

The ZOO

A New and Original Musical Folly in One Act
Written by Bolton Rowe (B.C. Stephenson)
Composed by Sir Arthur Sullivan

Cast

THE ZOO

Aesculapius Carboy David Euresti '01
an impecunious apothecary

Eliza Victoria Davis '04
proprietor of the Refreshment Stall

Thomas Brown Seth Bisen-Hersh '01
suitor to Eliza

Laetitia Ana Albir '04
loved by Carboy

Grinder Cemocan Yesil '03
father of Laetitia

CHORUS OF LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

Gregory Baker (C)	Ashley Kim '03
Sara Camden	Yan-Yan Lam '04
John Covert (C)	Jenna Lourenco
Kate Cunningham	Robert Morrison '96
Ishani Das '02	Jim O'Donnell
Art Dunlap	Jesse Sullivan (C)
Hilde Heremans '01	Eric Tung '04

PRESHOW

Tour Guide Ishani Das '02
Angelina Ashley Kim '03
Edwin Gregory Baker (C)
Judge Tyler Hains '00
Counsel Art Dunlap
First Bridesmaid Sara Camden

Production Staff

Producer MITG&SP ExecComm
Assistant Producer Sara Camden
Directors Rebecca Hains (C),
Stephanie Wang '02
Conductor Tyler Hains '00
Choreographer Jennifer Condon
Performance Pianist Katherine Bryant
Technical Director Stephanie Wang '02
Stage Manager Rachel Cailleff '96
Set Design Catherine Havasi '03
Costumers Hilde Heremans '01,
Jenna Lourenco,
Paiyarut "Jean" Kanjanavaikoon '02
Lighting Designer Mike Bromberg '70
Master Carpenters Daniel Berger '01,
Susama Agarwala '01
Master Electrician Brian Trimmer (G)
Properties Managers Hilde Heremans '01,
Stephanie Wang '02, Ky Lowenhaupt (C)
Light Board Operator Catherine Havasi '03
Makeup Artists Erik Lars Myers,
Rebecca Hains (C)
Tyke Mommy Jessica Raine
Publicity Hilde Heremans '01,
Paiyarut "Jean" Kanjanavaikoon '02
Program Designer Erica Schultz (C)
Set Crew Ana Albir '04,
Seth Bisen-Hersh '01, Rachel Cailleff '96,
Sara Camden, Kate Cunningham, Ishani Das '02,
Victoria Davis '04, Jim O'Donnell, Rebecca
Hains (C), Tyler Hains '00, Hilde Heremans '01,
Paiyarut "Jean" Kanjanavaikoon '02, Ashley
Kim '03, Yan-Yan Lam '04, Ky Lowenhaupt (C),
Robert Morrison '96, Eric Tung '04

Lighting Crew Rachel Cailleff '96,
John Covert (C), David Euresti '01,
Catherine Havasi '03, Robert Morrison '96,
Eric Tung '04, Stephanie C. Wang '02

MITG&SP Executive Committee

President David Euresti '01
Treasurer Stephanie Wang '02
Secretary Jean Kanjanavaikoon '02
Publicity Officer Hilde Heremans '01
Member-at-Large Robert Morrison '96

Acknowledgments

Gregory Baker	Hilde Heremans
Seth Bisen-Hersh	Yan-Yan Lam
Mike Bromberg	Albert Leija
Melissa M. Bull	Robert Morrison
Matt Cain	Erica Rome
David Daly	Larry C. Stone
Matt Hanna	Eric Tung
Ben Hellman	

Association of Student Activities
Campus Activities Complex
MIT Musical Theater Guild
MIT Theater Arts

Directors' Note

Greetings, visitors! Welcome to the Zoological Gardens of London, brought to you by the MIT Gilbert & Sullivan Players. This workshop production of *The Zoo* was launched in January to give students the opportunity to walk in the spotlight and learn the art of stagecraft.

