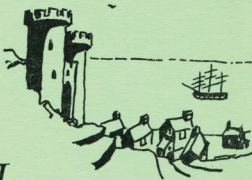


Woking Amateur Operatic Society

Presents at THE RHODA McGAW THEATRE

R U D D I G O R E



by

Arthur Sullivan

W
S
Gilbert

RHODA McGAW THEATRE

CENTRE HALLS, WOKING

Proprietors: Woking Borough Council

Director of Leisure Services

F. L. Hogg, A.I.M.Ent.

Centre Halls General Manager

J. Ricks, A.I.M.Ent.

Woking Borough Council

present

Woking Amateur Operatic Society's

10th Production

RUDDIGORE

An Operetta in Two Acts

Libretto by W. S. GILBERT

Musical Score and Arrangements by ARTHUR SULLIVAN

FRIDAY 2nd to SATURDAY 10th NOVEMBER

Evenings 7.45 p.m. Matinee 2.30 p.m. 10th November

A Short History of 'Ruddigore'

How to follow the Mikado? That was the major problem confronting Gilbert and Sullivan in the early spring of 1886. Although the Mikado had been playing for over a year at the Savoy, the astute and far sighted Gilbert wanted another piece ready in case the box office showed signs of flagging. Sullivan was not so enthusiastic, as he wanted to concentrate his efforts and talent on serious music. He therefore accepted a commission to write a full length oratorio for the Leeds Festival in October 1886. This work needed his full attention, but Gilbert and D'Oyly Carte were very persuasive and so Sullivan spent the summer composing music for two entirely different works, side by side.

Sullivan completed the score for 'Ruddigore' just one week before the first performance. And the curtain rose just 3 days after the Mikado had closed on 22 January 1887. It was greeted with little enthusiasm by the audience and compared with the other operas, it was a spectacular flop! The title was the first thing to give offence, the Victorian public were shocked by the spelling 'Ruddygore', and after much pressure it was changed to 'Ruddigore'. The second act was criticised for being too long so drastic cuts had to be made, and Rutland Barrington, the first Sir Despard, recalls that the final curtain was greeted with boos, and shouts of "Take it away—give us back the Mikado".

'Ruddigore' was not, as Jeremiahs had prophesied, a failure. It ran 288 performances, and Gilbert remarked: "I could do with a few more such failures," for it put £7,000 in Gilbert's pocket and is now firmly established in the repertoire of the D'Oyly Carte Company.



The Plot in Brief

In Rederring, a Cornish fishing village that boasts an endowed corps of professional bridesmaids, lives the modest and virtuous Rose Maybud. She is worshipped from afar by the bashful and timid Robin Oakapple. But alas, their happiness is threatened by the dark shadow of Ruddigore Castle and its evil lord Sir Despard Murgatroyd, one of the accursed line of wicked baronets. What is the secret of his evil power? Will Robin escape the terrible doom from which he has been a fugitive for ten years? Could it be that the answer lies in the castle itself, where the portraits of his ancestors look down and sneer upon their latest baronet!



Time 19th Century

ACT I

The Fishing Village of Rederring, Cornwall.

ACT II

The Picture Gallery, Ruddigore Castle.

There will be an interval of 20 minutes between these Acts

RUDDIGORE

Producer

DAVID HANKS

Choreographer

STELLA THACKER

Musical Director

ROWLAND LEE

At the Organ

ARTHUR LORD

SIR RUTHVEN MURGATROYD Disguised as Robin Oakapple, a Young Farmer *Colin McKenna*

RICHARD DAUNTLESS . . . His Foster-Brother—A Man-o'-War's-man *Alan Hicks*

SIR DESPARD MURGATROYD OF RUDDIGORE A wicked Baronet *Ted Mitson*

OLD ADAM GOODHEART Robin's faithful Servant *Tony Freeman*

ROSE MAYBUD A village Maiden *Jane Goodwin*

MAD MARGARET *Ellen Martin*

DAME HANNAH Rose's Aunt *Joan Ireland*

SIR RODERIC MURGATROYD The Twenty-first Baronet *Rod Parsons*

ZORAH } Professional Bridesmaids *Tracy Bousden*

RUTH } *Sarah Midgeley*

Chorus of Officers, Ancestors, Professional Bridesmaids and Villagers:

Linda Catherly, Janet Carpenter, Chris Dale, John Elcock, Paul Fowler, Sally Hayter, Pam Hullin, Lesley Hunt, Carol Hefford, Trevor Hyland, Ron Ireland, Trevor Leek, Peter Martin, Tim Matthews, Yvie Owen, Cathy Reynolds, Jane Reynolds, Jaqui Robinson, Cathy Snow, Val Streck, Graham Streck, Jane Thacker, Carol Wright, Martine Young.

Behind the scenes . . .

Stage Manager (for W.A.O.S.)	<i>Brian Pearce</i>
Theatre Technician (for Woking Borough Council)	<i>Derick Chappel</i>
Wardrobe Mistress	<i>Stella Thacker</i>
Scenic Artist	<i>Peter Lewis</i>
Set Construction	<i>Mike Thacker</i>
	<i>Geoff Cooper, Andrew Martin, Peter Martin, Alan Wellstead</i>
Rehearsal Pianists	<i>Barry Oliver and Sylvia Collins</i>
Stage Crew	<i>Mavis Bird, Hazel Fulford, Jane Wellstead, Len Collins, Geoff Cooper, Des Hullin, Peter Lewis, Michael Pearce, Mike Thacker, Denis Thompson, Alan Wellstead, John Carey</i>
Properties	<i>Margaret Prosser</i>
Lighting	<i>John Waters, Nigel Longley</i>
Prompt	<i>Jaqui Guess</i>
Makeup	<i>Patricia and Trevor Woderson</i>
Calls	
Front of House	<i>Peter Streck</i>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Costumes *Haslemere Wardrobe*
W.A.O.S. Wardrobe
 Armour *Baopy and Co.*
 Additional Lighting Equipment *Xanadu Lighting*

Our thanks to Woking Borough Council for the facilities made available in the Centre Hall complex.

We are grateful for the services of St. John Ambulance Brigade.

Our thanks to all those workers whose help and efforts have made this production possible. We are pleased to invite Senior Citizens of Woking to a special performance on Thursday, 1 November 1979.