

FEB. 1996

• Gilbert & Sullivan

# RULLIGORE



# Ruddigore

Burton & District Operatic Society

or *The Witch's Curse*

By Gilbert  
& Sullivan

Produced by

**PETER BARLOW**

Music Directed by **IAN STEPHENSON**

Scenic Design **JAMES GRANT**

Costumes **HOMBURG OF LEEDS**

Stage Director **DAVID HUSSEY**

Lighting Design **MICHAEL THOMPSON**

Commencing Tuesday,  
15th February, 1994  
to Saturday, 19th February at  
7.30 p.m.

de Ferrers High School,  
Harehedge Lane, Horninglow,  
Burton upon Trent

## THE STORY of the "Supernatural Opera" –

The 1st Act opens outside the Cottage of Rose Maybud in the fishing village of Rederring, Cornwall where the professional bridesmaids are gathered. But they are feeling frustrated – and no wonder! Although Rederring is the only village in the world with a corps of professional bridesmaids, their services have not been required for six months. The ageing Dame Hannah appears and, in desperation, they suggest SHE should marry. But she reveals that, many years ago, she was to have married a handsome youth who, she discovered on the day fixed for their wedding, was really Sir Roderic Murgatroyd, one of the bad Baronets of Ruddigore. She never saw him again and he died ten years ago. She recounts the legend of Sir Rupert Murgatroyd, the first Baronet:

"Sir Rupert Murgatroyd  
His leisure and his riches  
He ruthlessly employed  
in persecuting witches.  
With fear he'd make them quake –  
He'd duck them in his lake –  
He'd break their bones  
With sticks and stones,  
And burn them at the stake!" etc. . . .

Until one witch, being so tortured, yelled forth this curse on him

"Each Lord of Ruddigore,  
Despite his best endeavour,  
Shall do one crime, or more,  
Once, every day, for ever!  
This doom he can't defy,  
However he may try,  
For should he stay  
His hand, that day  
In torture he shall die!"

This prophecy came true  
"And thus, with sinning cloyed,  
Has died each Murgatroyd,  
And so shall fall,  
Both one and all,  
Each coming Murgatroyd!"

Rose comes out of the cottage and, asked by Dame Hannah why she does not marry, she explains that her life is governed by the little book of etiquette which she always carries. Rose is about to go when young Robin Oakapple comes along. They shyly exchange politenesses about the weather and then each expresses the wish to consult the other concerning "a friend".

"I know a youth who loves a little maid" –  
"Silent he is, for he's modest and afraid" –

"I know a maid who loves a gallant youth" –  
"She cannot tell him all the sad, sad truth".  
Rose leaves.

Robin reveals to Old Adam Goodheart that 20 years ago he fled from his home to escape from the prospect of succeeding to the baronetcy and becoming Sir Ruthven Murgatroyd and all that entailed. His younger Brother, Despard, believing him to be dead, succeeded to the title and its attendant curse. "For twenty years I have been dead and buried. Don't dig me up now."

Robin brightens at the news that his foster-brother Richard has arrived home from the sea. He's welcomed by the bridesmaids as he bounds on to the scene and gives an account of his adventures. Richard executes a lively horn-pipe and there are warm exchanges between the two foster-brothers during which Robin confesses that he loves Rose but is too shy to approach her. The self-assured Richard agrees to plead his case for him, while Robin deplores his own modest nature.

Richard sets about his task with enthusiasm but, finding himself attracted by Rose's charms, decides to follow his rule that his conduct should be guided by his heart. Rose, after the correct measure of hesitation prompted by her etiquette book, permits him one kiss.

Rose is confused, she turns from Richard to Robin, who embraces her, and they all comment upon the dilemma:

"In sailing o'er life's ocean wide  
No doubt the heart should be your guide;  
But it is awkward when you find  
A heart that does not know its mind!"

Robin and Rose go off together, and Richard departs, weeping.

