



Queanbeyan  
Players

# RUDDIGORE

or The Witch's Curse

by  
Gilbert and Sullivan

May 25 26 31 June 1 2





## PRODUCER

**LINDSAY SMITH** was introduced to Gilbert and Sullivan at Geelong College and has been singing it ever since! He has had many leading roles (his favourite that of Ko Ko in "The Mikado") and in 1969 he played Richard Dauntless in Canberra Philharmonic's production of "Ruddigore". Lindsay has either produced or assisted in producing Queanbeyan Players' Gilbert and Sullivan productions of "Pirates of Penzance", "The Gondoliers", "HMS Pinafore" and now "Ruddigore".

## THE PRINCIPALS

**ROBIN OAKAPPLE (ROBERT TAYLOR)** is an active member of Canberra Philharmonic, Canberra Opera and Rep. His performances with these groups include "HMS Pinafore", "Sound of Music", "The Magic Flute" and "La Boheme". This is Robert's first major lead, although he played P.C. Boot in the Players' production of "Salad Days".

**ROSE MAYBUD (NORMA ROACH)** was the founder of the original Queanbeyan Players and directed and/or performed in all their productions. Norma has appeared in several Canberra Philharmonic Society shows and in all the current Players' productions playing the roles of Casilda in "Gondoliers", Hebe in "Pinafore", Angelina in "Trial by Jury" and Lady Raeburn in "Salad Days".

**SIR DESPARD MURGATROYD (PETER DARK)** joined the Players 3 years ago and has played captain Corcoran in "Pinafore", Augustine Williams in "Salad Days" and understudied The Judge in "Trial by Jury". Peter was in the chorus of Canberra Theatre Trust's production of "HMS Pinafore" and is currently enjoying the Stagecraft course in Canberra.

**MAD MARGARET (GILLIAN DOOLEY)** has sung in choirs since early childhood and in chorus for seven Canberra Opera productions and "La Boheme" with Rep. Margaret is Gillian's first principal role.

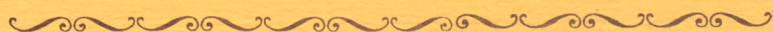
**SIR RODERICK MURGATROYD (DOUGLAS STEPHENSON)** is well known for his singing ability and has played Leopold in "White Horse Inn", Tommy Albright in "Brigadoon" with Bowral Philharmonic and Pirate King in "Pirates of Penzance", Uncle Zed in "Salad Days" and Antonio in "Gondoliers" with the Players.

**DAME HANNAH (MARCIA STEPHENSON)** is a versatile performer who has had considerable experience with Waverley Musical Society, Griffith Musical Society and Bowral Philharmonic, playing Aunt Ell in "Oklahoma", Phoebe in "Yeoman of the Guard", Katisha in "Mikado" and the roles of Ruth in "Pirates", Duchess in "Gondoliers" and Tim's mother in "Salad Days" for Queanbeyan Players. Marcia has also produced "Yeomen of the Guard", "Pirates of Penzance", "South Pacific" for Bowral Philharmonic 1964-67.

**RICHARD DAUNTLESS (PETER WOODS)** returns to the Queanbeyan Players after his very successful role as Ralph in Canberra Theatre Trust's production of "HMS Pinafore" opposite June Bronhill and Sutton in Canberra Philharmonic's "White Horse Inn". Peter's previous roles with the Queanbeyan Players were Frederic in "Pirates" and Marco in "Gondoliers".

**ADAM (FRANK BOWLES)**. "Ruddigore" is Frank's first appearance with Queanbeyan Players. His previous singing experience has been with the All Saints Church choir Ainslie and ANU Choral Society. He is studying voice with Joan Richards.

**ZORAH (SUE JARVIS)** is an experienced chorus member from Bathurst Teachers' College many moons ago and was in Queanbeyan Players' "Salad Days".







# RUDDIGORE

## The Music

### ACT ONE — The fishing village of Rederring Cornwall

Chorus of Bridesmaids and Zorah .....	<i>"Fair is Rose"</i>
Song (Hannah and Chorus) .....	<i>"Sir Rupert Murgatroyd"</i>
Song (Rose) .....	<i>"If somebody there chanced to be"</i>
Duet (Rose and Robin) .....	<i>"I know a youth"</i>
Chorus of Bridesmaids and Richard .....	<i>"From the briny sea"</i>
Song (Robin) .....	<i>"My boy you may take it from me"</i>
Duet (Rose and Richard) .....	<i>"The battle's roar is over"</i> and Entrance of Bridesmaids
Trio (Rose, Richard and Robin) .....	<i>"In sailing o'er life's ocean wide"</i>
Recit and Aria (Margaret) .....	<i>"Cheerily carols the lark"</i>
Chorus .....	<i>"Welcome Gentry"</i>
Song and Chorus (Sir Despard) .....	<i>"Oh, why am I moody and sad"</i>
Duet (Richard and Sir Despard) .....	<i>"You understand?"</i>

