

JULIAN
LIGHT OPERATIC SOCIETY

presents "...in style of cabaret..."

La Belle Hélène

with Jacques Offenbach's original music
and new translation by Fraser Grant



Director
Fraser Grant

Musical Director
Paul Smith

20-23 November 2013

PROGRAMME
£1.50



THE
QUESTORS
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1949	Iolanthe	1979	The Sorcerer
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1951	HMS Pinafore	1981	Lilac Time
1952	Iolanthe Patience The Yeomen of the Guard	1982	The Mikado
1953	Trial by Jury Ruddigore	1983	Princess Ida Patience
1954	The Gondoliers	1984	The Gondoliers
1955	The Mikado Trial by Jury The Pirates of Penzance	1985	Ruddigore
1956	Patience Iolanthe	1986	The Merry Widow Iolanthe
1957	HMS Pinafore Cox and Box	1987	Trial by Jury The Pirates of Penzance
1958	The Sorcerer The Yeomen of the Guard	1988	La Belle Hélène The Yeomen of the Guard
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1960	The Gondoliers Patience	1990	The Mikado
1961	Princess Ida	1991	Die Fledermaus HMS Pinafore
1962	The Mikado Trial by Jury The Pirates of Penzance	1992	Princess Ida The Gondoliers
1963	Iolanthe The Yeomen of the Guard	1993	Ruddigore
1964	The Sorcerer Ruddigore	1994	Patience Iolanthe
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1969	The Mikado The Gondoliers	1999	The Mikado
1970	Patience	2000	The Gondoliers
1971	Trial by Jury Iolanthe The Pirates of Penzance	2001	Ruddigore
1972	Ruddigore	2002	Iolanthe
1973	La Belle Hélène The Yeomen of the Guard	2003	Patience
1974	The Gondoliers	2004	The Pirates of Penzance
1975	HMS Pinafore	2005	Orpheus in the Underworld
1976	The Mikado	2006	The Mikado
1977	Iolanthe	2007	The Sorcerer
1978	Orpheus in the Underworld The Yeomen of the Guard	2008	HMS Pinafore
		2009	The Yeomen of the Guard
		2010	Iolanthe
		2011	Ruddigore
		2012	The Gondoliers



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www.julianoperatic.org

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES



After seven consecutive Gilbert & Sullivan operas it is time for a change – so welcome to our 92nd production - *La Belle Hélène*.

The Gilbert and Sullivan operas provide a convenient and popular vehicle for the aspirations of many amateur societies, and the Julian is no exception to this. However we are always on the look out for the opportunity to do something different to give variety to our repertoire and *La Belle Hélène* provides this. This professional version is the result of a new book and lyrics by Fraser Grant set to Offenbach's original music. Many of the tunes will be recognisable even if the words are different!

We welcome Fiona Oliver-Smith in the title role and Jim Heath as her suitor, Paris. Fraser Grant directs - his sixteenth show with us - with Paul Smith again as musical director. The orchestra forms a key part in any production and we are indebted to the musicians who make up the band. We are also indebted to Peter Edwards for his exhaustive work in producing the orchestral parts for the band from the original Offenbach score.

As always the production credits in the programme are extensive and we are extremely appreciative of the work undertaken by everyone supporting those on stage. Again we are particularly indebted to Martin Jarvis for both his artwork for publicity and for his design of, and work on, the set. Thanks also to Alan Whitworth for his longstanding work on the programme.

Taking its name from Julian Avenue in Acton, the Society has provided a platform for light opera in Ealing since 1948. We appreciate the support of our Patrons and of those who attend our shows regularly - **if you are not on our mailing list, and wish to join this, or become a Patron, give your name with email address to a steward.**

We have a very good web-site - look us up at: www.julianoperatic.org for further information about the society or contact the Secretary, Debbie Edwards, on 0844 880 1852.

I hope you enjoy the performance.

