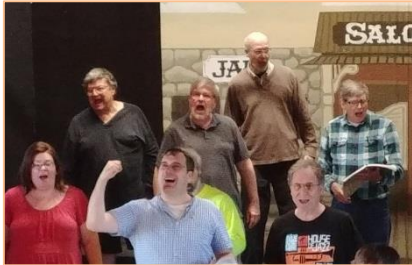


# News from the Hall

Summer 2019

Members of  
the cast in  
rehearsal



## Everyone's Shouting About.... Our Summer Show! Gilbert & Sullivan's **Yeomen of the Guard** July 19-21

Should a poor young woman marry a stranger who is scheduled to be executed within the hour in order to gain the money she needs to pay for medical treatment for her ailing mother? What could possibly go wrong? Is this the premise of a new HBO feature? No! From these questions arise all the humor and poignancy of *The Yeomen of the Guard*.

Col. Fairfax (Jacob Lindberg) awaits beheading in the Tower of London upon his conviction for sorcery. His false accuser is a relative who will inherit Fairfax's estate only if Fairfax dies unmarried. Fairfax contrives to frustrate his accuser by marrying – in secret and for a fee – a blind-folded minstrel girl, Elsie Maynard (Emma Vos). Meanwhile his friend, Sgt. Meryll (Wayne Vander Byl) and his daughter, Phoebe (Karen Karnisky), who is infatuated with Fairfax, orchestrate Fairfax's escape from custody and his induction as a yeomen warder in disguise as Meryll's son, Leonard (Justin Karnisky and Cole Karnisky).

As the search for Fairfax proceeds, Elsie's companion and suitor, Jack Point (Sean Maher), whose only hope to marry Elsie now depends on Fairfax's death, and Wilfred Shadbolt (Al Young), the disgraced head jailer, fabricate a chase and struggle between Wilfred and Fairfax, alleging that Wilfred shot Fairfax and lost his body in the river. Meanwhile, Elsie, who has never seen Fairfax, falls for the romantic overtures of Fairfax-as-Leonard, while Phoebe and Jack Point look on with alarm as they fear losing the objects of their respective affections.

Continued on p 3



Gates Hall, home to community  
theatre since 1867.

## President's Message: Let's Celebrate!

John L'Hommedieu, President  
Gatesinger Board of Directors

As the curtain falls on our 58<sup>th</sup> year of providing live theater in Northern Wayne County, let's celebrate with a review of some of the highlights from this past year: Three wonderful shows were produced this year: *Princess Ida*; *No, No, Nanette*; and *Curtains* – each a gem! We welcomed many newcomers to the Gates Hall stage, including more than a dozen involved with *Curtains*.

*Curtains* also saw a re-imagining of the Gates Hall space with the use of a portion of the Florence Jane Cornwall (Flo Jane) room to house a full pit band that was mic'ed and piped into the auditorium. This is an important evolution as we look to address seating limits in the auditorium due to fire codes.

Members of the Company showed their civic responsibility by participating (again) in the United Way Day of Caring, alongside members of the Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society (W-PHS) and Xerox employees.

A dozen or so Gatesingers again walked in the Pultneyville Homecoming parade in July 2018, helping to keep alive the visibility and importance of the Company in our community.

Continued on p 3



## Looking Forward.....

### Gatesinger Company, Ltd. Annual Meeting!

Sunday, June 23, 2019, 12:30-2:00 Gates Hall, Pultneyville

*In addition to Company business, we'll be celebrating performances from past shows with a few of our own Gatesingers! There will be selections from No, No, Nanette; Curtains; and more. Come join us for a chance to chat with your friends, hear some favorite songs, enjoy some dessert and participate in the business of **your** community theatre.*

### YouTheatre 2019 Auditions Announced

#### *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*

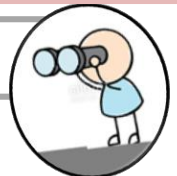
This season's YouTheatre production is the Tony Award winning musical *HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS WITHOUT REALLY TRYING* - a witty, satirical comedy, with an exhilarating musical score and a plethora of interesting and diverse characters. Power, ambition, greed ... it's just another day at the office! Join J. Pierrepont Finch as he uses a little "how-to" handbook to climb the corporate ladder from lowly window washer to high-powered executive. Along the way, he encounters perils and pitfalls of corporate shenanigans, such as the aggressively compliant "company man," the office party, backstabbing co-workers, caffeine addiction, and of course, true love. This delightful musical melds wit, comedy, and romance together to hilarious perfection.

