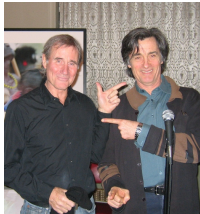


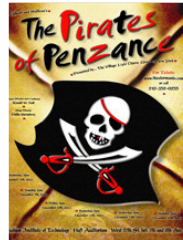
**ROGER REES, FANNY HILL AT  
 FEBRUARY ARTS INITIATIVE**



British-born actor Roger Rees, the cast members of the York Theatre's production of *Fanny Hill* and host Jim Dale created a lively Arts Initiative February event at the National Arts Club. A veteran of the Royal Shakespeare Company, Mr. Rees (in photo with Mr. Dale) created the title role in the original production of *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas*

*Nickleby*, earning him both an Olivier Award and a Tony Award for Best Actor in a Play in 1982. After becoming an American citizen in 1989 Mr. Rees continued his work in the theatre, both as an actor and a director. From 1989 to 1993, he appeared intermittently on the long-running American TV series *Cheers* as the British tycoon Robin Colcord. He has been a guest star on many television programs, including as British Ambassador John, Lord Marbury, on *The West Wing*. Since November 2004, he has been artistic director of the Williamstown Theatre Festival in Williamstown, Massachusetts. *Fanny Hill* is a musical adaptation of John Cleland's novel *Fanny Hill: Or Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure*. Considered the first "erotic" novel, the witty tale was written in 1749 and has become a byword for the battle of censorship of erotica. Nancy Anderson and Adam Monley performed a clever song from the show before leaving for a performance that evening. Brian Blythe, Assistant Artistic Director, and Sol Lieberman, Marketing Director of the York Theatre, were interviewed by Margot Astrachan afterwards. Jim Dale's interview of Mr. Rees was like watching a highly enjoyable comedy act by two old pros. The next Arts Initiative event will be on Monday 27 March.

**PIRATES OF PENZANCE BY THE  
 BLUE HILL TROUPE ON 31 MARCH**



The Society has acquired 20 prime-seating tickets for members wishing to see the Blue Hill Troupe's production of *The Pirates of Penzance* on Friday 31 March at the Teatro Heckscher, Fifth Avenue at 104<sup>th</sup> Street. The classic operetta by W.S. Gilbert and Sir Arthur Sullivan is among their best known works and has delighted generations of theatre-goers since it premiered in

London in 1879. Before it opened, the lyricist, Gilbert, confided to his mother in a letter: "I think it will be a great success, for it is exquisitely funny, and the music is strikingly tuneful and catching." It was to become one of the famous duos's most celebrated works. Since its founding in 1924 the Blue Hill Troupe has been bringing high-quality theater performances to New York audiences while raising money for city charities. This year the proceeds will benefit The Doe Fund's *Ready, Willing & Able* program giving homeless people the tools and foundation they need to help themselves. Over the last fifteen years, approximately 2,000 of these have taken advantage of RWA's unique opportunities, rising from New York City's streets to clean them, while rebuilding their lives and forever changing the public's perception of "the homeless." Over the past 80 years the Troupe has raised almost three million dollars for charity. Hailing from all walks of life and spanning several generations, Troupers donate their time and energy to produce two full theatrical productions a year: a Broadway musical or light opera each fall and a Gilbert and Sullivan operetta each spring. Curtain time is at 8 PM. For tickets please call 212-682-6110.

**ASPREY TO HOST THE ENGLISH BALL  
 PATRONS ON 30 MARCH**



The patrons of the 2006 English Ball will be honored by Asprey on Thursday 30 March at a reception in its elegant Fifth Avenue premises. "We are absolutely delighted that Asprey, which epitomizes classic English quality and design, elected to be associated with St. George's Society, whose tradition of private

charity is also quintessentially English," said Vicki Downey, Chairman of The English Ball with Nancy Sakas. One of the United Kingdom's best-known luxury brands, Asprey was founded in London in 1781 and holds three Royal Warrants. It is the ultimate authentic British luxury lifestyle house for men and women who also want to explore and experience life today with taste and refinement through

