



The Sorcerer

HALIFAX GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY

Affiliated to N.O.D.A., Presents

Their 25th Anniversary Production

Supported by Calderdale Council



Producer
Tony Lancaster

M.D.
James Newby

The Sorcerer

At the HALIFAX PLAYHOUSE THEATRE from Mon 18th to Sat 23rd Oct, 1993
7.30 pm Nightly

OBITUARY

In February this year, our Society suffered a severe blow with the sudden death of one of our members, Mark Mistry, at the tragically early age of 29.

The Society of course was stunned at the loss of one of our youngest and most enthusiastic members. The Society had played a large part in Mark's life and the sudden loss of Mark's ever-smiling face and infectious laugh left a great gap in all our hearts.

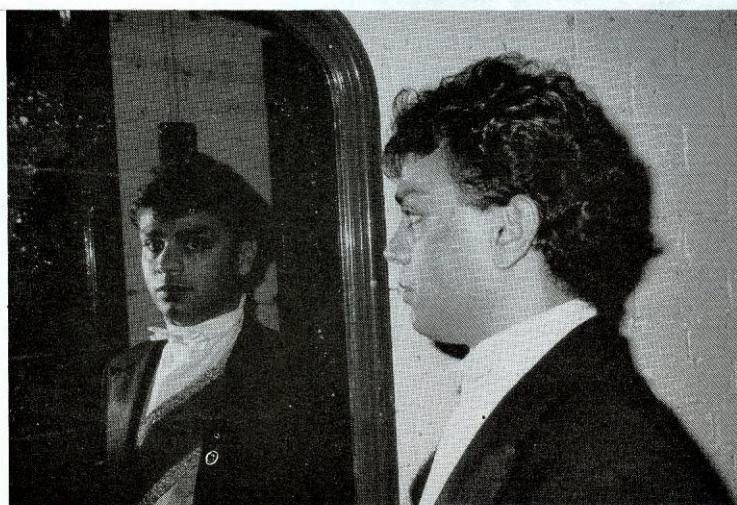
Mark was a great 'Society' man - his enthusiasm for all we did was unsurpassed. He sang in the chorus with utter conviction, and always made the most of the cameo roles he was given to play. Most of all, he enjoyed the whole spectacle and illusion of theatre, always giving on stage the 100% which he recognised the audience deserved.

He had in recent years also taken on the role of Publicity Officer for the Society and was responsible for the compilation of the programme. The artistic flair he brought to these tasks was considerable. We have followed Mark's designs for the layout of this year's programme and have ensured that his ideas will be commemorated with the institution of a NODA award in his name, as mentioned in our Chairman's remarks.

It is entirely appropriate that in our remembrance of Mark who loved the Gilbert & Sullivan works, we use the words of Gilbert himself, always the master of the apt phrase:-

Is life a boon?
If so, it must befall
That Death, where'er he call,
Must call too soon

(The Yeoman of the Guard)



This production and this programme
is dedicated to the memory of
Mark Mistry

PRESIDENT

JOHN THOMPSON

Welcome to "The Sorcerer", our 1993 production. This year Halifax Gilbert & Sullivan Society is celebrating its 25th Anniversary. All of our shows have been performed at The Playhouse and thanks are again due to The Thespians, especially their backstage crews with whom we have worked for so long.

Our Society too is very fortunate to have much talent behind the scenes as well as on stage and the design and construction of the show set is due to the efforts of Richard Fellows and his fine team. Wielding the baton, we are again pleased to have Jim Newby with his excellent orchestra but we welcome in charge of production a new name, one Tony Lancaster who has taken over the show's production at short notice. All the best in your first show with us, Tony.

This is our third "Sorcerer". Some of the performers in the first, in 1973, at The Playhouse of course, are still active society members. This has been a year of reminiscences, contacting and meeting old friends, and a great pleasure it has been for us. I know many members of our audience have been stalwart supporters of the society for years and I take this opportunity to welcome you once more to our show. To the newcomers, welcome too, and I hope this will be the start of a long lasting partnership.

