

BUDDY GORE



1988

THE STORY IN BRIEF

Set in the Cornish fishing village of Reddering, Act 1 opens with **Dame Hannah** narrating to a chorus of professional bridesmaids the legend of the bad Baronets of Ruddigore - doomed by a witch's curse to commit at least one crime each day, or suffer an agonising death.

Upon this scene enters **Rose Maybud**, an attractive damsel who has not yet found a husband. She is drawn to **Robin Oakapple**, a young farmer, but manners and modesty prevent her from making this apparent. Robin secretly returns her regard, but is too bashful to declare his passion.

We learn that Robin is really **Sir Ruthven Murgatroyd**, Baronet of Ruddigore, who has fled from the title and the curse, leaving both to be borne by his young brother **Despard**. Robin's true identity is known only to his faithful retainer, **Adam**, and his foster brother, **Richard Dauntless**.

Richard, a sailor returning from the sea, volunteers to resolve the deadlock between the young lovers, but upon meeting Rose falls in love with her himself, proposes and is accepted. However, Rose then learns of Robin's love for her, and transfers her affection to one who is clearly a better prospect.

Mad Margaret enters. She has been in love with Despard, the present bad Baronet. Interrupting the chorus, Despard tells of his infamous deeds, but points out also his attempts to atone for them. Richard, driven by the dictates of his heart, reveals to Despard Robin's true identity,

and the wedding of Robin and Rose is rudely interrupted. Sir Despard, now a virtuous person, declares that he will be true to Mad Margaret, despite Rose's offer to wed him. She then, not at all abashed, falls back upon Richard.

Act 2 takes place in the picture gallery of Ruddigore Castle, with the portraits of his ancestors looking grimly down upon a sadly changed Robin.

After reluctantly giving his consent to the marriage of Rose and Richard, Robin makes an impassioned plea to his ancestors to help him. Led by his **Uncle Roderick**, they step down from their picture frames, accusing him of evading the terms of the curse and order him to carry off a maiden. After suffering a sample of the agonies they can inflict, Robin agrees, and sends Adam to bring him a maiden.

A reformed Despard and Margaret now appear, to beg Robin to forswear his wicked ways. He declares that he will do so, when Adam enters with his abducted maiden - the redoubtable Dame Hannah. She proves so capable of protecting herself that Robin calls upon Roderick for help, resulting in the sentimental reunion of a pair of past lovers.

Robin interrupts their reverie with the solution to the problem. Since refusal to commit a crime is tantamount to suicide, which is in itself a crime, the curse is inoperative. Sir Roderick must therefore still be alive and Rose marries a reformed Robin amid general rejoicing.



GREG STEWART *Robin Oakapple*

Greg was a soloist with *The Proclaimers Gospel Group* before moving into pubs and clubs with middle of the road band 'Loose Arrangement'. His excursions into theatre since this time have included roles in local productions of *THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE*, *THE GONDOLIERS* and *OKLAHOMA*. Greg is currently teaching English (Literature) at Warrandyte High School.



JENNI WILLIAMS *Rose Maybud*

This is Jenni's first G & S production. She has played the lead in the musical *GREASE* (Sandy) and played second female lead in *SHEER LUCK HOLMES* (Cynthia Huntington Smythe). Jenni has also sung in the *Macleod High Madrigal Choir* and other small choirs. She has studied dancing (jazz and ballet) and has studied singing for four years under Mavis Ford.



JOHN TACEY *Richard Dauntless*

John has a vast and varied musical experience. As a member of the *Melbourne Youth Choir*, he has performed before the Prince and Princess of Wales backing Marcia Hines and has also sung with Barry Manilow. He currently sings with *The Faye Dumont Singers* of which he is also the manager. As well as singing, John also plays the Clarinet and Bass Clarinet with the *Croydon Concert Band*, and has conducted the band on numerous occasions.

John has performed in *FIDDLER ON THE ROOF* and with the Victorian State Opera Youth Company *THE RIME OF THE ANCIENT MARINER*. Last year he played Nanki-Poo in our production of *THE MIKADO*.



