

## Comedy Opera Company 'A' 1879

(Under the management of Mr. Richard D'Oyly Carte)

### "1st Pinafore Company" from 4th August

#### 21st – 23rd July: Grimsby

THEATRE ROYAL. – Lessee, Mr. W. Raymond. – The re-opening of this Theatre, which has undergone many alterations and repairs, took place on Monday last, when the house was well filled and presented a most brilliant appearance. It is difficult to realise that in so short a time such a marvellous change could have been effected. The whole of the decorations have been under the superintendence of Mr. R. Soles, of Hull, and in order to give proper effect to the opening Mr. D'Oyly Carte's opera company have been engaged for six nights, and the nautical opera of *H.M.S. Pinafore* was played for the first three nights. [*The Era* (London, England), Sunday, July 27, 1879; Issue 2131.]

#### 24th – 26th July: Southport

#### 28th – 29th July: Buxton

#### 30th July – 2nd August: Hull

"H.M.S. PINAFORE" AT THE THEATRE ROYAL. – Lovers of a capital entertainment, free from the slightest taint of vulgarity or *double entendre*, must see "H.M.S. Pinafore," which will not be played at the Royal after Saturday evening. The house has been crowded to excess each of the evenings during which the piece has occupied the boards, and early application for seats is necessary. The opera bouffe is one that appeals directly to the English heart, and the various songs and choruses are rapturously applauded. Pressure on our space precludes us from entering into minute criticism, but we may state generally that all round a better company could scarcely be selected. [*The Hull Packet and East Riding Times* (Hull, England), Friday, August 1, 1879; Issue 4902.]

THEATRE ROYAL. – Lessee, Mr. Wilson Barrett. – This Theatre was re-opened on Wednesday last, when Mr. D'Oyly Carte's *H.M.S. Pinafore* company commenced a four night's engagement to a crowded and delighted house. The opera is preceded by a new vaudeville entitled *After All*, in which Mr. R. Cummings, Mr. M. Dwyer, and Miss Haidee Crofton appear. [*The Era* (London, England), Sunday, August 3, 1879; Issue 2132.]

#### 4th – 9th August: Scarborough

THEATRE ROYAL. – Lessees, Messrs J. Eldred and T. C. Yorke. – On Monday *H.M.S. Pinafore* was launched at this favourite haven, before a brilliant assemblage, and the "gallant crew" were hailed with many cheers. [*The Era* (London, England), Sunday, August 10, 1879; Issue 2133.]

#### 11th – 16th August: Manchester

##### THE PRINCE'S THEATRE

For the third or fourth time in Manchester, "H.M.S. Pinafore" has been produced this week at the Prince's Theatre. Repetition, however, does not lessen the attractions and mirth-provoking power of this exceedingly droll composition. Its extraordinary

popularity in the United States – where last of all it has been played with a real ship for the stage and the banks of a lake for its scenery – its long run in London, and the favour with which the performance was received this week are so many signs that of this work, as of "Trial by Jury," it may be said that time does not wither nor custom stale the excellent variety. To say that the amusing work has been better represented than it is at the Prince's would be no disparagement to Mr. D'Oyly Carte's company, in view of the comparisons which are suggested; but, in fact, even that can hardly be said. It is a new cast, and it is a strong one, and it is well balanced. Mr. Henry Walsham has established his reputation in Manchester, and it would be superfluous to praise his vocalisation. It was to be foreseen that he would do full justice to the melodies of his part; but it was not so certain that he would interpret the humour of it so well. On this score, however, he left nothing to be desired. The caricature of the melodramatic sentimental British sailor was really admirable. To Miss Elinor Love[day], as Josephine, equal praise may be given. She sang with intelligence and acted with grace, which is not always consistent with the illustration of the curious humour of such a character as was committed to her. So with Miss Haidee Crofton, as Hebe, the leader of the sisters, and cousins, and aunts. She made most effective use of her lines, and her vivacity added much to the spirit of the performance. Mr. W. S. Penley was ridiculously dignified as Sir Joseph Porter, and Captain Corcoran had an admirable representative in Mr. J. H. Rogers; while Little Buttercup, who has an important share of the interest, was played by Miss Barnett, whose personal appearance at once points the comicality of the diminutive adjective appended to her name. Choruses, music, scenery were all good, and "H.M.S. Pinafore" made more than fair sailing on its return to Manchester. [*Manchester Times* (Manchester, England), Saturday, August 16, 1879; Issue 1130.]

