

The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint, MI 48503

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### ***H.M.S. Pinafore: New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players*** **at The Whiting**

**Flint, MI** – Ride a wave of music and laughter across the deck of the fanciful British naval vessel, H.M.S. Pinafore as the New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players comes to town on **Friday, March 7 at 8:00p.m.** at The Whiting for one unbelievable performance. Ticket prices range from \$18 to \$38 and the performance will be ASL interpreted. To purchase tickets simply visit [TheWhiting.com](http://TheWhiting.com), call (810) 237-7333 or (800) 8-CENTER, or visit the Ticket Center located at 1241 E. Kearsley St. just off I-475 between the University of Michigan Flint and Mott Community College. For a complete schedule and full details on the entire 2007-08 season line-up, visit [TheWhiting.com](http://TheWhiting.com) or phone the Ticket Center and request a free brochure.

Now in its thirty fourth year of operation, New York Gilbert & Sullivan Players (NYGASP) is America's preeminent professional Gilbert & Sullivan repertory ensemble. Under the dynamic leadership of Artistic Director Albert Bergeret, who has been hailed as "the leading custodian of the G&S classics" by *New York Magazine*, NYGASP has created its own special niche in the cultural mosaic of New York City and the nation. Since its founding in 1974, the company has presented over 1,500 performances of the G&S masterpieces throughout the eastern United States and Canada, captivating audiences of all ages. NYGASP's first CD "Oh, Joy! Oh,

Rapture!" contains an exuberant selection of G&S highlights and is now available for purchase through the company's office.

Mr. Bergeret's vision for his company's mission is clear: to build and maintain a professional repertory company that gives vitality to the living legacy of Gilbert & Sullivan through performance and education. To do so he has developed a unique blend of creative spontaneity and classical precision which is neither revisionist in nature nor mired in the rigidity of the more typical view of "tradition." NYGASP's productions are charged with contemporary energy while retaining that traditional respect for the shows themselves which is so important to Gilbert & Sullivan enthusiasts. The use of elaborate, but relevant, choreography and movement is a particularly important element. Where possible, topical references from the nineteenth century are updated when the original intent would be lost on a modern musical theatre audience, but without disturbing the shape or scope of the material as written. Gilbert's satire of human foibles and sophisticated wit remain intact, while Sullivan's evocative scores, which need no revision at all, are given the full range of vocal and orchestral color for which they call.

The company has in its repertory thirteen different complete G&S operettas (cast, orchestra and crew of 50-80 people), special versions of the most popular operettas designed for children's audiences, and a variety of charming concert programs created especially for NYGASP's "Wand'ring Minstrels" ensemble.

Recognition and stature for NYGASP programs continues to grow. In January of 2002 the company mounted its first triumphant season at New York's venerable City Center, playing 3 of its most popular productions to over 20,000 G&S enthusiasts in 3 weeks. January of 2003 saw a repeat of the company's success at City Center, this time including a production of *The Gondoliers*, and in January of 2004 *Iolanthe* was added. The company makes an annual appearance at Wolf Trap Farm Park in Vienna, Virginia where a loyal and exuberant audience of over 5,000 attends each performance. In 1998 the company enjoyed a joyous visit there with acknowledged G&S fan the late Chief Justice William Rehnquist following the show and was pleased to receive a favorable review from *The Washington Post* for its topical rendition of *The Mikado* as well as a picture in *People Magazine* with the Chief Justice. In August of 2004 the company was featured at the Annual International Gilbert & Sullivan Festival in Buxton,

England. In January of 2005 the company received rave reviews for its production of *The Pirates of Penzance* with guest star Hal Linden as The Major-General and in December of 2005 had its founding and history presented as a feature article in *The New York Times*.

The company's celebrated ensemble of G&S experts, developed by introducing new singers each year from New York's immense pool of vocal and theatrical talent, has collaborated with such guest artists as world-renowned G&S exponent John Reed, O.B.E. in numerous comic baritone roles, Tony winner John Rubinstein and Frank Gorshin both as King Gama in *Princess Ida*, John Astin as Sir Joseph in *H.M.S. Pinafore*, Noel Harrison as the Major-General in *The Pirates of Penzance*, Pat Carroll as Little Buttercup in *H.M.S. Pinafore*, and Steve Allen as *The Mikado*

NYGASP's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was fêted in April 1999 with a *Gilbert & Sullivan Extravaganza* featuring tributes, recollections of the company's illustrious history and a symposium entitled "Gilbert & Sullivan in the New Millennium - The Pros and Cons of Updating". In honor of the occasion, a dedicated fund and annual award for artistic achievement were established in the name of a noted and much loved Gilbert & Sullivan fan, the late Isaac Asimov who was a devoted fan of the company's work.

Visit NYGASP's all-new state of the art website, [www.nygasp.org](http://www.nygasp.org), for video, picture galleries, and more information.

This performance is generously sponsored by McLaren Regional Medical Center, abc12, YellowBook USA, CARS 108 and WFNT.

The Whiting is a member organization of the Flint Cultural Center Corporation and is dedicated to bringing the performing arts to the community. The Whiting is a nonprofit organization and an Equal Opportunity Employer providing programs and services without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex or handicap.

**\*\*High Res Images are available upon request.**

**To secure tickets or request images, please contact Wendi Fournier at  
(810) 237-8689 or [wfournier@thewhiting.com](mailto:wfournier@thewhiting.com)\*\***

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