

## The Grand Duke was Grand Fun!



On the evenings of Friday, November 8 and Saturday, November 9th the citizens of Pfennig Halbpennig, a tiny German duchy, assembled for the wedding of two members of an acting troupe. By the end of the evening they had been served a delicious dinner, toasted a happy couple with champagne and followed the outrageous plot twists of *The Grand Duke*.

This was the very first performance in Atlantic Canada of *The Grand Duke* or *The Statutory Duel* or, as we prefer, *Four Weddings and a Bomb Scare*. *The Grand Duke* was the final Gilbert and Sullivan collaboration and has been written off as a failure. But stage director Jacqui Good felt the show had a lot to commend it. For one thing, there's a lot of lively music. She even restored some tunes that Gilbert had cut after opening night (in an attempt to shorten the running time). She made different edits, particularly eliminating some creaky sub-plots. Our version clocks in just under two hours through three acts. We had 16 very fine singers/actors in the cast and everyone sang all the choruses.

We served the show up as dinner theatre since the action takes place at a wedding banquet -- our audience loved the idea. And they even had a chance to waltz and join a conga line.

We have used Mark Shepherd's revised score, available on the internet at [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com). If you are interested in acquiring our revised libretto, you can write to [jacqui\\_good@hotmail.com](mailto:jacqui_good@hotmail.com).