PRINCE'S THEATRE. – Lessee and Director, Mr. C. Bernard. – On Monday there was a very full house to see *H.M.S. Pinafore* performed by Mr. D'Oyly Carte's new company – new, that is, so far as Manchester is concerned. The first place must be awarded to Mr. W. S. Penley, whose embodiment of Sir Joseph Porter, K.C.B., is one of the happiest bits of comedy that has lately been afforded the public. Mr. J. H. Rogers is exceedingly droll as the Captain, and Mr. Henry Walsham evinced his capacity in the part of Ralph Rackstraw. Bill Bobstay and Dick Deadeye were respectively and cleverly personated by Mr. Richard Cummings and Mr. Clive Hersee. Miss Alice Barnett made quite a hit as Little Buttercup, whilst Miss Elinor Love[day] made a charmingly piquant representative of Josephine. [*The Era* (London, England), Sunday, August 17, 1879; Issue 2134.]

### 18th – 30th August: Glasgow

GAIETY – Proprietor and Manager, Mr. C. Bernard. – Mr. D'Oyly Carte's comedy opera company is here this week with *H.M.S. Pinafore*, which is well found from truck to keelson; and, upon the whole, very fairly handled. The popularity of this tuneful piece is in no way diminished since its last performance here, if we may judge from the enthusiasm with which it is nightly received by overflowing houses. The company has been reorganised lately, and although vocally it is scarcely so good as formerly, histrionically it is better, the opera being carried through with an amount of "go" that could hardly be exceeded. Owing to the indisposition of Miss Douglas Gordon, her part

(Josephine) is taken by Miss Elinor Loveday. [*The Era* (London, England), Sunday, August 24, 1879; Issue 2135.]

### 1st – 6th September: Dundee

#### "H.M.S. PINAFORE" AT THE THEATRE ROYAL

It is not a little creditable to the spirited management of our local theatre that, for so many weeks in succession now, at a season of the year when people are either out of town or disinclined to patronise indoor amusements, such bumper houses should nightly be attracted to the Royal, and this, too, in spite of the long continued dull trade, and the rival attractions of other places of amusement. If anything would "draw" under such circumstances, it most assuredly is the unrivalled comic opera of "H.M.S. Pinafore," whose rapid and extensive popularity is something altogether unparalleled in the annals of the stage. In America, we are told, the rage for "Pinafore" has amounted to a positive mania. As Mr. D'Oyly Carte states in his address on entering upon his second provincial tour, "it has been played at no less than seven different theatres at one time in New York, and by 150 different companies in other American cities; the witticisms of the piece have become household words, and are quoted in society, in leading articles, in courts of justice, and even in the senate." It is not surprising, therefore, that last night, notwithstanding the suspension of the free list, and a slight increase in the charge of the higher priced seats, there was a crowded and appreciative audience, who gave the members of Mr. Carte's company a very hearty reception. There are several changes in the cast since the opera was originally produced here, but the leading parts are all very ably filled, and there is an efficient and well balanced chorus. The First Lord of the Admiralty found an excellent representative in Mr. W. S. Penley, who duly magnified his office, and maintained its dignity in a most becoming manner. As Captain Corcoran, Mr. J. H. Rogers was very effective, and did full justice to the vocal and nautical requirements of his commanding position. Mr. Henry Walsham gave a very satisfactory account of the part of Ralph Rackstraw, and was most successful in his rendering of the music which falls to the part. Miss Elinor Loveday sustained the character of Josephine with grace and feeling, a voice of peculiar sweetness and expression being recognised in her execution of the charming music assigned to the Captain's Daughter. Miss Alice Barnett, as the Bumboat Woman, showed a thorough appreciation of the part, and managed to infuse a large amount of characteristic humour into it. The rollicking songs and choruses were given with great heartiness, and executed with admirable precision and effect. The piece is most appropriately and excellently mounted, the scenery, which has been specially painted by Mr. Pont, the artist of the establishment, reflecting much credit upon that gentleman. Altogether the performance is a most delightful one. It is preceded by an amusing vaudeville, "After All," the joint production of r. Frank Desprez as author, and Mr. Alfred Cellier as composer. [*The Dundee Courier & Argus and Northern Warder* (Dundee, Scotland), Tuesday, September 02, 1879; Issue 8149.]

