

# The Zoo



A New and Original Musical Folly in One Act  
Written by Bolton Rowe (B.C. Stephenson)  
Composed by Sir Arthur Sullivan

## Cast

### THE ZOO

Aesculapius Carboy ..... David Euresti '01  
*an impecunious apothecary*  
Eliza ..... Victoria Davis '04  
*proprietor of the Refreshment Stall*  
Thomas Brown ..... Seth Bisen-Hersh '01  
*suitors to Eliza*  
Laetitia ..... Ana Albir '04  
*loved by Carboy*  
Grinder ..... Cemocan Yesil '03  
*father of Laetitia*

### CHORUS OF LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

Gregory Baker (C) ..... Ashley Kim '03  
Sara Camden ..... Yan-Yan Lam '04  
John Covert (C) ..... Jenna Lourenco  
Kate Cunningham ..... Robert Morrison '96  
Ishani Das '02 ..... Jim O'Donnell  
Art Dunlap ..... Jesse Sullivan (C)  
Hilde Heremans '01 ..... Eric Tung '04

### PRESHOW

Tour Guide ..... Ishani Das '02  
Angelina ..... Ashley Kim '03  
Edwin ..... Gregory Baker (C)  
Judge ..... Tyler Hains '00  
Counsel ..... Art Dunlap  
First Bridesmaid ..... Sara Camden

### Production Staff

Producer ..... MITG&SP ExecComm  
Assistant Producer ..... Sara Camden  
Directors ..... Rebecca Hains (C),  
Stephanie Wang '02  
Conductor ..... Tyler Hains '00  
Choreographer ..... Jennifer Condon  
Performance Pianist ..... Katherine Bryant  
Technical Director ..... Stephanie Wang '02  
Stage Manager ..... Rachel Caileff '96  
Set Design ..... Catherine Havasi '03  
Costumers ..... Hilde Heremans '01,  
Jenna Lourenco,  
Paiyarat "Jean" Kanjanavaikoon '02  
Lighting Designer ..... Mike Bromberg '70  
Master Carpenters ..... Daniel Berger '01,  
Susama Agarwala '01  
Master Electrician ..... Brian Trimmer (G)  
Properties Managers ..... Hilde Heremans '01,  
Stephanie Wang '02, Ky Lowenhaupt (C)  
Light Board Operator ..... Catherine Havasi '03  
Makeup Artists ..... Erik Lars Myers,  
Rebecca Hains (C)  
Tyke Mommy ..... Jessica Raine  
Publicity ..... Hilde Heremans '01,  
Paiyarat "Jean" Kanjanavaikoon '02  
Program Designer ..... Erica Schultz (C)  
Set Crew ..... Ana Albir '04,  
Seth Bisen-Hersh '01, Rachel Caileff '96,  
Sara Camden, Kate Cunningham, Ishani Das '02,  
Victoria Davis '04, Jim O'Donnell, Rebecca  
Hains (C), Tyler Hains '00, Hilde Heremans '01,  
Paiyarat "Jean" Kanjanavaikoon '02, Ashley  
Kim '03, Yan-Yan Lam '04, Ky Lowenhaupt (C),  
Robert Morrison '96, Eric Tung '04

Lighting Crew ..... Rachel Caileff '96,  
John Covert (C), David Euresti '01,  
Catherine Havasi '03, Robert Morrison '96,  
Eric Tung '04, Stephanie C. Wang '02

### MITG&SP Executive Committee

President ..... David Euresti '01  
Treasurer ..... Stephanie Wang '02  
Secretary ..... Jean Kanjanavaikoon '02  
Publicity Officer ..... Hilde Heremans '01  
Member-at-Large ..... Robert Morrison '96

### Acknowledgments

Gregory Baker	Hilde Heremans
Seth Bisen-Hersh	Yan-Yan Lam
Mike Bromberg	Albert Leija
Melissa M. Bull	Robert Morrison
Matt Cain	Erica Rome
David Daly	Larry C. Stone
Matt Hanna	Eric Tung
Ben Hellman	

Association of Student Activities  
Campus Activities Complex  
MIT Musical Theater Guild  
MIT Theater Arts

### Directors' Note

Greetings, visitors! Welcome to the Zoological Gardens of London, brought to you by the MIT Gilbert & Sullivan Players. This workshop production of *The Zoo* was launched in January to give students the opportunity to walk in the spotlight and learn the art of stagecraft.

