

Princess Ida

LET'S STUDY A PLAY TOGETHER

Summer 2012



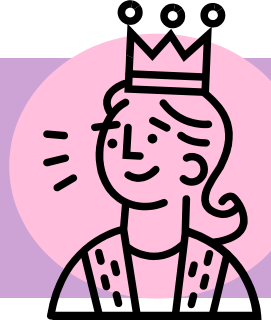
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CONTENT PLANNED FOR TODAY'S CLASS:

- William Schenk Gilbert
- Arthur Sullivan
- G&S Collaboration
- D'Oyly Carte's role
- Savoy Theater
- G&S – output

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TODAY'S CLASS CONTENT (cont.)

- Topsy Turvy trailer
- Class discussion
- Update on where our characters are now (Act II, start of Scene 4)
- Read Act II, III to end

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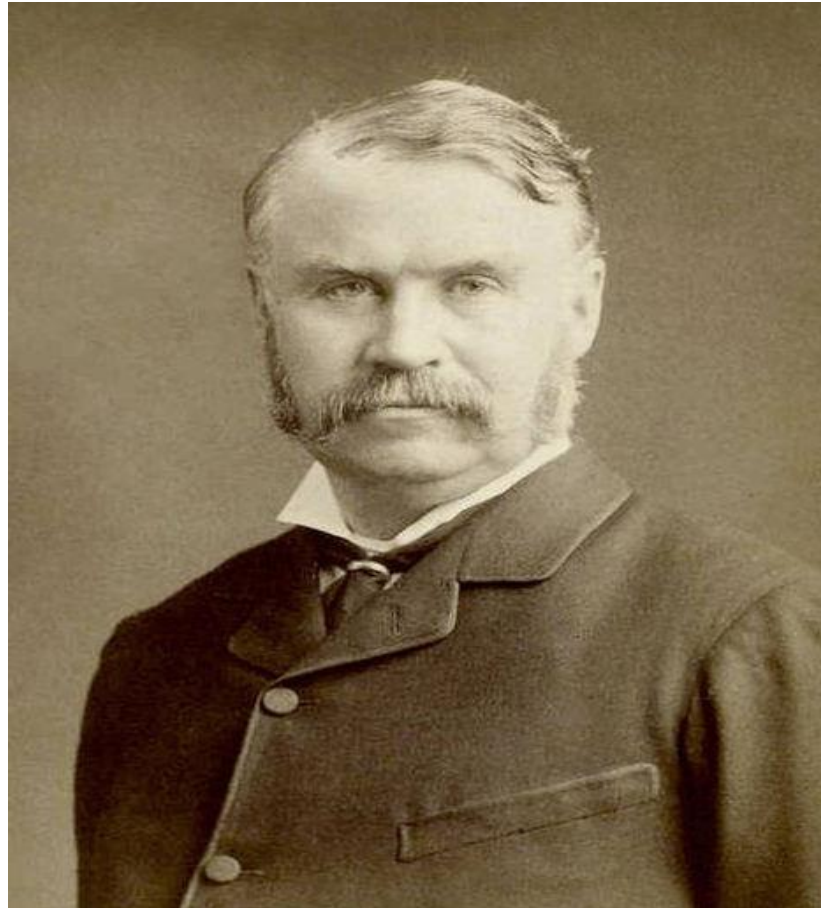
William Schwenk Gilbert (1836 -1911):

- Gifted writer and librettist
- Came from a nautical family
- Educated as a lawyer, but unsuccessful in that field
- Wrote satires, short stories, humorous poetry before meeting Sullivan
- Wrote an earlier “Princess Ida”

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- Gilbert (1879)



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Sir W. Schwenk
Gilbert



Sir W. S. Gilbert.