THEATRE ROYAL. – Lessee, Mr. W. M'Farland. – Mr. D'Oyly Carte's *Pinafore* company commenced a week's engagement on Monday, before a house crowded to excess, and had a most flattering reception. [*The Era* (London, England), Sunday, September 7, 1879; Issue 2137.]

### **8th – 20th September: Edinburgh**

THEATRE ROYAL. – Lessees, Messrs. Howard and Logan; Acting Manager, Mr. John Gray. – *H.M.S. Pinafore*, supported by the artists of Mr. D'Oyly Carte's comedy opera company, was produced here on Monday evening, when a crowded audience assembled to welcome Gilbert and Sullivan's immensely popular work. The cast presented is entirely new, but the company contains some clever people, and the result is a highly creditable and enjoyable performance. We may specially notice the appearance of Miss Elinor Loveday, who was eminently successful as Josephine; Miss Haidee Crofton making a charming Hebe. We were particularly pleased to see Mr. J. H. Rogers as the Captain, his impersonation being capital; and Mr. Henry Walsham, of operatic celebrity, made a most excellent Ralph Rackstraw. The other parts were fairly filled, and the choruses given with the greatest possible effect. The mounting was, as usual, good; and the orchestra, directed by Mr. W. F. Glover, played the accompaniments well. The pleasant trifle *After All*, cleverly performed by Mr. Cummings, Mr. Rogers, and Miss Crofton preceded the opera. [*The Era* (London, England), Sunday, September 14, 1879; Issue 2138.]

THEATRE ROYAL. – Lessees, Messrs. Howard and Logan; Acting Manager, Mr. John Gray. – The production of *H.M.S. Pinafore* at this house has proved an immense success, and crowded and fashionable audiences fill the Theatre nightly at advanced prices. The performances of the company continue to be highly appreciated, the chorus being excellent. With an effective rendering all round, Mr. Sullivan's delightful music grows in popularity, while the score reveals new features of attraction at each succeeding performance. *After All* has played the audience in all week. [*The Era* (London, England), Sunday, September 21, 1879; Issue 2139.]

### **22nd – 27th September: Newcastle**

THEATRE ROYAL. – Lessee, Mr. C. Bernard. – There was another crowded attendance at this theatre on Monday evening, when Messrs. Gilbert and Sullivan's great London success *H.M.S. Pinafore* was, for the first time, performed before a Newcastle audience, and with the most complete and gratifying success, the principal members of the company being called before the curtain at the close of the first act, and received with the utmost enthusiasm, repeated with increased fervour at the end of the piece. Mr. W. S. Penley as Sir Joseph acted with humour and finish, and sang with discrimination. The Captain Corcoran of Mr. J. H. Rogers was especially enjoyable, and Mr. Henry Walsham was very warmly applauded for his rendition of Ralph Rackstraw, Miss Elinor Loveday being equally successful as the heroine Josephine. Miss Alice Barnett as Little Buttercup, Mr. Richard Cummings as Bill Bobstay, Mr. Clive Hersee as Dick Deadeye, Mr. C. M. Blythe as Bob Beckett, and Miss Theresa Cummings as Hebe, were all excellent. The choruses and incidental music, with a largely augmented band, contributed materially to the success of the production. The popular vaudeville *After All* preceded the opera, Messrs Cummings and Rogers and Miss T. Cummings appearing to advantage. [*The Era* (London, England), Sunday, September 28, 1879; Issue 2140.]

