

THE GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH

PRESENTS

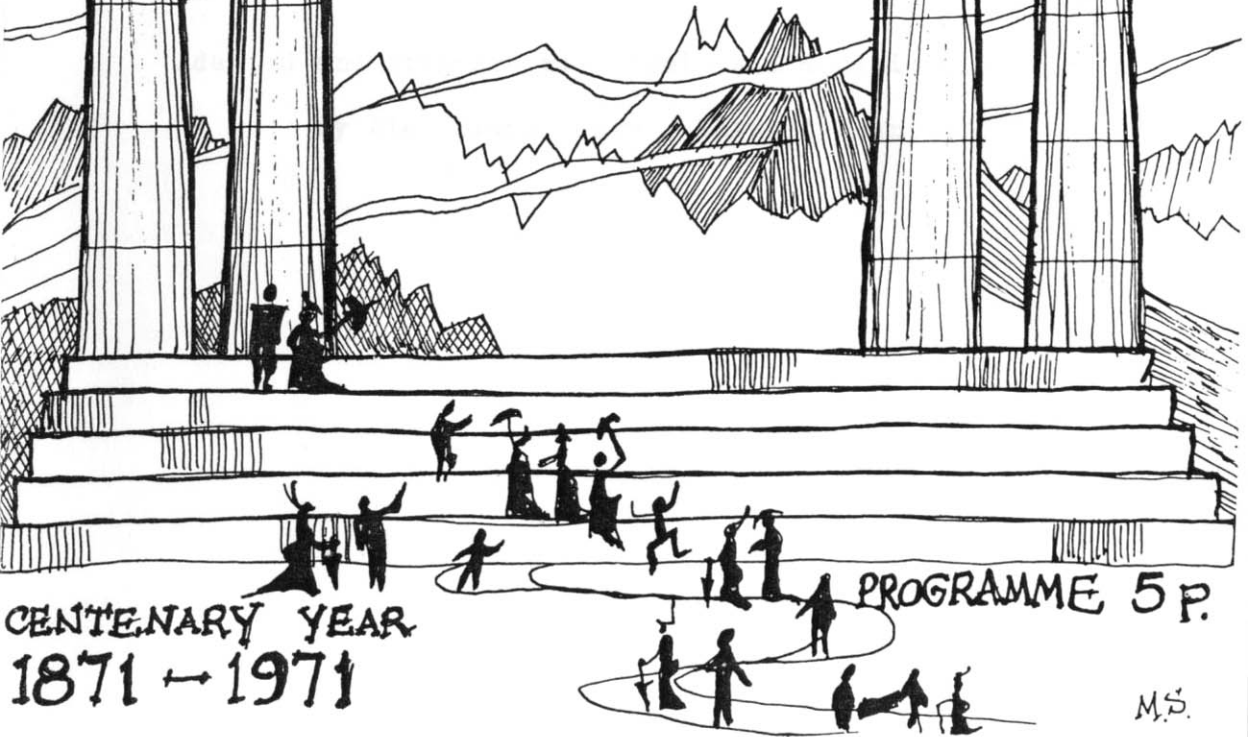
THE SPILLS

OR

THE GODS

GROWN OLD

in the
CHURCH HILL THEATRE
at 7.30
THURSDAY to SATURDAY
30th SEPT to 2nd OCT 1971



CENTENARY YEAR
1871 → 1971

PROGRAMME 5 P.

M.S.

T H E S P I S

or

"THE GODS GROWN OLD"

Based on the original work by W.S. GILBERT and ARTHUR SULLIVAN

Adapted and arranged with music and additional lyrics

by Alec Brand and Maxwell Smart.

