
**Batley Congregational
Operatic Society**



“Ruddigore”



1963



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BATLEY CONGREGATIONAL OPERATIC SOCIETY

HANOVER STREET

Presents

"RUDDIGORE"

OR THE WITCH'S CURSE

by William S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan
in the Schoolroom at 7-15 p.m. each evening

Admission :

Bookable Seats 4/- each night

Children 1/6 (unreserved)

Saturday, 30th March—Opener :

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR OF BATLEY (Coun. H. Sheldon)

GUESTS OF HONOUR

Monday, 1st April—

Tuesday, 2nd April—

Wednesday, 3rd April—R. D. LISTER, ESQ.

Thursday, 4th April—E. C. MALLETT, ESQ., F.C.A.

Friday, 5th April—I. B. FALLOWS, ESQ., M.A.

Saturday, 6th April—

Sunday, 7th April at 6 p.m. a Service of Thanksgiving will be held in the Church. A special invitation is given to all who have helped in this production.

Next Year's Production—"PRINCESS IDA"

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year we are again presenting to you one of our favourite Gilbert and Sullivan operas, "Ruddigore". This is not one of the most well known operas, but we ourselves found by our previous presentation that it is extremely popular.

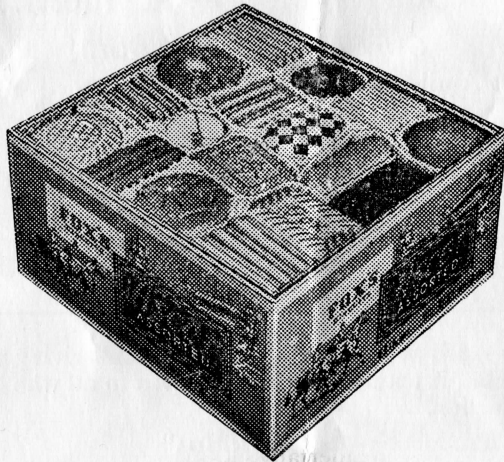
Mr. Dobson, our Producer, and Mr. C. Twigg, our Musical Director, have been getting our company into top shape and I can assure you we can guarantee a first class show.

I must thank all our friends who have helped us in our previous productions and to our friends, the audience. I am hoping we can keep up our first class reputation.

F. BURTON, President.

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Secretaries

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F. Chappell, C. Kirby

Misses E. Beeson, H. Smales, J. Hampshire, D. Coupland
Messrs. J. Farquharson, N. A. Haigh, J. Kemp

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

It was in Coronation Year that the Society last produced "Ruddigore". This, incidentally, was the first of all operas and such-like delights that I saw (in Blackpool, staged by D'Oyly Carte). So, personally, it will be enjoyable to see "Ruddigore" again.

Patrons and friends, old and new, may be assured of a cordial welcome and can look forward with confidence to an evening's delight and pleasure.

Good wishes to the Society for the success of "Ruddigore". That its members enjoy the Savoy operas, the detailed and sometimes exacting preparation through long months, culminating in the stage presentation, is obvious, else they would not do it so well. In conclusion, may I say that Hanover Street is proud of the standing of its Gilbert and Sullivan Society, and gratefully acknowledge its generosity. Last year's show, "The Pirates of Penzance", was a box-office record. As a result, the Society was able to contribute the handsome sum of £300 to the church and school.

HERBERT CUNLIFFE JONES.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ

Sir Ruthven Murgatroyd CLIVE MOUL
Richard Dauntless ALLAN HAIGH
Sir Despard Murgatroyd GEOFFREY GREENWOOD
Old Adam Goodheart EDWARD ROE
Rose Maybud JUDITH RAWDEN
Mad Margaret MARJORIE HARROP
Dame Hannah MARGARET WHITTAKER
Zorah MARY TURNER
Ruth BARBARA MOUL
Sir Roderic Murgatroyd ERIC COUPLAND

LADIES' CHORUS

M. H. Stakes, D. Exley, O. Turner, M. J. Bird, E. Hedley, M. Sands,
M. Coupland, D. Spurr, M. S. Roebuck, I. Richardson, M. Clare,
M. Armitage, N. Dransfield, D. Farquharson.