The "Sorcerer" has the reputation of being a happy show for our society. This year has been no exception as I'm sure will be evident by tonight's performance. Have an enjoyable evening.

CHAIRMAN

BARBARA JOHNSON

I am very glad to be able to welcome you to an evening of entertainment in a particularly light hearted mode. Just sit back and enter the fantasy world of magic and potions presided over by the Sorcerer, where all life's problems are resolved in the notion of 'true love' and eventual happiness.

I should like to give a special vote of thanks to all members of this year's company for their willingness to overcome so many problems and difficulties; in particular to our producer Tony Lancaster who stepped in at short notice when Janet Cowley was spirited off to Manchester to perform professionally in The Phantom of The Opera. We are delighted for Janet and grateful to Tony.

Earlier this year the Society suffered a grave loss in the death of Mark Mistry, our Publicity Officer and stalwart of the tenor line. For many of us, this production is a tribute to him, his energy and enthusiasm. During this week we shall be presenting to NODA an award, known as the Mark Mistry Award, for the best produced programme by a Yorkshire Amateur Society. By this we hope to perpetuate Mark's memory in conjunction with promoting the musical and artistic interests he cared about.

THE SORCERER

The success of Gilbert and Sullivan's 'Trial by Jury' in 1875 raised expectations of a new partnership in British light opera. Yet the desire of the two partners for a further collaboration was not immediately apparent as each went on to separate projects - Gilbert to a successful play 'Broken Hearts' and Sullivan to the score of 'The Zoo' to words by B.C. Stephenson.

Meanwhile Richard D'Oyly Carte persisted in his desire to commission and produce new light operatic works and, with four backers, set up the Comic Opera Company in 1877 - and was now in a position to tempt Gilbert and Sullivan into producing further work.

For the plot of the new work Gilbert reused details of a story he had written for the Christmas 1876 issue of the "Graphic" - "An Elixir of Love", concerning the havoc wrought by the use of a love potion in a quiet country village. Gilbert was fascinated by the themes of magic and potions, having already explored them in one of his Bab Ballads - 'The Cunning Women' - and in his first play 'Dulcamara', a parody of Donizetti's 'L'Elisir d'Amor'. The theme also provided Sullivan with opportunity to parody the operatic tradition, particularly the Incantation scene, evocative of the casting of the devil's bullets in Weber's 'Der Freischutz', and a great Italian operatic pastiche first Act Finale in which Sullivan encouraged his company when rehearsing to "...think you are at Covent Garden Opera and not at the Opera Comique...".

In casting 'The Sorcerer' Gilbert sought a new style of performer - the actor who could sing and who could be moulded to Gilbert's own concepts of his characters.

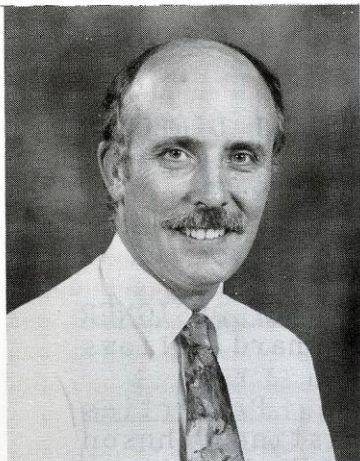
Typical of this was the casting in the title role of George Grossmith, a piano entertainer and former police court reporter engaged here in his first professional dramatic role. "I should have thought you would have required a fine man with a fine voice," he is reputed to have queried. "No," came the Gilbertian reply, "that is just what we don't want".

Among accomplished singers like George Bentham cast as Alexis, Giulia Warwick as Constance and Richard Temple as Sir Marmaduke, Gilbert's other 'find' in his casting was Rutland Barrington, a protege of Mrs. Howard Paul, director of a touring troupe of actors and singers and herself cast as Lady Sangazure. Barrington again was no operatic singer but his style fitted Gilbert's requirements for Dr. Daly. Indeed this 'staid, solid swine' was not even asked to audition for Sullivan.

