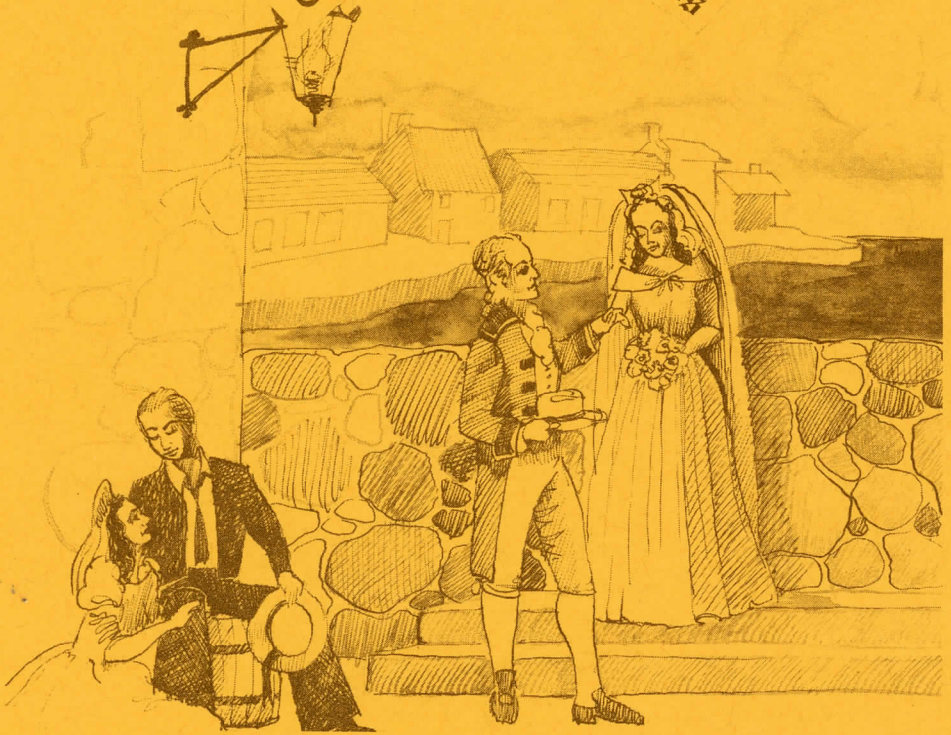


The Madison Savoyards



RUDIBORE

by Gilbert and Sullivan

July 25, 26, 27, & 28, 1973
Music Hall Auditorium

The Madison Savoyards

present

R U D D I G O R E

or

THE WITCH'S CURSE

Book by
Sir William Schwenk Gilbert

Music by
Sir Arthur Seymour Sullivan

July 25, 26, 27, & 28, 1973
Music Hall Auditorium

Musical Conductor
G. Lloyd Schultz, Jr.

Stage Director
Ky Lowenhaupt

Choreographer
Linda Pierson

CAST

MORTALS

<i>Sir Ruthven Murgatroyd (disguised as Robin Oakapple, a young farmer)</i>	Scott E. Pankow
<i>Richard Dauntless (his foster-brother, a Man-o'-war's man)</i>	James Eatman
<i>Sir Despard Murgatroyd, of Ruddigore (a Wicked Baronet)</i>	Carl H. Zate III
<i>Old Adam Goodheart (Robin's Faithful Servant)</i>	James N. Cotter
<i>Rose Maybud (a Village Maiden)</i>	Anne Coffman
<i>Mad Margaret</i>	Susan Greenleaf
<i>Dame Hannah (Rose's Aunt)</i>	Kathryn L. Brown
<i>Zorah (Professional Bridesmaid)</i>	Margaret Thompson
<i>Ruth (Professional Bridesmaid)</i>	Mary Ambrosavage

GHOSTS

<i>Sir Rupert Murgatroyd (the First Baronet)</i>	Timothy Gibneski
<i>Sir Jasper Murgatroyd (the Third Baronet)</i>	Chris Beck
<i>Sir Lionel Murgatroyd (the Sixth Baronet)</i>	Frank Musillami
<i>Sir Conrad Murgatroyd (the Twelfth Baronet)</i>	Scott Stantiz
<i>Sir Desmond Murgatroyd (the Sixteenth Baronet)</i>	Paul Schmidt
<i>Sir Gilbert Murgatroyd (the Eighteenth Baronet)</i>	Brian Schultz
<i>Sir Mervyn Murgatroyd (the Twentieth Baronet)</i>	Vince Rideout
<i>Sir Roderic Murgatroyd (the Twenty-first Baronet)</i>	Mark Shively

Officers, Ancestors, Professional Bridesmaids, and Villagers.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

OVERTURE ORCHESTRA

ACT 1

The Fishing Village of Reddering, in Cornwall

"Fair Is Rose"	<i>Bridesmaids and Zorah</i>
"Sir Rupert Murgatroyd"	<i>Hannah and Chorus</i>
"If Somebody There Chanced To Be"	<i>Rose</i>
"I Know A Youth"	<i>Robin and Rose</i>
"From The Briny Sea"	<i>Bridesmaids and Richard</i>
"Hornpipe"	<i>Richard and Orchestra</i>
"My Boy, You May Take It From Me"	<i>Robin with Richard</i>
"The Battle's Roar Is Over"	<i>Richard and Rose</i>
"If Well His Suit Has Sped"	<i>Bridesmaids</i>
"In Sailing O'er Life's Ocean Wide"	<i>Rose, Richard, and Robin</i>
"Cheerily Carols The Lark"	<i>Margaret</i>
"Welcome, Gentry"	<i>Bridesmaids and Men's Chorus</i>
"Oh, Why Am I Moody And Sad?"	<i>Sir Despard and Chorus</i>
"You Understand?"	<i>Richard and Sir Despard</i>
"Hail The Bride"	<i>Ensemble</i>

