



THE PIRATES OF FINANCE

Saving the economy, one romance at a time.

Thank you for your interest in auditioning for *The Pirates of Finance*. This Audition Kit is intended to give you some background information about the show, which is completely new. If you decide to audition you should also download the audition music and dialogue excerpts that you will be asked to perform at your audition.

ABOUT THIS PRODUCTION

The Pirates of Finance is being produced by The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Tasmania. It is directed by Anne Clarke. The Music Director is Melfred Lijauco and Michael Topfer is Production Manager. This team worked together on two very successful productions of *Trial by Jury* in 2017 and 2018. A choreographer is yet to be appointed.

All shows will be presented in the Moonah Arts Centre at 25 Albert Road, Moonah. One of the reasons for selecting this extremely modern and flexible venue is the ease of parking for both cast/crew and audience, both across the road outside Harris Scarfe and behind the Moonah Hotel in Main Road.

ABOUT THE SHOW

This is a new musical which has never been performed outside the USA. It draws on the music composed by Sir Arthur Sullivan for some of the comic operettas for which W. S. Gilbert wrote the words, but with a completely new story, dialogue and lyrics by Charles Veley.

The Pirates of Finance takes the wonderful tunes and rich harmonies of Sullivan and joins them with modern choreography, a fast-paced dramatic structure, a libretto written in the style of Gilbert, and even contemporary musical genres including blues, gospel and hip-hop, to tell its hilariously poignant tale of the perils of Wall Street in the 21st Century.

The action takes place in present-day Wall Street, one weekday morning in the old-fashioned but upscale offices of Freemarket Enterprises, Inc.

In this whimsical Wall Street love story, idealistic young Frederick Freemarket inherits his uncle's Wall Street investment company and dreams of helping the world. The company is worth twelve billion dollars and its most precious asset is “the cash machine” which turns worthless financial derivatives into real cash.

Megalomaniac hedge fund manager J. Geoffrey Behemoth wants the cash machine to aid in his plot to rule the world. He buys 50% of the company's stock in a hostile takeover and wins control of the cash machine.

Alongside this battle of free-market principles verses pinstriped financial piracy, steamy romance begins to blossom. Frederick falls in love with company nutritionist and double agent, Elsie. Computer guru Bill Brilliant is in love with Human Resources head Prudence Peergroup, but Frederick has banned all office romances, throwing a wrench into Bill's amorous aims. Chief Financial Officer Clara Calculor secretly admires Behemoth, and the three hot young guys who are the company's only remaining employees aren't much help either -- they're bedazzled by Behemoth's three glamorous assistants!

When the Securities and Exchange Commission intervenes, the cash machine, subverted by Behemoth, starts to make sinister robo-trades, causing the global economy to begin to crumble. All is lost! Until - in a final topsy-turvy twist – a surprise revelation is made and love and free-market principles conquer all.

Because of the Wall Street setting, all cast will be required to use American accents. The New York accent would be ideal, but if you are proficient in an accent from another area such as the Deep South, it would be acceptable.

PERFORMANCES

The Pirates of Finance will be staged at the Moonah Arts Centre from 17 February until 3 March 2018. The performance dates and times are:

Friday 16 February 7:30pm (effectively the final dress run but also a preview with an invited audience, followed by a champagne reception)
Saturday 17 February 7:30pm (opening)
Sunday 18 February 2.00pm (possible matinée)
Wednesday 21 February 7:30pm
Thursday 22 February 7:30pm
Friday 23 February 7:30pm
Saturday 24 February 2.00pm
Saturday 24 February 7:30pm
Sunday 25 February 2:00pm (possible matinée)
Wednesday 28 February 7:30pm
Thursday 1 March 7:30pm
Friday 2 March 7:30pm
Saturday 3 March 2:00pm
Saturday 3 March 7:30pm

If there is sufficient demand the producers may offer additional matinée performances on Sunday 18 February and/or Sunday 15 February. This will be confirmed by early February 2018. Cast members must be available for all performances, including the reserved matinée dates.

PRODUCTION WEEK

This production involves minimal set and costumes.

Bump-in to the Moonah Arts Centre will be on Tuesday 13 February. All cast must be available from 6.00 pm onwards on that day and on Wednesday, Thursday 26 January, and for the final dress run/preview performance on Friday 16th February. It is intended that sponsors, helpers and other VIPS will be invited to attend the preview and remain afterwards to meet the cast over an informal drink.

REHEARSALS

Music calls for *The Pirates of Finance* will commence in June and blocking and dance calls in around mid-September 2016.