**TWIN SPIRITS OPERA AT  
 WINDSOR CASTLE IN JUNE**



We are pleased to inform members that London's Royal Opera House is organizing a command performance of *Twin Spirits* at Windsor Castle on 28 June in the presence of TRH The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall. First produced in 2005, *Twin Spirits* is an entertainment in words and music portraying the romance between, and

ultimate tragedy of, Robert Schumann and his wife, Clara Wieck, based on their letters. The Countess of Chichester, a director of the ROH, produced the world premiere with Sir Ian McKellan as the Narrator. Robert was played by Sting and Clara by Trudie Styler. Their words and music are entwined and were sung by acclaimed singers Simon Keenlyside and Rebecca Evans. John Caird (of *Les*

innovative timeless quality products. To date the response to The English Ball has been very positive, with a higher number of Patron tickets sold than attended the Ball last year. The invitation was mailed to the membership on 4 March. "There is every reason to expect that we will have at least as many attendees this year as we had in 2005," added Nancy Sakas. "But I think there will be more." Sir John Bond, Group Chairman of HSBC, will receive the Society's Medal of Honour at the Ball on Tuesday 18 April at the Pierre Hotel. Auctioneer Lorna Kelly will run the live auction. (There will be a silent one as well.) Reception starts at 6:30. Tickets are priced at \$300, \$500 and \$1,000. Over the past decade The English Ball has developed into New York's premier English social event and now realizes substantial income for the Society's charitable program. For more information or to buy tickets please call 212-682-6110.

## UPCOMING ST. GEORGE'S MEMBER ACTIVITIES



Winter is almost over and spring is just around the corner. Here is a lineup of the social activities planned for the next few months. First is the Arts Initiative event at the National Arts Club on **Monday 27 March**. Next is the outing to see the Blue Hill Troupe's production of *The Pirates of Penzance* on **Friday 31 March** at the Teatro Heckscher.

The English Ball honoring HSBC chief Sir John Bond will take place on **Tuesday 18 April** at the Pierre Hotel. Also in **April** the Arts Initiative is planning an excursion to see Society member Jim Dale in the Roundabout Theater's production of *The Threepenny Opera*. The Arts Initiative will host another event on **Monday 22 May**, also at the National Arts Club. On **Friday 2 June** Curator Carrie Reborah Barratt will show members some of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's new British acquisitions, including Mather Brown's dramatic portrait of the military commander, *General George Elliott* (in picture). An outing to attend the Belmont Stakes on **Saturday 10 June** is being planned. The Society's banner will be carried from City Hall to Fraunces Tavern, at Pearl and Broad Streets, by Ceremonial Marshal Jeffrey A. Ryan at the Flag Day Ceremony on **Wednesday 14 June**. On **Thursday 29 June** members of St. George's Society and of The Pilgrims of the United States will visit the *Godspeed*, a replica 17th-century sailing ship retracing the route taken in 1607 to Jamestown, at the South Street Seaport. The popular annual summer garden party for British societies at the General Theological Seminary in Chelsea will be held on **Wednesday 12 July**. The fall season will open with a reception at the Tavern on the Green on **Monday 12 September**.

*Misérables*) directed and wrote the script. After its only performance, the Prince of Wales requested that it be produced again at Windsor Castle and the artists all agreed to reprise their roles. This will be a beautiful event in a truly royal setting followed by a magnificent dinner at Windsor and meeting with Their Royal Highnesses. On 27 June Lady Chichester will arrange a lunch at her home, Little Durnford Manor, preceded by a visit to a private stately home with a noted Old Master collection, for guests coming from overseas. Transportation to and from London will be provided for both days. Tickets for this two-day event are £5,000 or US dollar equivalent. If paid through the American Friends of Covent Garden and the Royal Ballet, a 501 (c) (3) entity, an amount equivalent in US dollars to £4,300 is deductible for tax purposes. For further information please contact John Shannon at 212-682-6110.

## COMMITTEES OF VOLUNTEERS MAKE ST. GEORGE WHAT IT IS



Membership organizations are only as effective as its members are organized. St. George's Society is notable for the large number of members who serve in a voluntary capacity on an array of committees that further the success of the organization. The **Activities Committee**, chaired by Michael H. Charles, produces all events but the Ball during the year; and

the **Arts Initiative Committee**, led by Margot Astrachan, organizes an event almost every month for members interested in the performing arts. The **Audit Committee**, headed by Stephen J. Storen, meets to hear the report of the annual audit performed by the auditors. The **Beneficiaries Committee**, led by Melissa Gibbs, meets regularly eight times a year to monitor expenditure, review beneficiaries and consider new applications for help. Peter M. Felix heads the **Development Committee**, which is seeking to improve the Society's long-term financial resources. Peter also chairs the **Honours Committee** that identifies worthy candidates to receive the Society's Medal of Honour. The **English Ball Committee**, chaired by Vicki Downey and Nancy Sakas, manages the Society's major annual fundraiser, which now generates as much revenue as the endowment. The **Finance Committee**, chaired by the Treasurer, Peter Buffington, reviews overall revenue and expenditure and preparation of the annual budget. The **Investment Committee**, led by Michael C. Larned, consisting of investment professionals, manages the endowment, making decisions to buy, hold or sell securities. The **Membership Committee**, headed by Camilla G. Hellman, endeavors to recruit new members. "The Society is truly blessed with an abundance of energy and talent," says President Natalie T. Pray. "Thanks to one and all."

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