The plot revolves around Frederick (Peter Noone), an apprentice to the pirates because of a slight error made by his nanny, Ruth (Marsha Hughes), who was supposed to apprentice the lad to a pilot, but didn’t quite hear it right the first time. Our hero reaches the ripe old age of twenty-one and, freed from his bonds of duty, vows to destroy the pirates and all the evil they represent.

The slightly warped-daughters of Major-General Stanley (Don Lyden) and a quartet of hobbling bobbies led by their delightful sergeant (Paul Ainsley) unite to aid Frederick in his noble cause, and in the final engagement (so to speak), good triumphs over evil, sort of.

Along the way, the Major-General proves himself not only a terrible talker, but a cunning linguist as well, as Leyden excels in his song “I am the Very Model of a Modern Major-General.”

But wait, forget not the beautiful maidens, the object of our hero’s affection, Major Mabel (Carolyn Poston). Poston’s excellent voice is highlighted in “Poor Wandering One” and “Sorry Her Lot,” a song from H.M.S. Pinafore.

Noeing is a convincing twenty-one year old, perhaps in part because he still looks like one of Herman’s Hermits, the group he led in the 1960s (Henry the Eighth, I am). The show is spectacular, entertaining, and more than anything else-fun. See it, you’ll be an instant fan of Gilbert and Sullivan and the New York Shakespeare Festival.

Barry S. Surman

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