PETER HEATH *Sir Despard Murgatroyd*

Peter is a man of wide and varied theatrical experience with roles in Jack Hibberd's *STRETCH OF THE IMAGINATION*, *CYRANO DE BERGERAC* (Melbourne Theatre Company), Moliere's *TARTUFFE* (Anthill Theatre Company), *UBU THE KING* (Universal Theatre), to mention just a few.

Peter has also had many guest appearances in television productions such as *CARSON'S LAW*, *COP SHOP*, *PRISONER*, *NEIGHBOURS*, *PRIME TIME*, *HENDERSON KIDS* and *FLYING DOCTORS*.

FIONA WAKE

Mad Margaret

Eighteen year old Fiona is a first year Nursing Student at P.I.T. While Fiona has been singing with *Reflection Youth Choir* for the past three years and performing solo in churches, she has also participated in school and church plays and musicals such as *CAROLINE CHISHOLM*, *SOUTH PACIFIC* and *THE VICTOR*. After successfully completing V.C.E. at Ivanhoe Girls Grammar School last year, Fiona joined the *Ashton-Smith Singers* Christmas 1987.

Fiona is currently taking singing lessons from Mavis Ford.



CHRIS LIVINGSTONE

Old Adam

Despite his claim to being the only cast member to have sung at Covent Garden (in the Gents' at interval), Chris's name remains little known in Eltham theatrical circles. Few will remember his performances in the Eltham College staff productions of *THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND* and *HARLEQUINADE* and hopefully fewer still will remember his earlier appearance as the Christmas Fairy, dressed in tou-tou and football boots.

Chris's public singing appearances were mercifully few until his appearance in the chorus of *THE MIKADO* last year. This year he was inveigled into appearing at the Bendigo Eisteddfod, which rather upset the atmosphere of solemnity and seriousness which had prevailed until then.



BERYL NICHOLS

Dame Hannah

A "dramatic mezzo soprano", Beryl competed successfully in eisteddfods, reaching the semi-finals of the Sun Aria. Her stage experience began with *White Orchid Ensemble*, and continued with the *Regent Dramatic Society*. As well as being Musical Director and Stage Manager, she played roles in *OKLAHOMA*, *SOUTH PACIFIC*, *CAROUSEL*, *PAINT YOUR WAGON* and *BRIGADOON*. More recently she has taken part in the musical productions of the *Eltham Singers*, an adult singing group associated with Eltham College. Beryl played Katisha in *THE MIKADO* last year.

ROD GORFINE

Sir Roderick

Rod has been a G & S specialist since his first role in high school, as Ko-Ko in *THE MIKADO*. Last year, in our *MIKADO*, he played Pooh Bah. He has worked for seven seasons with the *SEC G & S Company*, taking principal roles in *PRINCESS IDA*, *THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE*, *THE SORCERER*, *THE YEOMAN OF THE GUARD* and *HMS PINAFORE*.



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE CHORUS

(Diamond Valley Singers)

Paula Arnold, Janine Bardwell, Marilyn Billing, Betty Chetcuti, Nancy Cornwallis, Rena Douglas, Andrea Fitzgerald, Irene Hayes, Merrill Hogan, Annette Jackson, Sue Kleins, Lorraine Knuckey, Margaret Milne, Judith O'Shea, Gael Shearer, Rhonda Webb, Helen Werner, Cathy Williams.

Bert Aperloo, Les Bardwell, Jo Bourke, Don Douglas, James Douglas, Michael Knuckey, Allan Luke, David Manzoney, Brent Reichenbach, Neil Tupper.

