

Visual Programme



The Pirates of Penzance

**This includes:
Who's Who
Synopsis
Visit Timetable**

EN
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Production Photos Credit: Craig Fuller

**Supported by the Theatre Development Trust, 29th May 1961 Charity, Barnett & Sylvia Shine No 2
Charitable Trust, The Charities Advisory Trust, Mageni Trust, and CHK Foundation**

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Please Note:

**ENO Helpers wear purple and blue shirts
and are here to assist you.**

Sensory Bags & Ear defenders are available
from ENO Helpers or Ushers.

Mobile phones and tablet devices are permitted inside
the auditorium, though we ask you to
turn your brightness setting down if possible.

No photography or video recording is allowed during
the performance.

About this performance

An apprentice pirate woos the Major General's daughter, while his shipmates try to outwit a party of policemen. *The Pirates of Penzance* is popular for its silly storyline, wild wordplay and well-loved songs. William S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan are possibly the best-known librettist/composer duo who are known for their humour, absurdity and fantasy.

You will see...

- Boldly coloured projections
- Geometric set pieces
- Big chorus groups
- Guns, swords and other items used as a weapon (please see sensory guidance for details)
- Contrasting costumes



You will hear...

- Chorus singing
- Footsteps and stomping onstage
- Comedic jokes using wordplay
- A whistle used onstage
- Spoken dialogue and singing

Please note that this production contains mild violence and depictions of alcohol

Running time is 2 hrs 30 minutes including a 25 mins interval

Age guidance for this show is 5+

This show is spoken and sung in English with sung lyrics and spoken dialogue displayed above the stage (surtitled)

Who's Who



**Isabelle Peters
is Mabel**



**William Morgan
is Frederic**



**John Savournin
is The Pirate King**



**Richard Suart
is Major-General Stanley**



**Gaynor Keeble
is Ruth**



**James Creswell
is Sergeant of the Police**



**Anna Elizabeth Cooper
is Kate**



**Bethan Langford
is Edith**



Daughter Ensemble



Pirate Ensemble



Police Ensemble

Context

Why is *The Pirates of Penzance* so popular?

The Pirates of Penzance is popular because of its timeless humour, memorable music and engaging characters. The witty dialogue and satirical elements keep audiences entertained, while the catchy songs and relatable themes make it a classic that continues to excite audiences nearly 145 years later!

What is Queen Victoria Doing Here?

The Pirates of Penzance was written during the Victorian era. Generally speaking, Queen Victoria left a legacy in arts and culture, and was engaged with opera and theatre. Having the Queen written into the performance is a direct reference to how society is drawn to action when influenced by the monarchy. Since *The Pirates of Penzance* is a satire, there are many meanings audiences can make of this.



I Am The Very Model of a Modern Major-General

‘I Am The Very Model of a Modern Major-General’ is arguably the most popular song from the composer duo Gilbert & Sullivan. The song is a satire of ‘modern’ army officer, where the Major General describes his education in many subjects, but all are non-military matters. The song has been referenced in popular culture such as Saturday Night Live, The Simpsons, The Wind in the Willows (TV episode) and many more! Does it sound familiar to you?

Synopsis - Act One



The pirates offer a toast to Frederic who is celebrating his 21st birthday and the end of his apprenticeship. Ruth, a maid who also works with the pirates, explains that when Frederic was younger she was instructed by his father to have Frederic apprenticed to a pilot, but she misheard and instead took him to be a pirate.

Now that Frederic is no longer tied to the pirates, he's determined to destroy them. When the pirates admit their inability to make piracy pay, Frederic explains that they are too sympathetic of others, especially other orphans. Frederic wishes he could bring the pirates back to a respectable life, but the Pirate King rejects that possibility.



Ruth longs for Frederic to take her with him when he leaves. He admits that he is reluctant to marry Ruth. They discuss the beauty of Ruth, but when he sees a group of lovely young women approaching, he rages at her for deceiving him.

The young women are astonished to encounter Frederic and horrified to hear that he is a pirate. He assures them that he only wants to love one of them. Mabel embraces him.