Edwin Owen

Chairman

Page sponsored by Cheryl Chisnall

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS

Julian Light Operatic Society's
future ventures include

"By George"

In March 2014 - An informal musical entertainment
including buffet supper in aid of Society funds

and

THE MIKADO

by Gilbert & Sullivan, during Autumn 2014

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THE SONGS

Introduction

ACT ONE

Chorus – “The lights go down” ----- Chorus and Soloists
Chorus of Young Girls – “When the loss of youth” ----- with Hélène
Air – “It first begins with” ----- Hélène & Ladies Chorus
Quartet & Chorus – “Every night you’re” ----- Ore., Cal., Part., Leo., & Chorus
The Judgement of Paris – “On Mount Ida I espied” ----- Paris
March & Verses – “Prepare for trumpeting & drumming” ----- Kings & Chorus
Finale – “Glory! Glory!” ----- Soloists & Chorus

Entr’acte

ACT TWO

Ladies Chorus – “The night descends” ----- with Bacchis & Hélène
Hélène’s Plight – “My name is Hélène” ----- Hélène
The Goose Step – “Now the Kings” ----- Ach., Aga., Ore., Ajaxes, Hélène, Bacchis, Cal.
The Game – “Hip hip hooray” ----- Ach., Aga., Ore., Ajaxes, Hélène, Bacchis, Cal.
Offstage Nocturne – “In a life of” ----- Orestes & Chorus
The Dream Duet – “Do I Sleep?” ----- Hélène & Paris
Finale – “Enough! no more excuses!” ----- Soloists & Chorus

Entr’acte

ACT THREE

Chorus – “Let’s dance! & drink!” ----- with Orestes
Couplets – “Oh God – he’s” ----- Hélène
Patriotic Trio – “With all of Greece” ----- Agamemnon, Calchas & Menelaus
Chorus – “See in motion” ----- with Paris
Finale – “Finally – she’s coming” ----- Soloists with Chorus

First performance of this production, 20th November 2013

THE PLOT

Act One - The Temple of Jupiter in Sparta

The festival of Adonis is being prepared. Calchas is disappointed by so many flowers and would prefer goats for Jupiter who is moody. After consulting with Madame Philomena, Euthyclesia arrives to warn of censorship. Hélène of Sparta arrives with women, mourning the loss of Adonis.

Alone with Calchas, Hélène confides in him - she is obsessed with the Mount Ida story. Orestes enters accompanied by two girls, and entertains with a number about his wild social life.

Alone, and preparing for the sacrifice, Calchas is confronted by a shepherd who speaks of Venus and Mount Ida. Hélène is briefly alone with the handsome shepherd, when the Kings of Greece arrive to hold a quiz. It is won by the shepherd who reveals who he is, and is invited to dinner by Menelaus. Paris, wanting Hélène on her own, asks Calchas to fix it and an improvised prophecy from Madame Philomena sends King Menelaus off to Crete.

Act Two - Hélène’s Apartment

Hélène doesn’t want to dress up too sexily for the grand soirée of the Kings, as she wants to remain true to her husband. She is reluctant to get up and play boring board games with the Kings. Calchas tries to persuade Hélène to get up when Euthyclesia announces the arrival of Paris.

She agrees to let him in, if protected by the Kings whilst playing their board game. Meanwhile, Calchas gets Euthyclesia to “mark” the die used in the King’s game of goose. Paris enters, and tries to seduce Hélène, but she rejects his advances. Bacchis announces the arrival of the Kings who play the game and Calchas cheats.

Paris returns and shares a dream of love with Hélène, but is interrupted by the premature return of Menelaus. Agamemnon orders Paris to leave but he vows to return.

Act Three - The Beach at Nauplia

Venus has cast a curse of nymphomania over Greece because her promise of Paris and Hélène’s pairing hasn’t been fulfilled. Hélène is annoyed by her husband’s continual question “Why did she say it was only a dream?”.

Agamemnon and Calchas are fed up and want Menelaus to think of his country and give up Hélène for the cause. Menelaus, however, has a better plan and writes to Venus to suggest she sends a high priest over from Cythera to take back Hélène to sacrifice some goats. This happens, but the priest is Paris in disguise, who finally gets his prize.