RUDDIGORE

(or The Witch's Curse)

Music by: Sir Arthur Sullivan
Text by: Sir William Gilbert

Director: Graham Ford
Producer: Dianne Richter
Conductor: Ian Lowe
Choreographer: Rhonda Webb
Orchestra Leader: Mary Wright
Rehearsal Pianists: Roger Peck, Ian Lowe, Lois Goodin, Kenneth Peard, Pam Milikan
Stage Manager: Robert Alves
Lighting: Alfred Lee
Props: Richard Hayes
Makeup: Symone Wilson
Front of House: Peter Cornwallis
Ticket Sales: Lynne Stevens

CAST

IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

ZORAH (Chief Bridesmaid)	Nancy Cornwallis
RUTH (Assistant Bridesmaid)	Merrill Hogan
DAME HANNAH (Rose's Aunt)	Beryl Nichols
ROSE MAYBUD (a Village Maiden)	Jenni Williams
SIR RUTHVEN MURGATROYD (disguised as Robin Oakapple)	Greg Stewart
OLD ADAM GOODHEART (Robin's faithful servant)	Chris Livingstone
RICHARD DAUNTLESS (Robin's foster brother)	John Tacey
MAD MARGARET	Fiona Wake
SIR DESPARD MURGATROYD (a wicked Baronet)	Peter Heath
SIR RODERICK MURGATROYD (the late Baronet)	Rod Gorfine
BRIDESMAIDS, GENTRY AND GHOSTS	Ladies and Gentlemen of the Diamond Valley Singers

OVERTURE

ACT ONE

1. FAIR IS ROSE *Bridesmaids and Zorah*
2. SIR RUPERT MURGATROYD *Hannah and Bridesmaids*
3. IF SOMEBODY THERE CHANCED TO BE *Rose*
4. I KNOW A YOUTH *Robin and Rose*
5. FROM THE BRINY SEA *Bridesmaids*
6. WE SHIPPED D'YE SEE *Richard and Bridesmaids*
7. MY BOY, YOU MAY TAKE IT FROM ME *Robin and Richard*
8. THE BATTLE'S ROAR IS OVER *Richard and Rose*
9. IF WELL HIS SUIT HAS SPED *Bridesmaids*
10. IN SAILING O'ER LIFE'S OCEAN WIDE *Rose, Richard and Robin*
11. CHEERILY CAROLS THE LARK *Margaret*
12. WELCOME, GENTRY *Bridesmaids and Gentry*
13. OH, WHY AM I MOODY AND SAD? *Sir Despard and Chorus*
14. YOU UNDERSTAND? *Richard and Sir Despard*
15. HAIL THE BRIDE *Ensemble*

There will be an interval of twenty minutes

ACT TWO

16. I ONCE WAS AS MEEK *Robin and Adam*
17. HAPPILY COUPLED ARE WE *Richard, Rose and Bridesmaids*
18. IN BYGONE DAYS *Rose, Bridesmaids, Robin and Richard*
19. PAINTED EMBLEMS OF A RACE *Ghosts, Robin and Sir Roderick*
20. WHEN THE NIGHT WIND HOWLS *Sir Roderick and Ghosts*
21. HE YIELDS! *Ghosts*
22. I ONCE WAS A VERY ABANDONED PERSON *Despard and Margaret*
24. MY EYES ARE FULLY OPEN *Robin, Despard and Margaret*
26. THERE GREW A LITTLE FLOWER *Hannah with Sir Roderick*
27. OH, HAPPY THE LILY *Ensemble*

BRIEF HISTORY OF RUDDIGORE

"What is the title of your new opera, Mr. Gilbert?"

"'Ruddygore' - or not as good as 'The Mikado'." replied Gilbert.

Shortly after the first night, an acquaintance asked Gilbert:

"How is *Bloodygore* going on?"

"It is 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!"

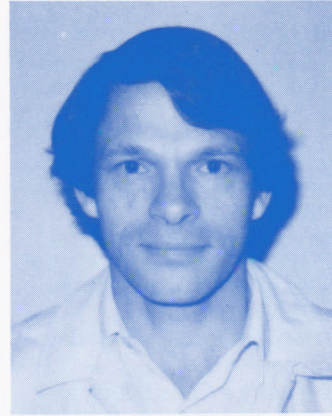
In January 1887, the enormously successful run of *THE MIKADO* was terminated to make way for the performance of a new Gilbert & Sullivan production *RUDDYGORE* - a parody of Victorian blood-and-thunder melodrama.

Public anticipation of another tremendous success was high, and on January 22, 1887, the Savoy Theatre was packed with celebrities. After the performance, the reaction was divided between two extremes - part of the audience cheered and the others hissed and shouted "give us back *The Mikado*".