'The Sorcerer' opened on 17th November 1877 at the Opera Comique Theatre just off the Strand and affectionately known as the 'Theatre Royal Tunnels' due to the long and windy tunnels by which the underground auditorium was reached. The opera ran for 178 performances until 24th May 1878 and was apparently a great success - the Savoy tradition had begun.

PRODUCER

TONY LANCASTER



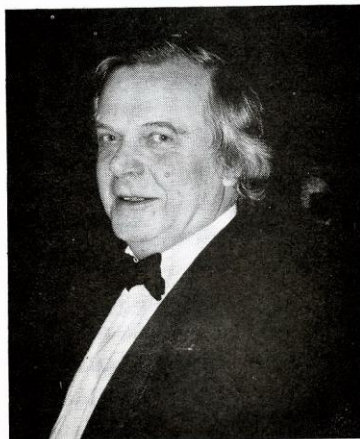
Tony Lancaster has been involved with Gilbert and Sullivan since his schooldays in Mexborough, South Yorkshire. He now lives in Normanton with his wife and two sons.

He has played Foreman and Usher in Trial by Jury, Lord Mount Ararat in Iolanthe, Mikado in The Mikado, Sir Roderick in Ruddigore, King Hildebrand in Princess Ida and Don Alhambra in Gondoliers.

Former productions include The Sorcerer, Trial by Jury HMS Pinafore and Iolanthe. A police sergeant with West Yorkshire Police, he is an active Rotarian and a keen walker.

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

JAMES NEWBY



We welcome Jim to his seventh show as Musical Director with us. Jim is a well known conductor, composer, arranger and pianist with musical interests ranging from Church music to opera, Gilbert and Sullivan and modern musicals.

At the last count Jim was wielding his baton as MD with the West Yorkshire Savoyards, Harrogate G. & S. Society, Wakefield G. & S. Society, Pendle Opera and at Halifax G. & S. He is also conductor of the West Yorkshire Orchestra who will play Jim's own orchestration of the score of 'The Sorcerer' this week.

Jim has in recent years won prizes at the Newport International Festival - in addition to his many awards for Best Musical Director from the Waterford Festival of Light Music.

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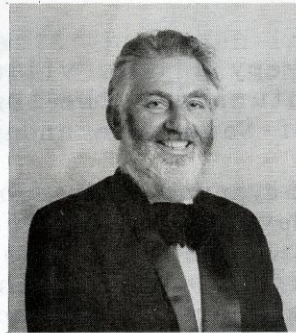
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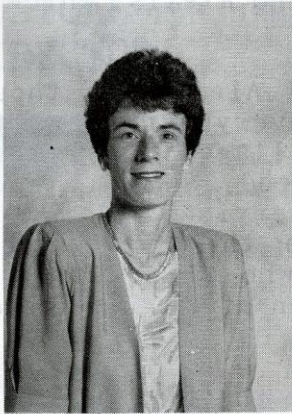
RICHARD BUXTON
Alexis
Son of Sir Mamaduke



MICHAEL WHITWAM
John Wellington Wells
of J.W.Wells & Co. Family Sorcerers



ELIZABETH DINSDALE
Aline
Daughter of Lady Sangazure



KATHRYN BUXTON
Lady Sangazure
A Lady of Ancient Lineage



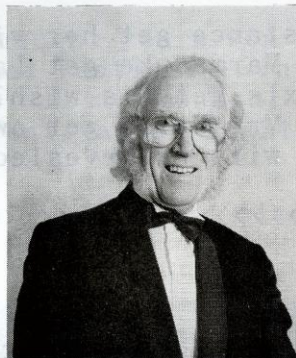
MICHAEL JOHNSON
Notary



STUART SUMMERSCALES
Sir Marmaduke Pointdextre
An Elderley Baronet



HELEN SMITH
Constance
Daughter of Mrs. Partlet



FRANK HOGAN
Doctor Daly
Vicar of Ploverleigh



JANE FELLOWS
Mrs. Partlet
a Pew Opener

PRODUCTION TEAM

PRODUCER

Tony Lancaster

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

James Newby

Members of The West Yorkshire Orchestra

STAGE MANAGER

Andrew Stopford

SET DESIGNER

Richard Fellows

Set Construction

Michael Whitwam
Richard Fellows
Richard Buxton
Trevor Roberts

Lighting

Chris Dyson

Properties

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Kath Whitwam
Michael Holdsworth
Carole Holdsworth

