

LA VERBENA DE LA PALOMA

THE PHARMACIST AND THE GIRLS



From your hosts



Have you noticed that some of the best Broadway shows are revivals of the classics that have done so well? That is our formula. From a repertory of more than 1,000 classic Zarzuelas, we choose the very best. We translate these traditional Spanish Operas into English and adapt them for English speaking audiences at the same time preserving all the beautiful music, colorful period costumes and the sincere stories with their universal plots.

A Zarzuela is a classic Spanish musical not unlike some of our Broadway musicals, except the music is more opera-like, and is always sung by opera singers. The word *zarza* means a thorny blackberry bush like those surrounding the summer palace of King Philip IV where the *Zarzuela* art form originated in the mid 1600's.

The play you will see today, *La Verbena de la Paloma*, is perhaps the most popular Zarzuela ever composed. It premiered in 1894 at the Apolo theater in Madrid where it was virtually an overnight success. In no time, the work was being performed in every major Spanish city and soon premiered in several European cities, in Mexico and in nearly every country in South America. In one hundred years, the work's popularity hasn't diminished, instead, it has acquired the solemnity and stability of a masterpiece.

About the name of the play; The composer decided to give his play two names. First, he called it *La Verbena de la Paloma* (literally the festival of the dove) which is the principal religious festival of Madrid even today. This festival was the setting for the play. However, the composer wanted his audience to know that the real story of the play was a love story interfered with by a comical, old pharmacist who was taking the tenor's girlfriend to the festival, so to make sure the audience got the point, the composer added the second name, *The Pharmacist and the Girls*.

After attending the first act of our performance, *La Verbena de la Paloma*, we complete our *Night In Madrid* by attending a night club act. This, our second act is built around the impressive talents of the world renown dancers *Pascual Olivera and Angela del Moral* in their return visit to the Jarvis Conservatory.

Leticia and William Jarvis

Synopsis

La Verbena De La Paloma *or The Pharmacist and the Girls*

The story takes place in the 1800's on the night of the Festival of the Dove, August 14, which to this date is the most popular festival in Madrid. Julián is a young typesetter who works in a printing house, and who is in love with Susana. He is very jealous, and because of this he makes the girl suffer, so that she decides to get back at him. Susana lives with her sister Casta and their Aunt Antonia, an unpleasant and quarrelsome woman who has a raucous voice. The pharmacist of the neighborhood is Don Hilarión, a dandy of an old man (he is 70) who protects the two sisters and flirts with them.

Next to the pharmacy there is a tavern whose proprietors are Rita and her husband. Rita is Julián's godmother, but like a second mother to him, she advises him to leave Susana and forget her. But Julián is a very lovelorn young man, and he threatens to make a scene if his jealousy of Susana is found to be justified.

The first scene of *La Verbena De La Paloma* presents Don Hilarión, the pharmacist, and Don Sebastián, an old friend. Don Sebastián makes light conversation and teases his pharmacist friend about his amorous escapades. At the other side of the stage, when Rita goes over to Julián's table, he sings his famous song about being lovelorn, and Rita joins him in a duet.

In the second stage setting, there is a flamenco café and an animated scene of dancing by the local crowd of young people. A mazurka is played which Casta and Susana listen to from their home, and then proceed

to dance to the music.

As night falls, there ensues a picturesque conversation between the night watchman of the district and the two policeman. These droll characters add a lot of color to the piece.

In the same setting Don Hilarión arrives at Casta and Susana's house. Julián later appears in front of the house with Rita, who is staying with Julián in case he should think of doing something rash. When the two sisters come out of the house on Don Hilarión's arm, Julián stops them and reproaches Susana. Then Julián attacks the pharmacist. Aunt Antonia screams; the policeman, the night watchman and the landlord arrive and manage to stop Julián. In the midst of the uproar, a police inspector arrives and takes the declarations of the parties involved. He decides to arrest Aunt Antonia for being disrespectful to him. Don Sebastián intercedes on behalf of Julián, who on the spot confesses his love for Susana, who in turn declares her love for him.