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Arthur Sullivan (1842 -1900):

- Gifted musician
- Classically trained
- Studied in Germany and Austria and held a Doctorate in Music
- Was a well-regarded conductor
- Wrote oratorios, operas, ballads, hymns, ballets, songs
- Wrote the music for “Onward, Christian Soldiers” and “The Lost Chord”
- A well-known Sullivan grand opera is “Ivanhoe”
- Considered possibly “the best English composer of the 19th century”

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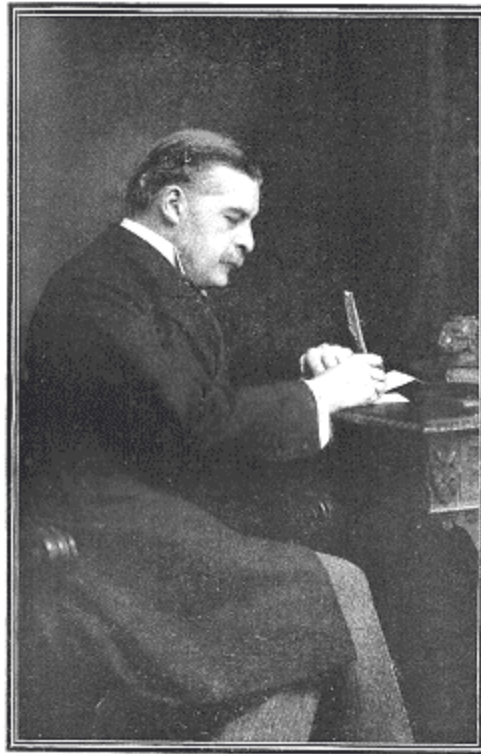
- Sullivan (1870)



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Sir Arthur Sullivan



Sir Arthur Sullivan.

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Richard D'Oyle Carte (1844 – 1901):

- Musician, ran a theatrical management company
- Desired to start a light opera company in London
- Had produced Sullivan's "Cox and Box"
- Introduced Gilbert to Sullivan – result "Trial by Jury" and twelve more

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Richard D'Oyly Carte (Cont.)

- Opened the Savoy Theater
- Hence, the Savoyards
- Theater Innovations at Savoy
 - First theater in London lit by electricity
 - Free theater programs
 - Tickets with row and seat assignments
 - Tea at intermissions
 - No tipping in cloakrooms

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Richard D'Oyly Carte (Cont.)

- Ran the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company for many years, producing the G&S light operas all over England
- Licensed G&S operas for performance by amateur theatrical companies
- Built the Palace Theater (for Sullivan's "Ivanhoe", not a commercial success), originally named the Royal English Opera House
- Built and ran the Savoy Hotel, owned Claridge's Hotel and other luxury hotels
- D'Oyly Carte Opera Company finally dissolved in 1982

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Richard D'Oyly
Carte



Richard D'Oyly Carte.

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Richard D'Oyly Carte As Business Manager:

- Put G&S under a 5 year contract:
 - Upon request, produce a new work within 6 months
 - When *Princess Ida* closed after “only” a 9 month run, D'Oyly Carte asked for a new work
 - SIR Sullivan was loath to produce, but...
 - Sullivan could not break the contract
 - Sullivan needed the money, as his investments had gone bust (with his broker)
 - Impasse

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Creative Collaboration Post-Ida:

- All Gilbert's ideas rejected by Sullivan – too silly, too repetitive of the magic potion
- Sullivan wanted to write serious music, or at least have the music be as important as the lyrics
- Gilbert was inspired by the Japanese exhibit in London
- Sullivan was amenable
- Consequence: *The Mikado*
- D'Oyly Carte was the mediator in the G&S quarrels
- All three eventually became financial partners

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G&S Output and Collaboration:

- G&S wrote a total of 13 light operas
- The majority were financially successful
- The partners and rivals quarreled over:
 - Whose work was more important
 - Who was knighted first by Queen Victoria
 - How to split the cost of replacing the carpet in the theater

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Creative Partnership:

- Gilbert wrote the synopsis, plot and lyrics first
- Sullivan wrote the melody and the orchestration
- Gilbert blocked all the scenes' movements, the scenery, the costumes, etc. (rehearsal micro-manager)
- Sullivan usually worked on composing the music until the last moment
- Sullivan always conducted the orchestra on opening night
- Gilbert was almost always elsewhere on opening night

