

# PLAYBILL®

MUSICAL THEATRE ALLIANCE OF ARIZONA

All Saints Lutheran Church

April 5, 2025, 7:00 PM

## GILBERT & SULLIVAN The PIRATES of PENZANCE



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# CAST

Richard, the Pirate King .....	JESSE BERGER
Samuel, his Lieutenant .....	TODD CORBEIL
Frederic, a Pirate Apprentice .....	CHAD MILLAR
Ruth, a Pirate Maid .....	TIFFANY REGAL
Edith .....	ASHLEY ZIOLKO
Kate .....	CHRISTINA EPP
Isabel .....	ROBYN PITMAN
Mabel .....	FRANCES WYCOFF
Major-General Stanley .....	ZACH WETZEL
Edward, the Sergeant of Police .....	RUDY BOGOJEVICH
Narrator .....	CARA RIZZI RICHMAN

## CHORUS

Antonio Lozano, *Chorus Director*

Thomas Hartwell and Joni Van Rossum, *Rehearsal Pianists*

**Soprano 1:** Bailey Bydalek, Faith Forbis, Tiffany James, Beth Mabee, Haley McHardy\*, Sarai Phillips-Dunlap, Robyn Pitman, Mary Roosma, Deanna Solis, Joanna Torla, Peggy Wensman, Frances Wycoff; **Soprano 2:** Jeanete Alvarado, Calm Arnold, Kerri Christie, Yoshi DeLisa\*, Dorene Dixon, Christina Epp, Alli Lambert, Natalie Lang, Va'Nessa Madden, Noelle McCarthy, Cara Rizzi Richman, Susan Swanson; **Alto 1:** Robyn Barker, Natalie Booth, Jill Marion, Anna Patten\*, Valarie Vousden, Holly Wright, Ashley Ziolko; **Alto 2:** Lisa Glow, Patti Graetz, Heather Hegedus, Abby McLain, Tiffany Regal, Jan Schmidt, Thylma Stamaria, Jenna Sweet\*, Lynne Traverse, Patricia Žermeno; **Tenor 1:** Trevor Howell, Robin Kreutzberg, Taryn Landis, Jonathan Lang\*, Antonio Lozano, Chad Millar, Cris Mory Barrón, Steven O'Donnell, Abraham Quezada; **Tenor 2:** David Barker, Kelby Bauder\*, Rob Hahn-Lowry, William Mattison\*, William Sokol, Craig Spaulding, Kyle Varble\*; **Bass 1:** Rudy Bogojevich, Mark Knoblauch\*, Brian Reece\*, Brad Routh, Zack Wells\*; **Bass 2:** John Amenhauser\*, Jesse Berger, Todd Corbeil, Jonathan Fattu, William Shelly, Zach Wetzel

\*Spotlight Roles

## ORCHESTRA

Dr. Sharon A. Hansen, *Conductor*

**Flute:** Danielle Peterson, Dylan Suehiro; **Oboe:** Kelsey Maes, Hadley Moore; **Bassoon:** Zach Millwood; **Clarinet:** Grady Newsum, Aiden Millsap; **Horn:** Brian Alan, Johnny Armendariz; **Trumpet:** Brian Stoneberger, Adrian Almendarez; **Trombone:** Ryan Pratt, Aaron Pak; **Percussion:** Charles Radway; **Violin 1:** Sylvia Depta, Carol Routh, Amy Schroader; **Violin 2:** Eileen Friedman, Jay Friedman, Joshua Lynch, Alicia Martin; **Viola:** Brenna Goth, Evelyn Swalberg; **Cello:** Liz Galpin, Sandra Leen, Mark Pyle; **Bass:** Victoria Choin-Woode