MEN'S CHORUS

B. Pierson, W. Gill, F. Atkins, W. Downs, T. Roberts, R. Barron,
F. Wells, S. W. Lockyer, F. Burton, J. Whitehead, C. Woodcock,
G. Haller.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Act I—The Fishing Village of Rederring in Cornwall

Act II—Picture Gallery in Ruddigore Castle

Hon. Musical Director : Mr. CHAS C. TWIGG

Producer : Mr. W. DOBSON

Secretary : Mr. J. KEMP

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Pianists : Mr. M. CLAIRE, Mrs. SHAW

Stage Manager : Mr. J. DAVISON

Electrician : Mr. R. JAMES

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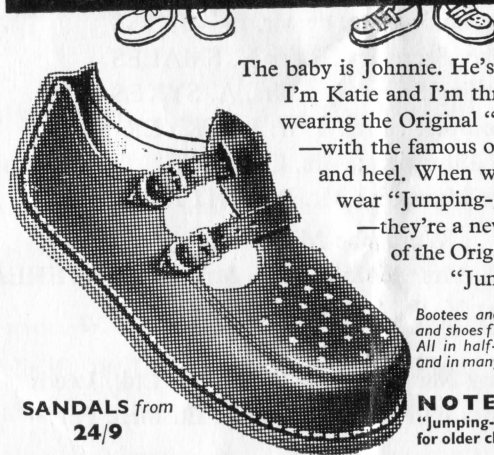
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The Story

RUDDIGORE is typical of Gilbert in that he used an entirely original plot, and gave his material a twist along his own topsy turvy lines.

The plot can be briefly outlined thus : In the simple Cornish village of Rederring, the true local baronet, Sir Ruthven Murgatroyd, is masquerading as a young farmer, Robin Oakapple. The Murgatroyd family have for generations suffered under the curse of a witch burnt by one of them which prophesied that :

"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."

Revolted by this intended fate, the young Ruthven, on inheriting the title from his uncle had fled leaving evidence of his death, and his younger brother, Sir Despard, to succeed to the curse.

A shy young man, he is in love with the village beauty, Rose Maybud, but cannot bring himself to tell her so. His foster brother, Richard, an anything but shy sailor, offers to woo the young lady on Robin's behalf, but as is his wont follows his "heart's dictates" and wins her for himself. But Rose returns to preferring Robin so Dick again follows his hearts dictates and informs the curse-ridden, wicked baronet, Sir Despard, that his elder brother still lives and is in the village. Robin is duly forced to admit his identity and stamps off to fulfil his villainous destiny.

In the next act we find Robin in the Picture Gallery in Ruddigore Castle somewhat stumped for ideas in regard to his daily crime. After giving consent to the marriage of Richard and Rose he soliloquises glooming on his situation in a speech addressed to the pictures of his ancestors. This leads, naturally, to the most effective scene in the Opera. After a momentary darkening of the stage the pictures come to life, step down from their frames and admonish their descendant on his peculiar lack of enterprise in crime. After they return to their frames he orders Adam, his faithful retainer to abduct a maiden. Then enters Sir Despard and Margaret to try and persuade Robin to give up his life of crime. He is on the point of yielding when Adam, to his alarm, returns with Dame Hannah, an elderly villager, who had once been engaged to Sir Roderic. She seizes a long sword prepared to fight so Robin appeals to his ancestor, Sir Roderic, to protect him. Sir Roderic steps down from his frame and when he recognises his former fiancée he dismisses Robin like a small boy from the scene and the Opera closes with one of Gilbert's characteristic "Coups de ligue."

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The President, Officers and members of the Batley Congregational Operatic Society are deeply grateful to all those friends who have furthered the production of these Operas, and to the advertisers who have made it possible to produce this programme. We ask where possible, to help those who have helped us.

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