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- Gilbert & Sullivan movie
 - [Topsy-Turvy Trailer](#)

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Online Resources:

URL for Gilbert and Sullivan Archive

<http://math.boisestate.edu/gas>

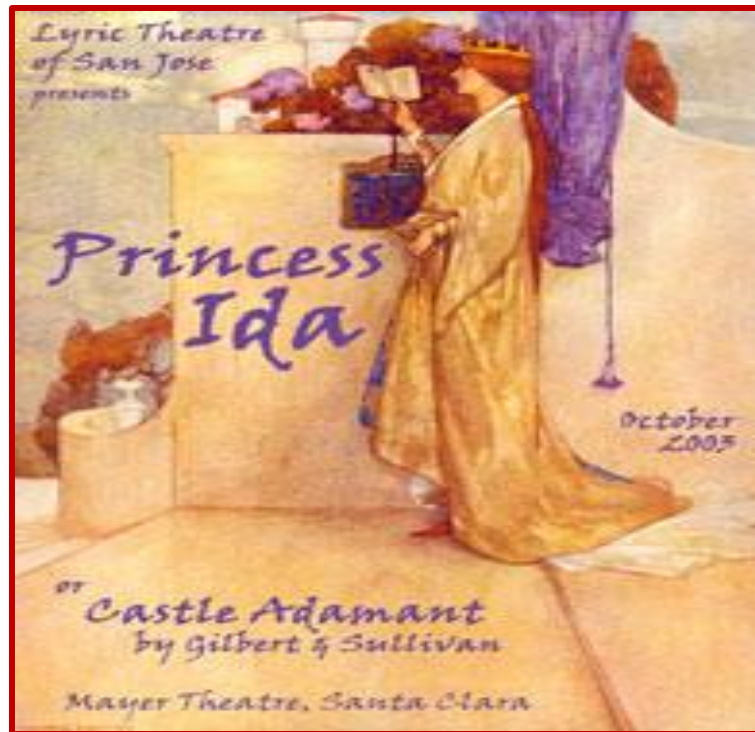
URL for DC Savoyards

<http://savoyards.org>

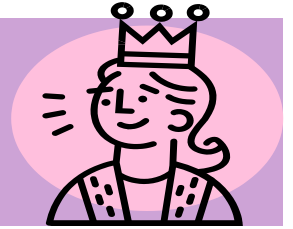
Wikipedia

Princess Ida - Characters

NOW TO UPDATE OUR CHARACTERS TO ACT II, Scene 4

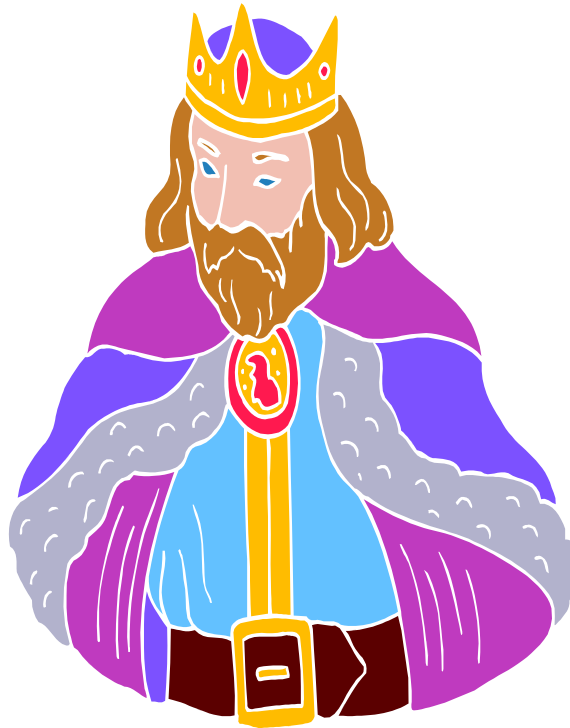


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- **Still in King Hildebrand's kingdom:**

