

Halifax Gilbert and Sullivan Society  
presents

# Ruddigore

or  
**The Witch's Curse**

Halifax Playhouse

Monday November 4  
to  
Saturday November 9  
2002

### A note from the Chairman

*Ruddigore* was first performed at the Savoy Theatre on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1887 and ran for 288 performances. Whilst some critics regarded this as a failure (probably comparing it with the 672 performances of *The Mikado*), Gilbert himself said "I could do with a few more such failures" and the operetta went on to receive general acclaim from its audiences. It was in this production that the great Henry Lytton made his principal debut as Sir Ruthven Murgatroyd (as understudy to George Grossmith) whence he never looked back.

We are pleased that last year's team of Colin Akers as Musical Director, Catherine Warwick as accompanist and Margaret Schofield as Producer are again putting us through our paces for this production. All of the cast have enjoyed working with them and we are sure that this enjoyment will project across the footlights into the audience.

Behind the scenes, we are grateful again to John Worrilow and Mike Whitwam for designing and building our set, and we are also confident that you will be as thrilled as the cast with Ian Stead's costumes.

Of course all this work would count for nothing were it not for you, who come to support us and make all the effort worthwhile. If you are a regular supporter, you have our grateful thanks. If this is your first sight of the Society, may it be the first of many, and please consider strengthening this support by becoming a member or patron, coming to hear our concerts and club nights, or even coming along to sing with us or to help behind the scenes.

I wish you all a very pleasant evening.

Trevor Roberts



### The Story so far ....

Rederring is a small seaside town in the West Country, distinguished according to the Michelin Guide by two notable institutions. The first is the endowed corps of professional bridesmaids, founded many years ago by a pious charity and bound to be on duty every day from ten till four against the chance of a passing wedding, shotgun or otherwise. The second is the curse on the Baronets of Ruddigore, whose ancestral home, Ruddigore Castle, lies close by.

The curse, originally pronounced on the misdeeds of the first Baronet, Sir Rupert Murgatroyd, condemns the incumbent titleholder to commit at least one crime a day, or else to perish in excruciating agony. On hand to check that this duty is being carried out are the portraits of all his predecessors, who show an inclination to step down from their frames now and again whenever they feel that the present Baronet is showing too much benevolence.

Twenty years ago, Ruthven Murgatroyd was heir to the Baronetcy, with the prospect of inheriting upon the death of his uncle Roderic. To avoid this he fled his family home and disguised himself as a gentleman farmer, Robin Oakapple, leaving his younger brother Despard to take on the accursed title. By one of those twists of fate common to the gentleman farming business he has ended up in Rederring, not a mile away from the Castle he was trying to avoid. Only two people know his secret. One is Old Adam Goodheart, a faithful retainer of the family, and the other is Dick Dauntless, Robin's foster-brother, who has spent most of his life sailing the seas on questionable exploits with the Royal Navy.

As the opera opens the professional bridesmaids are frustrated by a lack of business. The only eligible maiden in town is Rose Maybud, who demands impossibly high standards of any suitor. Her choice would perhaps be Robin, but his shyness stops him from making the first move. At this point Dick Dauntless sails into town to muddy the waters. Also lurking in the background is Mad Margaret, a fallen socialite who had once been wooed and then abandoned by Sir Despard as one of his enforced crimes. The bridesmaids, desperate for some appearance money, encourage marriage proposals at every opportunity.

Stay with us to see whether Ruthven can keep up his deceit, Rose her moral standards, Despard his evil lifestyle and Dick his accent. And will the bridesmaids get their payday?