## CREW & STAFF

Artistic Director .....	Stephen Schermitzler
Stage Director .....	Kerri Christie
Audio Technician .....	Andrea Gudeyon
Volunteer Coordinator .....	Edie Chudnow
Marketing Director .....	Dylan Suehiro
Marketing Assistant .....	Ben Collison
MTAA Volunteers .....	Edie Chudnow, Sheri Dixon, Mary Kelly, Gillian Lunn, Nikki Madden, Margaret Miller, Rick Ross, Jan Schmidt, Dylan Suehiro, Emma Torres, Sophie Torres, Kyle Varble, Susan Woods
Additional Percussion Equipment .....	All Saints Lutheran Church, ProMusica Arizona Orchestra
All Saints Lutheran Church Staff .....	Shari Clark, Jerry Gunderson, Dan Hoeger, Duncan Moore, Donald Wade

# SCENES & MUSICAL NUMBERS

## ACT I

*A rocky seashore off Cornwall*

Overture .....	Orchestra
Pour, O Pour the Pirate Sherry .....	Samuel, Pirates
When Frederic Was a Little Lad .....	Ruth
Oh, Better Far to Live and Die .....	Pirate King, Pirates
Oh, False One, You Have Deceived Me! .....	Ruth, Frederic
Climbing Over Rocky Mountain .....	Edith, Kate, Daughters
Stop, Ladies, Pray! .....	Frederic, Edith, Kate, Daughters
Oh, Is There Not One Maiden Breast .....	Frederic, Mabel, Daughters
Poor Wandering One .....	Mabel, Daughters
What Ought We to Do? .....	Edith, Kate, Daughters
How Beautifully Blue the Sky .....	Mabel, Frederic, Daughters
Stay, We Must Not Lose Our Senses .....	Frederic, Daughters, Pirates
Hold, Monsters! .....	Mabel, Samuel, Major-General, Daughters, Pirates
I Am the Very Model of a Modern Major General .....	Major-General, Ensemble
Act I Finale .....	Ensemble

## ACT II

*A ruined abbey (moonlight)*

Oh, Dry the Glistening Tear .....	Mabel, Daughters
Then Frederic .....	Major-General, Frederic
When the Foeman Bares His Steel .....	Sergeant, Mabel, Police, Major-General, Daughters
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, Upon Our Prey We Steal .....	Pirates, Police, Samuel
Hush, Hush! Not a Word .....	Frederic, Pirates, Police, Major-General
Act II Finale .....	Ensemble



The Major-General carrying an encyclopedia, as drawn by W.S. Gilbert

# WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



**JESSE BERGER** (*Richard, The Pirate King*) has performed multiple productions with MTA, including *A Little Night Music* (Carl-Magnus), *Parade* (DA Dorsey) and *Sweeney Todd* (Sweeney). Selected regional credits: *Legally Blonde* (Professor (Tommy Albright, nat'l tour), *Guys & Dolls* (Benny Southstreet), AZ Broadway Theatre; *Ferdinand the Bull* (Duque Dodó, nat'l tour), Childsplay. Jesse is a founding member of the Frankie Valli tribute December '63.



**RUDY BOGOJEVICH** (*Edward, The Sergeant of Police*) is excited to perform his second MTA Show with the phenomenal cast of *The Pirates of Penzance*. Some recent credits include Chef Louis/Pilot in Fountain Hills Theater's *The Little Mermaid*, Deputy

Commissioner Gleb Vaganov (Gleb) in Don Bluth's *Anastasia*, Shakespeare (The Bard) in TheaterWorks *Something Rotten*, Orin Scrivello D.D.S. (The Dentist) in Mesa Encore Theater's *Little Shop of Horrors*, Nicely Nicely in MTA's *Guys & Dolls*, and Duke in Fountain Hills Theater's *The Great American Trailer Park Musical*. Rudy wants to thank the creative team, cast and crew for putting together such a wonderful show. He would also like to thank his family, all of his beautiful friends, and the wonderful audiences who continue to show their love and support. Go Buckeyes!



**TODD CORBEIL** (*Samuel, The Lieutenant*) began his music theatre journey with the role of Samuel and is very excited to return to it. He has been in several MTA productions including as Vernon Hines in *The Pajama Game* and most recently in the ensemble for *The Sound of Music*. He has also performed around the Valley, most recently in Order/Chaos Theatre's *Shine On Harvest Moon* cabaret and as The Old Man in Desert Stages production of *A Christmas Story*.