As the directors of this little establishment, we would like to warn you that *The Zoo* is not for the weak-of-heart, for it is full of melodrama: dashing lads who have suicidal tendencies, rich lords who propose to poor women, and charming young ladies who defy their villainous fathers. Furthermore, *The Zoo* is a dangerous place after dark, so please remain in your seats and keep your hands and feet within your sphere of influence.

We do regret that our dear patron William S. Gilbert will not be joining us tonight. Arthur Sullivan's riveting music, however, will bring life and splendor to the Victorian satire of Mr. Bolton Rowe—whom some of you may know as B.C. Stephenson, librettist of *Dorothy*, which gave *The Mikado* a run for its money in the mid-1870s.

More recently—at auditions for this show, the turnout of talented individuals was incredible! As a result, we are proud to note that this is the first MITG&SP show in recent memory boasting *students only* in its leading roles. We were even able to split up some chorus music

between individuals in the cast and devised a pre-show (involving a fun excerpt from *Trial By Jury*) to showcase the talent in this group.

The show you will see today is the end product of a truly collaborative, enriching, and worthwhile effort. In co-directing, the two of us set out to be stage director, music director, and vocal coach as “one individual.” And what fun—and hard work—it has been! Everyone proved up to the challenge of the intensive, 3½-week rehearsal period. We just couldn’t have done it without the MITG&SP Executive Committee, Assistant Producer Sara Camden, Stage Manager Rachel Caileff, and our wonderful cast and crew! We thank them all for their enthusiasm and dedication.

With sincere pleasure,  
Rebecca Hains  
Stephanie C. Wang

### A Brief History

*The Zoo* premiered at the St. James’ Theatre in London on June 5th, 1875. Prompted by the unexpected popularity of *Trial By Jury* two months earlier, Arthur Sullivan composed the score, and “Bolton Rowe” wrote the libretto for this one-act comic opera. It never gained the popularity of *Trial*, which racked up about 300 performances over the next two years; in contrast, the initial run of *The Zoo* lasted for just over a month, with only brief revivals in October 1875 and April 1879.

In later years, the manuscript disappeared. Gilbert and Sullivan fans never granted it the same “Holy Grail” status that the lost score to *Thespis* maintains to this day, but they theorized that some of the songs may have survived through reuse in other operas. This theory was disproven when Dr. Terence Rees, a noted Sullivan researcher, found the manuscript score in a vault at Coutts Bank. Rees purchased the score at auction in 1965, helped the Fulham Light Opera return the show to the stage in 1971, and published a piano reduction on the piece’s centennial in 1975.

In 1978, the D’Oyly Carte Opera Company released their world-premiere professional recording of *The Zoo*, to much excitement within the G&S community. This recording has been reissued on the D’Oyly Carte CD of *The Sorcerer*. Although the lyrics lack the intricacy and sparkling wit of Gilbert’s lyrics, *The Zoo* enjoys its own popularity today, with occasional performances as a curtain-opener for the G&S operettas.

### Synopsis

As the operetta begins, members of the British Public walk about the Zoological Gardens of London. They discover Aesculapius Carboy atop a chair, making ready to hang himself from the verandah of the Refreshment Stall. He beseeches them to help him by kicking the chair out from under him. Although they refuse to help, they don’t stop him, either, saying, “By all means, hang yourself up high . . . but let us know the reason why!”

Carboy explains that he is in love with Laetitia, and sought her hand in marriage from Mr. Grinder, her father. Grinder immediately refused Carboy’s offer, saying, “She’ll marry whom I choose, and not an apothecary.” Furthermore, Grinder forbade all communication between the couple.

One day, Carboy says, Laetitia’s mischievous sister prompted him to send Grinder a lotion that would cause a painful blister to form on his skin. He decided that he would in fact send it, along with a “dose” of peppermint to please Laetitia. But, alas! Carboy’s assistant switched the labels, so Laetitia must have ingested the blister lotion! That would have killed her, so as his song concludes, he moves back towards the stall for another suicide attempt.

If you liked Zoo, you'll love the Spring Show!  
MITG&SP proudly announces...

## The Grand ♠ Duke or, The Statutory Duel

Auditions: Feb. 12, 13, 15, 2001  
7-10pm • Rm. 407, Student Center

Show dates: May 3–6, 2001

Join us for this 100th anniversary  
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