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The Pirates of Penzance

Department of Theatre and Dance

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Daniel Gurskis, Dean, College of the Arts

John J. Cali School of Music
Anthony Mazzocchi, Director

Department of Theatre and Dance
Randy Mugleston, Chair

The Pirates of Penzance

Book and Lyrics by **W.S. Gilbert**

Music by **Sir Arthur Sullivan**

October 13 | 14 | 15 | 20 | 21 | 22, 2022

Life Hall Studio Theatre

Director/Choreographer **Bryan Knowlton**

Music Director **Carol Lombardi**

Fight/Intimacy Director **Rick Sordelet**

Cast (in order of appearance)

Samuel.....	Trevor Lavine
Pirate King.....	Madison Lysek
Frederic.....	Liam Driscoll
Ruth.....	Harry Cornelio
Edith.....	Jordan Gold
Kate.....	Alex Burgess
Isabel.....	Michael Mottram
Mabel.....	Griffin Shoemaker
Major-General Stanley.....	Eliza Andrus
Sergeant of Police.....	Katie Davis
Ensemble.....	Landon Berlof, Jonah Duchesne-Shaw, Benjamin Hoermann, Charlie Kollar, Jadon Lopez, Mike Mags, Jenny Brady, Madeline Gambon, Elizabeth Legg, Jane Lui, Audrey Kate Taylor, Deanna Jolie Thomas
Female Swing.....	Alexandra Donach
Male Swing.....	Aidan Havens

Orchestra

Conductor/Piano **Carol Lombardi**

Percussionist **Glen Fittin**

Place: On a ship, at the beach, and at an estate

Time: Victorian England

Montclair State University is a proud member of the National Alliance for Musical Theatre.

NAMT | NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR
MUSICAL THEATRE

Duration: Two hours 30 minutes, including one 15-minute intermission

In consideration of both audiences and performers, please turn off all electronic devices. The taking of photographs or videos and the use of recording equipment are not permitted. No food or drink is permitted in the theater.

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Christine Lemesianou | Associate Dean
Linda D. Davidson | Assistant Dean
Zacrah S. Battle | College Administrator
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Anthony Mazzocchi | Director, John J. Cali School of Music
Keith Strudler | Director, School of Communication and Media
Randy Mugleston | Chairperson, Department of Theatre and Dance
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Yazeed Alomar, Jabob Batory, Shannon Mulraney, Martin Pyda, Eliezer Ramirez, Katya Reyes, Susanne Oyedeji | Box Office Lead Associates

Production Staff

Mark Hardy | Coordinator of Musical Theatre
Alexander Tom | Music Supervisor
Sarah Brett England | Music Associate
Mysti Stay | Coordinator of Design, Technology, and Management
Peter J. Davis | Production Manager
Cara Scalera | Assistant Production Manager
Cyndi Kumor | Production Associate
Jordan Conklin-Yousef | Production Office Assistant
Lisa Grimes | Social Media and Promotion Manager
Will Collins | House Manager
Erhard Rom | Scenic Design Mentor
Benjamin Merrick | Technical Director
Daniel Graham | Assistant Technical Director
Daniel Haussler | Carpenter
Robert Dietze | Stage Carpenter Mentor
Jeanette Meises | Scenic Charge Artist
Alison Merrick | Props Supervisor
Adam Rigg | Costume Design Mentor
Kaitie Adams | Hair/Makeup Design Mentor
Judith Evans | Costume Shop Supervisor
Jeanette Aultz | Assistant Costume Shop Supervisor
Amanda Phillips Balingit, Arden Donnelly, Katie Pippin | Drapers
Marlene Olson Hamm | Wardrobe Supervisor
Rick Sordelet | Fight Director/Intimacy Coach
Donna Scorio | Mental Health Consultant
Nick Kolin | Lighting Design Mentor
Osman M. Morales | Head Electrician
Zachary Brienza | Electrician
Kim O'Loughlin | Sound Design Mentor
Daniel Gonko | Head Sound Technician
Steven Brown | Sound Technician
Mysti Stay | Stage Management Mentor

Staff for *The Pirates of Penzance*

Lauren Montleone | Assistant Director/Choreographer
Sarah Koestner | Vocal Coach
Michael Mottram | Dance Captain
Jess Vaccaro | Stage Manager
Mia Watson | Assistant Stage Manager

This production is part of the Montclair State University Department of Theater's *Studio Series*, which allows students and faculty to produce work quickly and simply, free from the constraints and costs of fully staged productions. It is a laboratory for exploration that emphasizes acting as an art form. These performances give us the unique opportunity to explore a creative process that requires less production support and focuses more on character, speech, voice, and movement.