As the directors of this little establishment, we would like to warn you that *The Zoo* is not for the weak-of-heart, for it is full of melodrama: dashing lads who have suicidal tendencies, rich lords who propose to poor women, and charming young ladies who defy their villainous fathers. Furthermore, *The Zoo* is a dangerous place after dark, so please remain in your seats and keep your hands and feet within your sphere of influence.

We do regret that our dear patron William S. Gilbert will not be joining us tonight. Arthur Sullivan's riveting music, however, will bring life and splendor to the Victorian satire of Mr. Bolton Rowe—whom some of you may know as B.C. Stephenson, librettist of *Dorothy*, which gave *The Mikado* a run for its money in the mid-1870s.

More recently—at auditions for this show, the turnout of talented individuals was incredible! As a result, we are proud to note that this is the first MITG&SP show in recent memory boasting *students only* in its leading roles. We were even able to split up some chorus music

between individuals in the cast and devised a pre-show (involving a fun excerpt from *Trial By Jury*) to showcase the talent in this group.

The show you will see today is the end product of a truly collaborative, enriching, and worthwhile effort. In co-directing, the two of us set out to be stage director, music director, and vocal coach as “one individual.” And what fun—and hard work—it has been! Everyone proved up to the challenge of the intensive, 3½-week rehearsal period. We just couldn't have done it without the MITG&SP Executive Committee, Assistant Producer Sara Camden, Stage Manager Rachel Cailleff, and our wonderful cast and crew! We thank them all for their enthusiasm and dedication.

With sincere pleasure,
Rebecca Hains
Stephanie C. Wang

A Brief History

The Zoo premiered at the St. James' Theatre in London on June 5th, 1875. Prompted by the unexpected popularity of *Trial By Jury* two months earlier, Arthur Sullivan composed the score, and “Bolton Rowe” wrote the libretto for this one-act comic opera. It never gained the popularity of *Trial*, which racked up about 300 performances over the next two years; in contrast, the initial run of *The Zoo* lasted for just over a month, with only brief revivals in October 1875 and April 1879.

In later years, the manuscript disappeared. Gilbert and Sullivan fans never granted it the same “Holy Grail” status that the lost score to *The Sorcerer* maintains to this day, but they theorized that some of the songs may have survived through reuse in other operas. This theory was disproven when Dr. Terence Rees, a noted Sullivan researcher, found the manuscript score in a vault at Coutts Bank. Rees purchased the score at auction in 1965, helped the Fulham Light Opera return the show to the stage in 1971, and published a piano reduction on the piece's centennial in 1975.

In 1978, the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company released their world-premiere professional recording of *The Zoo*, to much excitement within the G&S community. This recording has been reissued on the D'Oyly Carte CD of *The Sorcerer*. Although the lyrics lack the intricacy and sparkling wit of Gilbert's lyrics, *The Zoo* enjoys its own popularity today, with occasional performances as a curtain-opener for the G&S operettas.

Synopsis

As the operetta begins, members of the British Public walk about the Zoological Gardens of London. They discover Aesculapius Carboy atop a chair, making ready to hang himself from the verandah of the Refreshment Stall. He beseeches them to help him by kicking the chair out from under him. Although they refuse to help, they don't stop him, either, saying, “By all means, hang yourself up high . . . but let us know the reason why!”

Carboy explains that he is in love with Laetitia, and sought her hand in marriage from Mr. Grinder, her father. Grinder immediately refused Carboy's offer, saying, “She'll marry whom I choose, and not an apothecary.” Furthermore, Grinder forbade all communication between the couple.

One day, Carboy says, Laetitia's mischievous sister prompted him to send Grinder a lotion that would cause a painful blister to form on his skin. He decided that he would in fact send it, along with a “dose” of peppermint to please Laetitia. But, alas! Carboy's assistant switched the labels, so Laetitia must have ingested the blister lotion! That would have killed her, so as his song concludes, he moves back towards the stall for another suicide attempt.

If you liked Zoo, you'll love the Spring Show!