Julián approaches Susana singing again the first lines of his famous *Dónde vas con mantón de Manila* song and she repeats the first lines of her reply. Julián ends by asking her to go with him to the *Verbena*, and she accepts. As they walk toward the *Verbena* they go off stage to the Third Stage Setting which is an open air dance pavilion for the *Verbena* where the people are celebrating. The lights of the pavilion come on, one after another until there is a gaily lighted *Verbena* scene. All the cast are on stage for a spirited closing number.

La Verbena De La Paloma

Zarzuela in one act

Music by Tomás Bretón Libretto by Ricardo de la Vega

First Performance: Madrid, Teatro Apolo, February 17, 1894

Translation and adaptation by William Jarvis

<i>Don Hilarión</i>	Pharmacist, about 70 years old	Andrew Moore	Comic Tenor
<i>Don Sebastián</i>	Don Hilarión's friend	Juan Sánchez-Lozano	Bass
<i>Julián</i>	Boyfriend of Susana, Printing shop clerk	Davíd Robinson	Tenor
<i>Señora Rita</i>	Bar proprietor	Donna Sadlicka	Soprano
<i>Susana</i>	Girl about 20, blond	Julie Ness	Soprano
<i>Casta</i>	Susana's sister, brunette	Camille Zamora	Soprano
<i>Aunt Antonia</i>	Casta and Susana's Aunt	Nina Hedderich	Mezzo Soprano
<i>Cantaora</i>	Flamenco singer	Barbara Landis	Mezzo Soprano
<i>Tavernkeeper</i>	Ramón Perez, Tenor	<i>Inspector</i>	Joe Lewis
<i>Cardplayer 1</i>	Abraham Aviles, Tenor	<i>Neighbor Woman</i>	Jennifer Samson, Mezzo
<i>Cardplayer 2</i>	Aldo Ruiz, Tenor	<i>Neighbor Man</i>	Christian Anzalone, Tenor
<i>Night Watchman</i>	Ethan Herschenfeld, Bass		
<i>Policeman 1</i>	Christian Anzalone, Tenor	<i>Girl 1</i>	Siobhan Mahoney, Soprano
<i>Policeman 2</i>	Abraham Aviles, Tenor	<i>Girl 2</i>	Ann Simmons, Mezzo
<i>Dance Specialists</i>	Rebecca Feder Suzanne Mendieta Aldo Ruiz Juan del Valle	<i>Lead Guitarist</i> <i>Guitarist</i> <i>Guitarist</i>	Jason McGuire Dan Fries Seth Hankins

Jarvis Conservatory Orchestra of 28 Musicians

Directed by Jean-Louis LeRoux

Place: A typical neighborhood of Madrid.

Epoch: The day of the annual Festival of the Dove, a warm day in August at the end of the Nineteenth Century.

Yamaha is the official piano of the Jarvis Conservatory

Meet the Cast

David Robinson



Tenor David Robinson (*Julián*) was born in Mexico City. There, he performed five seasons with the National Opera Company. To further his vocal career, David came to America on a Fulbright Scholarship and participated in various programs including the Academy of Vocal Arts. He has been successful in numerous competitions and will be playing major roles with Opera North and the Palm Beach Opera later this year.

Andrew Moore



Andrew (*Don Hilarión*) is familiar to Jarvis Conservatory audiences, now appearing in his fifth Zarzuela. He is a Hawaiian native and a graduate of the Hartt School of Music in Connecticut. He has appeared with Opera San José, Oakland Lyric Opera, Bear Valley Music Festival and locally at the White Barn. He is currently preparing for his debut with Donald Pippen's Pocket Opera and is a prominent voice teacher.

Donna Sadlicka



As the first place winner of the Sergio Franchi Vocal Award, Donna (*Rita*) appeared at the Italian American Foundation in Washington, D.C. with President Clinton in attendance. She has sung featured roles with the Tulsa Opera and recently made her debut with the Hawaii Opera Theater to rave reviews. She is a regular performer with the Chicago Opera Factory, where she has sung lead roles in eleven Zarzuelas.

Nina Hedderich



Nina (*Antonia*) is from Guadalajara and now makes her home in El Paso where she has appeared in several of the summer Zarzuela productions there including *La Verbena de la Paloma* which was broadcast on PBS. She has a degree in Architecture and is currently pursuing a degree in music and mathematics education at the University of Texas at El Paso. At UTEP she has also appeared in numerous theater productions and oratorios. She also teaches math, reading and bilingual study skills.