FINALE

### ACT TWO — The Picture Gallery in Ruddigore Castle

Duet (Sir Ruthven and Adam) .....	<i>"I once was as meek"</i>
Duet and Chorus (Rose and Richard) .....	<i>"Happily coupled are we"</i>
Song (Rose) and Bridesmaids .....	<i>"In bygone days"</i>
Chorus of ancestors (Solos Sir Ruthven and Sir Roderic) .....	<i>"Painted Emblems"</i>
Song (Sir Roderic) and Chorus .....	<i>"When the night wind howls"</i>
Chorus .....	<i>"He yields"</i>
Duet (Margaret and Despard) .....	<i>"I once was a very"</i>
Trio (Margaret, Sir Ruthven and Despard) .....	<i>"My eyes are fully open"</i>
Song (Hannah with Sir Roderic) .....	<i>"There grew a little flower"</i>

FINALE

Rehearsal Pianist — Rod Johnston  
Accompanists — Rod Johnston, Krythia Reid



## AUTOGRAPHS





## THE CONDUCTOR

We welcome WILLIAM HUNT, a familiar figure in the Canberra musical world, to Queanbeyan. As a conductor he has had numerous successes with Canberra Philharmonic Society productions — from the pre-Canberra Theatre days in the Albert Hall to the present times.

Bill Hunt's studies at Dudley Grammar School, England, included the piano, and he continued this when he came to Australia. He was awarded a post-war rehabilitation in singing at the Sydney Conservatorium.

He could be classed as one of the pioneers in the musical development of Canberra. Music is his life and it is fitting that he was awarded an M.B.E. in 1966 for his role in the City's musical growth. It is, perhaps, indicative of the standard that Queanbeyan has reached with its productions that a musician of Mr Hunt's standing was more than happy to accept the invitation to be musical director for "Ruddigore".



## CHORUS

Diana Antanaitis, Jenny Cox, Joan Daly, Eris Endicott, Julie Essenburg, Jeanette Field, Beverley Finlayson, Kerry Foy, Barbara Greer, Linda Grimmett, Jeneen Hoffman, Lyn Jones, Margaret Keys, Angela La Vella, Helen Roach, Mary Smith, Pam Snedden, Mady Swain, Daryl Colquhoun, Geoff Cook, Richard Kent, Geoff McCubbin, Anthony McGlynn, John McGlynn, Peter Morris, Bernie Samms, Graham Woods.



## AN HISTORIC NOTE — VICTORIAN ENGLAND SHOCKED

Shortly after the first night of "Ruddigore", an acquaintance asked Gilbert:

"How is Bloodygore going on?"

"It's not Bloodygore, it is Ruddygore!"

"Oh, well, that's the same thing!"

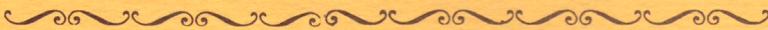
"Is it?" said Gilbert. "I suppose then you will think that if I say I admire your ruddy countenance it's the same as if I said I like your bloody cheek! Well — it isn't — and I don't."

The opening night of Ruddygore on 22nd January 1887, brought its crop of troubles, not the least of which was the failure of the picture frames to open on cue!

The critics also took objection to the title, saying that it might pass in a smoking room, but "in the case of ladies, on their lips such a title would scarcely sound pretty!"

Mr Carte and Sullivan were concerned, and Gilbert was irritated beyond measure to think that his title, which to him just meant red blood, should have been interpreted as language more usually heard around the docksides.

He promptly suggested that it should perhaps be called "Kensington Gore" or "Robin and Richard were two pretty men". It was eventually decided to keep the title as it was but alter the spelling by one letter, and *RUDDIGORE* it became!





## THE STORY:

# REPORTS OF GHOSTS

## Strange events at Cornish Village Bridesmaids want more weddings

The curtain rises to show a corps of professional bridesmaids and Dame Hannah standing in front of the cottage of Rose Maybud in Rederring in Cornwall. They are maintained by the village to be on duty every day from ten to four. They complain of the failure of Rose Maybud, "the fairest flower that blows", to find a husband — an omission which keeps them in idleness.

The bridesmaids suggest Dame Hannah should take a husband. She says, however, that she is pledged to eternal maidenhood. Long ago she was betrothed to Sir Roderic Murgatroyd, the baronet of Ruddigore, but, when she discovered who he was she left him. She tells the story of the curse on the house of Ruddigore which obliges the holder of the title to commit a crime every day or perish in agony.

