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El Paso Scene USER'S GUIDE

Publication Schedule & Monthly Deadlines

El Paso Scene comes out on the Wednesday following the fourth Monday of the month. The deadline for news announcements is the third Monday of the month. The deadline is Aug. 21 for the September 2017 issue, which will be distributed beginning Aug. 30. The deadline for camera-ready advertising is Aug. 23. For ads that require design work, please submit requests by Aug. 16.

Submitting News

El Paso Scene accepts news items by mail (P.O. Box 13615, El Paso TX 79913) and email (news@epscene.com). There is no charge for news announcements. All items will be edited for brevity and style. News items should include an event name, description, time, date, place, sponsoring organization, information phone number and admission prices, if any. Please include a contact name and phone number. A "fill in the blanks" online press release form is at www.epscene.com/pressrelease.html

Circulation & distribution

El Paso Scene publishes about 40,000 copies each month, distributed throughout El Paso and also Las Cruces, including area Village Inns, Walgreens, Wing Stop, Leo's, The Cleaners and many more locations.

Advertising information

A full media kit on El Paso Scene advertising rates, sizes and specifications is at www.epscene.com/adrates.html. You may also request a media kit by calling us at 542-1422, or call our advertising director, Albert Martinez, at 920-7244.

Subscriptions

Mail subscriptions to El Paso Scene are \$10 a year, \$18 for two years and \$25 for three years. A subscription form is provided on Page 38. Subscriptions are sent via 3rd class mail. Copies sent outside El Paso and neighboring counties may be delayed.

El Paso Scene Online

The entire content of each issue is posted on our website, www.epscene.com. Besides monthly listings and columns, the entire issue may be downloaded in PDF format. The website contains a digest of events listed by week and annual calendar listings for each month's scheduled events. The website also provides a press release form and a media kit on El Paso Scene advertising.

El Paso Scene Weekly

A weekly digest of El Paso Scene events is available for free by email, and is also posted on our website. To request our **free weekly email newsletter**, go to www.epscene.com/newsletter.php

In the nearly half-century of its existence, the Gilbert & Sullivan Company of El Paso had not performed "Yeoman of the Guard" — until this year.

"Joan (Quarm, the late, great founder of the group) refused to do it," said Stephanie Conwell, who now leads the group and directs the show. "We are coming up on our 50th season — this is our 48th — and we are trying to do some new and different things. We did the two one-acts back-to-back last year. This year, we jumped in with both feet and did 'Yeoman.'"

As with most Gilbert and Sullivan shows, the plot is convoluted. It takes place in the Tower of London in 1550.

"The character who starts the story is Col. Fairfax. He is charged with sorcery, conspiring with the devil. His cousin wants to inherit his estate, so if he is beheaded for this charge, the cousin will inherit," Conwell explained.

To foil his cousin he asks his captors if they can find him a wife. Enter traveling entertainers Jack Point and Elsie Maynard, who are trying to earn money for Elsie's sick mother. Of course Elsie wants the 100 crowns and agrees to marry Fairfax. But then another Yeoman, whose life the colonel once saved, breaks him out of jail. The two are married but have no idea what the other looks like. And thus begins the usual merry mix-up that includes a love triangle with Phoebe.

"It is not as happy an ending as some Gilbert and Sullivan, which is why Joan didn't want to do it," Conwell said. "Plus making all the Yeoman of the Guard uniforms. They have been a stinker to do, but turned out really well. The entire cast has been working on them — making shoe ornaments and neck ruffles during rehearsal."

The faces of the cast should seem familiar to regular G&S-goers. As with all G&S, the show is double-cast. David Castro and Nathaniel Natkin are Fairfax, David Tomblin and John Wieve are Jack Point, Maria Arenas and Jasmine Fernandez are Elsie, and Jessica McKay and Ashleigh Curry are Phoebe.

Making the costumes wasn't the only challenge. G&S depends on UTEP students to help fill roles. This year, most were busy with recitals and the current productions of "Into the Woods," or "Sister Act." So filling the cast list took more work.

"The music is also much more difficult," Conwell said. "Sullivan really wrote an opera instead of an operetta. Even though most of the cast are trained musicians, it was a challenge. The lan-

STAGE TALK

by Carol Viescas



'Yeomen of the Guard' runs through Aug. 6 at the Chamizal theatre.

guage (because of the time period) is more Shakespearean, instead of Victorian. But they really enjoyed the challenge."

That learning process, she said, was really the joy of the process of putting the show together.

"The cast had to research what lines mean. We learned a lot of new Shakespearean terms and how to interpret them so the audience gets it. The cast worked together and helped each other out when not on stage."

Even though the cast ranges in age from 18-75, Conwell said, they all get along amazingly well.

"Everyone seems to adore each other. We also have families working together. Jessica McKay, her mother and father, brother and sister-in-law are all in the show."

Next year, Conwell said, the company plans to do Quarm's first G&S show, "Patience."

"She did it at the old Upstairs Theater Downtown and set it in 1969. We'd like to do it and either set it in 1969 or 2018. It was the only show we've ever done not set in the original time period."

For the 50th year celebration, G&S will produce one of the duo's most famous pieces, "Pirates of Penzance."

Carol Viescas is a veteran of community theater and teaches journalism at Bel Air High School

Gilbert and Sullivan Co. of El Paso presents "Yeomen of the Guard, or The Merryman and His Maid" 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday July 28-Aug. 6 at Chamizal National Memorial. Information: GSElPaso.org.

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