

Charles Court Opera

present

'Express G&S'

The complete works of Gilbert & Sullivan... in 75 minutes!



All aboard The G&S Express for the very model of a modern major mash up as award-winning Charles Court Opera, "The masters of G&S in small spaces," take on the - probably ill advised - challenge of performing the complete works of Gilbert & Sullivan - in just 75 minutes!

'Express G&S' will get its London premiere at the newly configured, socially distanced Pleasance Theatre, N1, from Tuesday 17 - Sunday 22 November, as part of Pleasance's re-opening season.

Press night is Wednesday 18 November at 7pm.

Get ready to be swept away in this Topsy-turvy world - from Penzance to Titipu, from Venice to the Tower of London, from Portsmouth to Fairyland, as Charles Court Opera stumbles through the entire G&S canon in what promises to be a highly inventive, witty performance. There'll be plenty of favourite songs from the operas, including 'The Pirates of Penzance', 'The Mikado' and 'H.M.S. Pinafore', as well as from those less performed, such as 'The Sorcerer', 'Princess Ida' and 'Utopia Ltd'.

CCO's Artistic Director, John Savournin, said "Inspired by the Reduced Shakespeare Company, 'Express G&S' aims to appeal to not only Gilbert and Sullivan fans, but also to introduce their work to a new and wider audience, while having an absolute ball along the way. The Pleasance have reimagined their auditorium into a fantastic, atmospheric (and socially distanced) space, and we're thrilled to be part of their re-opening".

Charles Court Opera

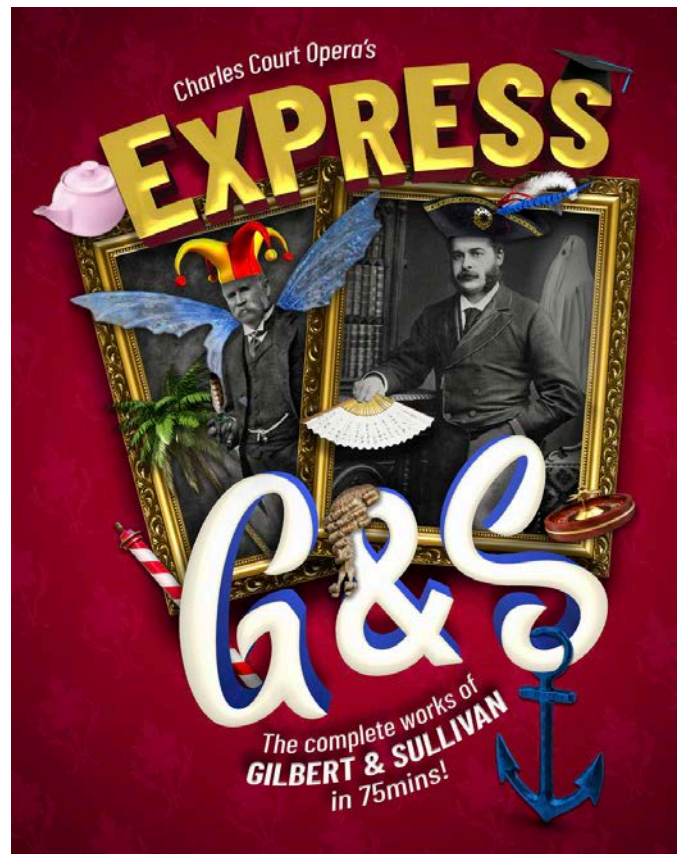
Charles Court Opera is one of the leading chamber opera and music theatre companies in the UK. They are one of the champions of the reinvigoration of Gilbert and Sullivan, recently receiving the award for Best Opera Production at the Offies for 'H.M.S. Pinafore'. This summer, they were scheduled to co-produce 'The Pirates of Penzance' with Opera Holland Park. Celebrated for their annual Boutique pantomimes, this stalwart company of London's Off-West-End has performed across the UK in venues ranging from pub theatres to concert halls, touring to Europe and the USA. They have created productions for the Iford Arts Festival, regularly visit the International G&S Festival, and they are an associate company of The King's Head Theatre, London.

Gilbert and Sullivan

G&S refers to the Victorian-era theatrical partnership of the dramatist W. S. Gilbert (1836–1911) and the composer Arthur Sullivan (1842–1900) and to the works they jointly created. The two men collaborated on 14 comic operas between 1871 and 1896, of which 'H.M.S. Pinafore', 'The Pirates of Penzance' and 'The Mikado' are among the best known. Gilbert, who wrote the libretti for these operas, created fanciful "topsy-turvy" worlds where each absurdity is taken to its logical conclusion - fairies rub elbows with British Lords, flirting is a capital offence, gondoliers ascend to the monarchy, and pirates emerge as noblemen who have gone astray. Sullivan, six years Gilbert's junior, composed the music, contributing memorable melodies that could convey both humour and pathos. Their operas enjoyed broad and enduring international success and are still performed frequently throughout the English-speaking world. Producer Richard D'Oyly Carte brought Gilbert and Sullivan together and nurtured their collaboration. He built the Savoy Theatre in 1881 to present their joint works (which came to be known as the Savoy Operas) and founded the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company, which performed and promoted Gilbert and Sullivan's works for over a century.

Pleasance Theatre Trust

As a registered charity in Scotland, England and Wales, the Pleasance Theatre Trust aims to create a compelling platform to discover, nurture and support fresh artistic talent from across the globe. As a not for profit organisation, all proceeds from the Festival and our London base are invested back into the development of new people and new ideas. The Pleasance Theatre Trust receives no regular funding and do not run our own bars, therefore we rely almost entirely on the income from our artistic programme. The Pleasance Theatre Islington has been one of the most exciting Fringe theatres in London since it opened its doors in 1995, providing a launch pad for some of the most memorable productions and renowned practitioners over the past two decades, staying true to the Trust's mission of providing a platform for the talent of the future. This year-round programme compliments our world-renowned operations in Edinburgh. Since opening in 1985, the Pleasance has become renowned for delivering an inspiring programme year on year that uniquely embodies the spirit of the Festival Fringe.



LISTINGS INFO

Charles Court Opera
present

'EXPRESS G&S'

The complete works of Gilbert & Sullivan
- in 75 minutes!

PLEASANCE THEATRE

Carpenters Mews, North Road,
London N7 9EF
Box Office: 020 7609 1800

Tuesday 17 - Sunday 22 November
at 7pm Saturday & Sunday at 2pm
Duration: 75 mins

**Press night: Wednesday 18 November
at 7pm**

then

THE MALTINGS THEATRE

Tues 24th - Saturday 28th November
at 7.30pm