Thursday evenings from 7pm to 10 pm have been booked at Lawrenny Court for the entire cast. The Music Director will also arrange one-on-one sessions with all cast members.

Other rehearsals will be arranged based on need and cast availability, however we anticipate that there will generally be rehearsals on Thursday evenings. Additional rehearsals may be called on Sundays during the day.

The show opens in February 2018. The production team has made an effort to avoid all public holidays and school holidays during the rehearsal period, but we expect that rehearsals will be continuing through January. We ask you to be as honest and accurate as possible when you complete the availability questions on your audition application form.

ROLES

No roles have been pre-cast. We know that there is lots of good talent the Hobart theatre community and are holding open auditions to find the best we can get.

There is no ensemble in *The Pirates of Finance*. All roles have dialogue, the requirement to sing in harmony, and a basic level of dance. Some roles also have significant solos. Although the music of Sir Arthur Sullivan has been used throughout, some numbers have been arranged in more modern styles and rhythms.

FREDERICK F. FREEMARKET: (20's-30's) New, idealistic owner of Freemarket Enterprises- a handsome, all around good guy with a musical past. A typical Gilbert and Sullivan hero alive and well in the present. Tenor to B flat.

ELSIE GARDNER: (20's-30's) Newly hired company nutritionist, sweet with an inner fire and a past she cannot (or perhaps will not) disclose. Torn by her attraction to Frederick and the real reason she came to the company. A Gilbert and Sullivan heroine (even if she doesn't know it) with a secret. Soprano to B flat.

CLARA CALCULATOR: (40's-50's) The Chief Financial Officer of Freemarket Enterprises, outwardly cold and business like, she has a history with the Company, is a senior member of the team and takes her work seriously, but will make what choices she must to save it, even if it leads to comedic ruin. Mezzo soprano.

PRUDENCE PEERGROUP: (30's-40's) Vice President of Human Resources, secretly in love with Bill Brilliant, prone to strong reactions and willing to take chances. Soprano.

BILL BRILLIANT: (30's-40's) Technical brains of the company but socially awkward, he nonetheless has an inner strength that becomes very useful. Think Clark Kent on the outside, Superman on the inside. Tenor.

HUEY, DEWEY and LOUIE: (20's - 30's, Male) Company employees, young smart executive types who look great in a suit and sing in three-part harmony. They work hard and need companionship. Tenor, Baritone and Bass.

J. GEOFFREY BEHEMOTH: (40's-50's) Middle aged tycoon, suavely elegant but also very full of himself, owns the Behemoth Hedge Fund and plans to take over the world. He gets to sing the famous G&S patter songs. Baritone.

APRIL, MAY and JUNE: (20's-30's, Female) Assistants to Mr. Behemoth, they are young sexy, smart, driven women on the way up professionally and on the lookout emotionally. Like the young guys they sing in three-part harmony and end up finding love. Soprano, Mezzo, Alto.

One number involves a visit to the company from representatives of the Securities and Exchange Commission. This will require a quick change of both costume and persona for the cast members playing Huey, Dewey, Louie, April, May and June.

AUDITIONS

Auditions will be held on Sunday 7th May from 2.30pm to 6pm at ExitLeft, 46 Murray Street, Hobart and Saturday 13th May from 10am to 6pm at a venue to be advised.

To book an audition time, please email us at audition@gilbertandsullivan.org.au and provide us with the following essential information:

1. Your first and last name
2. Your date of birth
3. Your contact phone number
4. The role(s) you wish to audition for
5. Any times during the scheduled audition days that you are NOT available.

Alternatively, you can call Michael Topfer on 0400 416 099 to book an audition time.

If you have emailed us, we will respond to your email within 48 hours to confirm your audition time and the venue. If you haven't heard back from us within 48 hours, please contact Michael Topfer (mobile number above) to confirm that we've received your email.

For each role you wish to audition for, please prepare both the dialogue and the music audition pieces provided for that character. There are two packages of this material, one for the six Female roles and one for the six Male roles. These can be downloaded from the Society's website at gilbertandsullivan.org.au

If you're running late, or if you decide not to audition after all, please let Michael know (mobile number above) as soon as possible.

AFTER THE AUDITION

Please be patient with us as it may take some time to finalise the cast. We will have quite a balancing act to find 12 good singers whose voices blend nicely and who can be paired off credibly in the story line. We will contact you as soon as we can.

If you are not cast it doesn't mean that you are not worthy of a part. We have to consider all sorts of factors including availability for rehearsals, vocal ranges and ability to sing in modern genres as well as classical G&S style.

If you have any questions or need any further information, please email us at pirates@gilbertandsullivan.org.au or call Michael Topfer on 0400 416 099.