

1982



PRODUCTION OF THE
HALIFAX
GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY

THE SORCERER

by

W. S. GILBERT AND ARTHUR SULLIVAN

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

Sir Marmaduke Pointdextre DAVID WARD
(an Elderly Baronet)

Alexis GARETH MILLWARD
(of the Grenadier Guards, his Son)

Dr. Daly DONALD McLOUGHLIN
(Vicar of Ploverleigh)

Notary BRIAN PRIESTLEY

John Wellington Wells ROGER HURFORD
(of J. Wells & Co., Family Sorcerers)

Lady Sangazure AUDREY LONGBOTTOM
(a Lady of Ancient Lineage)

Aline PATRICIA CASTLE
(her Daughter—betrothed to Alexis)

Mrs. Partlet LESLEY HENDERSON
(a Pew Opener)

Constance JEAN JACKSON
(her Daughter)

Chorus of Villagers

Angela Burgess	Ernest Wadsworth
Rhonda Normanton	Edgar Brooke
Kathryn Priestley	Steven Greenwood
Mary Normanton	Brian Bach
Carol Fleming	John Thompson
Shirley Mitchell	Leslie Bolland
Pamela Page	Harold Galley
Noreen Galley	Andrew Headford
Penelope Wadsworth	Victor Reeve
Ann Reeve	
Barbara Thompson	
Mary Ward	Village Children
Barbara Johnson	Vicki Sanders
Sheila Priestley	Melanie Sanders
Muriel Lees	Nichola Ward
	Richard Durkin

MUSICAL ITEMS

ACT I

	Overture	
1.	Chorus	“ Ring forth, ye bells ”
2.	Recit. (Mrs. Partlet and Constance)	
2a.	Aria (Constance)	“ When he is here ”
3.	Recit. (Rev. Dr. Daly)	
3a.	Ballad (Dr. Daly)	“ Time was, when Love and I were well acquainted ”
4.	Recit. and Minuet (Sir Marmaduke, Dr. Daly and Alexis)	
5.	Chorus of Girls	“ With heart and with voice ”
6.	Recit. (Aline)	
6a.	Aria	“ Happy young hearts ”
7.	Recit. (Lady Sangazure)	
8.	Chorus of Men	“ With heart and with voice ”
9.	Duet (Lady Sangazure and Sir Marmaduke)	
10.	Ensemble (Aline, Alexis, Lawyer and Chorus)	“ All is prepared ”
11.	Ballad (Alexis)	“ For Love alone ”
12.	Song (Mr. Wells)	“ My name is John Wellington Wells ”
13.	Incantation (Aline, Alexis, Mr. Wells and Chorus)	
14.	Finale	“ Now to the Banquet we press ”

ACT II

15.	Trio and Chorus	
16.	Ensemble (Constance, Notary, Aline, Alexis and Chorus)	
17.	Ballad	“ It is not Love ”
18.	Quintett (Aline, Mrs. Partlet, Alexis, Dr. Daly and Sir Marmaduke)	
19.	Recit. and Duet (Lady Sangazure and Mr. Wells)	
20.	Recit. and Air (Aline)	
21.	Song (Dr. Daly)	“ Engaged to So-and-so ”
22.	Ensemble (Aline, Alexis, Dr. Daly and Chorus)	
23.	Recit. (Alexis)	
24.	Finale	

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PRODUCTION

Producer	ANGELA HORNER
Musical Director	STEVEN MELLOR
Accompanist	KEITH FLESHER
Stage Manager	COLIN WHITELEY
Lighting	STUART CROOKES
Costumes	S. B. WATTS & Co. Ltd
Make-up	ARTHUR WIDEMAN
Properties	BRIAN BACH
Prompter	ANITA WHITWORTH

Plants supplied by Susan Robertshaw (Farm Freeze)

Set designed and made by MARK NICOL

SYNOPSIS

The story of "The Sorcerer" is as follows. Alexis, son of Sir Marmaduke Pointdextre, is betrothed to Aline, daughter of Lady Sangazure, in the village of Ploverleigh. The vicar of Ploverleigh, Dr. Daly, well describes the atmosphere at the beginning of the opera with the first words of his recitative, "The air is filled with amatory numbers." Constance, daughter of Mrs. Partlet the pew opener, shyly expresses her love for Dr. Daly, but he, ignorant of her affections, states that he is now too old to give any thoughts to the question of matrimony. After Sir Marmaduke and Lady Sangazure have expressed their delight at the forthcoming marriage of their respective offspring, Alexis and Aline are at last left alone, and the former, firmly believing that the ecstasies of love should be enjoyed by all, declares that he has procured the services of John Wellington Wells, the Family Sorcerer, who then appears, and agrees to supply a potion which will cause those who drink it to fall asleep, and on waking immediately fall in love with their first opposite acquaintance. There follows an incantation scene in which Mr. Wells summons the relevant spirits, and he then pours the love potion into the teapot destined to be used at the village party to be held in honour of the aforementioned betrothal. The party then takes place amid great rejoicing, and the First Act closes with the obvious evidence of the effect of the potion, as those who have drunk it fall insensibly to the floor.

At the beginning of Act Two, it is even more evident that the potion has worked. The villagers awake and immediately come under the amatory spell which the potion has cast. However, the ensuing "pairings" of the principal characters involve considerable confusion: Constance falls in love with the deaf Notary, Mrs. Partlet with Sir Marmaduke, Lady Sangazure with Mr. Wells, and Aline, who is persuaded by Alexis to drink the potion herself in order to emphasise her love for him, with Dr. Daly. The only way to break the spell which has brought about the confusion, is for either Alexis or Mr. Wells to give up his life to Ahrimanes, the evil spirit. This Mr. Wells finally agrees to do and, the spell being thus broken, the lovers revert to their original pairings, so that Sir Marmaduke pairs with Lady Sangazure, Aline with Alexis, Dr. Daly with Constance and the Notary with Mrs. Partlet. The chorus also make corresponding changes.

ACT I - EXTERIOR OF SIR MARMADUKE'S MANSION. MID-DAY.

(Twelve hours are supposed to elapse between Acts I and II)

ACT II - EXTERIOR OF SIR MARMADUKE'S MANSION. MIDNIGHT.

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AND A NIGHTINGALE SANG

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