King
Hildebrand



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- **Visitor to Hildebrand's kingdom, now in Hildebrand's prison as a hostage:**

King
Gama

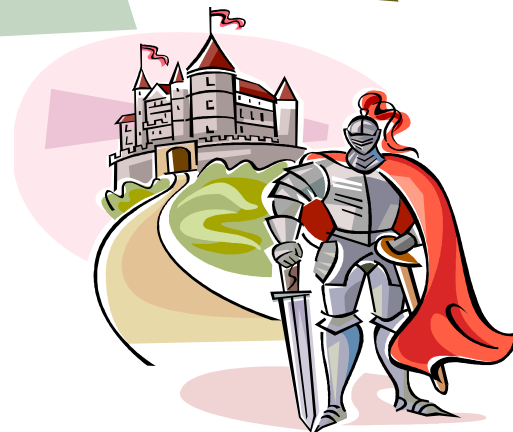


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- Visitors to Hildebrand's kingdom, now in Hildebrand's prison:

King
Gama's 3
sons Arac,
Guron,
Scynthius



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ACT II, Scene 4 In Castle Adamant:

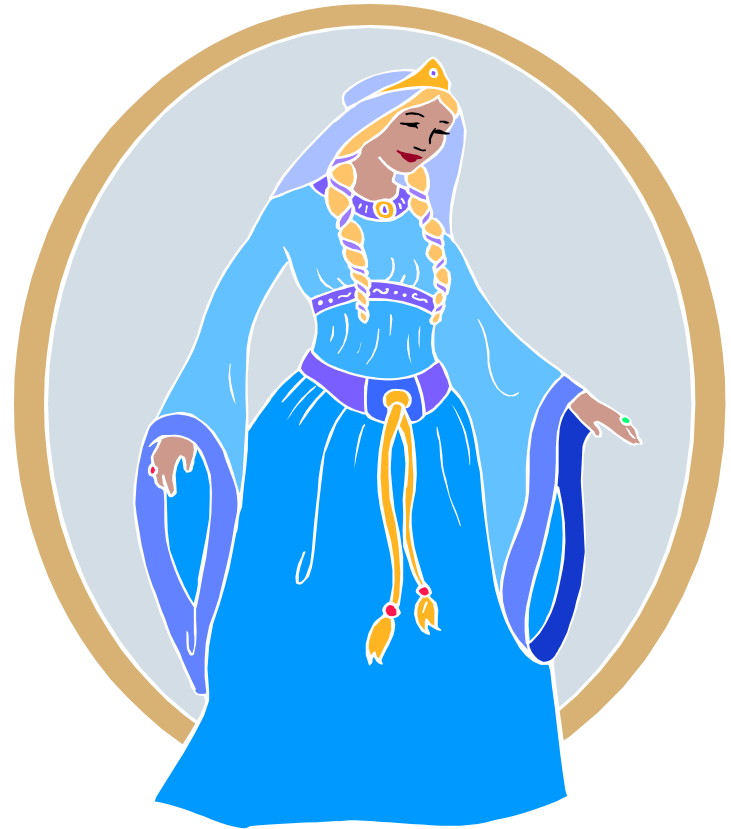


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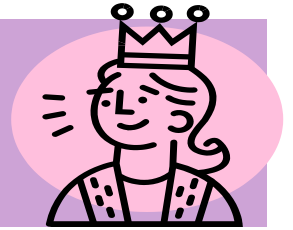


In Castle Adamant:

Princess Ida,
headmistress
of the school
Adamant



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In Castle Adamant:

Princess Ida is
about to show
her leadership
skills



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- **Now in Adamant, disguised as a female student (for the moment), looking to meet Ida**

Prince Hilarion,
King
Hildebrand's son



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- **Now in Adamant, disguised as girl students (at the moment) to aid Hilarion**