### **29th September – 4 October: Leeds**

THE GRAND THEATRE. – Lessee, Mr. Wilson Barrett. – The long-promised *H.M.S. Pinafore* has been acted during the past week at this theatre, for the first time in Leeds, by

one of Mr. D'Oyly Carte's companies. Of a work so well known we have only to record that the audiences to witness it have been large and appreciative, and if the *furore* has not been so great as elsewhere, the performances every evening have gone off with great *éclat*. The opera has been performed in a thoroughly efficient style by the excellent company engaged, including Mr. Henry Walsham, Ralph Rackstraw; and Miss Alice Barnett, Little Buttercup, both highly efficient. Miss E. Loveday made a pretty and piquant Josephine, Mr. Penley was very amusing as Sir Joseph Porter, and Mr. J. H. Rogers was capital as Captain Corcoran. Mr. Clive Hersee was a good Dick Deadeye, and all the other parts were in able hands. The built out quarter deck of a ship of war had a most imposing and realistic appearance on this large stage, and to our mind the illusion was perfect. The band and chorus, under the direction of Mr. W. F. Glover, were all that could be desired, and the dresses of the ladies were bright and charming. [*The Era* (London, England), Sunday, October 5, 1879; Issue 2141.]

#### **6th – 11th October: Bradford**

THEATRE ROYAL. – Lessee and Manager, Mr. Chas. Rice. – On Monday the *Pinafore* company of Mr. D'Oyly Carte took possession, when a very large audience was attracted. Mr. H. Walsham sings very well as Ralph Rackstraw; Mr. W. S. Penley was most effective as First Lord of the Admiralty; Mr. C. Hersee made a capital Dick Deadeye; and Mr. J. H. Rogers was very fair as Captain Corcoran. Mr. Cummings as Bill Bobstay was first-rate, acting and singing being alike praiseworthy. Miss E. Loveday is the Josephine, Miss Alice Barnett is Little Buttercup, and as Hebe Miss T. Cummings is again successful. *After All* is the afterpiece. [*The Era* (London, England), Sunday, October 12, 1879; Issue 2142.]

#### **13th – 18th October: Sheffield**

##### **PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS**

"H.M.S. PINAFORE" AT THE THEATRE. – It is little more than a year since the "Sorcerer" was at the theatre, with the famous John Wellington Wells and his enchanted tea-pot, and the gay young curate in the portly person of Mr. Daly. Now Mr. D'Oyly Carte brings the noted company which has gained such celebrity in connection with the Gilbert-Sullivan nautical comic opera "H.M.S. Pinafore," and last night this musical burlesque was produced for the first time in Sheffield. At the Social Science Congress, in Manchester, the other day, one of the speakers said he was "wearied and disgusted with the insane silliness of 'H.M.S. Pinafore,'" but notwithstanding the so-called "silliness" of the piece, the adventures of the "Lass that loved a sailor" have become very popular, and the jokes and the pretty melodies that crop up here and there in the composition have been a source of enjoyment in nearly every city in the world. Although musically and dramatically inferior to the "Sorcerer," it is intensely amusing, and from the extreme politeness of the captain down to the rare audacity of the midshipman, there is nothing in "Pinafore" likely to outrage the feelings of the most austere. Mr. Gilbert has in this opera worked up some of the hints contained in the nautical portions of his ballads, and his satire is levelled not only against the First Lord of the Admiralty, but against all who boast that they are proud of being Englishmen. It is just possible that his ridicule of our navy has had something to do with the success of "Pinafore" in the United States, where the people have become so enamoured of Gilbert's work that they have started an association called "The Hardly-ever Society." Imbecility could not go much further than