**CHRISTINA NICOLE EPP** (*Kate*) is thrilled to be participating in her sixth Showcase with MTA! She was recently seen as Josephine Bloom in *Big Fish*. Other favorite credits include: *H.M.S. Pinafore* (Josephine Corcoran), *Beauty and the Beast* (Belle), *Sweeney Todd* (Young Lucy Barker), and the world premiere of *Blackbeard the Musical* (Original Concept Album). Christina holds a BA in Theatre from Indiana University and BSN from ASU. When not performing, she can be found working as an Oncology

Nurse or backpacking across the Sierra Nevada. Special thanks to my mom for her endless encouragement and never missing a performance!



**CHAD MILLAR** (*Frederic, A Pirate Apprentice*), tenor, is a Metropolitan Opera Arizona District winner and was a young artist at the following companies: Santa Fe Opera, San Francisco Opera, Arizona Opera, Dayton Opera, and Ohio Light Opera.

Chad has worked with numerous orchestras for concert work including the Australian Classical Players, the San Francisco Symphony, the Phoenix Symphony, the Tucson Symphony, the Utah Symphony, the Prescott Pops, the Prescott Chorale, and the West Valley Chorale. He was a member of the tenured full time San Francisco Opera chorus for several years and covered and performed numerous roles during his tenure. He has performed many roles from Bach to Britten and everything in between. While opera is his passion, he enjoys music theater and oratorio as well.



**TIFFANY REGAL** (*Ruth*), contralto, made her operatic debut in NYC in Gotham Chamber Opera's *Dido & Aeneas*, which began a 12-year career. She then shifted to exploring other genres, which opened doors to all kinds of fun opportunities. Most notably, she sang with hip-hop group Deltron 3030's east coast tour, including on the Late Show with David Letterman, and with her mom's girl group from the 1960s, The Goodies.



**CARA RIZZI RICHMAN** (*Narrator*) is an award-winning performer/creator & an honors graduate from AMDA with a BFA in Performing Arts (Music Theatre). She recently made her regional theatre debut as Ermengarde in *Hello, Dolly!* at Theatre. She is also the playwright/composer of two original musicals & an accomplished cosplayer! She thanks her friends & family for their support. [www.cararizzirichman.com](http://www.cararizzirichman.com)



**ZACH WETZEL** (*Major-General Stanley*) is an Arts Educator, Broadway World critic, and award-winning performer. He is a graduate of Brigham Young University's prestigious Vocal Performance program and was named Marriott Top Male Singer of the University. During the day Zach is the Music Program Director at BASIS Oro Valley. He has been featured on ABC for his work as an Arts Educator. Outside of teaching Zach has worked at Live Theatre

# WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

Workshop, The Phoenix Theatre Company, Saguaro City Music Theatre, and beyond. Some of his favorite roles include: Sid in *The Pajama Game*, Nathan in *Guys & Dolls*, The Cat in *Seussical*, Father in *Ragtime*, Michael in *Tick Tick Boom*, and Mr. Wormwood in *Matilda*. @mister.wetzel



**FRANCES WYCOFF (Mabel)** is an interdisciplinary artist and soprano from Phoenix. She holds degrees in Vocal Performance (DePauw University, 2024) and Italian Language & Literature (Arizona State University, 2013).

Between her studies, she worked as a character performer with Storybook Entertainment in Scottsdale, where she has since returned.

Known for her agile coloratura and expressive storytelling, Frances has performed Amore (*Orfeo ed Euridice*), Mabel (Gilbert & Sullivan excerpts), The Rose (*The Little Prince*), and Elle in Poulen's *La voix humaine*. She has also appeared with the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra and currently sings with the Phoenix Symphony Chorus.

