



Sudbury Savoyards Sandwich Board

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The Savoyards are preparing for their 49th Gilbert and Sullivan production with *Princess Ida*, the eighth collaboration of that masterful pair. There will be some small changes in our schedule and planning this year, so take a look and see how it fits your schedule. As usual, the season starts with a party! But first there is a little recapping of the past year, with our summer show and our honors for last year's Big Show. Welcome back, and thanks for reading!

year in review: *Our Town & Utopia, Limited*

Ed Knights did a major two-fer for the Savoyards this year, first as Stage Director of our big Gilbert and Sullivan show in February, *Utopia, Limited*, then as Director of our 2009 Summer Show, Thornton Wilder's New England classic, *Our Town*. The Savoyards' Summer Shows have become a mainstay of our community presence since their debut in 1996, and have become a major source of income in support of our charitable efforts. This year's production netted us over \$4000 to be earmarked for donation to the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

And speaking of *Utopia*, the Savoyards were honored with two nominations from the Eastern Massachusetts Association of Community Theatres (EMACT) as part of their annual program honoring Distinguished Achievement. **Janice Dallas** and **Shahn Knights** were nominated for "Best Costumes in a Musical," and **Jack Wickwire** was nominated and won for "Best Makeup and Hair Design in a Musical." Our congratulations go out to Janice, Shahn, and Jack.

princess IDA or Castle Adamant

Princess Ida is one of the lesser-known works of Gilbert and Sullivan and too often dismissed as the "one that makes fun of women's education." Yes, there are some gentle gibes at the concept but we'll be approaching this as a story about false impressions, assumptions, and how they can be overcome through learning and respect.

Our senior staff for 2010's *Princess Ida* is headed by Producer **Andrea Roessler**, this year assisted by **Paul Sliney** and **John Gorgone**. Technical Director **Tom Powers** leads a design team that includes **Ron Dallas**, **Kirsten Chetwynd**, **Donna Roessler**, and **David Silber**, all returning to lead roles in their disciplines. But the two people who will be leading our cast and orchestra in the presentation of the opera will be Stage Director **Kathy Lague** and Music Director and Conductor **Steve**

Malionek, teaming up for their seventh Sudbury collaboration. Kathy offers the following synopsis and directorial vision...

The story is that Princess Ida and Prince Hilarion were married as children, and the day has come for the marriage to be complete. In the intervening years, however, Ida has gone off to found a women's college, and renounces man forever. Not one to back away from a challenge, Hilarion decides to seek her out and bring her back.

Ida and Hilarion are both products of their childhood environments. The court of King Hildebrand (Hilarion's father) is a very traditional, patriarchal place. Hilarion has been born to privilege and has been exposed to the standard courtly, chivalric model, where women are to be cherished and idolized, but can't or shouldn't do anything. While knowing that he has been married all these years, he's certainly participated in innocent flirting over the years, and the dainty triolet strategy has worked in the past.

Ida has not had the best male role models to deal with in her life (wait until you meet her brothers and her father!), so it's not much of a surprise that she's established a retreat for women. Education is important to her; clearly she was well educated even before she founded the school.

So these two meet each other under bad assumptions and bad circumstances. Hilarion assumes she is like every other woman he's met, and she assumes he's like every man she's ever known. It doesn't help matters that he came to her in disguise and tried to fool her. To his credit, he realizes very quickly that she is different from all the other women he has met -- and he likes it. His Act II plea is not a ploy, he does love her. She begins to realize that maybe not ALL men are bad. She actually does start to soften. Hilarion is speaking to her as no man ever has, but then Hildebrand comes in and ruins everything, resetting her general impression of men.

The final resolution should to be seen as a meeting of equals who have both learned something about themselves and each other.

Auditions for *Princess Ida*

Auditions will be held in Hawes Hall at the Sudbury United Methodist Church on Monday and Tuesday, November 16 and 17 beginning at 7:30. Callbacks and readings will be held on Wednesday, November 18, also at 7:30. If you are interested