Finch encounters many characters in his quest for power. Among them, are the big boss man of World Wide Wicket Company, J.B. Biggley; a secretary, who falls in love with Finch, Rosemary Pilkington; Biggley's arrogant and lazy nephew, Bud Frump; Rosemary's best friend, Smitty; Biggley's attractive and dim-witted mistress, Hedy LaRue; and company man and head of the mailroom, Mr. Twimble. These and other supporting characters get caught up in Finch's web of deceit, and mayhem ensues. An ensemble of World Wide Wicket Company employees rounds out the merriment, with rousing production numbers.

Auditions will take place at Gates Hall on **Saturday, August 17**. There will be a brief meeting for parents at 11:00 AM, and then students will learn a song and dance from the show, as their audition. Audition information will be available on our website, [gateshall.com](http://gateshall.com), within two weeks prior to the audition. All who audition will be cast in the production, and there is no fee to participate. Students age 12 through 12th grade are eligible to participate. Newcomers are especially welcome! Rehearsals will take place Sundays from 2:00-6:00 PM (beginning with a read-through on August 18) for full cast and one evening a week, typically for small group rehearsals. Performance dates are November 22-24 and November 29-December 1.

*How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* will be directed by Karen Skerrett Smith, with producer Dan Montondo and choreography by Jaime Akerley. For more information or questions, please email [karenmnaill22@gmail.com](mailto:karenmnaill22@gmail.com).

## And back!



### High Praise for *Curtains!*

A big, talented cast, a full orchestra in the basement, great music and laughs.... *Curtains* brought all of that to Gates Hall April 5-13. But that's not all! The production also won awards from TANYS- The Theatre Association of New York State. The awards were:

- Excellence in Performance to the Cast.
- Excellence in Choreography to Katrina Kaplin.
- Excellence in Direction to Lois Fiegl.
- Excellence in Performance to Jon Wright for his portrayal of Aaron Fox

Congratulations to all!



A Gates Hall First:  
Musicians in the  
basement for *Curtains*

*Yeomen, continued from p. 1*

When Kate (Christie Peterson) and Dame Caruthers (Amanda Lobaugh), matron of the Tower, become suspicious of the plots swirling around Fairfax's disappearance, and Lt. Cholmondely (Craig Packard) announces that Fairfax has been reprieved, the schemers are forced to accept the consequences of their conniving in a surprising ending.

Many consider *The Yeomen of the Guard* to be the greatest achievement of the collaboration between William S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan. Whether or not that is so, *Yeomen* is indisputably unlike other G&S operettas in structure and theme, yet it features their distinctive combination of timeless humor and enchanting music. This production, directed by Wayne Vander Byl, features both veterans and newcomers on the Gates Hall stage, and is sure to delight its audiences. Get your tickets today! Call the box office at 315-589-3326, or visit gateshall.com.

*Celebrate! Continued from p. 1*

As our scenery and costume storage spaces were bursting at the seams, we participated in the fall Pultneyville Garage Sale on the side lawn of Gates Hall, in an attempt to trim our inventory of costume, prop and scenery pieces in the closets and Flo Jane room. This is an issue that needs to be further addressed, but the garage sale was a good start.

The Gates Hall Team continues to work collaboratively with members of W-PHS to identify and address facilities issues at Gates Hall. Members of the Gatesinger Board of Directors are also working with leadership of W-PHS to update, clarify and develop a new User Agreement (our lease) for future use of the Hall.

Further, with our "home" closing in on being 200 years old, W-PHS is developing fundraising plans to address major renovation needs, and we are involved in these plans. The need to literally "raise the roof" will impact all of us, and we thank W-PHS for involving the Gatesingers in the planning phase.

And, finally, the Board has stuck to our stated 2018- 19 goal to develop a long-term plan to address financial sustainability for a healthy future. We have had numerous meetings to focus on this issue, and we are inviting stakeholders to participate in our discussions and plans. Stay tuned for more information on this very important initiative.

The Board recognizes, appreciates and sincerely thanks the many, many people whose efforts, time and talents it takes to have another successful year. We are so grateful for the dedication. We know the 2019 – 20 season will be a smash hit as well with such wonderful people working together!