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Eliza Smith, who manages the Refreshment Stall, orders Carboy to desist (after all, it would probably hurt business if his corpse were dangling from her stall). Thomas Brown, who has been wooing Eliza, suspects that Carboy is a rival, but she reassures him.

Laetitia arrives in search of Carboy; it seems her sister sent the message about the mix-up of labels as a joke. The two sing a duet of rapturous reunion; Eliza and Thomas Brown sing their own duet in counterpoint, a patter-song about all the refreshments Thomas has been consuming while hanging around Eliza's stall. Suddenly Thomas collapses. Carboy, as an apothecary, insists that he must not be crowded or moved, so the chorus crowd around Thomas and try to move him, offering a multitude of conflicting second opinions. Finally Thomas comes to and announces weakly: "It was the last bun." Carboy sends Eliza off to get a prescription for him. Then, continuing his medical examination of Thomas, he discovers the Order of the Garter beneath his coat and diagnoses that "he's a peer in disguise!" Thomas, recovering, admits to this; he has come here incognito "in search of virtue" and found it in Eliza. He goes off to change his costume.

Laetitia's father, Mr. Grinder, now appears in search of his "wicked daughter" and Carboy. He rebukes them, calling her "Heartless undutiful child" and him "Vilest Compounder of potions." They (and the chorus) try to appeal to Grinder's finer feelings, but unfortunately he doesn't seem to have any. So Carboy again resolves on suicide and sings "Fetch me a rope!" The chorus, ever helpful, provides one. Carboy sings a touching farewell to Laetitia, and uses the rope to lower himself into the Bear Pit.

At this dramatic moment, Thomas Brown—actually the Duke of Islington—returns in all his ducal splendor and reveals his True Identity to Eliza, asking her to marry him. She is reluctant to leave "the beasts I loved so well," distraught at the thought that without her and her refreshments, the grizzly bears and other animals might not be fed. But Thomas, truly a Sensitive Male before his time, reassures her: he has bought all the animals, apparently as a wedding present, and the baboon, raccoon, et al. will accompany them. As he tenderly sings: "Every morn, at early dawn, the gentle armadillo, / Or rattlesnake, when you awake, you'll find upon your pillow."

Eliza is touched by his thoughtfulness. As they sing of their happiness (accompanied by the chorus), Carboy's voice is heard from the Bear Pit. ("Great Heavens! I had forgotten," remarks Laetitia.) Carboy reemerges from the Bear Pit; the chorus is annoyed at his arousing their sympathy and then not dying. He explains that the bears seem to have been relocated; instead, he will "try the lion's den." Thomas, however, moved by

his devotion, has come to a financial arrangement with Grinder to obtain permission for Laetitia's marriage to Carboy, and gives the two of them "double the amount"—ten thousand a year. So all prepare for a future of joy unbounded (with wealth surrounded) as the curtain falls. ✽

Who's Who at The Zoo

Ana Albir '04 (Laetitia), possible Course 2 major, is participating in her first Gilbert and Sullivan production (and she's very happy about that). She participated in the *Simply Sondheim* Musical Revue and in the Concert Choir Fall and Winter Concerts.

Gregory Baker C (Edwin, Chorus) is new to MITG&SP, but is a veteran of over 40 productions. Highlights include Marco (*Gondoliers*), Frederic and Sergeant of Police (*Pirates of Penzance*), and Joseph (*Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*). He has also performed at Carnegie Hall, Mercyhurst College, and St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

Seth Bisen-Hersh '01 (Thomas Brown) is ecstatic he's only IN the show instead of having directed, musically directed, & produced it like last fall (*Simply Sondheim*) & this spring (*Trivial Pursuits*, also composed by him).

Mike Bromberg '70 (Lighting Designer)—This is Mike's third design in lighting-friendly Morss Hall. He has designed lights for numerous plays, musicals, operas, and ballet, and has published over a dozen articles on lighting.

Sara Camden (Asst. Producer; First Bridesmaid, Chorus) found she had too much time on her hands being solely a cast member in *Iolanthe*, *Princess Ida*, and *The Sorcerer*. With the help of prod staff, every minute of her day is now allocated.

