

TCU Opera Studio

2024-2025 Season

Gilbert & Sullivan

# The Pirates of Penzance

Secretst-Wible  
Black Box Theatre

FEB-MAR  
28-1  
7:00 PM

\$10 General Admission  
Free with Current TCU ID

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TCUOpera

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SCHOOL OF MUSIC

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# ***The Pirates of Penzance***

## **February 28 - March 2, 2025**

### Cast

Ruth	Sofia Dahm
Frederic	David Mejia/Miguel Pesce
Mable	Isabella Lopez/Courtney Parnitke
Pirate King	Kai Diamond/Jae Medlin
Samuel	Adrian Martinez/Qizheng Wu
Major General	Owen Harvey
Edith	Talyah Thomas/Faith Lee
Kate	Sophia Yang/Sophie Gwaldo
Sergeant	David McDaniel
Isabel	Trinity Robinson

### Daughters

Catherine Digrazia	Kaylynn Langham	Cassie Westlund
Anna Borges	Julia Arduino	Hailey Gallegos
Sarah Squires	Anna Morgan	Jordana Garcia
Emmy Irvin	Annabelle Parra*	Brooke Perez
Lacey Beagle	Mary Grace Abney	Ruby Warren
Eden Horn*	Louise Martin	

### Pirates

Adam Arntson	J. J. Ruiz	Alexis Gonzalez
Alek Gonzales	Eric Campbell*	Telvin Culberson
Elijah Sonos*	Tony Martinez	Omar Macias
	Omar Martinez	

### Policemen

Trenton Hall	Jack Johnson*+	Andy Stellar +
	Danny Tran*	

\*TCU Opera Debut

+TCU Alum

## **Production Team:**

### **Stage Director & Producer:**

Dr. Corey Trahan

### **Music Direction/Pianists:**

Sara Steele & Igor Parshin

### **Set Design and Construction:**

Robin Owhonda, Robert Fultz III

### **Choreographers:**

Faith Lee, Trenton Hall, Danny Tran

### **Costuming:**

Julia Rose Arduino, Anna Morgan

### **Costumes:**

The Plaza Theatre (Cleburne, TX)

### **Lighting Design**

Jae Medlin

### **Props:**

Annabelle Parra

### **Social Media:**

Catherine DiGrazia, Cassie Westlund, Kai Diamond

### **Hair & Makeup:**

David Mejia, Trenton Hall

### **Poster Design:**

Eric Laine

## **Synopsis**

Courtesy of Music Theatre International website

**The pirates appear ("Pour, Oh Pour, the Pirate Sherry"), celebrating because their young apprentice, Frederic, attains adulthood today and is now a full-fledged member of their band. But Frederic announces that he will leave the pirates immediately. He had done his best for the pirates only out of a deep devotion to his duty under the apprenticeship which, after all, had been a mistake. The pirates are deeply wounded, and Ruth, Frederic's nanny, explains ("When Frederic Was a Little Lad"). She had been directed by Frederic's father to apprentice Frederic to a pilot but misheard and bound him to a pirate instead. Frederic forgives and vows to exterminate them all. But, since the time is only half-past eleven, and he is a pirate until twelve, he explains why they don't make very good pirates: their reputation for nobleness has**

**gotten about, so that every person captured claims to be an orphan and invokes the pirates' mercy.**

**Ruth is worried about her own fate and proposes herself in marriage to Frederic. Frederic accepts, but with some reservation. Ruth is the only woman whom he knows; what if he meets another and finds out that Ruth is plain? The Pirate King bids Ruth and Frederic farewell, joyously returning to his pirate's life ("Oh, Better Far to Live and Die").**

**Left alone, Frederic seeks reassurances from Ruth about their upcoming alliance, which she gives as best she can without outright lying. Their parley is interrupted by singing voices, and Frederic spies a group of beautiful young women. Looking upon them, he realizes that he has been tricked by Ruth ("Oh, False One, You Have Deceived Me") and dismisses her. Frederic, ashamed of his piratical appearance, hides from the approaching young women.**

**Major-General Stanley's daughters enter, seeking a secluded spot for a picnic ("Climbing over Rocky Mountain"). Seeing them about to take off their shoes and play in the water (how indecent!), Frederic reveals himself to them, warning them that their picnic spot is a pirates' lair ("Stop, Ladies, Pray!"). The daughters are frightened of him as a pirate but attracted to his youthful good looks. He proposes marriage to all of them at once ("Oh, Is There Not One Maiden Breast"), but they reject him.**

**Suddenly, Mabel appears. She is another of the Major-General's daughters and she is astonishingly beautiful. She chides her sisters for their lack of pity and consoles Frederic ("Poor Wandering One!") As Frederic and Mabel make each other's acquaintance, the other daughters pretend to give them some time alone while they chat about the weather ("What Ought We to Do").**

