

# TAKE A BOW

Gilbert & Sullivan's  
'H.M.S. Pinafore'  
undresses conventional  
rigging of society

By **PATRICK WEBB**  
FOR COAST WEEKEND

**T**he sturdily built British warship is laden with cannon and shot, packed with husky sailors ready to repel enemy boarders, all willing to die to protect their beloved Union Jack fluttering high in the rigging.

So who named their ship after a piece of women's clothing?

Theatergoers will have to attend to learn whether "H.M.S. Pinafore"

answers that question. W.S. Gilbert & Sullivan's comedy sets sail at the River City Playhouse in Ilwaco, Wash., on Friday, March 29, and runs for three weekends with Friday and Saturday evening performances and Sunday matinees.

The stage has been converted into a 19th-century sailing vessel by Andy Tauber, set designer and stage manager, complete with an authentic ship's wheel, bell and a bowsprit that pokes out from the stage into the audience. There's even a loaned

cannon from a 1903 shipwreck near Cape Disappointment.

The operetta made its debut in London in 1878, the first international hit of the duo's 14 collaborations that paved the way for "Pirates of Penzance" and "The Mikado." All three feature characters appointed to high office without a shred of skill or experience.

## Musical melodrama

As Freemasons, W.S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan held a core belief in

## IF YOU GO

Peninsula Players present  
Gilbert & Sullivan's "H.M.S. Pinafore"

**When:** Friday, March 29, through Sunday, April 14. Performances are 7 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays

**Where:** River City Playhouse, 127 Lake St., Ilwaco, Wash.

**Tickets:** \$15, in advance from Okie's Thriftway Market in Ocean Park, Wash., Stormin' Norman's in Long Beach, Wash., and the Old Towne Cafe in Ilwaco, Wash., by calling 360-244-3517 for will-call reservations, or at the door.

Produced by arrangement with the Dramatic Publishing Co.



Patrick Webb

The cast of Peninsula Players' latest production of "H.M.S. Pinafore" credits the costume crew of Darlene Montgomery and Peggy Immel with creating an authentic nautical look to the production. Pictured, back row left to right, are Andrea Patten, Rita Smith, Kevin Perry, David Immel, Robert Scherrer, Gretchen Goodson, Rose Power and Melissa Goldberg. In front, left to right, are sailors Patrick Buckley, Jim Tweedie, Aarin Hoygaard, Bob Goldberg, Bill Clark and Natasha Beals. Not pictured is Bette Lu Krause.