Prince
Hilarion's
friends,
Florian and
Cyril



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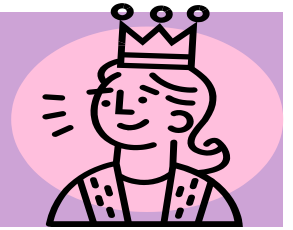


In Castle Adamant:

Lady Psyche,
sister of Florian,
has recognized
the disguised
men



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In Castle Adamant:

Lady Blanche, who has also penetrated the disguises, and schemes to replace the headmistress Ida

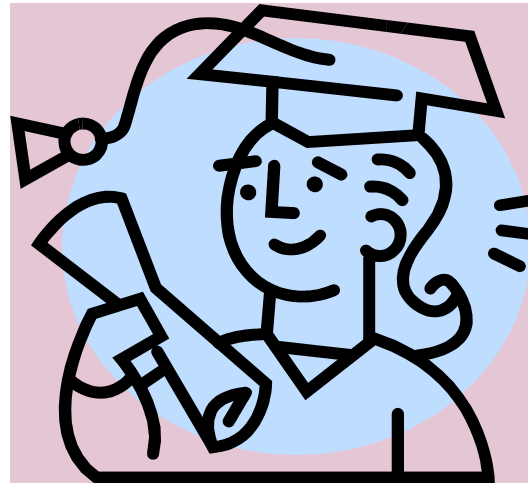


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In Castle Adamant:

Melissa, daughter
of Lady Blanche,
aiding her mother
but much
enamored of the
men (in general)



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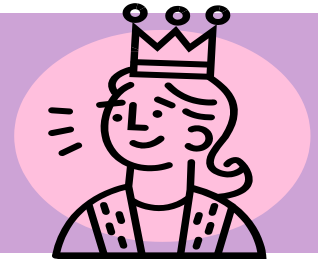


In Castle Adamant:

Sacharissa,
Chloe, Ada -
students



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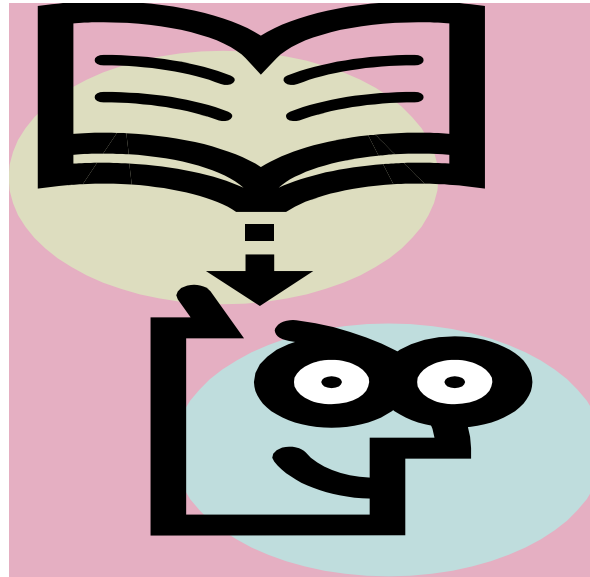
CLASS LOGISTICS

- Does everyone have the text?
- We will probably study another G&S opera next summer, so if interested hold onto your book for that class

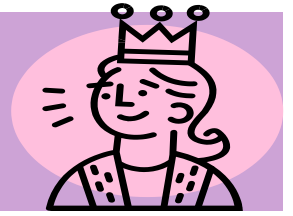
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Let's Begin Our Reading



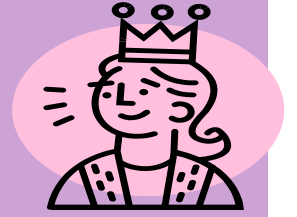
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Act II, Scene 4 Clips:

- Would You Know the Kind of Maid
- Some Years ago
- Though I am but a girl

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Act III Video Clips:

- Death to the Invader (chorus)
- I Built Upon a Rock (Ida)
- Whene'er I Poke (Gama)
- This Helmet, I Suppose (Arac)
- With Joy Abiding