FIFTEEN MINUTE INTERMISSION

ACT II

The Picture Gallery in Ruddigore Castle

"I Once Was As Meek"	<i>Robin and Adam</i>
"Happily Coupled Are We"	<i>Richard, Rose, and Chorus of Bridesmaids</i>
"In Bygone Days"	<i>Rose, with Chorus of Bridesmaids, Robin, and Richard</i>
"Painted Emblems Of A Race"	<i>Ancestors, Robin, and Sir Roderic</i>
"When The Night Wind Howls"	<i>Sir Roderic and Ancestors</i>
"He Yields!"	<i>Ancestors</i>
"Away, Remorse!"	<i>Robin</i>
"I Once Was A Very Abandoned Person"	<i>Despard and Margaret</i>
"My Eyes Are Fully Open"	<i>Robin, Despard, and Margaret</i>
"Melodrama"	<i>Ghosts and Orchestra</i>
"There Grew A Little Flower"	<i>Hannah with Sir Roderic</i>
"When A Man Has Been A Naughty Baronet"	<i>Ensemble</i>
"Oh, Happy The Lily"	<i>Ensemble</i>

TIME

Early in the 19th Century

ARGUMENT

An early Baronet of Ruddigore had a witch burned at the stake, and she cursed him and all his line, dooming them to commit at least one crime a day, under penalty of dying in unspeakable agony. Dame Hannah narrates this legend to the Chorus of Professional Bridesmaids, gathered around the cottage of Rose Maybud, an attractive young damsel who has not yet found a husband. Robin Oakapple, a young farmer, is in love with Rose, but is too bashful to declare his passion. We now learn through Adam, an old retainer, that Robin is really Sir Ruthven (pronounced "Rivven") Murgatroyd, the true Baronet of Ruddigore, who has fled from the Curse, leaving it, with the title and estates, to his younger brother, Despard. His foster-brother, Richard Dauntless, who has just returned from sea, also knows Robin's true identity. Learning of the deadlock in Robin's love-affair, Richard volunteers to see the lady and clear up the situation. On meeting Rose, however, he too falls in love with her, and, as his guiding principle is to obey "the dictates of his heart", avows his love to her, and is accepted. But when Rose learns of Robin's love for her, she promptly transfers her affections to him, remarking that while Richard is a penniless sailor, Robin is a prosperous farmer.

Mad Margaret enters, and we learn that she had been in love with the present bad baronet, Despard. In a song, Despard reveals the depths of his infamy, but notes that he makes a point of atoning for every bad action by following it with a good one. Richard, still obeying the "dictates of his heart", reveals to him that his brother, Sir Ruthven, is alive, and is in this very village, masquerading as Robin Oakapple. Robin now enters with his promised bride and the Chorus of Bridesmaids to celebrate the nuptials. But the wedding is rudely interrupted by the revelation that Robin is really the Bad Baronet. Rose promptly offers herself to Sir Despard, who declares that he, being no longer the Bad Baronet but a virtuous person, will be true to Mad Margaret. So Rose, not at all abashed, once more falls back on Richard, and a Dance ends the first act.

The second act takes place in the gloomy Picture Gallery of Ruddigore Castle, where the portraits of his ancestors look grimly down upon a sadly changed Robin. Richard and Rose dance in with their train of Bridesmaids to ask Robin's consent to their marriage. After some trouble, they obtain it, and depart. Robin then makes an impassioned appeal to his ancestors to relieve him of the necessity of doing a daily crime. Stepping down from their frames, and led by his uncle Roderic, they accuse him of evading the terms of the Curse, and order him to do something really wicked—carry off a maiden that very day. When he refuses, they give him a sample of the "agonies" they have the power to inflict, and he is compelled to yield. The ancestors return to their frames, and Robin orders Adam to go at once and bring him a maiden—any maiden!

A reformed Despard and Margaret now appear, soberly attired, and describe themselves as District Visitors engaged in charitable activities. They have come to implore Robin to forswear his wicked ways. He declares he will do so, when, upon their departure, Adam enters with the "maiden" he was sent to abduct. She turns out to be none other than the mature Dame Hannah, who proves so well able to protect herself that Robin has to call upon his uncle Roderic for help. Roderic steps down from his frame, and we learn that he and Hannah were once lovers. Robin is summarily dismissed, and the reunited pair indulge in a sentimental duet. Their reunion is interrupted by the excited entrance of Robin—he has the solution of the whole business. Pointing out that, as a refusal to fulfil the terms of the Curse amounts to suicide, and as suicide is itself a crime, it follows that the Curse is inoperative! So Roderic finds that he must still be alive, Rose at once becomes the bride of a reformed Robin, Richard appropriates the chief bridesmaid, and all ends in general rejoicing.

This, the eighth full-length opera by Gilbert and Sullivan, was produced in 1887, following the highly successful "Mikado", in which the collaborators reached the top of their form. But "Ruddigore" was received with marked coolness by the press and the public at its premiere. It does, however, contain much of the best work of its authors, and now has an assured place in public favor. The opera is, essentially, a parody of the domestic melodrama so popular in its day.

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Special thanks to:

Madison Secretarial Service, Karlos Moser and the UW School of Music, Stoughton Town Dump, Madison Theater Guild, Mapleson Music Library, Jim Eatman, for the use of his Tichonderoga, The Wisconsin State Journal and The Capital Times, First Baptist Church, Grace Episcopal Church, Scott Pankow and the University Singers, Chris Norman for putting up with 1,560,001 pop bottles on his desk, the Memorial Union and anyone else who was inadvertently (or intentionally) left out of the program.