## Gatesinger Company, Ltd. 2019-2020 Season

### *The Yeomen of the Guard* *Or, The Merryman and His Maid*

Directed by Wayne Vander Byl

July 19-21, 2019

Music by Arthur Sullivan

Lyrics by W.S. Gilbert

YouTheatre

### *Frank Loesser and Frank Burrows'* *How to Succeed in Business* *Without Really Trying*

Directed by Karen Skerrett Smith

November 22 – December 1, 2019

Book by Abe Burrows, Jack Weinstock, and Willie Gilbert

Music and Lyrics by Frank Loesser

Based upon the book by Shepherd Mead

Originally presented by Cy Feuer and Ernest H. Martin

In Association with Frank Productions

### *Into the Woods*

Directed by Karen Skerrett Smith

April 24-26 and May 1-3, 2020

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Book by James Lapine

Originally Directed on Broadway by James Lapine

## Dan Montondo



*Dan in the 2014  
Gatesingers  
production of  
Oklahoma*

*"I especially like  
working with  
YouTheatre; the energy  
of those teenagers  
keeps you young and on  
your toes!"*

My first show at Gates Hall was the Pultneyville Civic Light Opera Company's (PCLOC) *Ruddigore* in 1972 (yes, I'm that old). After a hiatus for college, I came back to the Hall to join the Gatesinger Company in the chorus of *The Pajama Game*. I prefer the freedom of the chorus where you can create your own character, but have taken minor roles and can be seen in July as a yeoman in Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Yeomen of the Guard*.

However, I'm more likely to be found in the back of the house as the producer. In the last 14 years I've usually produced one show a year, including most of the YouTheatre shows. I'm often asked just what a producer does, and my answer is, "Anything the director doesn't want to do." In reality, in community theater the producer is in charge of the business side of the show. The producer assists the director in getting the artistic team together, and then makes sure that they have the tools they need to be creative. The producer keeps track of the budget and makes sure that creative team jobs are getting done. The producer also has to be the bad guy who watches the budget, making sure that the director doesn't go overboard.

Sometimes a producer needs to be creative as well. I produced a play that was supposed to be performed on a plain black stage. Two weeks before opening the director said she would really like it if we could paint the stage to create a mirror image of the Hall. I didn't have a budget for a set artist, but a call to Tammy Buehler resulted in her giving me a quick lesson on how to paint wainscoting on the stage, and I spent a few nights at the Hall creating the illusion requested. The director was thrilled when she came in for the next rehearsal to find that her request was fulfilled.

I especially like working with YouTheatre; the energy of those teenagers keeps you young and on your toes! It is very rewarding to see a 12-year-old child come into the Hall for his or her first-ever audition, not knowing what to do or expect. Fast forward 6 years and you have a polished young adult actor ready to take the lead in his last YouTheatre production. It is especially thrilling when, a few years later, you get invited to see him in a professional production. However, I will always be saying to the kids that it is just as easy to learn your lines the first two weeks as it is the last two, and maybe someday they will listen.

The Gatesinger Company is always looking for help backstage. Can you help us with set construction and painting, costumes, hair, makeup, or refreshments? It is a great way to make new friends and be part of a Pultneyville tradition that has been going since 1867. Please consider joining us and becoming a member of our team!

*See Dan and other Gatesingers in the upcoming production of  
Gilbert & Sullivan's Yeomen of the Guard, July 19-21  
[gateshall.com](http://gateshall.com) for tickets and info!*

# The Yeoman of the Guard

## TICKET ORDER & PATRON DONATION FORM

All performances at Gates Hall, Pultneyville, NY

**ADULTS \$14.00**

**STUDENTS/SENIORS (65 and over) \$12.00**

Fri., July 19<sup>th</sup> @ 8:00 pm: # Adults = \_\_\_\_\_ # Seniors = \_\_\_\_\_ # Students = \_\_\_\_\_

Sat, July 20<sup>th</sup> @ 8:00 pm: # Adults = \_\_\_\_\_ # Seniors = \_\_\_\_\_ # Students = \_\_\_\_\_

Sun., July 21<sup>st</sup> @ 3:00 pm: # 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<br>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.)

Amount of Patron Donation: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount for Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Name to appear in patron section of program:** \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

(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](http://www.gateshall.com)

The Gatesinger Company, Ltd.  
P.O. Box 95  
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Pultneyville

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Pultneyville, NY 14538

Phone:  
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### 2018-19 Board of Directors

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| Vice President:     | Christine Nagel   |
| Secretary:          | Mackenzie G. Wood                                       |
| Treasurer:          | Anne Vander Byl   |
| Members:            | Gregory Maddock<br>Steve Mullin<br>Karen Skerrett Smith |
| YouTheatre Liaison: | Alandra Kunz  |

### ***Inside:***

*Gilbert & Sullivan's*

# The Yeomen of the Guard

*July 19-21*

***Tickets on Sale Now!***

***Plus:***

***YouTheatre Audition Information***