THE CHORUS

Cabaret

Cathy Hickling
Martin Jarvis
Tim Perkins

Cecilia Jarvis
Murray Langton
Alan Whitworth

Cabaret Audience

Maureen Fitzpatrick - Browne
Mike Cuming
Helen Gargan
Laurence Klein

Graham Ceadel
James D'Souza
Jenny Davies
Lilias Lewis

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THE CHORUS



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La Belle Hélène

A new professional English version by Fraser Grant
with Jacques Offenbach's original music

Words Fraser Grant

Music Jacques Offenbach

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

Paris (*Prince of Troy*)

Menelaus (*King of Sparta*)

Agamemnon (*King of Greece*)

Calchas (*Grand Augur of Jupiter*)

Achilles (*King of Phiotis*)

Ajax A (*King of Salamine*)

Ajax b (*King of Locria*)

Hélène (*Queen of Sparta*)

Orestes (*Son of Agamemnon*)

Bacchis (*an attendant of Hélène*)

Leona (*Young "modern" lady of Sparta*)

Parthenis (*Young "modern" lady of Sparta*)

Madame Philomena (*a soothsayer, servant of Calchas*)

Euthyclesia (*The Stage Manager*)

Jim Heath

Mike Smartt

Marston York

Olivia Robinson

Russell Fleet

Tony Grace

Philip Lewis

Fiona Oliver - Smith

Kat Beaty

Joanna Cox

Carly Hilts

Victoria Heathcote

Debbie Edwards

Cheryl Chisnall

SCENE

BERLIN NIGHTCLUB 1938

Nightclub Entertainment: Act One - Jupiter Temple, Act Two - Hélène's Quarters, Act Three - Nuplia Beach

There will be an interval of 20 minutes between acts 1 & 2, but acts 2 & 3 follow on with no break
The show runs for about 2 hours 15 mins including the interval

Biographies



Jim Heath - Paris

James spent most of his teenage years and early twenties playing drums and singing in rock bands before deciding to change direction and move into rock musicals, then operetta and grand opera. He has worked with such companies as, Royal Opera House, English National Opera, Opera North, Scottish Opera, Oyster Opera, Garsington Opera, Carl Rosa Opera, and The D'Oyly Carte Opera Co. with whom he has also recorded. James has toured the U.S.A. with London City Opera in association with Columbia Artists performing Pinkerton in *Madam Butterfly* and has performed the role of The Duke in *Rigoletto* in Tokyo.

He has also performed the role of Ralph Rackstraw for the D'Oyly Carte Opera Co.

Mike Smartt - Menelaus

Promotion yet again for Mike Smartt. From a mere Baronet in *Ruddigore* to the Duke in *The Gondoliers* and now King of Sparta in *La Belle Hélène*. Due to his aristocratic good looks? Hardly. As his 16-year-old Queen Hélène says in Act 3 (the King is by his own admission, "pushing 60"): "Every time I turn around there you are! You and your horrid, fat, old face!" Typecasting more like.



Marston York - Agamemnon

Having studied at Drama Studio London, Marston has performed on stage, behind a microphone and in front of the camera whether people wanted him to or not. Having thoroughly enjoyed his first experience with JLOS as one of *The Gondoliers* in last year's show, the opportunity to be proper Royalty was too good to miss and his beard will be appearing as Agamemnon. When asked how he had prepared for the role, he answered simply, "Pies"

Olivia Robinson - Calchas

I keep picturing all these little kids playing some game in this big field of rye and all. Thousands of little kids, and nobody's around - nobody big, I mean - except me. And I'm standing on the edge of some crazy cliff. What I have to do, I have to catch everybody if they start to go over the cliff - I mean if they're running and they don't look where they're going, I have to come out from somewhere and catch them. That's all I do all day. I'd just be the catcher in the rye and all. I know it's crazy, but that's the only thing I'd really like to be.



Biographies



Russell Fleet - Achilles

Russell's previous JLOS credits are: Strephon (*Iolanthe*, 2010), Marco (*The Gondoliers*, 2012). A Questors acting member, his musical outings there are: Hysterium (*A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, 2007) and Pirelli (*Sweeney Todd - The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, 2010).