There comes upon the scene the wild and tattered figure of Mad Margaret. Poor Margaret is in tears when Rose encounters her, Rose is both surprised and alarmed to hear that she is in love with the wicked Sir Despard Murgatroyd and is determined to kill Rose for being in love with him too! Rose assures her this is not the case and they go off together. There arrives the chorus of Bucks and Blades, who exchange compliments with the chorus of bridesmaids, and then the sinister figure of Sir Despard Murgatroyd strides in:

"Why am I moody and sad?  
And why am I guiltily mad?  
Because I am thoroughly bad!" –

The girls flee from Sir Despard in horror and he proceeds to reveal that though he is doomed to commit a crime every day, he makes a practice of getting it over early in the morning and spending the rest of the day doing good. Meanwhile,

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act 1 The Fishing Village of Rederring in Cornwall  
**OVERTURE** Mr. Ian Stephenson & Ladies and Gentlemen of the Orchestra

**Fair is Rose**  
**Sir Rupert Murgatroyd his Leisure**  
**If Somebody There Chanced to be**  
**I Know a Youth**  
**From the Briny Sea**  
**Hornpipe**  
**My Boy, You May Take It From Me**  
**The Battle's Roar is Over**  
**"If Well His Suit Has Sped"**  
**In Sailing O'er Life's Ocean Wide**  
**"Cheerily Carols the Lark"**  
**Welcome, Gentry**  
**Oh, Why Am I Moody and Sad**  
**You Understand? I Think I Do**  
**Hail the Bride**

Zorah & Chorus  
 Hannah & Chorus  
 Rose  
 Rose and Robin  
 Richard and Chorus  
  
 Robin  
 Rose and Richard  
 Entrance of Bridesmaids  
 Rose, Richard and Robin  
 Margaret  
 Chorus  
 Sir Despard  
 Richard and Sir Despard  
**FINALE**

ACT II The Picture Gallery in Ruddigore Castle

**I Once Was as Meek**  
**Happily Coupled Are We**  
**In Bygone Days**  
**Painted Emblems**

Sir Ruthven and Adam  
 Rose, Richard and Chorus  
 Rose with Chorus of Bridesmaids  
 Sir Ruthven, Sir Roderic with Chorus of Ancestors  
 Sir Roderic and Chorus  
 Chorus  
 Margaret and Despard  
 Margaret, Sir Ruthven and Despard  
  
 Hannah with Sir Roderic  
**FINALE**

**When the Night Wind Howls**  
**He Yields**  
**I Once Was a Very**  
**My Eyes Are Fully Open**  
**MELODRAME**  
**There Grew a Little Flower**  
**Oh, Happy the Lily When**  
**Kissed by the Bee**

*During the 20 minute interval, please come and try a glass of wine, fruit juice, mineral or a cup of coffee, and maybe you could be tempted at our chocolate bar.*

RUDDIGORE; or the Witch's Curse was first performed at the Savoy Theatre, London, on the 22nd January 1887 and was conducted by Sullivan.  
 It had an initial run of 288 performances.

## CAST

<b>MORTALS</b>	<b>RUTH</b>	
<b>SIR RUTHVEN MURGATROYD</b> Disguised as Robin Oakapple, a Young Farmer	Professional Bridesmaid	Jane Haywood
	Steven Foster	
<b>RICHARD DAUNTLESS</b> His Foster-Brother - A Man-o'-war's-man	Adrian Bader	
<b>SIR DESPARD MURGATROYD</b> of Ruddigore. A Wicked Baronet	Iain Hubert	
<b>OLD ADAM GOODHEART</b> Robin's Faithful Servant	Tim Salt	
<b>ROSE MAYBUD</b> A Village Maiden	Caroline Salt	
<b>MAD MARGARET</b>	Angela Wynne	
<b>DAME HANNAH</b> Rose's Aunt	Margaret Hogg	
<b>ZORAH</b> Professional Bridesmaid	Pat Blood	Andrew Last
	<b>GHOSTS</b>	
	<b>SIR RUPERT MURGATROYD</b> The First Baronet	Richard Dean
	<b>SIR JASPER MURGATROYD</b> The Third Baronet	Nigel Haywood/Robert Hughes
	<b>SIR LIONEL MURGATROYD</b> The Sixth Baronet	Mike Storr/Mark Jones
	<b>SIR CONRAD MURGATROYD</b> The Twelfth Baronet	Alan Swift/Richard Tunstall
	<b>AND</b>	
	<b>SIR RODERIC MURGATROYD</b> The Twenty-First Baronet	Andrew Last