Camille Zamora



Soprano Camille Zamora (*Casta*) has been a featured soloist in the U.S. and Europe with American Festival for the Arts, London Symphony Orchestra Outreach and the Aberdeen International Festival Orchestra among others. She performed on the BBC and was recently featured in a gala of operatic and Zarzuela arias televised live from Mexico's Teatro de la Paz. She graduated with honors from the Eastman School of Music and currently resides in New York City.

Julie Ness



Soprano Julie Ness (*Susana*) is delighted to be involved in her first Zarzuela production with Jarvis Conservatory. Most of her experience has been in opera and concert works with such companies as Opera San Jose, Stockton Opera and Rogue Valley Opera and with such ensembles as American Bach Soloists and the San Francisco City Chorus and Orchestra. A native of New York, Ms. Ness now makes her home in San Jose.

Juan Sánchez-Lozano



A bass-baritone Juan (*Don Sebastián*) was born in Mexico City and currently resides in Los Angeles. He performed in *La Dolorosa* at the Jarvis Conservatory in 1996, and since then, has played a number of major roles on the West Coast including the title role in *La Nozze di Figaro* and will play the King in *Aida* later this year.

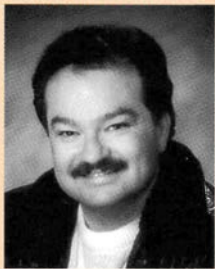
Barbara Landis



A mezzo soprano Barbara (*Cantaora*) has sung the role of *Carmen* in the Dominican Republic and has portrayed *Aldonza* in the *Man of La Mancha* throughout the eastern United States. In Chicago, she has studied Spanish dance with Pascual Olivera and Angela del Moral. She regularly performs in opera and theater in the Chicago area and can be heard on Cedelle Records.

Cast

Ramón Perez



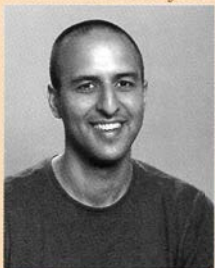
A tenor Ramón (*Tavern keeper*) was born in Temaca, Mexico. He received his B.A. from Humboldt State University where he studied English Literature and vocal music. He earned his J.D. at UC Berkeley. Ramón was part of the first Zarzuela productions at the Jarvis Conservatory in 1996. Ramón has performed extensively in California and Mexico, and performs regularly in the Sacramento area.

Abraham Aviles



A tenor, Abraham, (*CardPlayer, Policeman*) has focused on comic opera roles. He is a California native who received much of his training at the Community Music Center in San Francisco and in New York. He appeared in the Jarvis Conservatory's first Zarzuela productions of *La Gran Via* and *La Dolorosa*, in 1996. He was trained in social work at San Francisco State University, and continues to pursue his singing career as well.

Ethan Herschenfeld



A bass, New Yorker Ethan (*Night Watchman*) has performed roles recently in Austria and Sweden and is often called upon to sing the role of Osmin in Mozart's *The Abduction from the Seraglio*. He got his start in theater at Harvard where he pursued his undergraduate degree in English and American Literature. He is active as both a singer and an actor and performs at New York comedy clubs as a stand-up comic.

Jennifer Samson



Mezzo Soprano Jennifer (*Neighbor Woman*) has a Bachelor's degree from the Eastman School and a Master's from the Manhattan School of Music. In addition, she has studied acting at the London School of Drama and has worked with the Berkeley Shakespeare Repertory Theater. Now living in New York, she has been featured in numerous musical theater and operatic roles and performed recitals throughout the U.S. and Mexico.

Siobhan Mahoney



A soprano, Siobhan (*First girl*) is originally from Seattle, Washington. She received her musical training at Arizona State University. She has performed as a singer and an actress in a number of operas and plays, and this summer, she will travel to the Slovak Republic to sing in the *Marriage of Figaro*. Also a dancer, Siobhan loves to do the Argentine tango.

Ann Simmons



Ann (*Second girl*), a mezzo soprano, has appeared in opera and oratorio throughout the New York tri-state area. She recently made her New York City theater debut as Gila in *One for the Road* in addition to the role of Woman in *Night*, both by Harold Pinter. Ann holds a Bachelor's degree in Opera from the University of Hartford's Hart School of Music.