this, still it is certain that the Americans have a great liking for Gilbert's style, and admire him even when he does not sacrifice patriotism for epigram. The author has conceived the whimsical idea of a common sailor, of romantic aspirations, falling in love with, and singing plaintive songs to, the daughter of his captain; and the love story, wrought out with some novelty, gathers interest from its own absurdity. The score, which is by Mr. Sullivan, is bright, and full of rippling melody, and the songs are such as remain on the memory. The theatre was crowded in every part last night, and the sparkling music, pretty ballads, and grotesque conduct of the British sailors delighted the house. It was impossible, especially in the presence of these rollicking tars to be hypercritical, and it must be admitted that the doings on board "H.M.S. Pinafore," although scarcely likely to please a disciplinarian, thoroughly pleased those who thronged the boxes, pit, and gallery. The scene on the quarter deck was most laughable, and it is easy to divine that the popularity of this nautical opera hangs quite as much on the burlesque of our navy as upon the excellence of the libretto. The interpretation of the opera was admirable almost throughout. Miss Elinor Loveday as the captain's daughter, Josephine, "the lass that loved a sailor," was fully equal to the delineation of the love-sick maiden's character, but her voice was deficient in compass in some of the more difficult vocal parts. Miss Theresa Cummings, as Hebe, the First Lord's cousin, was very vivacious, and in the funny song in which Sir Joseph Porter, K.C.B., introduces himself as "The Monarch of the Sea, and Ruler of the Queen's Navee, whose praise Great Britain loudly chants," she created prolonged laughter by the very humorous way in which she chimed in "and we are his sisters, and his cousins, and his aunts." The First Lord was personated by Mr. W. S. Penley, who, in the most gorgeous naval uniform, strutted about the quarter deck, and then sang the now familiar song telling how he got to the top of the tree, giving the advice, "Stick close to your desks and never go to sea, and you may all be rulers of the Queen's Navee." His delineation was intensely amusing, and his exceeding dignity in the scene where he teaches the principle that a British sailor is any man's equal – excepting the First Lord's – was one of the funniest incidents in the opera. Captain Corcoran, commander of the Pinafore, was very ably represented by Mr. J. H. Rogers, who has a pleasing voice, and made the most of the character. Mr. Henry Walsham, who is known in Sheffield as the manager of the Walsham Opera Company, had perhaps the most effective part – that of Ralph Rackstraw, the able seaman, who aspires to the hand of the captain's daughter. A fine seaman he made, and especially in the pretty ballad, "A maiden fair to see," he obtained the warmest recognition of his ability. Miss Alice Barnett gave a spirited idea of Little Buttercup, the bumboat woman; Mr. Fitzaltamont, jun., was a very comical middy; and Mr. Clive Hersee, as Dick Deadeye, played the deformed sailor with great skill. The seamen, the sisters, cousins, and the aunts made a numerous company, and they all very creditably sustained their parts. The choruses were effectively given, and the instrumentation was very pleasing. [*The Sheffield & Rotherham Independent* (Sheffield, England), Tuesday, October 14, 1879; pg. 2; Issue 7821.]

THEATRE ROYAL. – Lessee, Mr. W. R. Younge. – For the first time since its production Messrs. Gilbert and Sullivan's latest success *Pinafore* has been this week presented to a Sheffield audience, who are compensated for the slowness of its coming by the general excellence of Mr. D'Oyly Carte's company. Several of the members of the company are not unknown to local fame, and the *habitués* of the Theatre Royal never saw them to more advantage than under the flag of *H.M.S. Pinafore*. Mr. W. S. Penley seems

to be designed both by nature and art for the onerous part of the "First Lord," the mock dignity of whose "official utterances Mr. Penley brings out splendidly. Mr. J. H. Rogers makes a handsome and pleasing Captain Corcoran as regards acting and singing, though why he should omit the song in which he usually inquires why everything is "either at sixes or sevens" we do not know. Mr. Cummings as Bill Bobstay delighted and amused the large audience throughout the piece, Mr. Clive Hersee ably takes the tiring part of Dick Deadeye, and Mr. C. M. Blythe is the carpenter's mate, Bob Beckett. Last and not least, though not in importance, comes Mr. Fitzaltamont, jun., as Tom Tucker, the Lilliputian midshipman, who, though he utters not a word, manages to make himself a walking sarcasm. Miss Elinor Loveday, to whom is intrusted the part of Josephine, has a sweet voice, and her simple, unaffected style of acting immediately places her on good terms with her auditory, Miss Theresa Cummings as Hebe makes the best use of her humorous part, and Miss Petrelli, a new member of the company, proves herself quite equal to the character of Little Buttercup. We must not close this short notice of *Pinafore* without paying a tribute to the ability of Mr. Charles Walker, the scenic artist attached to this theatre, whose truthful representation of Portsmouth was pronounced by several members of the company to be the best they had met with on their tour. [*The Era* (London, England), Sunday, October 19, 1879; Issue 2143.]