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

John Biddle, Lindsey Biddle, Kate Buckley, Mary Collingwood, Sarah Cottle, Richard Dean, Louise Evanson, Chris Frost, Maurice Goodhead, Stella Hambleton, Sally Hambling, Andrew Handsaker, Nigel Haywood, Robert Hughes, John Ivens, Mark Jones, Andrew Last, Helen Lowe, Ken Lowe, Rebecca Mallinson, Sue May, Margaret Renwick, Jean Rogers, Sarah Stephenson, Melanie Stevenson, Mike Storr, Alan Swift, Richard Tunstall, Ian Wishlade.

## MUSICAL DIRECTOR - IAN STEPHENSON

Please welcome Ian in his first Show with us, having joined us in November last. He comes to us from Rugeley Operatic Society where he had been Musical Director for the previous two years.

Ian has a Music and American Studies Degree from Keele University and is now teaching at St. John's Primary School, Essington.



▲ IAN STEPHENSON  
Musical Director



▲ PETER BARLOW  
Producer

▼ STEVEN FOSTER  
Sir Ruthven Murgatroyd



▲ ADRIAN BADER  
Richard Dauntless

▼ IAIN HUBERT  
Sir Despard



▲ TIM SALT  
Old Adam Goodheart

▼ CAROLINE SALT  
Rose Maybud



▼ ANGELA WYNNE  
Mad Margaret

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A PATRON or MEMBER OF THIS SOCIETY

If interested please contact the respective secretary.

Patrons - Mrs. Louise Evanson, 85 Kitting Greaves Lane, Burton upon Trent (43240).

Members - Mrs. Jocelyn Hickman, 2 Close Bank, Cornmill Lane, Tutbury. (813767).

who will be pleased to give you further information.  
 We extend our sincere thanks to you our audience for your continued support of our productions.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Committee, on behalf of the Society, wishes to express its grateful thanks to -

de Ferrers High School  
 Dean & Smedley Ltd., Chemists  
 Ind Coope Burton Brewery  
 Marshments Garden Centre  
 Marstons Brewery  
 The Staffordshire Education Committee  
 Tony Gaskin - The Beacon Hotel  
 West Transport, and to anyone else who helped to make "Ruddigore" a success, THANK YOU.

The audience is respectfully requested not to smoke in the building, and not to use flash photography in the auditorium during the performance.

The Society cannot accept responsibility for any articles left in the cloakroom.



▲ MARGARET HOGG  
Dame Hannah



▲ ANDREW LAST  
Sir Roderic

## ORCHESTRA

**VIOLINS** Judy Gandy (leader) Karen Smith, Mary Jessop •  
**VIOLA** Ann Boulby • **CELLO** Malcolm Clarke • **DOUBLE BASS** Mike North  
 • **FLUTE** Julie Shipley • **OBOE** Tony Reynolds •  
**CLARINETS** Sarah James, Alison Bryant • **TRUMPET** Dominic Field  
 • **FRENCH HORN** Tim Hill • **TROMBONE** Mark Templeton  
 • **PERCUSSION** David Shipley • **PIANO** Vic Benson



The Society is affiliated to the Burton Arts Council and the National Operatic and Dramatic Association.  
 Amateur performance by arrangement with Chappel Music Ltd.

Richard Dauntless is not content to let Robin take Rose Maybud from him. He tells Sir Despard that, far from being dead, his brother Sir Ruthven is very much alive and is masquerading as Robin Oakapple. This means that Sir Despard can be free to lead a blameless life.

