



Wesfarmers Arts

# SYNOPSIS & CASTLIST

West Australian Opera presents

## THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

28 March – 5 April 2025  
His Majesty's Theatre

*An original production by Opera Australia.*

**Composer** Arthur Sullivan  
**Librettist** W.S. Gilbert

**Conductor** Christopher van Tuinen  
**Director** Stuart Maunder AM  
**Original Choreographer** Elizabeth Hill-Cooper  
**Revival Choreographer** Anna Tsigiotis  
**Set Designer** Richard Roberts  
**Costume Designer** Roger Kirk AM  
**Lighting Designer** Trudy Dagleish  
**Sound Designer** Noah Ivulich

**The Pirate King** Ben Mingay  
**Major General** Andrew Foote  
**Frederic** Alasdair Kent  
**Mabel** Prudence Sanders  
**Ruth** Penny Shaw  
**Sergeant of Police** Brett Peart  
**Samuel** Lachlann Lawton  
**Edith** Emma Petteimerides  
**Kate** Belinda Butler  
**Isabel** Claire Condipodero

**West Australian Opera Chorus**  
**West Australian Symphony Orchestra**

### GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



Australian Government



Department of  
Local Government, Sport  
and Cultural Industries

West Australian Opera is supported by the State Government through the Department of Local Government Sport and Cultural Industries and Lotterywest, and the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its arts funding and advisory body.

### ACT I

#### *A rocky sea-shore on the coast of Cornwall.*

A band of pirates offer a toast to Frederic, their apprentice, as he is 21 years old and his indentures are almost up. Despite dutifully serving his masters, he loathed being a pirate and is looking forward to a more respectable career. The other pirates refuse to join him but do admit they can't make piracy pay. Frederic tells them they are slaves to their tender hearts, including their refusal to take advantage of anyone they believe to be an orphan.

Meanwhile, Frederic's former nursemaid, Ruth, who has also joined the band as a piratical maid-of-all-work, wants to leave with him and become his wife. Frederic, who has seen very few women, takes Ruth at her word when she claims to be beautiful and agrees. That is, until he sees the young daughters of Major-General Stanley arrive for a picnic. The girls are shocked to learn that Frederic is a pirate and all reject his advances except Mabel.

Her sisters are seized by the pirates and threatened with marriage. The Major-General arrives and plays on the pirates' sympathy by telling them he is an orphan. The pirates release the General and his daughters.

### ACT II

#### *A ruined chapel by moonlight.*

The Major-General broods among the ruins, troubled by the lie he has told and fearing the consequences. His daughters comfort him and Frederic lifts his spirits with a plan to march against the pirates with a squad of police.

The Pirate King and Ruth arrive with news of a technicality concerning Frederic, and to recall him to service. Frederic's sense of duty is so strong, he agrees to rejoin the pirates and bids farewell to Mabel. And being an obedient young man, he tells the pirates that the Major-General is not, in fact, an orphan.

Attempting to attack the General, the pirates find him defended by police. The pirates win the skirmish and the General is taken prisoner. But when the Sergeant of Police commands the pirates to surrender in the name of the Queen, Ruth reveals they are all in fact peers of the realm, noblemen who have gone astray. The General pardons them and grants his daughters' hands in marriage.

Read the program [bit.ly/ThePiratesofPenzanceProgram](https://bit.ly/ThePiratesofPenzanceProgram)

  
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