To view our complete season and for more information, visit peakperfs.org.

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Musical Selections

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, 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 I Finale	Full Company

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 Pirates’ 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
“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
Act II Finale	Full Company

Program Note

The Pirates of Penzance, first performed in 1880, is one of the most popular of the Gilbert and Sullivan operettas. It is highly theatrical in concept because there are so many characters acting roles or assuming postures—and succeeding in various degrees. The play masterfully explores every layer of comedy from the base slapstick to witty humor. Written in 1879, the play has endured for 143 years—over a century of productions.

The show’s success lies within not only its beautiful composition and score but the commentary on social satire with a sharp edge. It is also strikingly unpretentious. Gilbert’s lyrics and Sullivan’s music do all this with a light touch—tuneful, infinitely clever, and unexpectedly warm.

The Pirates of Penzance follows the composer’s and lyricist’s familiar patterns from previous work by intertwining police and military stereotypes, poking fun at empty patriotism, and, above all, highlighting the importance of a literal devotion to duty. Our hero Frederic is “the slave of duty,” with hopes of relieving himself of that stature by his endearing curiosity of freedom. It is that curiosity and freedom that this production was inspired by and built upon.

The freedom and liberty we have taken in this production was influenced by the curiosity in which these characters could be reevaluated. Our first question was, why tell this story now? How can we create a new playground for the students that would still capture the essence of these characters by not only switching the gender of some roles but also simplifying the aesthetic of the production. When Gilbert and Sullivan wrote this piece, it went through many iterations. But it was their

curiosity, determination, and humor that led them to the finish line of this considerable, substantial, and enormous score. That's exactly what we have done as collaborators. Through the art of simplicity, my hope is to maintain the grandiosity of this intelligent piece of theater. The curiosity of how to tell this piece now for a new generation of theatergoers is through its modern and explorative approach. Our production puts aside gender to challenge the notion of masculinity and femininity through a new theatrical lens. It is through that new lens that I believe we are able to keep these classic stories alive and pay homage to what came before.

—*Bryan Knowlton, Director/Choreographer*

Production Biographies

Bryan Knowlton's (Director/Choreographer) extensive career has spanned from starring on Broadway to appearing in multiple National Tours, and on film and TV. He is an award-winning choreographer with selected credits that include *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Kennedy Center American College Theatre Award "Outstanding Choreography"), *Chicago* (New Hampshire Theatre Award "Best Choreographer"), *Cabaret* (New Hampshire Theatre Award "Best Choreographer," ONSTAGE Theatre Award Nomination "Best Choreography"), *Beehive* (Berkshire Theatre Award "Outstanding Choreography" nomination), *Saturday Night Fever* (SALT Award nomination "Best Choreographer"), *Curtains* (BroadwayWorld Award Nomination "Best Choreography"), *Gypsy* (New Hampshire Theatre Award nomination "Best Choreographer"), *The Addams Family* (New Hampshire Theatre Award nomination "Best Choreographer"), *Pippin*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Damn Yankees*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Urinetown*, *Hairspray*, *Rent*, *Godspell*, *Guys And Dolls*, *9 to 5*, *Chicago*, *Oliver!*, and *West Side Story*. bryanknowlton.org

Carol Lombardi (Music Director) is thrilled to return to Montclair State University after music directing and conducting *Into the Woods* this past spring! Lombardi currently serves as the director of vocal music and theater arts at Belleville High School. She also works as a music director, pianist, vocalist, and instructor throughout the NY/NJ area. Favorite musical theater credits include *Big River*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *On the Town*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Into the Woods*, *In the Heights*, *Ragtime*, *Songs for a New World*, and more. She would like to thank the creative team and cast and crew for such

a unique, collaborative, and creative process working on *Pirates*. It has been an absolute joy!