Christian Anzalone



A tenor, born and raised in the Pacific Northwest, Christian (*Neighbor Man, Policeman*) was introduced to opera there. He moved to the Los Angeles area in an effort to pursue advanced training and access more performance venues. As a leading regional tenor, he has performed on both coasts and looks forward to further work in Europe. Hobbies include health and medicine and outdoor activities.

Joe Lewis



An actor (*Inspector*) he hails from Brooklyn, New York and is now a Napan active in Dreamweavers Theater. His interest in theater began in College in Buffalo where he started in lighting and set design and soon moved to acting. He joined the U.S. Navy and remained there for 32 years, always active in community theater and Armed Forces Radio and TV at his various assignments. At Dreamweavers, he most recently played the role of Willy Loman in *Death of a Salesman*.

Cast

Suzanne Mendieta



Suzanne has performed with Theater Flamenco, Rosa Montoya's Bailes Flamencos, the Arabesque Dance Company, and most recently with Michael Smuin's *Dances With Songs*. Her flamenco skills were showcased in the San Francisco Opera's production of *La Traviata*. She holds a degree in Health Science and graduated Magna Cum Laude from San Francisco State University.

Rebecca Feder



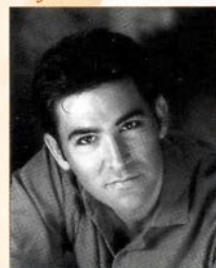
Dancer Rebecca Feder was trained in classical ballet but has devoted the past 15 years to Flamenco and regional Spanish dances. She regularly travels to Madrid to both study under dance master Javier De La Vega and to teach. She performs regularly with some of the Bay Area's top Spanish dance troupes.

Aldo Ruiz



Dancer Aldo Ruiz (*Card Player*) began his training with Patri Nader in Capitola, CA and performed with Theater Flamenco in San Francisco. He appeared in the San Francisco Opera's production of *La Traviata* and has toured several times internationally. Aldo is currently preparing to spend the summer studying in Spain.

Juan del Valle



A dancer Juan began his classical training in Santa Clara with Benjamin Reyes. While on scholarship at the Conservatoire National de Bobigny in Paris, he began studying Flamenco. He has toured with the Romería Flamenca and as guest choreographer with Neva Russian Dance Ensemble of San Francisco. He is a company member of Teatro Flamenco and can be seen at the Bolero Restaurant in Marin.

Jason McGuire



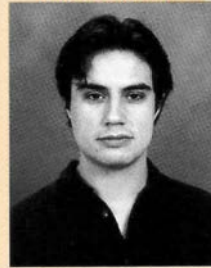
A guitarist he is well known in the Bay Area as a performer, music director and teacher. He came to the Bay Area from Texas via New York City. He is the recipient of the "DeeBee" award presented by *Down Beat* Magazine and was a finalist in the American String Teachers Association National Guitar Competition.

Dan Fries



San Francisco native, guitarist Dan Fries, is a multi-instrumentalist. He has played in Javanese Gamelan and African percussion ensembles, and has played tuba in the UC Berkeley marching band and jazz bass. His interest in Flamenco took him to Spain last year where he studied and performed. He was recently selected as a recipient of the Bay Area Performing Arts Fellowship, a grant for promising young musicians.

Seth Hankins



He began playing guitar at the age of 12 studying rock, blues and reggae. At 15, he was given a recording of famed guitarist, Sabicas. He was captivated by the soul and technique displayed on the recording and augmented his studies to include classical and flamenco music as well as music theory. He has studied at Chabot College and at the International Summer Flamenco Workshops in Albuquerque and Santa Fe. He is currently a student of Jason McGuire.

Set Designer
Lighting Designer
Artistic Director
Costumer
Wigs/Makeup
Coach Accompanist

Peter Crompton
Joan Arhelger
William Jarvis
Melody Anderson
Terri Pohrman
Marilyn Thompson
Fran Fannelli
Svetlana Gorzhavskaya
SuzAnne Wilson
Carolyn Bandy
Michael Barney

Stage Manager
Properties
Technical Director



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