The newspapers added to the enthusiasm by objecting to the title. To Gilbert "Ruddygore" was simply red blood, but several critics considered that, although it would do well enough for men, "it would scarcely sound pretty on women's lips". Within eleven days Gilbert had changed the 'y' to 'i'.

A further complication developed when the correspondent of the Paris *Figaro* accused Gilbert of having insulted France and the French Navy, and this accusation mounted to Ambassadorial level. This necessitated an attempt to explain the British sense of humour (in French!) to quell the tempest.

Despite this stormy beginning, *RUDDIGORE* ran for 288 performances, causing Gilbert to remark, "I could do with a few more such failures!". It contains many memorable items, such as Richard's "Parly-vous" song, Roderick's "The Ghost's High Noon" and the brilliant "matter" trio of the second act, and is a well-established and popular representative of the Gilbert & Sullivan range.



GRAHAM FORD

Director

After experiences with various musical comedy companies, Graham joined the *National Theatre Opera School*, playing a number of lead baritone parts. He has played lead roles in *KISMET*, *PAINT YOUR WAGON*, *KISS ME KATE*, and several G & S operettas, as well as a number of roles with the semi-professional company, *Globe Opera*.

A Sun Aria semi-finalist, Graham has won the musical comedy and vocal championship at South Street, and appeared on *Quest 77* on Channel 2.

He teaches singing locally, and directed *TRIAL BY JURY* in 1985 and has since played the Bosun in *PINAFORE* and Pish Tush in *THE MIKADO*.

DIANNE RICHTER

Producer

From Assistant Producer for *THE MIKADO*, Dianne has been promoted to Producer for *RUDDYGORE*, as well as understudying Dame Hannah.

Dianne is currently the secretary of Diamond Valley Singers, and has sung solos in *THE MESSIAH* for the last three years. A singing student of Graham Ford's, she has sung in numerous eisteddfods, and regularly takes part in daytime concerts at elderly citizens' centres.

Dianne has also performed in a musical review with *Elwood Theatre Company* and played the female lead in a gospel musical at Ormond Uniting Church.



RHONDA WEBB

Choreographer

Rhonda is presently Head of the Expressive Arts Faculty at Loyola College, Watsonia, teaching Dance and has been associated with Greensborough/Janelle Calisthenics College since 1976. She has vast experience in the field of calisthenics, tap and ballet dancing and aerobics.

Rhonda's choreography experience includes: the Combined Schools' Choir performances in Darwin (which was filmed by the ABC) in 1981/82; folk and modern dance items for the North Australian Eisteddfod; school productions; and Education Department (Northern Territory and Victoria) promotional displays.

Rhonda was the Valley Musical Society's choreographer for last year's production of *THE MIKADO*.

DIAMOND VALLEY SINGERS

In 1985 Ian Lowe rang the Fords and asked them to help with a performance of *TRIAL BY JURY* with the Eltham Orchestra. Rehearsals started and the **Valley Musical Society** was born.

There were two performances of *TRIAL BY JURY* with other items by the orchestra, and \$1300 was raised for **World Vision**. Because of the nature of the cause, rehearsal venues were, and still are, provided free of charge by the Diamond Creek and Greensborough Uniting Churches.

Since this start, the Society has performed three seasons of Handel's *MESSIAH*, two more Gilbert and Sullivans (*HMS PINAFORE* and *THE MIKADO*), and some smaller works including assisting at the Diamond Valley and Eltham **Carols By Candlelight**.

Proceeds continue to be donated to **World Vision** each year, and to date total over \$6,000.

Considerable work has been done this year, preparing a Constitution and applying for Incorporation. As part of this process, a special meeting was held and the name of the Society changed to the **Diamond Valley Singers**, to more closely associate the group with the local area.

They have already been invited to perform at both Greensborough and Eltham Festivals later in the year.

At one of the first *MIKADO* rehearsals, a new chorus member, Rhonda Webb, asked if the group required a choreographer, a position they were currently trying to fill. Though often having cause to regret her moment of enthusiasm, it has been regretted more by some members of the male chorus on mornings following rehearsals. Audiences, however, have been most enthusiastic with the results.

