

# Firehouse presents 'Pirates of Penzance'

## SPECIAL TO THE BEACH NEWS

NEWBURYPORT | Tickets are now on sale for Gilbert & Sullivan's operetta "Pirates of Penzance," presented by the Firehouse Center for the Arts and Fringe Players from July 13-23 at the Firehouse,

located on the waterfront in downtown Newburyport's Market Square.

G&S's outrageously hilarious musical combines catchy tunes and humor that has withstood the test of time — at least 125 years. The beauty,

wit and whimsy of this classic score is suffused with a modern sensibility making this an excellent choice for this summer's production. The sheer number of memorable roles makes this a favorite for theater goers and Gilbert & Sullivan fans alike.

Directed by Jim Murphy, "Pirates of Penzance" tells the story of young Fredrick, who is ending his 21st year in the apprenticeship of the Pirate King after his hard-of-hearing nurse assigned him to a pirate instead of a pilot. He soon meets and falls in love with Mabel, the daughter of the "very model of a modern Major-General." He hopes to redeem his past wrongdoings of piracy and devote his life to exterminating all pirates.

The night before Frederick leaves to hunt down pirates, the Pirate King visits to tell him he was born on a leap year making him five years and a quarter and that the apprenticeship contract said

he must work for the pirates until his 21st birthday — meaning he must work for 84 more years.

The Fringe Players is an offshoot of one of the largest and oldest student organizations at Northern Essex College. The Players began as a group of NECC theatre alumnae seeking additional opportunities to act and as a means of bringing theater into other performance venues. The Firehouse is excited to collaborate with this group of talented folks and to bring this comic operetta to the Firehouse stage with a cast of more than 30 people.

Performances are Thursdays through Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., with Sunday matinees at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$18 for members, Seniors and students. For tickets and more information call the Firehouse box office at (978) 462-7336 or visit online at [www.firehouse.org](http://www.firehouse.org).



**GUARDING THE HARBOR** — Portsmouth Harbor Light and Fort Constitution is a prime place to watch vessels entering and leaving the harbor.

— Beach News Photo by John Hirtle • ElseWhenStudio.com

## 'Romeo and Juliet' at Players' Ring

### SPECIAL TO THE BEACH NEWS

PORTSMOUTH | The Players' Ring, located at 105 Marcy Street in Portsmouth, presents "Romeo and Juliet," playing now through June 25 on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 7 p.m.

Written in 1595, "The Most Excellent and Lamentable Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet," commonly referred to as simply "Romeo and Juliet," is arguably William Shakespeare's most famous work, and certainly one of the most well-known love

stories in Western history.

Far from being a simple love story, "Romeo and Juliet" is also a story of honor, duty, loyalty, politics, family, and passion. The prevalent themes of this Shakespearean classic are timeless and remain relevant today.

Tickets for "Romeo and Juliet" are \$10 for general admission and \$8 for students and Seniors. The theater opens one half hour prior to showtime. For reservations or for more information, call (603) 436-8123.

## Open house at the lighthouse

### SPECIAL TO THE BEACH NEWS

NEW CASTLE | The Friends of Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse in New Castle will hold this season's first lighthouse open house on Sunday, June 25 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

During that time, visitors are invited to climb to the top of the 1878 tower to get a magnificent view of Portsmouth Harbor as well as a close-up look at the active, fourth order Fresnel lens.

Flat shoes are strongly recommended. Children

under 42 inches tall are not permitted to climb to the top, and adults are not permitted to carry children up the stairs.

There is a suggested donation of \$2 for adults and \$1 for children. Reservations are not necessary.

The lighthouse is located off Route 1B in New Castle, adjacent to Fort Constitution and the Coast Guard station at Portsmouth Harbor. For more information, visit [www.portsmouthharborlighthouse.org](http://www.portsmouthharborlighthouse.org) or call (603) 431-9155.

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