### **20th October – 1st November: Liverpool**

#### PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE

An æsthetic gentleman from Liverpool expressed his regret, at the social science congress at Manchester, the other day, that Dr. Arthur Sullivan had not composed anything better for the lyric stage than such a work as "H.M.S. Pinafore." Leaving him to his sorrow, the public continue to enjoy the musical and political satire with which successive representations of the result of the Gilbert-Sullivan collaboration have made us familiar. The Prince of Wales Theatre was crowded last night when "H.M.S. Pinafore" was again produced, and it was, as on former occasions, provocative of pleasure. Since its last production here the cast has undergone considerable changes. Miss Alice Burville assumes the part of Josephine instead of Miss Douglas Gordon; Mr. Henry Walsham is the successor of Mr. Percy Blandford in the character of Ralph Rackstraw; Mr. J. H. Rogers appears as Captain Corcoran, *vice* (to use official language) Mr. Dwyer, resigned; Mr. W. S. Penley is First Lord of the Admiralty, in the absence of Mr. Mansfield; and Miss Theresa Cummings leads the chorus of female relations of the First Lord of the Admiralty, with even more vigour than did Sir Joseph's earlier Hebe. Mr. Walsham invests Ralph with a new interest, and his singing, despite its nasal tendency, is accepted as much superior to that of his predecessor. Mr. Rogers cannot sing Captain Corcoran's music as Mr. Dwyer did, but he is a better actor, and in that capacity his lyric failings are not so visible as they might be. Miss Alice Barnett, bigger than ever, is welcomed back as Little Buttercup; and Mr. Richard Cummings, whose humorous spirit influences his stage *confreeres*, has it all his own way while he expounds the patriotism of the song of the sailor who disdains any nationality save that of England. In the old company, Mr. Arthur Rousbey, a singer who is capable of more important work, played Dick Deadeye. Last night this part, which when it has any colour at all, is disagreeable, was undertaken by Mr. Brocolini. Mr. Brocolini, whose name, like that of Deadeye, is "agin" him, has a good voice of heavy though not exceptional *timbre*, which he uses with a fair degree of skill. The members of the chorus sang vivaciously and tunefully, but the performance of

the orchestra was unsatisfactory, Mr. W. F. Glover, who has the direction of the work, lacking the firmness which is essential in the demeanour of a conductor towards those who are under him. [*Liverpool Mercury etc* (Liverpool, England), Tuesday, October 21, 1879; Issue 9913.]

PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE. – Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Emery; Acting Manager, Mr. G. Redmond. – The almost unvarying success which attends the performance of *H.M.S. Pinafore* in every part of the United Kingdom was again experienced at the "Prince" in the "Square" on Monday, when the Gilbert-Sullivan opera was performed in the presence of a crowded house. The quality of the performance was scarcely so good as on a previous visit, but still the whole went very merrily, and was much appreciated. Miss Alice Burville (taking Miss Douglas Gordon's place) played Josephine most spiritedly; Mr. Henry Walsham, an operatic artist who has already been heard in Liverpool, effectively fulfilled his functions as the representative of Ralph Rackstraw, *vice* Mr. Blandford; Mr. J. H. Rogers (taking Mr. Dwyer's position as the Captain) acted with undoubted success; and Mr. W. S. Penley made a splendid First Lord, in succession to Mr. Mansfield. Miss Alice Barnett showed all her former jollity and good humour as Little Buttercup, and Miss Theresa Cummings was a capital leader of "his cousins, his sisters, and his aunts." Mr. Brocolini, with a good voice, played Dick Deadeye, and Mr. Richard Cummings was again as much at home as ever in the character with which his name has been so honourably associated. Mr. W. F. Glover conducted, and the staging of the opera was singularly effective.

PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE. – Lessee Mr. F. Emery. – The Gilbert-Sullivan opera, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, has proved a greater "draw" than ever at this theatre, as the house has been crowded to overflowing each evening during the week. To meet the demand for seats a morning performance of the work was given on Saturday, and the *matinee* extension will be repeated today. Mr. Alexander Henderson's specially organised company will introduce *Madame Favart* to a Liverpool audience at the "Prince" on Monday evening. [*The Era* (London, England), Sunday, November 2, 1879; Issue 2145.]

### **3rd – 8th November: Manchester**

#### THE PRINCE'S THEATRE

Mr. D'Oyly Carte's company have returned to the Prince's Theatre, after a short interval, with the always entertaining "H.M.S. Pinafore," the delightful music, burlesque business, and amusing dialogue of which never fails to keep an audience in laughter. With one or two exceptions the company is the same as that by which the piece was presented on its last visit to Manchester. Mr. W. S. Penley is as humorous as ever in the part of Sir Joseph Porter; Mr. J. H. Rogers is an excellent representative of Captain Corcoran; and with Mr. Henry Walsham, who plays Ralph Rackstraw, [has]the advantage of being able to sing as well as act. Mr. Clive Hersee is, we believe, new to a Manchester audience in the part of Dick Deadeye, and was successful in translating the mock malignity of that impossible villain of the piece; while Mr. Richard Cummings as the "bosun's mate" played the part to perfection, and gave an admirably spirited rendering of the song "He is an Englishman." Miss Douglas Gordon was a sympathetic Josephine, at once pretty and clever; but her impersonation of that mock-heroic young lady might be improved if she would let it be seen to a greater extent that she has appreciated the caricature Mr. Gilbert's wilful pen has drawn of the pseudo-romantic heroine. Miss



Dundas is new to Manchester also in the part of "Little Buttercup." If she had not the good fortune of looking young, she would be a better representative of the "Bumboat Woman;" but then if she did not look the age the careless "baby farmer" ought to appear, it would, perhaps, make it all the more wonderful at the end that one of the babies she changed at nurse should think her young enough to suit him as a wife. The fact is, however, that time and probability is nothing to Mr. Gilbert, who has constructed a piece of delicious – nay, brilliant – nonsense, which can be the more enjoyed in proportion as one sedulously abstains from analysing the means by which the enjoyment is produced. [*Manchester Times* (Manchester, England), Saturday, November 8, 1879; Issue 1142.]

PRINCE'S THEATRE. – Lessee and Director, Mr. C. Bernard. – For the second time this season we have had a visit from Mr. D'Oyly Carte's *Pinafore* company. Popular the work has always been, but never more so than on the last engagement of the company at this Theatre. We forbear to speculate on the causes which have produced this happy result, but whatever they are it is evident they are still in full operation. The cast was almost identical with that of the last representations of the work at this house during the summer, though from a musical point of view Monday night's performance was hardly so successful as might have been expected. Mr. W. S. Penley as the First Lord was entertaining in the extreme, and Mr. Rogers as Captain Corcoran, Mr. Walsham as Ralph Rackstraw, Mr. Clive Hersee as Dick Deadeye, and Mr. Richard Cummings as Bill Bobstay, were all excellent from a dramatic point of view. Miss Douglas Gordon made a charming Josephine, though she, perhaps, treated the part a little too sentimentally. Miss Dundas was on the programme for the part of Little Buttercup, but indisposition prevented her appearance, and her part in the emergency was sustained by one of the ladies of the chorus, and with a fair amount of success. Mr. Alfred Cellier's musical bagatelle *After All* constituted the afterpiece. [*The Era* (London, England), Sunday, November 9, 1879; Issue 2146.]

#### **10th – 15th November: Nottingham**

THEATRE ROYAL. – Manager, Mr. Thomas W. Charles. – *H.M.S. Pinafore* has, during its triumphant cruise through the provinces, made a week's stay at Nottingham, with the result of the natives flocking in large numbers to see the saucy craft. The vessel has been well manned, and, we may say, woman-ed also. *After All* has preceded the opera. [*The Era* (London, England), Sunday, November 16, 1879; Issue 2147.]

