

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

NO. 83
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MUSEUM OF MODERN ART FILM PROGRAM TO HONOR D'OYLY CARTE OPERA COMPANY WITH GILBERT & SULLIVAN FILMS

To honor Britain's D'Oyly Carte Opera Company on the 100th birthday of H.M.S. Pinafore, the operetta whose American success made Gilbert & Sullivan internationally famous, The Museum of Modern Art's Department of Film will be showing the two best-known Gilbert & Sullivan films in a program prepared and introduced by operetta expert Richard Traubner. The films to be shown are The Mikado (1939) at 2:30 and The Story of Gilbert & Sullivan at 6:00 on Monday, September 18. Repeat showings without introduction are scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, September 23 and 24 at noon.

Both films will be in 35 mm and Technicolor, providing a rare opportunity for New York admirers of Gilbert & Sullivan and the D'Oyly Carte to see them as they were originally released. The Mikado stars Martyn Green and Sydney Granville, two of the most famous D'Oyly Carte stars, and Kenny Baker, an American singer, in what Mr. Traubner calls "One of the most beautiful British films ever made." The Story of Gilbert & Sullivan is a musical biography with excerpts from many of the operettas fully staged and sung by Martyn Green and other well-known British singers, plus a cast including Robert Morley as Gilbert, Maurice Evans as Sullivan, Peter Finch as Richard D'Oyly Carte and Eileen Herlie as Helen D'Oyly Carte.

The D'Oyly Carte Opera Company, which recently appeared to sold-out houses at Lincoln Center's New York State Theater, has been presenting Gilbert & Sullivan around the world since the 1875 premiere of Trial by Jury. In 1975, the D'Oyly Carte celebrated this centenary by producing all of the Gilbert & Sullivan works, in order, in one two-week stretch at the Savoy

Theatre, the original home for many of these works in London. Following their current tour of the United States and Canada, further engagements in London and elsewhere in Great Britain, the Company will tour Australia for the first time in 1979. The D'Oyly Carte Opera Company is universally recognized as the standard for all Gilbert & Sullivan, whether on stage or on recordings, and is currently managed by The D'Oyly Carte Opera Trust and Dame Bridget D'Oyly Carte, granddaughter of founder Richard D'Oyly Carte.

Richard Traubner, who presented this program at the American Film Institute at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. in April, 1978, is currently completing a history of operetta for Doubleday & Co. He writes regularly on operetta for several publications as well as RCA, CBS, and Angel Records, having lectured extensively on Gilbert & Sullivan and European operetta and served as operetta consultant for WNET/Channel 13 and WNEW/Channel 5 in New York. His classes on Gilbert & Sullivan, operetta and musical comedy history are now in their sixth season at The New School for Social Research.

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For further information, contact Kent Wittrup (212) 956-7296, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, New York 10019. Photographs available on request.
