



1978  
 PRODUCTION OF THE  
 HALIFAX  
 GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY

# RUDDIGORE

or  
 THE WITCH'S CURSE

by  
 W. S. GILBERT AND ARTHUR SULLIVAN

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## DRAMATIS PERSONAE

Sir Ruthven Murgatroyd ... .. (Disguised as Robin Oakapple, a Young Farmer)	JOHN PORTER
Richard Dauntless ... .. (His Foster-Brother — a Man-o'War's man)	IAN HENDERSON
Sir Despard Murgatroyd ... .. (Of Ruddigore — A Wicked Baronet)	STEVEN MELLOR
Old Adam Goodheart ... .. (Robin's Faithful Servant)	JOHN RAMMELL
Sir Roderic Murgatroyd ... .. (The Twenty-first Baronet)	BRIAN NAIRN
Rose Maybud ... .. (A Village Maiden)	PATRICIA CASTLE
Mad Margaret ... ..	ANGELA HORNER
Dame Hannah ... .. (Rose's Aunt)	SHEILA PRIESTLEY
Zorah ... .. (Professional Bridesmaid)	PAULINE SWAILES
Ruth ... .. (Professional Bridesmaid)	MARY McKEITH

### Chorus of Officers, Ancestors, Villagers and Professional Bridesmaids

Diedre Harrop	Barbara Thompson
Gillian Wilkinson	Edgar Brook
Carol Fleming	John Child
Betty Helliwell	Brian Bach
Mary Normanton	Ernest Wadsworth
Rosemary Gough	Leslie Bolland
Angela Child	Geoffrey Seed
Pamela Page	Paul Sanders
Betty Brooksby	Norman Fisher
Mary Mitchell	Keith Worsman
Lesley Henderson	



## THE STORY OF RUDDIGORE

We open in the fishing village of Rederring, Cornwall, early in the 19th century. A corps of professional bridesmaids wait in vain for Rose Maybud to find a husband for them—an omission which keeps them in idleness. Dame Hannah enters and the bridesmaids suggest that she should take a husband. She says, however, that she is pledged to eternal maidenhood. Long ago she was betrothed to Sir Roderic Murgatroyd, the bad baronet of Ruddigore, but when she discovered who he was she left him because of the curse which requires the Baron to commit a crime every day or perish in agony.

Rose Maybud appears and describes to Hannah the difficulty of attracting suitors. She loves Robin Oakapple, a young farmer whose real identity is revealed as Sir Ruthven Murgatroyd, the rightful heir of Ruddigore. He has only avoided the title by masquerading as a farmer, leaving responsibility for the daily crime to his younger brother, Despard, who believes him dead. Richard Dauntless, a Man-o'-War's man and Robin's foster-brother, now arrives. He is a braggart sailor and offers to press Robin's suit with Rose and is so successful that he wins her himself! However, after emphasising the importance of one's heart's dictates, Rose takes him at his word and decides to marry Robin after all.

Mad Margaret enters. She loves Sir Despard but has been driven mad by his villainy and indifference to her. The baronet himself appears, and Richard Dauntless reveals that Sir Ruthven Murgatroyd is still alive. When the villagers assemble for Rose and Robin's union, Despard denounces the latter as the true baronet of Ruddigore. Rose is consequently compelled to return to Richard; Despard, "a virtuous person now", takes back Mad Margaret, and Robin is left saddled with the title and its attendant curse.

Act two opens in the picture gallery of Ruddigore Castle. On the walls are portraits of all the baronets since the time of James I. Robin, now Sir Ruthven, is consulting Old Adam about his daily crime. The stage darkens and the Murgatroyd ancestors step out of their frames. Sir Roderic complains about the triviality of Robin's daily crimes and demands that a lady be carried off that very day. The ghosts return to their frames and Robin sends Old Adam to carry out their orders. Despard and Mad Margaret enter and persuade Robin to abandon his career of crime, even at the cost of his life. A further complication arises, however, when Old Adam returns, bringing in Dame Hannah. When Robin is left alone with her she becomes so ferocious that he calls upon Sir Roderic to protect him. The latter steps down from his frame and he and Hannah recognise each other as lovers of long ago.

Robin now explains a great new idea—a baronet of Ruddigore incurs death by failing to commit his daily crime; therefore, to refuse to commit his daily crime is tantamount to suicide; but suicide itself is a crime. From this it follows that Sir Robert ought never to have died at all. He accordingly resumes his existence and is united to Dame Hannah. Robin is now free to marry Rose, and Richard Dauntless has to be content with one of the professional bridesmaids.

Act I—the fishing village of Rederring, in Cornwall. Act II—picture gallery in Ruddigore Castle.

## MUSICAL ITEMS

### Overture

### ACT I

No.									
1.	Chorus of Bridesmaids (Solo Soprano, Zorah)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"Fair is Rose"
2.	Song (Hannah and Chorus)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"Sir Rupert Murgatroyd his leisure"
3.	Song (Rose)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"If somebody there chanced to be"
4.	Duet (Rose and Robin)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"I know a youth"
5.	Chorus of Bridesmaids and Song (Richard)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"From the briny sea"
A.	Hornpipe.								
	Song (Robin)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"My boy, you may take it from me"
	Duet (Rose and Richard)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"The battle's roar is over"
	Entrance of Bridesmaids	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"If well his suit has sped"
	Trio (Rose, Richard and Robin)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"In sailing o'er life's ocean wide"
	Recit. and Aria (Margaret)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"Cheerily carols the lark"
	Chorus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"Welcome, gentry"
	Song and Chorus (Sir Despard)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"Oh, why am I moody and sad?"
	Duet (Richard and Sir Despard)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"You understand? I think I do"
	Finale	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"Hail the bride"

### ACT II

Duet (Sir Ruthven and Adam)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"I once was as meek"
Duet and Chorus (Rose and Richard)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"Happily coupled are we"
Song (Rose, with Chorus of Bridesmaids)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"In bygone days"
Chorus of Ancestors (with Solos, Sir Ruthven and Sir Roderic)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"Painted emblems"
Song (Sir Roderic and Chorus)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"When the night wind howls"
Chorus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"He yields"
Duet (Margaret and Despard)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"I once was a very"
Trio (Margaret, Sir Ruthven and Despard)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"My eyes are fully open"
Melodrama.									
Song (Hannah, with Sir Roderic)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"There grew a little flower"
Finale	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"Oh, happy the lily when kissed by the bee"

