, screen and opera. But enough about them. Let's talk about me. I write plays. I tell stories. Create characters. How in the world did I ever learn to do that? How in the world did I ever think I could do that? The former is comparatively simple to explain. The latter, and no fewer than six now ex-therapists will attest, should, for the betterment of all, I repeat, should best go unexplained. At least until I can write a story about it.

In the beginning there was light. Not much. But some. Tin can baby spot lights using flood lights and colored gels. No on/off switches. Someone had to plug and unplug them as needed. Foot lights using colored light bulbs. Other stage lighting using, you guessed it, flood lights and colored gels.

And "simple" sets. Such as when *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* was performed the first time around at Gates Hall. We needed entrances. Three grand entrances to three grand establishments. What we came up with were the center rolls that carpets came rolled up in. Think huge paper towel rolls on steroids. Without the pimples or rage. They were our columns, or pillars. Roman or Greek. We then placed decorative throw pillows on top of each of them and voila! (Or whatever the Greek or Roman equivalent to "voila!" is). We had our grand entrances. And because we believed they were grand, our audience accepted that and also believed they were grand.

Imagination. A wonderful thing.

We have lights. We have sets. We have performers. We still need direction. Fortunately we also had good direction. Direction that made the performers work. To look at what was written before us. To use our imagination and tell the story that someone had written.

Whether we look at tiny Gates Hall, or some little ninety-nine seat off-off-off Broadway theatre, or a large, well-funded company, I learned one thing: to tell my story in such a way that made everyone need to use their imagination. First and foremost. I learned to write dialog to further the plot, or thicken the plot as needed. Usually with corn starch. I needed to spark their interest to tell the story that I wanted to tell. But so they wanted to make it their story to tell as well.

Because a story that can apply and appeal to everyone, must be told in such a way, that if all you have are tin cans, cardboard rolls and throw pillows and a dash of imagination, magic can be made. And a story can be told.

Jay D. Hanagan was raised in Sodus, NY, a small town nestled on the shores of Lake Ontario somewhere between Rochester and Syracuse. There, in the sixth grade, (often described as three of the happiest years of his life) Mr. Hanagan performed in a "real" play, Tom Sawyer, for the first time. With only eight days until opening night, Mr. Hanagan was plucked from the obscurity of the chorus to replace the ailing lead. (It wasn't so much that director, David E. Cooper, said "I'm gonna make you a star" as much as it was "We don't have anybody else so you'll have to do.") But it was too late, the damage was done and this emotionally troubled youth, aching for the attention that was constantly lavished on his twin brother, John, was hooked. He has been involved with the theatre ever since. His plays have either won competitions or been featured in scores of festivals from Alaska to Florida and all points in between, including his short play Along for the Ride, which was a winner of the 28th Annual Samuel French Off Off Broadway Short Play Festival. He has been internationally produced as well, having works presented in Canada, the United Kingdom (including London, England) and even Hong Kong and Estonia. Please note that Mr. Hanagan's commitment to the theatre is so all engrossing, that he has even taken to spelling "theatre" with 're' at the end, instead of 'er'. Mr. Hanagan is a member of the Dramatists Guild of America, Inc. His collection What If? Six Short Comedies about the Search for Love and his full-length Five Kisses are published by Samuel French.

The Gondoliers

TICKET ORDER & PATRON DONATION FORM

All performances at Gates Hall, Pultneyville, NY

ADULTS \$12.00

STUDENTS/SENIORS (65 and over) \$10.00

Fri., July 14th @ 8:00pm: # Adults = _____ # Seniors = _____ # Students = _____

Sat. July 15th @ 8:00pm: # Adults = _____ # Seniors = _____ # Students = _____

Sun. July 16th @ 3:00pm: # Adults = _____ # Seniors = _____ # Students = _____

Gatesinger Patron Donations:

- Become an **In the Spotlight** contributor—you'll receive two complimentary tickets to the show of your choice.
- If you plan to see our entire season of shows, become a **Center Stage** contributor and receive two complimentary tickets to a year of Gatesinger shows

Stage Door Johnny/Jenny	Up to \$25
Starstruck	\$25 - \$99
In the Spotlight	\$100 - \$249
Center Stage	\$250 & over

(The Gatesinger Company, Ltd. is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.)

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(All mail orders will be confirmed by phone upon receipt.)

Make checks payable to: Gatesinger Company, Ltd.

Send to: Gatesinger Company, Ltd., PO Box 95, Pultneyville, NY 14538

You can also pay by credit card by calling the box office at
315-589-3326 or online at www.gateshall.com

The Gatesinger Company, Ltd.
P.O. Box 95
Pultneyville, N.Y. 14538

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Theatre Located at:
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Inside:

Gilbert & Sullivan's

The Gondoliers

July 14-16

Tickets on Sale Now!

AND Coming soon:

YouTheatre Auditions: Seussical August 19
Burned Over September 8-17