Richard and Sir Despard plot their next move.

Blissfully unaware of what is being planned, Rose and Robin are greeted by the chorus as bride and groom and there follows a happy madrigal with much 'Fal lal la':

"When the buds are blossoming,  
Smiling welcome to the Spring,  
Lovers choose a wedding day –  
Life is love in merry May! –"

The gaiety continues with a gavotte – until Sir Despard bursts in and declares that Robin is really Sir Ruthven Murgatroyd. Rose declares that she cannot now be Robin's and says she is prepared to marry Sir Despard. But he, on his part, points out that he is now a virtuous person and has vowed to marry Margaret. The act closes with two happy pairings off – and misery for Robin.

On the walls of the Picture Gallery are full-length portraits of the Baronets of Ruddigore from the time of James I onwards. As the curtain rises on the second act Robin and Old Adam enter. Their appearances are transformed and they move melodramatically – Robin a guilty-looking rouse and Adam his wicked henchman:

I once was meek as a new-born lamb,  
I'm now Sir Murgatroyd – ha! ha!

They move into the background and Richard Dauntless and Rose Maybud enter, preceded by the chorus of bridesmaids. The couple have come to the castle to ask Robin's consent, as Lord of the manor, to their marriage. He threatens imprisonment but Richard produces a Union Jack and they all kneel. 'Foiled – and by a Union Jack!' mutters Robin, in heavy melodramatic style. Rose pleads with Robin. Robin yields and they go off joyously, leaving him to brood upon the curse that condemns him to commit a crime every day. He begs his ancestors to have mercy on him – and the portraits suddenly come to life:

"Painted emblems of a race,  
All accurst in days of yore,  
Each from his accustomed place  
Steps into the world once more!"

They step from their frames and march round the Gallery:

"Baronet of Ruddigore,  
Last of our accursed line,  
Down upon the oaken floor –  
Down upon those knees of thine.  
Coward, poltroon, shaker, squeamer,  
Blockhead, sluggard, dullard, dreamer,  
Shirker, shuffler, wailer, weeper,  
Earthworm, maggot, tadpole, weevil!  
Set upon thy course of evil,  
Lest the King of Sceptre-Land,  
Set on thee his grisly hand!"

Sir Roderic Murgatroyd, the most recently deceased, is the spokesman for all of them:

"When the night wind howls in the chimney crows,  
and bat in the moonlight flies,  
And inky clouds, like funeral shrouds, sail over  
the midnight skies –  
When the footpads quail at the night-bird's wail,  
and black dogs bay at the moon,  
Then is the sceptres' holiday – then is the  
ghosts' high-noon!

Ha! Ha!  
Then is the ghosts' high-noon!"

At Sir Roderic's command, Robin details his 'crimes' of the week, but the list is unimpressive and the ghosts are far from satisfied. He is ordered to commit the crime of carrying off a lady without delay.

The ancestors return to their frames and Adam comes in and is dispatched to the village to seize a maiden. Robin launches into a patter-song about the price of being a baronet after which he leaves.

We are now confronted by two other much changed people – Despard, now freed from the witches curse, and Margaret. They are dressed in sober black, he carrying an umbrella as the final mark of respectability, and together they present a perfect picture of solemn conformity. They have been married for a week, Margaret is still subject to occasional outbursts of hysteria but they have hit upon a word which, when uttered by Despard, immediately calms her, a word that 'teems with hidden meaning' – Basingstoke!

On Robin's return Despard points out to him that, as Robin is the rightful baronet, his is the guilt for all the crimes committed in his name during the past ten years. Desperate, Robin decides to defy his ancestors; even if it means facing death:

"My eyes are fully open to my awful situation –  
I shall go at once to Roderic and make him an oration.

I shall tell him I've recovered my forgotten moral senses,

And I don't care twopence-halfpenny for my consequences.

