

# The Epoch Times

## The 'Sorcerer' Enthralls With Latest Staged Revival

By Barry Bassis December 27, 2012



Kimilee Bryant, Daniel Greenwood, and Stephen O'Brien from "The Sorcerer." (William Reynolds)

NEW YORK—"The Sorcerer" is not as popular as "H.M.S. Pinafore," "The Pirates of Penzance," and "The Mikado," but, as the recent production by the New York Gilbert & Sullivan Players confirms, the work has its pleasures.

Gilbert & Sullivan's "The Sorcerer" (1877) is a takeoff on Donizetti's "L'Elisir d'Amore" (1832). In the Italian opera, a gullible young man drinks a fake potion to make a local beauty fall in love with him. It turns out that they were both in love all along but were unable to express their feelings. By contrast, in the G&S operetta, a potion that really works makes a whole town fall in love. At the start of "The Sorcerer," set in the village of Ploverleigh, the main characters, Alexis Pointdextre and Aline Sangazure, are in love and engaged to be married.

The production had a few updates, such as references to i-Phones, "Fifty Shades of Grey," and Costco.

**The rest of the cast and the orchestra, under the founder, artistic director and conductor Albert Bergeret with David Auxier as choreographer and co-director, were equally amusing. Tenor Daniel Greenwood played Alexis, Kimilee Bryant was Aline ... All were as adept at comic acting as they were with singing the melodic score.**

*"The Sorcerer" played for only two performances. However, the New York Gilbert & Sullivan Players will return for their annual New Year's Eve gala at Symphony Space. They will subsequently perform three operettas at City Center: "The Mikado" (January 4–6), "H.M.S. Pinafore" (January 11–13) and "The Yeomen of the Guard" (January 18–20). All are performed with fully staged productions with a 25-piece orchestra and are highly recommended as family entertainment.*