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Since then, Perry has appeared in comedic shows including “I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change” and “Uh-Oh, Here Comes Christmas.” His favorite role was a scheming sailor with an eyepatch in the Gilbert and Sullivan operetta “HMS Pinafore.”

“Months after the play, I was in Costco and heard someone say, ‘Hey, look! There’s Dick Deadeye.’ I just turned around and waved — I’m a celebrity,” Perry said.

At 65, the opportunity to portray someone different is an attraction, he said.

“It has exposed an artistic side of me I was not aware of,” Perry said. “I enjoy becoming my character.”

Playing the part

It is common for community theater actors and backstage crew to recruit their partners to share the fun. Perry’s wife, Deborah, has styled hair and make-up for several shows, and once ran show lights. He credits her with asking Scherrer to encourage him to try out.

For the next musical comedy, Deborah Perry will appear on stage in four small roles, some with lines.

She attended high school in St. Louis, where she thrived doing make-up and

special effects. She was cast as the female lead in “Dracula,” although as a super shy child and young adult that role was a rare but memorable experience, she said.

“I had a blast doing it,” she said.

Deborah Perry studied at a beauty school and had a career as an esthetician, specializing in skin beautification like facials and body waxing. Her talents transferred perfectly backstage when she joined the Peninsula Players several shows ago.

“She’s very helpful in the whole process, from helping choosing the right wig for a particular role, to actually styling and getting it to look just right,” said Rose Power, one of the troupe’s regular character actors. “Wigs get kind of beat-up between performances and she’s great at coaxing them back into perfect condition.”

The rescheduled dates for “A Bag Full of Miracles” have yet to be determined, since COVID-19 restrictions haven’t yet made it possible for the crew and cast to gather in close quarters for a show. Until they can get back to work, both Deborah Perry and Kevin Perry eagerly anticipate the show’s return.

“Kevin will keep the audience in stitches as he plays the part of a gay antique dealer,” Smith said. “The song he sings will rock the house.”



Patrick Webb

Kevin Perry, right, as Dick Deadeye in the Peninsula Players’ “HMS Pinafore.”

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