Jess Vaccaro (Production Stage Manager), a BA Theatre Studies senior, is grateful to be given the opportunity to work with director Bryan Knowlton, his trusted associates, and wonderful cast. This will be her third mainstage production at MSU. For the past three years, she has worked for the university as one of the producers and the only technical director of a student-driven theater organization called Friday Afternoon Student Theatre (F.A.S.T). Jessica.Vaccaro01@gmail.com

Cast Biographies

Eliza Andrus (Major-General Stanley) (she/her) is thrilled to be taking on this iconic role. She is a BFA Musical Theatre major, class of '24. Previous credits include Madame LeCann (*The Names We Gave Him*, workshop and production), various roles (*The Laramie Project*), and Ermengarde (*Hello, Dolly!*). She was nominated as outstanding supporting actress in a musical for *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. @elizaandrus

Landan Berlof (Ensemble) is a senior in the Musical Theatre program at MSU. His last credit at MSU was Steward in *Into the Woods* last semester. insta: @berlobster

Jenny Brady (Ensemble) is thrilled to be starting out her senior year with this incredible project. She is a BFA Musical Theatre major, and some of her favorite production credits include The Baker's Wife in *Into the Woods* and Kate Mullins in *Titanic*.

Alex Burgess (Kate) is a rising senior in MSU's Musical Theatre program. She has previously been seen in *The Names We Gave Him* and *The Farmer*, both as part of the New Works Initiative and MSU.

Harry Cornelio (Ruth) is a Bronx native and attends the Musical Theatre program at MSU. He was previously seen in Valley Fair Theme Park (Dancer), *Into the Woods* (male swing), *Head over Heels* (Dametas), *Brigadoon* (Andrew McLaren), and *Working: The Musical* (Freddy Rodriguez). He is a proud alumnus of Rosie's Theater Kids and of Talent Unlimited High School in New York City. He is honored to be working with the Fiercest. @theotherprinceharry

Katie Davis (Sergeant of Police) is a senior Musical Theatre major at MSU. Her credits here include *Into the Woods* (Stepmother), *The Names We Gave Him* (Estelle), and *Titanic* (Ida Straus). She is proud to be a part of such a unique program and can't wait to share this show with you all. Instagram: @katt.davis

Alexandra Donach (Female Swing) is a sophomore BFA Musical Theatre major and is thrilled to be in her first MSU mainstage production.

Liam Driscoll (Frederic), in addition to being a Pirate Apprentice, is a senior Musical Theatre major. Previous credits at MSU include *Titanic* (Lightoller), and *Working: The Musical* (Anthony Coelho).

Jonah Duchesne-Shaw (Ensemble) is a senior Musical Theatre major. Some previous credits include James Lewis in *The Farmer*, O'Malley in *Brooklyn's Bridge*, and ensemble in *Rent*. He is excited for the remainder of his time at MSU and everything that lies beyond.

Madeline Gambon (Ensemble) (she/they) is a senior BFA Musical Theatre major from Los Angeles, CA. Recent credits include *Rent* (Alexi Darling/Ensemble), *Something Rotten!* (Portia), *Jeffrey* (The Women), and *Footloose* (Urleen). She is grateful to work with this wonderful cast and creative team! @madeline.gambon

Jordan Gold (Edith) is thrilled to be in the amazing company of *The Pirates of Penzance* during her last year at Montclair State. She is a senior Musical Theatre major and spent her summer playing Maureen in *Rent* (Vanguard Theater Company). She has also appeared in several MSU productions, including *The Names We Gave Him* and *Brooklyn's Bridge*.

Aidan Havens (Male Swing) is a junior BFA Musical Theatre student and has previously been in *Working: The Musical* at Montclair State, where he played Utkarsh Trujillo. He has also starred in his self-directed short films *Becoming Bella* and *He's Doing It Again*, which are on his youtube channel, "Aidan Havens."