The pirates surprise the girls and want to marry them. Their father, the Major General, enters and objects to the girls being married against their wills to pirates. He lies his way out of the situation by claiming to be an orphan. The girls are released from the pirates' clutches, as Mabel and Frederic – ignoring the pleas of Ruth – look forward to their marriage.

Synopsis - Act Two



The Major-General believes his lie about being an orphan has shamed the family name and he fears the consequences. Frederic intends to march against the pirates accompanied by the police.

Ruth and the Pirate King enter. They explain that Frederic was to be a pirate until his 21st birthday but having been born in a leap year on 29 February, he is only 5 years old. The Pirate King insists that Frederic respect his own sense of duty. Frederic tells The Pirate King that the Major General lied about being an orphan. The Pirate King and Ruth swear vengeance.

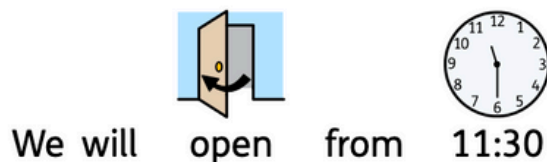


Frederic informs Mabel that he will not reach his twenty-first birthday until 1940. Mabel begs him to remain with her and swears to be faithful, even though he is reconsidering joining the Pirates again.

The Major General enters, he is suffering from insomnia. Frederic and the pirates seize the Major General and overcome the police. When the Sergeant tells the pirates to yield in the Queen's name, Ruth reveals that they are peers of the realm (part of the aristocracy). With this revelation, they are pardoned by the Major-General, who rewards them with the girls' hands in marriage.



Visit Timetable



ENO Access Supervisor
Turquoise Shirt



ENO Access Supervisors can assist with any access requirements

ENO Usher
Navy Blazer



ENO Ushers will direct you to your seat

ENO Helper
Purple Shirt



ENO Helpers will welcome you and can support you with any questions



Enter

the Foyer.



People

will be



waiting



and



walking

around.



It might

be



busy

or



noisy.



While you

wait,



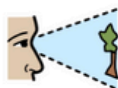
you can



Have a drink/snack



Use the toilet



See

or



touch

the



props



and



costumes



or make

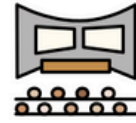
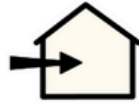
a



craft



At 12:00 you can go inside the auditorium.



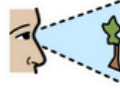
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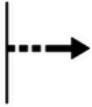






There will be a stage and seats for the audience.







Look at your ticket to see your seat number.



At  1:00, before the  performance  starts,




1  A performer  will  welcome you to the  performance

2  and  will  introduce the  sections of the orchestra




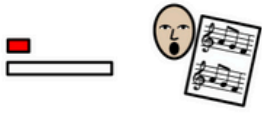
The  show  will  start at 1:10. It is **1**  hour  long.


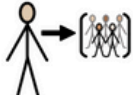








This is John!
He plays the role of The Pirate King.
He will come onstage before the
performance starts to say hello and
introduce the orchestra.




At  2:10, there is a  25-minute  interval.





You can  have a  and  use the toilet.





At  2:35 a  performer will  teach everyone a  short song.


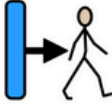


You can  join in  during  Act 2.

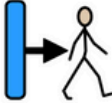

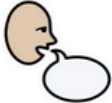



At  2:40 the  show will  start. It is  50 minutes  long.





 At 3:30, the show will finish.





 The performers will hold hands and bow





 You can clap and cheer!





 From 3:30, leave the London Coliseum.







 As you leave, you can say hello and take photographs


 with the performers.

Good to Know

There will be signs around the building to help you find where you want to go.

If you need further assistance, please speak to one of our ENO Helpers - they will be wearing purple or blue shirts and are here to assist you.



Photo Credit: Anthony Sword

We welcome any feedback that you are willing to share!
Please send your thoughts to engage@eno.org