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Lorraine Needham
Judith Trickey
Gillian Wilkinson
Sylvia Petts
Noreen Galley
Mavis Dean

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Noreen Galley

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Janet Cowley
Jane Fellows

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Stuart Summerscales
Neil Hogan

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James Photographers

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Brenda Priestley

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Barbara Thompson

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MUSICAL NUMBERS

OVERTURE

ACT 1

1. CHORUS Ring forth, ye bells
2. RECIT (Mrs. Partlet, Constance) Constance my daughter
- 2a ARIA (Constance) When he is here
3. RECIT (Dr. Daly) The air is charged
- 3a BALLAD (Dr. Daly) Time was, when Love and
I were well acquainted
4. RECIT AND MINUET (Dr. Daly, My dear young friend Alexis
Alexis, Sir Marmaduke)
5. CHORUS OF GIRLS With heart and with voice
6. RECIT (Aline) My kindly friends
- 6a ARIA (Aline) Oh happy young heart
7. RECIT (Lady Sangazure) My child I join these
congratulations
8. CHORUS OF MEN With heart and with voice
9. DUET (Lady Sangazure, Welcome joy! Adieu to Sadness!
Sir Marmaduke)
10. ENSEMBLE (Aline, Alexis, All is prepared
Notary and Chorus)
11. BALLAD (Alexis) For love alone
12. SONG (Mr. Wells) My name is John Wellington Wells
13. INCANTATION (Aline, Alexis, Sprites of earth and air
Mr. Wells and Chorus)
14. FINALE Now to the banquet we press

ACT 2

15. TRIO AND CHORUS (Aline, Alexis 'Tis twelve, I think
Mr. Wells and Chorus)
16. ENSEMBLE (Constance, Dear friends take pity on my lot
Notary, Aline, Alexis and Chorus)
17. BALLAD (Alexis) It is not love
18. QUINTET (Aline, Mrs. Partlet I rejoice that it's decided
Alexis, Dr. Daly, Sir Marmaduke)
19. RECIT AND DUET (Mr. We Wells, Oh I have wrought such
Lady Sangazure) evil with my spells
20. RECIT AND AIR (Aline) Alexis! Doubt me not my loved one!
21. SONG (Dr. Daly) Engaged to so-and-so
22. ENSEMBLE (Aline, Alexis, Oh joyous boon! Oh mad delight!
Dr. Daly and Chorus)
23. RECIT (Alexis) Prepare for sad surprises!
24. FINALE Or he or I must die!

THE CAST



(Left to Right)

Back Row: James Smithies, John Atkinson, Stuart Summerscales,
Leyland Smith, John Priestley, Richard Buxton

Front Row: Michael Whitwam, Frank Hogan, Trevor Roberts
Richard Fellows, Simon Roberts

Missing from photograph: Harold Galley, Steven Greenwood,
Peter Sugden, Michael Johnson
Paul Holdsworth (who plays Hercules,
Sir Marmaduke's page)



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THE CAST



(Left to right)
Back row: Barbara Thompson, Rebecca Thompson, Stephanie Bolton,
Kathryn Buxton, Carol Fleming
Middle row: Jane Fellows, Helen Smith, Elizabeth Dinsdale
Clare Williams, Helen Saul, Christine Roberts
Front row: Janice Roberts, Alison Smithies, Laraine Cowgill,
Flora Smithies, Sheila Simpson,
Missing from photograph: Marie Sugden, Christine Johnson (who
plays Mr. Wells assistant)

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Sunnybank School, Greetland

Mr. & Mrs. David Bolton

Calderdale Council

All who advertised in this programme

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