With this support from members of the company, none of whom are paid, the Society hopes to continue to raise money for charity and provide opportunities for local singers. New members are welcome, and if interested, interested parties should fill out the insert included in the program or call **Graham Ford** on 438 1957.

THE ELTHAM COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA

The **Eltham Community Orchestra** practises weekly throughout the year at Eltham High School, on Wednesday nights at 8.00 pm. New members are very welcome; call **Ian** on 435 5841 or secretary **David Sadedin** on 434 7130.

The orchestra has been in existence for about twelve years. During that time the orchestra has performed three or four different programs each year. These programs have included symphonies, concertos (some with Ian as piano soloist), musical comedy selections and other lighter works. The Eltham Community Orchestra has contributed to both Eltham and Greensborough festivals.

In recent years, the **Eltham Community Orchestra** has co-operated with the **Valley Musical Society** (now the **Diamond Valley Singers**) in performances of Handel's *MESSIAH*, and in performances of Gilbert and Sullivan's *TRIAL BY JURY*, *HMS PINAFORE* and *THE MIKADO*. They look forward to this association continuing.

The next program will be in late November or early December. Call Ian for details.



IAN LOWE

Musical Director

Ian has conducted the Eltham Community Orchestra for over nine years, preparing the orchestra for programs of serious and lighter works, always of popular appeal. He has also acted as musical director for the several performances by the Valley Musical Society of Handel's *MESSIAH* and the annual G & S productions to assist World Vision's overseas aid program.

Ian's other musical direction has included OKLAHOMA for Warrandyte High School, THE WIZARD OF OZ for Eltham Little Theatre and PEACE CHILD for the Eltham and Diamond Valley Youth Theatre.

Ian is also a competent pianist, and has recorded Australian piano pieces for 3MBS which are regularly broadcast. He enjoys music as a relaxing hobby from his profession as a mathematics educator (teacher and text book author).

THE ORCHESTRA

VIOLINS	Mary Wright (leader), Ethel Newton, Wilma Ezard, Martin Murnane, Rod Robertson, Nola Thomson, Clause Beuscher, David Sadedin, Paul Watson
VIOLAS	Shiela Nye, Eric Pool, Rosemary Henderson
CELLOS	Greg Pullen, Elaine Neely, Ray Banks, Graham Croft
BASS	David Rawlinson
FLUTES	Mary Keusgen, Betty Martin, Len Johnstone
OBOE	Dennis Thiel
CLARINETS	Derek Wright, Robert Knappert
HORNS	Geoff Morris, David Mileschkin, Anne Bourke
TRUMPETS	Cal Martin, Mark Riguele
BASS TRUMPET	Orm Stewart
BASS TROMBONE	Mike Ogilvy

OUR SINCERE THANKS

The Diamond Valley Singers, the Eltham Community Orchestra and World Vision of Australia wish to express their sincere thanks to the administration of **Eltham College** for their generous donation of the use of this theatre for rehearsals and performances during this and past season.

The next performance of the **BABIRRA PLAYERS** will be **YEOMEN OF THE GUARD** early May 1989.

WORLD VISION

*World Vision began in 1950, developing from the work of an American, Dr. Bob Pierce, in helping orphans and displaced children during the Korean war. From a beginning in childcare, the work of **World Vision** has expanded to provide help, encouragement, education, training and care to millions of men, women and children in over 80 countries.*

*The aim is not simply to give goods and services but to enable needy people to survive and to become self-reliant in their own communities. **World Vision** seeks to provide a total ministry, meeting the physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs of individuals and communities.*

***World Vision of Australia** was established in 1966. It is now the largest non-government aid agency in Australia. Completely autonomous, with its own board of directors, **World Vision** of Australia works in association with partners in New Zealand, Hong Kong, Canada, Britain, Europe, USA and Southern Africa to plan and fund programs to assist people in developing countries.*

*As a non-denominational Christian agency, **World Vision** demonstrates the love of God through healing the sick, ministering to the needy and delivering the oppressed. **World Vision** employees come from different Christian backgrounds and share a common regard for the dignity of all people.*