#### **17th – 22nd November: Leicester**

THEATRE ROYAL. – A large, but not a crowded, audience assembled at the Royal, on Monday night, to witness the production, for the first time in Leicester, of the popular comic opera "H.M.S. Pinafore, or, the Lass that Loved a Sailor," written by W. S. Gilbert, and composed by Arthur Sullivan. Everybody interested in new music must by this time have a tolerable acquaintance with the principal features of the "Pinafore," and it is not necessary, therefore, to say much with reference to it. The libretto is smartly written, like all Mr. Gilbert's works, and the music is pretty effective, and taking. Tolerable justice was done to the piece on Monday night by the company which produced it, but the performance would have been more satisfactory had the orchestra been larger. The amusing part of Sir Joseph Porter, K.C.B., the First Lord of the Admiralty, was capitally given by Mr W. S. Penley, and equally satisfactory was Mr. J. H. Rogers' personation of

Captain Corcoran. Mr. H. Walsham gave an admirable portrayal of Ralph Rackstraw, and Mr. R. Cummings was very successful as Bill Bobstay, the boatswain's mate. Hebe, Sir Joseph Porter's first cousin, was represented by Miss T. Cummings, a vocalist well-known in Leicester. It is enough to say that she maintained her character as a careful, intelligent artiste. Miss Fanny Harrison appeared as Little Buttercup, and made a favourable impression. The character of Josephine (Captain Corcoran's daughter) was allotted to Miss Douglas Gordon, a young lady with a pleasant voice, but lacking confidence. On Monday night she frequently sang very much out of tune, and with an affectation which she will do well to drop as soon as possible. Mr. Clive Hersee was Dick Deadeye, and Mr. Blythe and Mr. Fitzaltamont, jun. as Bob Becket (carpenter's mate) and Tom Tucker (midshipmite). The first Lord's sisters, cousins, and aunts were provided in the chorus, which was effective. The opera was well mounted, and on the whole the audience appeared well satisfied with the programme. The concluding piece was "After All," the characters in which were sustained by Miss Cummings and Messrs. Rogers and Cummings. Next week Miss Lydia Thompson's burlesque company will appear at this house.

THEATRE ROYAL. – Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Clinton Hall. – *H.M.S. Pinafore* is here at last, and the glorious reception awaiting her from thousands of visitors must have cheered the heart of the Manager. The public are quite in love with the music and the performance, and we ought to give all credit to those below mentioned for their excellent vocalisation and acting:– First Lord of the Admiralty, Mr. W. S. Penley; Corcoran, Mr. J. H. Rogers (a very old friend); Rackstraw, Mr. H. Walsham; Deadeye, Mr. C. Hersee; Bobstay and Hebe, Mr. R. and Miss Theresa Cummings (also old friends); Beckett, Mr. C. M. Blythe; Tom Tucker, "Young Fitzaltamont;" Buttercup, Miss Fanny Harrison; and Josephine, Miss Douglas Gordon. The ladies and gentlemen of the chorus, with their picturesque costumes, sang well enough to deserve special mention. [*The Era* (London, England), Sunday, November 23, 1879; Issue 2148.]

#### **24th – 29th November: Birmingham[?]**

#### **1st – 6th December: Brighton**

THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE. – Manageress, Mrs. H. Nye Chart. – Mr. D'Oyly Carte's *Pinafore* company occupied the boards during the past week with the ever popular nautical opera. The house has been filled nightly, and morning performances crowded. [*The Era* (London, England), Sunday, December 7, 1879; Issue 2150.]

#### **8th – 13th December: Bristol**

NEW THEATRE ROYAL. – Managers, Messrs George and James Macready Chute. – On Monday night Mr. D'Oyly Carte's company introduces *H.M.S. Pinafore* to the playgoers of this city. It was extremely gratifying after five consecutive weeks of opera to see so excellent an attendance as that which greeted this popular crew on Monday, and up to the time of writing the audiences have been large and appreciative. The work has been most satisfactorily rendered. With this engagement the theatre closes until the production of the Pantomime of *Sinbad the Sailor*. [*The Era* (London, England), Sunday, December 14, 1879; Issue 2151.]