



100 YEARS AT 50 WEST

From *Chicago Daily Tribune*, February 3, 1943:

Florenz Ames Is Bright Light of Comic Opera

“The Pirates of Penzance.” Comic opera in two acts....THE CAST: ...Maj. Gen. Stanley.....Florenz Ames

With all our faults, say the pirates, we love our queen. And with all its faults, I say with similar mellowness of spirit, I loved “The Pirates of Penzance” at the Studebaker last night....

It was a pretty soggy first act...until Florenz Ames arrived, as the major general, to pick things up with his introductory catalog song. Little Mr. Ames has a way about him. He is alive, and brightly fatuous; he wastes no effort trying to be funny, yet he is adept at getting to the heart of a line or a rhyming couplet. The blitheness and neatness of his personality stand in happy contrast to the heavy witlessness of most of his companions in the company, and it takes his appearance on the stage, apparently, to bring each performance into some sort of stride....



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IN THE PLAY: *"Is this a fairy from Andersen's library?"*—
Florenz Ames to Marie Valdez and Mary Roche, in *"Iolanthe,"*
last night at the St. James Theatre.



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From *Chicago Daily Tribune*, January 12, 1944:

Florenz Ames Stars in Two Comic Operas

Life was considerably gayer on the Studebaker front last night because the leading roles in its double bill of comic opera were sung by the Gilbert and Sullivan troupes best actor, Florenz Ames. Mr. Ames was a gay dog as the nimble tongued major general of "Pirates" fame, but he was even better as that odd little creature, "Cox and Box".... Without his magic presence it was beginning to resemble an evening of amateur musicals...

From *New York Herald Tribune*, March 12, 1944:

Florenz Ames Took Up Gilbert and Sullivan Temporarily – That Was Three Years Ago

Theatergoers of a sentimental order can look backward, through misty eyes, to be sure, to Florenz Ames as the French Ambassador in "Of Thee I sing".... Or they can revisualize him in a number of other George Kaufman productions such as "Let 'Em Eat Cake," "George Washington Slept Here" and "I'd Rather Be Right." Or they can recall him in "Strike Up the Band," "Sky High" or "Madame Pompadour".... Only recently, however...has Mr. Ames been familiar...[in] frequent performances of