## THE CHARACTERS IN THE STORY

**SIR RUTHVEN MURGATROYD** (disguised as Robin Oakapple, a Young Farmer) **Richard Buxton**

**RICHARD DAUNTLESS** (his Foster-Brother, a Man-o'-war's man) **Steven Greenwood**

**SIR DESPARD MURGATROYD, OF RUDDIGORE** (a Wicked Baronet) **Mike Whitwam**

**OLD ADAM GOODHEART** (Robin's Faithful Servant) **Colin Fine**

**ROSE MAYBUD** (A Village Maiden) **Clare Williams**

**MAD MARGARET** **Christine Roberts**

**DAME HANNAH** (Rose's Aunt) **Jane Fellows**

**SIR RODERIC MURGATROYD** (The Twenty-first Baronet) **Stuart Summerscales**

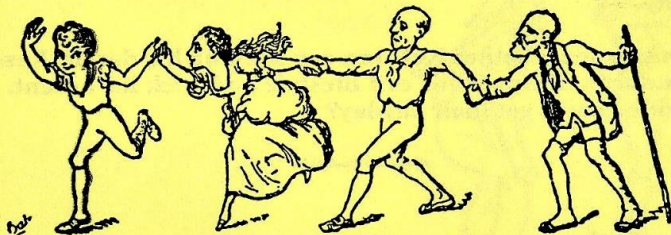
### PROFESSIONAL BRIDESMAIDS

**Rachel Prosser** (ZORAH), **Julia Haigh** (RUTH), **Stephanie Bolton**, **Christine Johnson**

### TOWNSPEOPLE, HOLIDAYMAKERS, ANCESTORS

<b>Carole Engel</b>	<b>Paul Matthews</b>	<b>Marie Sugden</b>
<b>Carol Fleming</b>	<b>David Prosser</b>	<b>Peter Sugden</b>
<b>Sarah Haigh</b>	<b>Matthew Ramsdin</b>	<b>Caroline Saul</b>
<b>Kate Johnson</b>	<b>Paul Ratcliffe</b>	<b>Leon Waksberg</b>
<b>Liam Johnson</b>	<b>Janice Roberts</b>	<b>Ann Watson</b>
<b>Helen Matthews</b>	<b>Trevor Roberts</b>	<b>Simon Wilkins</b>

**PHOTOGRAPHER** **Kathryn Buxton**



## PRODUCTION TEAM

**PRODUCER** **Margaret Schofield**

**MUSICAL DIRECTOR** **Colin Akers**

**PRINCIPAL REHEARSAL PIANIST** **Catherine Warwick**

**PIANISTS** **Mavis Dean, Colin Fine, Philip Sutcliffe**

Members of the **WEST YORKSHIRE ORCHESTRA**,  
**SQUARE CHAPEL ORCHESTRA** and **FRIENDS**

**SET DESIGNED BY** **John Worrilow**

**AND MADE BY** **Mike Whitwam**

**PAINTING BY** **John Worrilow, Kate Johnson and Andrew Stopford**

**ASSISTANCE WITH SET** **Richard Buxton, Colin Fine, Christine Johnson, Liam Johnson, Trevor Roberts, Andrew Stopford**

**STAGE MANAGER** **Andrew Stopford**, assisted by **Ian Henderson**

**LIGHTING** **Stuart Render**, with **Joe Wood and Jack McGhee**

**COSTUMES** **Ian Stead Theatrical Costumes and Julia Haigh**

**MAKE-UP** **The Huddersfield NODA Make-up Team**

**PROPERTIES** **Christine Johnson, Kathryn Buxton**

**PROMPTERS** **Shirley Mitchell, Brenda Priestley**

**ORCHESTRAL PARTS** **James Newby Music**

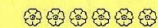
**TICKET SALES** **Stephanie Bolton**

**FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER** **John Thompson**

**PUBLICITY** **Kathryn Buxton, Peter Sugden, John Ramsdin**

**FOYER DISPLAY** **Kathryn Buxton**

**POSTER AND PROGRAMME ARTWORK** **Kate McFarlane**



### HALIFAX GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY

**PRESIDENT** **Andrew Stopford**

**CHAIRMAN** **Trevor Roberts**

**VICE-CHAIRMAN** **Stuart Summerscales**

**SECRETARY** **Kathryn Buxton**

**TREASURER** **Richard Buxton**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS** **Stephanie Bolton, Christine Johnson, Rachel Prosser, Paul Ratcliffe, Sheila Simpson, Anne Watson**

Halifax Gilbert and Sullivan Society was originally formed in 1968, and gave its first public full-dress performance three years later at Halifax Playhouse. The annual production in the late autumn, still at the Playhouse, remains the Society's major public appearance, but we also offer a season of public concerts in the spring, usually between February and April. We are always pleased to perform at new venues in and around Halifax or further afield, and anyone wishing to organise a concert should contact the Secretary (see below).