A three-time DePauw Concerto Competition winner, Frances also placed second in the Indianapolis Matinee Musicale Competition (2024). Beyond performance, she creates virtual content under the pseudonym Fran Coffa, blending visual art and music in Adding the Dynamics. Passionate about art song and new music, she has worked with composers like Melissa Dumphy and hopes to further explore contemporary opera and composition.

She is thrilled to revisit Mabel in her first role back in Phoenix!



**ASHLEY ZIOLKO (Edith)** is thrilled to be performing in her 5<sup>th</sup> Showcase with MTAA! Previously seen as Babe in *The Pajama Game*, Charlotte Malcolm in *A Little Night Music* and in the ensemble of *The Sound of Music* and *Joseph*. Other recent theatre

credits include *A Grand Night for Singing* (Lynne), *The Wizard of Oz* (Glinda), *Guys & Dolls* (Adelaide), *The Music Man* (Eulalie Shinn), *Sister Act* (Mary Patrick), and *Into the Woods* (Rapunzel). Special thanks to Stephen and the whole crew for all of your hard work, dedication and endless enthusiasm to bring this music to life! Enjoy the show!



**DR. SHARON A. HANSEN (Conductor)**, Professor Emerita of Conducting at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, is an internationally acclaimed conductor and teacher. She has led ensembles including the Romanian National Radio Choir,

Gächinger Kantorei, Stockholm Conservatory Chamber Choir, and University of Regensburg Symphony

Orchestra. Her choirs have performed at ACDA and NAFME conferences, and she has guest-conducted in over forty states.

Hansen founded the Milwaukee Choral Artists, known for expressive performances and premiering innovative works for treble voices. She is also an accomplished author, with publications including *Helmut Rilling: Conductor Teacher* and essays on gender dynamics in conducting.

She served 25 years on ACDA's Choral Journal editorial board, founding the "On the Voice" series. Her research on choral vocal pedagogy was published in ACDA's monograph series and featured in *Choral Journal* and the *Choralosophy Podcast*.

Now in Tempe, Hansen is Chorus Director for the Arizona Musicfest Orchestra and serves on the Arizona ACDA board as Community Choirs liaison. Her passion for musical theatre shines through her active role on the Board of Directors for the MTAA, where she recently conducted Sondheim's *A Little Night Music*.



**ANTONIO F. LOZANO (Chorus Director)** is the Director of Choirs, Bands, and IB Music at Tempe High School in Tempe, Arizona. With 20 years of experience in public education, he has taught at Cesar Chavez, Sierra Linda, and La Joya

Community High Schools and is currently in his first year as Artistic Director of the Phoenix Gay Men's Chorus. *The Pirates of Penzance* is his first production with MTAA.

His ensembles have earned superior ratings and top honors at festivals nationwide, and he has conducted middle and high school honor bands and choirs across Arizona.

In addition to his work as an educator and conductor, Mr. Lozano is a professional opera singer, performing worldwide and throughout Arizona. His vocal talents have been showcased in *Arizona Idol* and *American Idol*, as well as with Phoenix Opera, Showcase Concerts, and the New York Metropolitan National Council Auditions.

He graduated with high honors from Grand Canyon University, earning a Bachelor of Science in Choral and Instrumental Music Education and a Master's in Educational Leadership. He has been nominated for the Dr. William P. Foster Community Development Award and received Arizona State University's "City of Tempe's Teacher of the Year" Award.



**KERRI CHRISTIE (Stage Director)** has been in love with MTAA and its people since its beginning. *The Pirates of Penzance* marks her 13<sup>th</sup> Showcase, most recently appearing as Frau Schmidt in *The Sound of Music*. She is a member of the Outreach

Committee, and anyone who has met her has heard all about MTAA!

# WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

Kerri studied acting in Seattle at Northwest Actors Studio, Studio East, and with the brilliant Dr. Tawnya Pettiford-Wates, before training at California Institute of the Arts School of Theater. She moved to the Valley in 2011 and is the Artistic Director of Arizona Homeschool Theatre Group (AZHT). She has directed *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* ('16, '23), *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* ('17, '24), Picture Book Theatre ('17, '18, '20, '22), *Charlotte's Web, Through the Looking Glass, A Midsummer Night's Dream* ('19 and '24), *Shakespeare Zoom!, The Importance of Being Earnest, Annie JR, As You Like It – 80s Teen Edition, and The Wizard of Oz* for AZHT.

She also loves supporting her two young actors and helping families as a board-certified lactation consultant at Arizona Breastfeeding Medicine and Wellness.



**STEPHEN SCHERMITZLER** (*Artistic Director*) is the Founder of the Musical Theatre Alliance of Arizona. After earning a BFA in Music Composition from ASU in 2010, Stephen became the resident music director for Detour Company Theatre and

the Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre (now Silver Star), along with several independent local community productions. As a pianist, he has collaborated with artists who have performed Broadway and national touring runs of *1776, Dear Evan Hansen, Waitress, Hamilton, Camelot, New York, New York, and 42<sup>nd</sup> Street*. As a singer, he has been featured with Arizona Musicfest, Phoenix Chorale, Arizona Bach Festival, Symphony of the Southwest, North Valley Chorale, and the West Valley Symphony. He is intensely devoted to the nurture of authentic artistic development of all actors and musicians. Love always to Ray and the Pod.



**ANDREA GUEYON** (*Audio Technician*) has been an integral part of every production since MTA's inception in 2022, overseeing the critical technical elements of balancing the ensemble and managing precise sound cues. Her work spans acclaimed Showcase productions like *Titanic, The Hunchback of Notre Dame, Parade, and Ragtime*, in addition to supporting MTA's Underscore events. Andrea also brings her skills to Detour Theatre as a sound designer and engineer and works as an AV technician for Encore Event Services. She holds a degree in Audio Production from Phoenix College.

## MTAA Founders Circle

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It is our privilege to list the following donors who have contributed \$1,000 or more since the inception of the Musical Theatre Alliance of Arizona. Every donor is a valued partner in each achievement, both onstage and throughout our community outreach and future programming.

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# ABOUT THE SHOW

BOOK BY

**W.S. Gilbert**

MUSIC BY

**Arthur Sullivan**

LYRICS BY

**W.S. Gilbert**

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## SYNOPSIS

Gilbert and Sullivan's most popular show, *The Pirates of Penzance*, is a rollicking, delightfully funny tale of a band of soft-tempered pirates. Mistakenly apprenticed to a pirate (instead of a pilot) by his nursemaid Ruth at the age of eight, the handsome Frederic is now twenty-one and, though quite fond of the group of joyous and fun-loving pirates, chooses to abandon his profession and "lead a blameless life henceforth," dedicating himself instead to their eradication. Shortly after leaving them, he encounters a gaggle of beautiful maidens (one of whom, Mabel, steals his heart) and their father, the eccentric Major-General. The whole group has a run-in with the pirates themselves before escaping on the false premise that the Major-General is an orphan—a fact these tenderhearted pirates simply cannot help but take into account, given the fact that the majority of them are orphans themselves and "know what it's like." Just as Frederic is ready to lead a band of lily-livered policemen to take out the Pirate King and his men, a secret is uncovered that will change his fate forever, but, naturally, all comes out right in the end. Beloved since its premiere in 1879, *The Pirates of Penzance* (or *The Slave of Duty*) is a delightful farce of a classic that is fun for all ages. —Ellen Leslie

## WHAT'S NEXT?



**August 16, 2025**

"Anything you can do, we can do... in a weekend!"  
Saddle up for this Wild West showdown of wit and melody.



**October 25, 2025**

Lovingly ripped off from *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, this absurd, hilarious romp will have you singing about coconuts for days.



**January 24, 2026**

Tradition! Heart, humor, and timeless melodies come together in this beloved classic. L'chaim!



**April 25, 2026**

Rock. Passion. Power. Experience Andrew Lloyd Webber's iconic rock opera like never before.



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