HISTORICAL NOTE

One hundred years ago this year, 26th December, 1871, to be exact, "THESPIS", the first joint stage work by W.S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan was presented for a Christmas season at the Gaiety Theatre, London. It was neither a complete failure nor a resounding success. The original work has never been, and never will be, revived because all the music by Sullivan has been lost with the exception of two numbers - one, very well known, was later used again, with slightly different words, in "The Pirates of Penzance", and the other, "Little Maid of Arcady", was published separately. Both these numbers are included in this performance. The Script by Gilbert was published but in an obviously incomplete form. In tackling the daunting tasks of following Sullivan in setting Gilbert's words to music, and of filling possible gaps in the published Gilbertian text with lyrics of our own, we have been very conscious of our inability to emulate the Masters and we have not tried to do so. "Thespis" has been presented elsewhere with music written by Sullivan for some of the later G. & S. Operas, but we chose not to follow this course for two main reasons - first it was difficult to find such music which would fit exactly the words of "Thespis", and secondly, the "other" Music by Sullivan is generally too well known in association with Gilbert's "other" words for which it was written. We have not attempted to re-create the work as it was originally performed, because the Pantomimic style of performer and performance - it was a Christmas Show - were very different from those of the later G. & S. Operas written for a Company chosen and trained by Gilbert and Sullivan themselves. Our object has been to construct a performance which has something of the style and, if we are lucky, a small particle of the magic of those later Operas which we all know and love so well.

M.S.

A.B.

THE GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH

HON. PRESIDENT	SIR JAMES W. MCKAY	Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh
HON. VICE PRESIDENTS	Sir Ian Johnson-Gilbert C.B.E., D.L. Sir John Greig Dunbar, D.L., LL.D. Sir Herbert A. Brechin, C.B.E., D.Litt. Mrs. Donald Weir	
PRESIDENT	Mr. George McCormick	
VICE PRESIDENT	Mr. George Edmonstone	
HON TREASURER	Mr. Alex Bowie, 41 Queens Avenue, Edinburgh, EH4 2DG	
HON SECRETARY	Mr. Wm. Robertson, 68 Liberton Brae, Edinburgh, EH16 6LB	

The Society was formed in 1924 to foster the love and appreciation of the Works of Gilbert and Sullivan and to maintain intact the traditions of the Operas by means of lectures, recitals, discussions, etc.

The Annual Subscription - from 1st May to 30th April - is 50p each member.

COMPETITION for SCHOOLS

The Society's Trophy for Schools has this year been awarded to TRINITY ACADEMY for their Production of "THE GONDOLIERS".

Information regarding this competition can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary.

If you would like details of the activities of our Society, please complete the enclosed form and leave it in the box provided at the door of the Theatre or post to David Hamilton, 86 Willowbrae Avenue, Edinburgh, EH8 7HU.

"T H E S P I S"

The Scene

Act I - A ruined Temple of the Gods on Mount Olympus

Act II - The same Temple, with stage restorations,
one year later.THE CASTGODS

JUPITER	(Father of the Gods)	Andrew Scott
PHOEBUS APOLLO	(The Sun God)	David Hamilton
MARS	(The God of War)	Dick Crabtree
MERCURY	(The Gods' Messenger and God of Thieves)	Bruce Graham
DIANA	(Goddess of the Moon, of the chase and of the Cure)	Jinty Smart
VENUS	(Goddess of Beauty)	Phyllis Henderson
ANDROMEDA	(The Leading Star)	Margaret Cochrane

MORTALS

THESPIA	(An actor Manager, later Deputy Jupiter)	Nicholas Hayes
SILLIMON	(His Stage Manager)	Alex Bowie
SPARKEION	(A Leading Actor, later Deputy Phoebus Apollo)	Alan Borthwick
TIPSEION	(A "heavy" Actor, later Deputy Bacchus)	Michael Bannerman
TIMIDON	(A character Actor, later Deputy Mars)	James Beyer
CYMON	(A Call Boy, later Deputy Time)	Alison Bowie
NICEMIS	(A leading Actress, later Deputy Diana)	Phyllis Gray
DAPHNE	(An Actress, later Deputy Calliope, Muse of Fame)	Joan Fairley
PRETTEIA	(An Actress, later Deputy Venus)	Isobel Collett
LUVLEIA)		Anne Hayes
SMAULA)	(Actresses, later Deputy	Mary Gibson
TAULA)	Goddesses)	Margaret Harper

CHORUS OF STARS, ACTORS, ACTRESSES, STAGE HANDS, ETC..