**Frederic hears the pirates approaching ("Stay, We Must Not Lose Our Senses") and urges the daughters to flee before them, but they stand so long, singing about their need to escape, that they fail to do so. The pirates capture the girls to carry the girls off to a minister and marry them on the spot. Mabel stops them ("Hold, Monsters!"), warning them that their father is an illustrious personage: a Major-General! And he appears, boasting of his knowledge and abilities ("I Am the Very Model of a Modern Major-General").**

**Once the Major-General has been apprised of the situation, he objects to having pirates as sons-in-law. The Major-General begs them not to rob him of his daughters, as he is (of course) an orphan boy ("Oh, Men of Dark and Dismal Fate"). The pirates let him go, and everybody celebrates... except poor, abandoned Ruth, as the curtain falls.**

## **Act Two**

**As Act Two opens, the Major-General's daughters try to comfort him ("Oh, Dry the Glistening Tear"). He is disconsolate because he has dishonored his ancestors by escaping the pirates through a lie. Frederic**

reminds him that he has only recently bought his lands and title and, therefore, cannot do too much damage to his family legacy. The Major-General explains that there are indeed somebody's ancestors buried on his land and, since he bought the land and all its contents, they are therefore his ancestors.

The Major-General says that he will be much more comfortable when Frederic has exterminated the pirates ("Then, Frederic, Let Your Escort Lion-Hearted"). Frederic summons his army of policemen ("When the Foeman Bares His Steel"), who are less than eager to go to battle. Mabel and the other daughters urge them on, and the policemen vow to go and do their duty... but they keep vowing for a long time before they are finally persuaded to go.

Frederic's relief at finally atoning for his years of piracy ("Now for the Pirates' Lair!") is interrupted by none other than Ruth and the Pirate King. They know of Frederic's love of paradoxes and propose a most ingenious one to him ("When You Had Left Our Pirate Fold"). It seems that Frederic was born on Leap Day, February 29, which only comes once every four years. Frederick is 21 years old, therefore, but has had only five birthdays. Unfortunately, the terms of his pirate apprenticeship are until his twenty-first birthday. By the terms of his indenture, he will remain a pirate until he is 84 years old! Frederic, bound by his sense of duty, agrees to go with them, bemoaning his fate and his consequential loss of Mabel ("My Eyes Are Fully Open"). Further constricted to duty, Frederic informs the Pirate King of the Major-General's deception. The Pirate King vows revenge ("Away, Away! My Heart's on Fire!").

Frederic is left alone with Mabel ("All Is Prepared") and he informs her of the sad situation. She begs him to ignore his duty ("Stay, Frederic, Stay!"), but he cannot. They vow to remain true until Frederic is free to marry her... in 1940. Frederic leaves to join the pirates, and Mabel mourns ("Sorry Her Lot"). But she is determined to go on ("No, I Am Brave,") and urges the policemen on to fight the pirates, even though their commander has switched sides. The policemen don't like their job – after all, criminals are people, too – but they set off to do it ("When a Felon's Not Engaged in His Employment").

The pirates approach ("A Rollicking Band of Pirates We") to get their revenge, and the policemen bravely hide. The pirates plot their burglary ("With Cat-like Tread, upon Our Prey We Steal"). Frederic quiets them ("Hush, Hush! Not a Word") as the Major-General approaches, kept from his sleep by a guilty conscience ("Sighing Softly to the River"). Just as his daughters come out to comfort him, the pirates ambush them and are, in turn, ambushed by the police.

A fight ensues. The police duel with billy clubs, the daughters with parasols. The scene is a kind of domestic version of the typical pirate epic battle scene, although no one gets hurt. The pirates win the battle, but the sergeant of the police calls on them to yield in Queen Victoria's name. The pirates surrender immediately, because "with all their faults,

they love their queen."

Before the pirates can be led away, Ruth steps forward and reveals them as prodigal sons of titled families. The pirates are instantly forgiven, as "peers will be peers." Frederic is reunited with Mabel; the pirates and daughters pair off and there is a happy ending for all ("Poor Wandering One").

### SPECIAL THANKS

Professor Twyla Robinson  
Dean Amy Hardison Tully, College of Fine Arts  
Dr. Marc Reed, Director of TCU School of Music  
Julie Lovett & TCU Silver Frogs  
Robin Owhonda, Robert Fultz III  
Karen Minatra, Nita Ferrell, Lori Stowe  
T.C.U. Vocal Arts Faculty

**TCU Opera Studio**  
2024-2025 Season

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Sondheim & Wheeler  
*The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*  
Secret-Wible Black Box Theatre  
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Gilbert & Sullivan  
Secret-Wible Black Box Theatre  
FEB-MAR 28-1

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Ed Landreth Auditorium  
in collaboration with the TCU Symphony Orchestra  
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