Rachel Cailleff '96 (Stage Manager)—Having decided that computers are boring but that most other activities are hard to do with a broken collarbone, Rachel has decided to give stage managing a try.

John Covert C (Chorus) is appearing with MITG&SP for the first time, and is glad for this opportunity to appear in the seldom-presented *Zoo*, having previously performed in almost all G&S operas.

Kate Cunningham (Chorus), despite being an agnostic polytheist, is giving up writing bios for Lent.

Ishani Radha Das '02 (Tour Guide, Chorus)—Pursuing a major in 16 and a minor in theatre arts, I dream that one day I will star in poignant films.

Victoria Davis '04 (Eliza)—Hailing from Columbus, OH, this is Victoria's first show at MIT. She is a member of the women's tennis team and c-haus worker. Thank you for coming—enjoy the show!

David Euresti '01 (President; Co-Producer; Carboy)—He's a lead! He's a lead! A lead in disguise!

L. Tyler Hains '00 (Conductor, Judge) was promoted at the last minute from chorus member to conductor, allowing his wife-director to do her job. This is his conducting debut outside of church.

Rebecca Consentino Hains C (Director) is pleased that *The Zoo* marks her G&SP directorial debut. She first joined the group in 1995, and originally tried to limit her responsibilities to being on stage. But after playing Rose Maybud in *Ruddigore* ('97), things changed. She meddled with makeup on a semi-regular basis, served as casting director for *Iolanthe* ('99), and has been asked to consider directing so many times that she finally gave in!

Catherine Havasi '03 (Set Design, Light Board Operator) was only going to do one thing for this show. Really.

Hilde Heremans '01 (Publicity Officer; Co-Producer, Costumer, Publicity, Props; Chorus) has learned an important lesson: Never declare free time. She will be sure to have fun on stage when all the work is done.

Paiyarut "Jean" Kanjanavaikoon '02 (Secretary; Co-Producer, Costumer, Publicity) tried to stay away from this production and failed miserably. Typical.

Ashley H. Kim '03 (Angelina, Chorus) likes to watch enzymes move along DNA one at a time.

Yan-Yan Lam '04 (Chorus) is a first-year physics major at MIT. She would like to thank everybody for making her first time on stage as entertaining as possible. Enjoy the show as much as she has! :0)

Jenna Lourenco (Costumer; Chorus) is pleased to begin her whirlwind comeback tour. Next up, Emmanuel College's *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* in March. Love to Connor & Joe who make all things possible.

Robert Morrison '96 (Member-At-Large; Co-Producer; Chorus) is by nature a minimalist.

Erik Lars Myers (Makeup Artist) is wondering just what to answer when his grandmother asks him, "Honey? Where did you learn so much about makeup?" Don't worry, grandma: I like girls.

Erica Schultz C (Program Designer) is taking a break from appearing onstage in order to do what she does all day long anyway: play around with words and pictures on the computer.

Jesse Sullivan C (Chorus) is a fifth grader at Agassiz School and Sole Proprietor of Hercules & Co., Family Sorcerers (formerly J.W. Wells & Co.), Number 70 St. Mary Axe, London, England. Moo.

Brian Trimmer G (Master Electrician) has no biography. For, having a biography requires having a life. I hope to have a life some day, after I escape the clutches of the theater!

Eric Tung '04 (Chorus)—Despite swearing to stay away from G&SP during IAP to help concentrate on 10.001, Eric still finds himself hauled back. He suspects that this rope they tied around his waist might have something to do with it.

Stephanie C. Wang '02 (Treasurer; Co-Producer, Director, Technical Director, Props)—Banished from the backstage, MITG&SP's Slave of Duty will serve the next term of her sentence as a player on the stage or suffer bodily harm at the hands of many conspirators.

Cemocan Yesil '03 (Grinder)—This is Cemocan's fourth musical production at MIT. He is greatly enjoying being the bass-baritone villain in this show after a few years on stage as the romantic tenor lead. ✽

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