Muriel Armstrong, Marjorie Baillie, Jennifer Beattie, Janet Hunter, Eleanor Lamb, Rosalyn Lamb, Helen Miller, Elspeth McIntosh, Moira Walker, Valerie Walker.

Edwin Arthur, David Brand, John Carson, Mike Connelly, Alastair Stewart, Robert White.

There will be an Interval of 20 minutes between Act I and Act II.

THE PERFORMANCE IS CONDUCTED BY	Maxwell Smart
AND PRODUCED BY	Alec Brand
AT THE PIANO	Nettie Henry
STAGE DIRECTOR	Roy Henderson
STAGE MANAGER	George Fairley
SET DESIGNED BY	Maxwell Smart
STAGE CARPENTER	Robert Henry
PROMPTER	Rena Carrie
CALL BOY	Peter Tonathy
PROPERTIES BY	Rosalyn Lamb
WARDROBE ARRANGED BY	Connie Brand Phyllis Henderson
Thespis' costume in Act I hired from	Wm. Mutrie & Sons

We wish to express our thanks to the Makars Dramatic Society, the Rev. Ian P. Renton and Dalry-Haymarket Church Board, Mrs. Nan Shepherd and to the many others who have contributed to this production.

Programme cover designed by Maxwell Smart and printed by P.E.C. Barr, Ltd., Dock Place, Leith.

Duplication of tickets and programmes by Patients of the Royal Edinburgh Hospital.

SMOKING IS NOT ALLOWED IN THE AUDITORIUM.

SYNOPSISAct I

As the curtain rises, the Stars and Gods on the night shift are coming off duty. All the Gods are growing old and are past their work, except Mercury who has become the "Celestial Drudge of Olympus" doing the work of all the other Gods and Goddesses. Jupiter discusses with the others this sad state of affairs, in which the God's influence on Earth is declining. A crowd of Mortals is seen climbing the mountain, and the Gods, fearful of being seen to be so old and feeble, retire. The Mortals are members of Thespis' Theatrical Company, out for a picnic. Sparkeion and Nicemis arrive first. They are "half married" as the marriage ceremony lasts all day and they quarrel when Nicemis somewhat primly, objects to Sparkeion kissing her before they are fully married. The rest of the Thespians arrive and finally Thespis himself. The picnic is not a great success, largely because Tipseion, for reasons which he explains, has not brought the Wine. Sparkeion, to make Nicemis jealous, flirts with Daphne to whom he was formerly Engaged. Nicemis, to get her own back turns to Thespis, but, although attracted to her, he rejects her because a Manager must not undermine his influence over his Company by associating with his inferiors. The Gods return and Jupiter seeks advice from Thespis as to how the Gods' influence can be restored. Thespis suggests that the Gods take a holiday on Earth, and offers himself and his Company to take the Gods' places while they are away. The bargain is made and the Thespians gleefully cast themselves, not always appropriately, as Deputy Deities while Gods and Goddesses go happily down to Earth for their holiday.

Act II

A year has passed and the Thespians are enjoying themselves as Gods and Goddesses. Sparkeion still has an eye for the ladies, but Nicemis, Daphne and Pretteia each have their eye on him. Being Deputy Deities causes certain complications.

Pretteia finds herself as Deputy Venus in the Part of wife of Timidon, her real father. Then Sparkeion as Deputy Apollo, has reunited with Nicemis who is deputising for Diana, the Moon, and Sillimon does not approve of the sun and the moon being out together. Daphne, Deputy Calliope claims that Sparkeion as Deputy Apollo is her husband and Thespis has to settle the point by reference to Lempriere's Classical Dictionary. The Thespians are making a mess of running the world and the Gods return, disguised, and very angry at what is going on. Complaints from the world at large are read out and the Gods are furious at the Thespians' explanations. Finally, despite their pleas to be allowed to stay, Jupiter banishes the Thespians back to Earth under the terrible curse for theatrical people that they "Shall all be eminent tragedians whom no one ever goes to see".

OUR ANNUAL PRODUCTION

THE GONDOLIERS

is to be produced in LEITH TOWN HALL from
TUESDAY 14th to SATURDAY 18th MARCH 1972
TICKETS will be obtainable from
the EDINBURGH BOOKSHOP, George Street.

