

THE
SORCERER

Gilbert

&

Sullivan

May 2008

President's Message

The *Sorcerer* was first performed on 17th November 1877 at the Opera Comique and ran for 178 performances. It was the first full length operetta upon which Gilbert and Sullivan collaborated following *Trial by Jury*.

The idea of love sickness in operas was by no means new at the time. However, in true Gilbertian fashion the humour and fun of *The Sorcerer* is that most of the cast partake of a love potion which makes them fall in love with the wrong people.

The great duo went on to scribe and compose many other better known and loved operettas but *The Sorcerer* combines a typical Gilbertian libretto with Sullivan's excellent score and gives its producers an exciting opportunity to be inventive in the portrayal of its 'Magic Spells'. I am sure that in the early days there must have been a few alarming moments as the odd pyrotechnic magic spell went awry and I suspect actors both professional and amateur have 'exited left' rather more swiftly than intended over the years.

I sincerely hope that you enjoy our performance and that you will not need to be evacuated from the theatre other than at the end of the evening in a satisfied and orderly manner.

Richard Steel

President

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Fred Allgood, Valerie Bell, Margaret Bone, Jo Burnaby, Geoffrey Burnaby, Eileen Evans, Phyllis Hamblin, Brian Hurst, Bob Jones, The Mayor of Winchester, Pamela Peskett, James Sabben-Clare, Richard Steel, Dick Trower, Christine Walters, David Weait, Michael Williams.

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Max Bullough - Director

Max has enjoyed many productions of Winchester Operatic Society sitting in the audience, enthusiastically applauding and sometimes cheering. He has also enjoyed taking part as a performer with the company in a wide variety of roles over the years. He counts it as a very special privilege to have, in addition, directed two previous productions. These were the 1996 setting of *The Mikado* and the 1998 version of *Iolanthe*, both at the Guildhall. Having the opportunity to see his vision of *The Sorcerer* come to life at The Theatre Royal now completes his ambition of setting his three favourite Gilbert and Sullivan operas.

When working with our city's operatic society Max is always impressed by the dedication of individuals on stage as well as behind it. Collectively the performers on stage and in the pit can be relied upon to give of their best and maintain the standards their loyal audiences have come to expect. The troupe who work in all non-performing areas must be the envy of so many amateur groups; they are diligent, industrious and utterly reliable.

As ever, he is drawn to the lyricism of the music, the wit of the libretto and the sheer delight of the fantasy which these operettas afford. He is sure you will find something comical to amuse you, something serious to make you reflect a moment or two and he is confident you will leave the theatre at the end of the performance not only more light-hearted in your step but carrying a tune or two into the days that follow. What a legacy the two great Savoyards have left us!

Martin Paterson - Musical Director

Although this is Martin's first show with Winchester Operatic Society, he has been active with other companies in the area for many years. He has been involved in over ninety shows with other companies over the years as a performer, musician, stage manager and musical director. He is particularly proud to have been made a life member of Southampton Operatic Society last year, as well as winning the Daily Echo Curtain Call award for Best Musical Director for *The Pirates of Penzance* with RAODS - a show that also scooped five other awards, including Production of the Year. Never afraid of a busy schedule, he is due to appear at The Point in Eastleigh to MD *Oliver!* next week with Eastleigh Operatic & Musical Society. Following that he will MD *Little Shop of Horrors* with eomsjs in July and *Snoopy* with RAODS in November. Somehow Martin has to fit all these activities around his day job as a software engineer.

Synopsis

Alexis and Aline, the two most eligible youngsters in The Village, are to be married amidst general rejoicing and feasting. Alexis decides that to ensure true everlasting love, the couple will drink a love potion, administered by The Sorcerer, John Wellington Wells. The potion has the effect of making its victim fall in love with the first person they see on reawakening. When the residents of The Village drink the mixture from the communal teapot, it's not always their intended whom they see on waking up. Comedy and tragedy are the inevitable results. Set in a retirement home staffed by the Society's great singers it is a minor masterpiece that revolves around love, ambition and of course that love potion. Outstanding Sullivan songs and typical Gilbertian misunderstandings make for a masterful operetta.