Now I do not want to perish by the sword or by the dagger,

But a Martyr may indulge a little pardonable swagger,

And a word or two of compliment my vanity would flatter,

But I've got to die tomorrow, so it really doesn't matter!

So it really doesn't matter, matter, matter, matter, matter!"

Adam returns. He has carried out his master's daily crime by seizing a village maiden. Far from being a weak and wilting young maid, she is well capable of looking after herself. She is in fact Dame Hannah! She throws a small dagger to Robin and, seizing another from one of the armed figures, is about to do battle when Robin appeals to the portrait of Sir Roderic to save him. Sir Roderic steps from the frame and there is mutual recognition. 'Little Nannikin!' he exclaims. 'Roddy-doddy!' They were engaged to be married many years ago! Robin leaves them alone together.

Meanwhile Robin has had an inspiration. With Rose and all the others he returns to point out to Sir Roderic that a baronet of Ruddigore can die only by refusing to commit his daily crime and that such a refusal is tantamount to suicide – which is in itself a crime. So that Sir Roderic should never have died at all! 'Then I'm practically alive!' he exclaims. Robin embraces Rose . . .



Gilbert & Sullivan

# PLEASE HELP . . . .

*. . . . our society at its hour of need!*

There will be few reading this programme who do not know that Burton Operatic Society is trying to purchase the former Wesleyan Chapel in Ferry Street, which it has used as its headquarters for over 25 years.

A few months ago the society set up a small sub-committee to raise funds to enable it to make this purchase, and to carry out necessary renovations to the building. The sub-committee has made appeals to every patron, to local businesses and to charities for funding of this project. Our sincere thanks are due to our patrons for a most heart-warming response, and also to businesses for donations and raffle prizes. Several charities are also considering our appeal. But there is still a long way to go to enable the society to contemplate the purchase, let alone its renovation.

To supplement the appeal, Burton Operatic have been conducting several "in-house" fund-raising schemes, including a jumble sale, carol singing in the Octagon Centre, a weekly lottery amongst its members, and a **prize draw** which will be drawn by Mr. Archie Gentles after the Saturday performance of *Ruddigore*.

*Please buy a ticket (or more!) in our draw. Tickets are on sale in the entrance and from members of the company. If this fund raiser is a real success we think we can see our way to achieving at least the first part of our objective.*

## HONORARY OFFICIALS

*President of the Society* Mr. Terry Hickman

*Honorary Vice-Presidents* Mr. Peter Duffield, D.F.C. • Mr. Len Harvey • Mr. Robert Smith

*Honorary Life Members* Mrs. Joy Appleby • Mr. Francis Bates • Mrs. Glenice Blant • Miss Lily Brunning  
• Mr. Jack Last • Mrs. Effie Shorthose • Mr. Alan Thompson • Mrs. Mabel Whiteland

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*Producer* Peter Barlow

*Musical Director* Ian Stephenson

*Accompanist* Vic Benson

*Stage Director* David Hussey

*Stage Manager* Tim Goodhead

*Lighting Design* Michael Thompson

*Lighting Board* Michael Thompson • Karen Thompson

*Scenic Design* James Grant

*Scenic Artists* Deborah Cox • David Kite • Chris Yardley

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• Martin Louch • Les Roberts • Terry Thornton

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*Wardrobe Mistress* Jean Rogers

*Wardrobe Assistants* Lily Brunning • Ruth Skellett • Laurie Swift

*Prompt* Jan Caldwell

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*Programme Secretary* Jean Last

*Photography* Robert Kemp • PWS Photography

*Publicity* Mary Collingwood

*Social Secretary* Steven Foster

*Front of House Display* Margaret Glover • Ron Harris • Robert Kemp

*Front of House Staff* Yvonne Bates • David Blant • Glenice Blant • Jane Dawn • Elsie Goodhead • Jan Goodhead • John Goodhead • Vi Harris • Robert Kemp • Jack Last • Jean Last • Vi Leete • Stella Reynolds • Alan Thompson • Marie Thompson • Mabel Whiteland • John Woodcock • Pam Woodcock

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