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AESTHETICISM IS IN !

Tips on how to be aesthetic:-

- 1. Sigh a lot.
- 2. Carry a plant around to sigh at.
- 3. Sigh a lot about the superiority of early English days.
- 4. Wear droopy clothes and floppy hats in pale colours.
- 5. Make enthusiastic but meaningless comments about any poem you hear.
- 6. A good head of hair (preferably long) is essential

SOCIAL FAUX-PAS FOR THE AESTHETIC:-

*Eating fish and chips.

*Having a sun tan.

*Knowing how to use a screwdriver.

*Referring to Shelley, Byron and Tennyson as a lot of "big girls blouses".

*Watching "Gladiators". =

USEFUL AESTHETIC COMMENTS:"Oh misery!"
"How earnestly precious!"
"Our tastes have been etherealized"
"How all but!"

"How purely fragrant"
"Tastefully Early English..."



NEVER, NEVER SAY:"See you later, mate."
"He's a right ponce!"
"Pint of Bitter and a packet of pork scratchings please."
"Well actually the mediaeval sewage systems were pretty appalling..."

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ACT I

The 35th Dragoon Guards, having returned from a year's manly pursuits and macho posturing abroad are hornfied to find that their fiancees have abandoned them in favour of Bunthome (a big girl's blouse poet) and have embraced the aesthetic poetry movement. (Didn't the long scarf shop do well). Bunthome loves Patience - a mere milk maid (the only one with any common sense whatsoever). Patience does not return the sentiment (surprise surprise) and keeps her distance until some fool tells her that love is a duty, not a pleasure, and then she feels morally bound to marry Bunthome (definitely not pleasurable).

Briefly the ladies return to their dragoons whose egos are again punctured when the ladies set eyes on the supremely aesthetic Archibald Grosvenor (whose tiny, emaciated figure and lank limbs attract their attention and adulation). They desert their fiancees and swarm over "Archibald the All-Right" ("Take-That" hadn't been invented then).

ACT II

(If anybody is still reading this far!) Everyone is depressed, especially Bunthome who is suffering withdrawal symptoms from a lack of admiration. The Colonel, Major and Duke decide that they must turn aesthetic in order to win back their women (and do it surprisingly well - it must be all those years in the employ of H.M. forces). The two ladies come in and are suitably impressed.

Meanwhile Bunthome, egged on by Lady Jane (Gilbert & Sullivan's answer to a rottweiler), has summoned up his courage to threaten Grosvenor into un-aestheticising himself so that the ladies will detest him. Bunthome becomes cheerful, and now that he would be a pleasure to love, Patience deserts him for the hideously commonplace Grosvenor. The ladies also discard their aestheticism and return to their Dragoons in a typically silly Gilbert & Sullivan ending. Bunthome is left with the only person who truly loves him - himself!

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<u>CAST</u>

Officers of the Dragoon Guards
Colonel CalverlyGraham Mitchell
Major MurgatroydRichard Beilby
Lieutenant the Duke of Dunstable
Laurence Driver
Batman to the DukeTom Barritt
Reginald Bunthorne
(a fleshly poet)John Peet
Archibald Grosvenor
(an idyllic poet)Kris Hopkins
Mr Bunthorne's SolicitorGary Fox
·
Rapturous Maidens
The Lady AngelaMargaret Goss
The Lady SaphirAnn Fox
The Lady EllaJulia Westhead
The Lady JaneJosephine Clement
-
Patience
(a dairy maid)Briony Rainsford

Lighting.....Geoff Lynch

Paul McAndrew Stage Manager Andrew Lloyd

WardrobeJoan Ayres
PropsAmanda Clement
Make-upMay Meegan, Carol Moorehen,
Judith Aldridge, Theresa McClennon
PromptsJeannine McAndrew
Rehearsal AccompanistsBernadette Charles,
Alix Lubonski, Sarah Thompson,
Front of HouseSarah Lloyd,
Peter Fox, Theresa McClennon, Keith Vasey
RefreshmentsMary Scanlon, Betty Barritt,
& a loyal band of helpers
Poster/Programme DesignDerrick Green
PhotographyPeter Normally
Programme Typesetting Andrew Lloyd
Officers of the Society
ChairpersonCatherine Hopkins
SecretaryMarissa Whitwell
TreasurerCath Lyons
Business Manager Pam Lloyd

Special Thanks To

James Colclough for coming from Lincoln to give us Master classes and for his interest and encouragement

<u>Terry Lofthouse</u> for his help, advice and support since The Carmel Players were founded

Roger for his talents in set design and decorating

Geoff Howarth for his constant help and patience

The Methodist Community in Silsden for their consistent welcome and hospitality, without which this performance would not have been possible.

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