Rose Maybud appears and describes to Hannah the difficulty of attracting suitors without violating the principles of etiquette to which she is devoted. She loves Robin Oakapple, a young farmer, but he is shy as she is modest, and in their duet the pair only declare their love indirectly. After Rose's departure Robin's identity is revealed as Sir Ruthven Murgatroyd, the rightful heir to the baronetcy 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 in Rederring. He is a burlesque of the braggart sailor of tradition and offers to press Robin's suit with Rose — an undertaking in which he is so successful that he wins her for himself. However, when he emphasises the importance of acting according to 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 Murgatroyd, but has been driven mad by his villainy and indifference to her. Shortly afterwards the baronet himself appears, followed by a chorus of "Bucks and Blades". Richard Dauntless, still acting on his heart's dictates, approaches him and reveals the fact that Sir Ruthven Murgatroyd is still alive. The result is that, when the villagers assemble for the union of Rose and Robin, 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 is set 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 Murgatroyd, is consulting his faithful servant, Old Adam Goodheart, about his daily crime. They are interrupted by the arrival of Rose and Richard, who have come to ask Robin's consent to their marriage. The latter toys with the idea of immuring them both in a dungeon but after Rose pleads with him he agrees.

Robin is left alone. The stage darkens and the Murgatroyd ancestors step out of their frames. Sir Roderic, after singing the famous "Ghosts' High Noon," asks Robin about his daily crimes and professes himself dissatisfied with their trivial nature. He demands that a lady shall be carried off that very day and overcomes Robin's reluctance by giving him a taste of the death agonies prescribed by the curse of Ruddigore.

The ghosts return to their frames and Robin sends Old Adam to carry out their orders. Despard and Mad Margaret enter, both dressed in sober black. They have become respectable and explain that they "rule a National School". They exhort Robin to abandon his career of crime even at the cost of his life. He agrees to do so.

A further complication arises, however, when Old Adam returns, having, in obedience to his master's orders, succeeded in carrying off Dame Hannah. When Robin is left alone with his prisoner, 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 enters in great excitement. A baronet of Ruddigore, he explains, incurs death by failing to commit his daily crime; therefore, to refuse to commit his daily crime is tantamount to suicide; but suicide is itself a crime. From this it follows that Sir Roderic 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.





## PRODUCTION NOTE

"Ruddigore is the fifth G and S production by The Players. They are gaining in experience with each show. Proof of this was seen in the recent professional production of "HMS Pinafore" in Canberra when some six members of our "Pinafore" were selected as chorus and principals. "Ruddigore" is pure Victorian melodrama and should be taken as such. It is complete with villain, hero and heroine.

Although not as well known as some, Sullivan regarded it as having some of his best music and Gilbert thought it the best of libretti. No G and S fan's education is complete without having seen "Ruddigore". We have included a scarcely sung, but beautiful duet, "The battle's roar is o'er" in this production, but basically we have kept to tradition.

And now some thank-yous — to Bill Hunt for music; Margaret Keys for superb work with choreography; the ever-reliable Tom Bosman for set and Geoff Cook who understudied at short notice the role of Robin Oakapple; and of course, chorus and principals. There is a freshness and spontaneity about Queanbeyan productions which makes it a pleasure and a privilege to be associated with them as producer.

—Lindsay Smith

## CREDITS

Business Managers	John Snedden, Kerry Chown
Choreography	Margaret Keys
Lighting	Greg Toone assisted by Peter McIntyre, Neil King, Lou Gifford
Make-up	Nick Dorning
Set Design	Tom Bosman
Set Construction	Mick Swain, Trevor Roach, Paul Chown, Graham Woods
Publicity	Peter Dark
Programme	Kerry Chown, Lindsay Smith
Properties	Trevor Roach
Stage Manager	Brian Foy
Portraits	Geoff Grimmett, Tom Bosman
Wardrobe Mistress	Norma Roach assisted by Laurie Triglone, Fran Woods, Margaret Keys, Helen Roach, Beverley Finlayson, Di Gillman.

Costumes for Ancestors Moraig Godfrey; Bridesmaids — Pam Snedden

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Queanbeyan High School, Isabella Street School, "The Queanbeyan Age", The Canberra Theatre; Mr & Mrs J. Gowan, Kangaroo R.L.F.C. Ltd.

## THE PLAYERS

The Queanbeyan Players was formed in 1974 under the auspices of the Queanbeyan Branch of the Arts Council of N.S.W. The group has presented "Pirates of Penzance", "The Gondoliers", "HMS Pinafore", "Trials and Tribulations", "Salad Days" and the farce "See How They Run" as well as items for the City Festival, Local Government Conference and musical evenings. If you are interested in musical and/or drama productions and are prepared to assist in any way, by singing, dancing, acting, making costumes, make-up, or set construction, we would like to hear from you. People wishing to join the Queanbeyan Players are asked to contact Dr Trevor Roach or Mrs Norma Roach on 97 1108.



THANKS ALSO DUE TO:-

Portraits of ancestors painted by Bobbie Robinson

Wardrobe assistants also include

Sue Jarvis  
Gillian Kelly  
Margaret Keys  
Mrs. Lavella

Posies - Barbara Varga

Set construction & painting - Frank Bowles )  
Ian Roach ) also helped  
Moya Ewin )

Properties - Moya Ewin

The Queanbeyan Players also thank Karabar High School for  
lending chairs.

Sir Despard's monocle provided by Brian Colman.