Tony Grace - Ajax A



I loved my very first role as a pike bearer in *The Yeomen of the Guard* in October 1998 at the Greenford Hall. I am so glad to perform as a thuggish albeit royal thicko, a role for which I am superbly suited. Thank you Fraser.



Philip Lewis - Ajax B

Having been with the Julian chorus for several years and finally summoning up the courage to audition for a part, I'm excited and a just a little nervous at the prospect of playing royalty (even if only a 'b' list royal). Still Ajax B is not an untypical royal, he's not the sharpest tool in the box, and his pursuits include gambling, drinking and the company of loose women. I think he would have certainly found his way into the tabloids. Like most ancient Greek Kings he ends up getting on the wrong side of the Gods, and was apparently drowned by Poseidon and washed up on the shores of Mykonos. Being rather fond of the Greek Islands myself, I'd say not a bad way to go!

Fiona Oliver - Smith - Hélène

Fiona Oliver-Smith, soprano (nee Tanner) studied at City University and GSMD graduating with BSc(Hons) in 1998. Roles include: *Dorabella*; *Fiordiligi*; *Rosina*; *La Contessa*; *Adina*; *Violetta*; *Mimi*; *Norina*; *Pamina* (& cover of *Madam Butterfly*). Fiona founded Garden Opera in 1994, and Oyster Opera in 2001.

Fiona has performed all over the world: for Matthew Parris, Spain; Hilary Devey; King of Jordan, Dubai; Elton John; Plácido Domingo, Qatar; European Space Agency, Frankfurt; Houses of Parliament; London Boat Show, Excel (as a mermaid); International Kite Festival, Singapore; the Orient Express; Gwangyang, South Korea (Incandescence Circus). She has recorded several CDs: including *Amore* with James Heath, and City of Prague Philharmonic Orchestra. Plans include *Lucia (di Lammermoor)* (www.oysteropera.com) director Fraser Grant in April, and UK premiere of *The Family Room* by Thomas Pasatieri in September.



Biographies



Kat Beaty - Orestes

This time last year, Kat was married to a jolly Gondolier. Today, she is drinking, womanizing, and embracing her masculine alter-ego. How times change! This is Kat's third show with the Julian and she has thoroughly enjoyed her first venture into Offenbach. Previous roles include Mabel in *The Pirates of Penzance*, Yum-Yum in *The Mikado* and Gianetta in *The Gondoliers*.

Joanna Cox - Bacchis

Joanna graduated in opera, and studied music theatre at Sadlers Wells and privately with Jenny Hill. She has won gold and silver awards in competitions, and has performed at The Appollo Theatre, in "Britains Got Talent", and with Morly Opera. She freelances, does live and corporate events, and is looking forward to her first performance with JLOS.



Carly Hilts - Leona

Carly joined JLOS last year, in the chorus of *The Gondoliers*. Having suffered terrible withdrawal, after graduation and relocation to London cruelly severed her from the Cambridge University Gilbert and Sullivan Society, with whom she had performed for several years, she was delighted to find such a friendly group right on her doorstep. This is her first go at Offenbach, but she hopes it won't be her last.

Victoria Heathcote - Parthenis

Victoria was attracted to JLOS because her first encounter with G & S was her grandfather's rendition of "Take a pair of Sparkling Eyes", when she was very tiny indeed. Despite being a non G & S, she is delighted to be performing in *La Belle Hélène*. She has an enduring passion with rock'n'roll, fashion, music and dance, and is thus very happy to be costuming her second JLOS production.



Debbie Edwards - Madame Philomena

Debbie's part this year involves Tarot Cards, tea leaves, a Crystal Ball and hooped earrings - the last being the most interesting to find as she's not got pierced ears. But all clues to her part this year

Cheryl Chisnall - Euthyclesia

Cheryl has been a real stage manager way back in school productions, but this is the first time she has 'acted' at being one! The last last time the Julian did *La Belle Hélène*, Cheryl played Leona, but this is a very different production to the version we did then! Cheryl teaches on and off, and sings with her church choir.