Benjamin Hoermann (Ensemble) is a senior and has been in *A Chorus Line*, *Brooklyn's Bridge*, and *Into the Woods* at MSU. He is studying for a BFA in Musical Theatre.

Charlie Kollar (Ensemble) is thrilled to be here! A third year student at MSU, some of his previous credits include Officer Lockstock in *Urinetown*, Basilius in *Head over Heels*, and E.F. Farrington in *Brooklyn's Bridge*.

Trevor Lavine (Samuel) has just recently started his second year at MSU and is ecstatic to be in his first University production. His passion for the stage began in fifth grade and has prompted his growth in work ethic, skill, and community, all aiding in his training for his BFA in Musical Theatre. Lavine is honored to be working with such a talented team and is looking forward to further productions at MSU and beyond.

Elizabeth Legg (Ensemble) is a sophomore BFA Musical Theatre major from Indianapolis in her second production at Montclair. Last season she was seen in *Head over Heels*, and this season she can't wait to be a pirate!

Jadon Lopez (Ensemble) is a BFA Musical Theatre student at Montclair State University. A few of his previous credits include *Into the Woods* (The Baker), *How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying* (J. Pierrepont Finch), *Rent* (Angel), and Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* (Jean Michelle). He has also had the wonderful opportunity to be a part of the Paper Mill Playhouse Summer Conservatory.

Jane Lui (Ensemble) is a sophomore BFA Musical Theatre major and Business minor appearing in her second mainstage production at MSU. She was last seen on the Memorial Auditorium stage as Florinda in *Into the Woods* and is delighted to be doing *The Pirates of Penzance* for the second time (thank you, 8th grade!) Regional theater credits include Ensemble/Swing (*The King and I*) and Ensemble (*Sister Act*) at Interlakes Summer Theatre. @thejanelui

Madison Lysek (Pirate King) is a sophomore Musical Theatre student at Montclair State in her first production at MSU. She would like to thank Bryan Knowlton, Lauren Monteleone, and Carol Lombardi for giving her the opportunity to explore this role in a nontraditional and exciting way.

Mike Mags (Ensemble) is a current junior BFA Musical Theatre major. Past productions at MSU include *The Names We Gave Him* (2020–21) and *Head over Heels*. Past credits include Tony in *West Side Story*, Valjean in *Les Misérables*, Emmett in *Legally Blonde*, Joseph in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and Frank in *A Chorus Line*. Mags is also an alumnus of the Paper Mill Show Choir and the Paper Mill Conservatory.

Michael Mottram (Isabel/Dance Captain) is a senior Musical Theatre major at Montclair State . At MSU, Mottram has been seen as Rapunzel's Prince in *Into the Woods*, Charlie in *Brigadoon*, as well as the male swing for both *Rent* and *A Chorus Line*. Additional credits include *FAME*, *Sweet Charity*, *Footloose*, *Something Rotten!*, and more at Woodstock Playhouse and Northampton Community College Summer Theatre. @michaelmottram21

Griffin Shoemaker (Mabel) is a senior Musical Theatre major at Montclair State University. He has previously been seen at MSU in *Rent* (Mark), *Titanic* (Murdoch), and *The Last Five Years* (Jamie). Other credits include *Les Misérables* (Dallas Young Artists), *Spring Awakening* (Uptown Players), *American Idiot* (Junior Players), and *Newsies* (Lyric Stage). Shoemaker is an Equity Membership Candidate from Dallas, TX.

Audrey Kate Taylor (Ensemble) is a sophomore BFA Musical Theatre major and is excited to arghhh-ready be back on the MSU stage! She is very fortunate to be a part of this reimagined and immersive production. Regional credits include *13!* (Cadence Theatre), *Tuck Everlasting* (Virginia Repertory Theatre), and *Pinkalicious* (VA Rep). Enjoy the show or dare to walk the plank! @audreykkate

Deanna Jolie Thomas (Ensemble) is a junior Musical Theatre major. She previously worked on Montclair State's production of *Rent* as Joanne. She is excited to be performing in the round with this marvelous cast and team. @deannaa_thomas