The Society meets to rehearse on Friday evenings throughout the year at All Saint Church Hall, Skircoat Green, Halifax. Three or four of these Friday evenings during the year are given over to informal concerts and Club Nights, where we will sing through a complete Gilbert and Sullivan opera, or perhaps another piece from the same period, with the audience providing the chorus. Members of the public are always welcome to join us (and sing with us, although that's not compulsory!) on these occasions.

If you would like to sing with or support the Society yourself, you are very welcome to turn up at the rehearsal room on a Friday evening (7.45 onwards). Alternatively you may contact the Secretary, Kathryn Buxton, 34 Fir Road, Huddersfield, HD1 4JE (01484-301291). If you don't sing yourself, but can perhaps offer organisational or other practical skills, you will be equally welcome. We look forward to seeing you in the future!

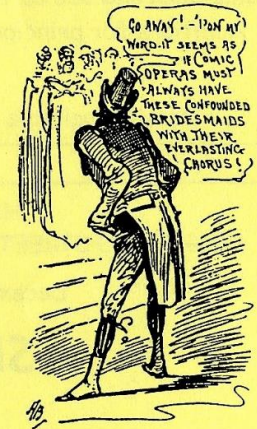


The Society's previous productions

1971 HMS Pinafore	1987 Cox and Box / The Pirates of Penzance
1972 Iolanthe	1988 Ruddigore
1973 The Sorcerer	1989 Utopia Limited
1974 The Pirates of Penzance	1990 The Gondoliers
1975 The Gondoliers	1991 The Yeoman of the Guard
1976 Princess Ida	1992 The Zoo / HMS Pinafore
1977 The Mikado	1993 The Sorcerer
1978 Ruddigore	1994 Iolanthe
1979 The Yeomen of the Guard	1995 The Mikado
1980 Patience	1996 Patience
1981 Trial by jury / HMS Pinafore	1997 The Pirates of Penzance
1982 The Sorcerer	1998 The Gondoliers
1983 The Gondoliers	1999 Princess Ida
1984 Iolanthe	2000 The Yeomen of the Guard
1985 The Mikado	2001 HMS Pinafore
1986 Princess Ida	

THE SOCIETY GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES HELP FROM

- ★ Garrards (Huddersfield) Ltd. For assistance with materials for set
- ★ King Cross Methodist Church for loan of chair
- ★ Paradise Green Productions for loan of electrical materials
- ★ Dr J. Clive Jones for loan of camera
- ★ Brighthouse A.O.D.S. for loan of microphone



Singing Tuition

by

David Heathcote

P.G.Dip.Mus.(perf), R.S.A.M.D.  
Experienced professional singer

Tel: 01484 430405  
07909 526072



IAN STEAD

THEATRICAL  
COSTUMIER

01422-378101



HALIFAX GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY  
WILL PRESENT

## **THE MIKADO**

From Tuesday November 4<sup>th</sup> to Saturday November 8<sup>th</sup> 2003

Come back and see us then, or better still come and sing with us!

Auditions for principal parts will be held towards the end of  
April 2003.

Details available from the Secretary, 01484 301291

HALIFAX THESPIANS  
KING CROSS STREET, HALIFAX; TELEPHONE: 01422 365998

December 7<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 p.m.

## **SILLY COW**

By Ben Elton

Directed by Ian Francis

Box Office open 12 noon - 4p.m. daily

From Wednesday in the week before the production

Coming soon locally:

Haworth West Lane A.O.S.

### **Princess Ida**

Haworth West Lane

Baptist Chapel

November 18 - 23 at 7.30 p.m.

£6.00 Concessions £5.00

Bookings 01533 643425

Meltham Parish Church G & S

### **Iolanthe**

Church Hall, Meltham

November 19 - 23 at 7.30 p.m.

Matinee Saturday 2.15 p.m.

£6.00 Concessions £5.00

Bookings 01484 303591