Biographies

Fraser Grant - Director



Opera Work includes *The Merry Widow*, *La Traviata*, *Carmen*, *Tosca*, *The Pearl Fishers*, *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *La Cenerentola*, *Don Giovanni*, *La Boheme*, *Madame Butterfly*, *Fidelio*, *Rigoletto*, *Die Fledermaus* and *The Magic Flute* for First Act Opera, *La Traviata*, *Così Fan Tutte*, *le Nozze di Figaro*, *Eugene Onegin*, *L'Elisir d'Amore* and *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* for Oyster Opera, *Eight Songs for a Mad King* for Solaris Music Theatre at the Purcell Room, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *The Mikado*, *Dido and Aeneas*, *La Cenerentola*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *HMS Pinafore*, *La Boheme*, *Nabucco*, *Orpheus in the Underworld* and *The Magic Flute* for Opera South East and *The Magic Flute* for Music Theatre Kernow. As a Theatre Director he has directed many productions including *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Tempest*, *Abigail's Party*, *The Wanderer*, *Broken Glass*, *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *The Threepenny Opera*. He directed the Scottish premiere of *Sondheim's Into The Woods*, and has won several awards for Best Production on the Edinburgh Fringe. His collaboration with playwright Lynne Harvey includes world premieres of *The Jingo Drill*, *C*, *Laugh Out Loud* and *Something For The Grown Ups*. He also works in Italy where he has directed touring productions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Tempest*, *Twist and Shout - The Beatles' Story*, *Jekyll and Hyde*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Blues Brothers*, *Hamlet*, *The Comedy of Errors* and *A Christmas Carol*. He also works as a lyricist and translator, frequently collaborating with the cabaret duo Opera Tottie. He has translated many opera libretti including *The Magic Flute*, *La Boheme*, *La Cenerentola*, *Orpheus in the Underworld* and *Die Fledermaus*, and of course, *La Belle Hélène*.

Paul Smith - Musical Director



Photo: David Usill

Paul's London shows include *Godspell*, *Stop the World I Want to Get Off*, *Oklahoma*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* at the National Theatre, *Paint Your Wagon*, *The Tempest* and *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* in Regents Park. Paul was musical director for Howard Goodall's new musical *Days of Hope* and for Danny La Rue, Ronnie Corbet and Anthony Newly on stage and on television. His cabaret and concert work have taken him all over the world, playing for Carolyn Allen, Pam Ayres, Sheila Steafel and Janie Dee. He has a wealth of experience in Victorian Music Hall and has played and arranged shows worldwide. He was resident M.D. at the Players Theatre for a number of years. He is a guest conductor for the British Festival Concert Orchestra for their classical and contemporary concerts. This is Paul's ninth show with JLOS.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

DIRECTOR
Fraser Grant

MUSICAL DIRECTOR
Paul Smith

Production Concept
Production Co-ordinator
Costume Design
Wardrobe Mistress
Costume Hire
Scenery Design & Construction
Lighting
Stage Manager
Front of House
Box Office
Publicity
Programme
Publicity & Programme Artwork
Chorus Master & Repetiteur
Vocal Score & Orchestral Transcriptions

Fraser Grant, Martin Jarvis
Debbie Edwards
Victoria Heathcote
Victoria Heathcote
Admiral Costumes
Martin Jarvis & Crew
Francois Langton
Kevin McCarthy
Friends of JLOS
Questors Theatre
Edwin Owen & Kat Beaty
Alan Whitworth
Martin Jarvis
Jan Cunningham
Peter Edwards

THE BAND

Violin 1 (Leader)	Julian Fish
	Alan Titherington
Violin 2	Dawn Kelleher
	Gosia Kuznicka
Viola	Nicky Pound
Cello	Lucinda Skinner/Tom Wraith
Double Bass	Elena Marigomez
Flute	Matt Smith
Clarinet	Chris Goodman
Bassoon	Danielle Hartley/Iona Garvie
Horn	Chrissie Ranson
Trumpet	Jonathon Spencer
Trombone	Don Logie
Percussion	Dave Neville



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Alvina Doughty

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