Pirates of Penzance Preview

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Rehearsals are underway for a swashbuckling adventure at WKU’s Van Meter Hall.

In this week’s View from the Hill, Amy Bingham has a preview of “Pirates of Penzance.”

The Pirates of Penzance is the perfect show to combine talents from the departments of music, theatre and dance. And for the director, it’s also providing a bit of déjà vu.

It’s down to the last week of rehearsals for the cast of Pirates of Penzance. And for the director, well he’s been here before.

 “So I went into the library and here’s the script Pirates of Penzance and it’s my script of 15 years ago…(laughter).”

In 1998, Dr. Bill Leonard directed this same show.

 “That was really the last music, theater, dance joint production until we re-opened in Van Meter with Beauty and the Beast two seasons ago.”

But don’t assume the previous experience has much bearing on the current production.

 “We always start from zero and start to build on that. It’s a different cast working with different talents.”

 “None of us are concerned we’ve done it before or people may have seen that show and they’re coming back to see it because it’s theatre. It always changes.”

And Dr. Leonard lets the actors take the lead on a lot of those changes.

 “He really lets us have our own stamp on the character and some directors aren’t like that.”

 “He’ll just sit there, (pauses), yeah I love that…let’s keep it. It’s a lot of fun to work with him.”

The cast says it’s also a blast working with each other since they all come from slightly different majors.

 “The music people, we’re all so about our singing and posture and the threatre people are more about character and what they’re portraying than what they’re singing. Have a lot of learn from each other, I think.”

You can catch “Pirates of Penzance” March 1st – 3rd at Van Meter Hall. Call 745-3121 for advance tickets.

With this week’s View from the Hill….I’m Amy Bingham.

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