

## Gilbert and Sullivan CBRT Script

By Kate Davenport, a student in Dr. Rosalind Flynn's course, The Teaching of Theatre, at  
The Catholic University of America

- 1 & 2: Let the punishment fit the crime!  
(Gesture)
- 3&4: What?
- 3: What did we do wrong?
- 5-10: Nothing! (Gesture)
- 1: We were just quoting from a Gilbert –  
2: and Sullivan –  
1 & 2: Opera. (Gesture)
- 4: Who are Gilbert and Sullivan?
- 5: W.S. Gilbert was a writer who wrote poetry  
and plays. (Gesture)
- 6: Arthur Sullivan was a composer who wrote  
operas and symphonies. (Sound  
Effect)
- 7: Together they wrote –  
ALL: Fourteen operas.
- 8: Their first collaboration was *Thespis*.
- 9: In it, the Greek gods feel old and tired...  
(Sound and Gesture)
- 10: So they are replaced by a troupe of actors.  
(Sound and Gesture)
- 3: How... bizarre.
- 7: Gilbert drew inspiration for many of their  
shows' plots from poems he had  
written called *Bab Ballads*.
- 2: He was famous for his stories that seemed  
to turn the world upside-down.
- 5: The style was called –  
ALL: Topsy Turvy. (Sound and Gesture)
- 4: He sounds so interesting. I'd like to meet  
him.
- 8: Gilbert and Sullivan wrote their operas a  
long time ago.
- 9: How long ago?
- 10: They collaborated in the late 1800's  
during the –  
3&10: Victorian Era.
- 3: Meaning, Queen Victoria was ruling  
England. (Sound and gesture.)
- 1: Their operas were so important to England  
that Gilbert and Sullivan were both –  
ALL: Knighted! (Gesture)
- 2: That's Sir Gilbert to you! (Gesture)
- 8: Well, that's Sir Sullivan to you! (Gesture)
- 4: Were all of their plays performed in  
England?
- 5: They were performed in England, and their  
operas toured internationally including
- 6: Europe and –  
7: America! (Gesture)
- 8: Their shows were so popular that many  
theatres pirated the operas. (Sound and  
gesture)
- 9: Meaning Gilbert and Sullivan were not  
always paid even though their operas  
were produced –  
ALL: All over the world (Gesture)
- 6: Which is funny when you think about it,  
since one of their most famous shows  
was *The Pirates of Penzance* (Sound  
and Gesture)
- 7: They wrote about pirates?
- 10: Sure! Pirates –  
2: And sailors (Gesture)
- 5: And kings (Gesture)
- 6: And sorcerers (Gesture)
- 7: And fairies! (Gesture)
- 4: Are Gilbert and Sullivan operas still  
performed today?  
ALL: Of course! (Gesture)
- 1: You can see their operas at high schools –  
8: Or community theatres –  
9: The famous D'Oyly Carte Opera Company  
in London *only* performs Gilbert and  
Sullivan.
- 10: They have been performing Gilbert and  
Sullivan for over –  
ALL: 130 years!
- 3: I've already forgotten. Who wrote the  
music –  
4: And who wrote the words?  
5: This is how we remember it.
- 6: Sullivan starts with an "S" and he wrote  
the—  
ALL: Songs (Gesture)
- 7: Gilbert starts with a "G" and he wrote the –  
ALL: Gab. (Gesture)
- 1: Well, I'll never forget that!
- 2: What, never?  
ALL: No, never! (Gesture)