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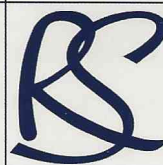
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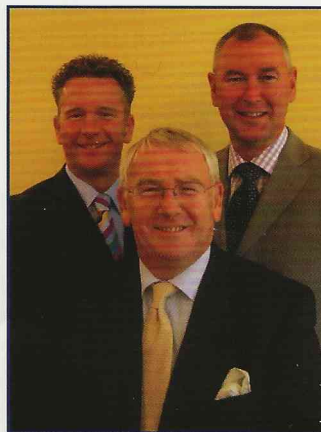
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Dear Friends,

The Village is an unique twilight home for the care and respite of elderly individuals. We offer the perfect long term care arrangements for those who require the benefit which our very high staff ratio provides. When I left the guards and took over the family home, I knew that my own elderly father, Sir Marmaduke, would need a level of care and attention that only a professional provision would guarantee. I know how important it is to see those we love comfortable in their surroundings. So it was I set up the enterprise. What I wanted for my ageing papa was no less than others would want for theirs, I was sure. Indeed my fiancée had no hesitation in encouraging her own mother, Lady Annabella Sangazure, to become our honorary patron and, more recently, take up residence herself.

So it is we have extended the Pointdextre "family". Among our residents we count those who have always known this estate as their home, for example our long retired retainer whom you might encounter should you visit us (Hercules by name). In addition we have been able to attract folk such as the well known retired Queen's Counsel who is always on hand for legal advice, a Doctor of Divinity who functions very much as our Padre in spiritual matters and many local men and women whose families want to know they are safe and well cared for. Our self-satisfaction surveys regularly indicate high rates of contentment which we attribute to the many staff who I think see their work here as a vocation, exceptionally well led by Matron Mrs Partlet whose own daughter has been employed here since leaving the local comprehensive with an ambition to nurse and tend those of maturing years. We saw how she shaped up during her work experience placement here in the laundry where she mended and aired the linen with an attention to detail that was unusually commendable in this day and age.

We are very proud of the kinaesthetic programme we instituted which employs a now world famous, but as yet still unique, routine of therapeutic country dancing. There have also been international accolades for our dietician's high-fibre teatime fare of traditional English sandwiches and bunnery made with woodland eggs, free range ham, hydroponic mustard and cress grown in our own recycling centre and organic strawberries picked from our own kitchen gardens. All teas of course are sourced fair-trade and we are currently researching the efficacy of compounds of ginseng and jojoba which as supplements may increase the capacity of our "Villagers" to secure personal well being and harmonious relationships with others.

If you would like one of your loved ones to partake of the Village experience as a prelude to taking that big decision about where they might be happy and still independent we are happy to arrange temporary sojourns; please just get in touch.

Or better still, why not come along to our summer fete, when our gardens will be thrown open and a number of special events, including the signing of the prenuptial agreement between Miss Sangazure and myself will take place. I have heard rumours that the elderly gentlemen have been planning a display of old-time fixed bayonet marching and The Reverend Dr Daly is planning a lecture on "Texting for the arthritic handed".

I do hope you will be able to pop along.

Alexis Pointdextre
Business Manager
The Village



The Village People:

Sir Marmaduke Pointdextre - Clive Hilton

The elderly owner of the house which has seen statelier times; he is not sure that his son's conversion of the one family asset to a retirement and care home is the best way to secure future financial security. He has ambitions to resurrect a long-rested dalliance with Lady Sangazure so that he might, through marriage, secure the wealthy inheritance it is rumoured she holds in bonds and gilts.

Mr Alexis Pointdextre - Dan Hickson

The son of Sir Marmaduke who has three ambitions: to run his care home as an award winning twilight home where those who can afford it most offset the costs of those who cannot; to prove alternative therapies are efficacious, and to champion the cause of romanticism so that everyone can find love as he has found with Aline.

Dr Daly - Tony Blackshaw

The retired vicar of Ploverleigh who finds his own background a comfort to other residents, so much so that he has recently returned to routinely wearing the cloth again and ministering to the spiritual needs of both staff and residents alike. It amuses him to reminisce how things might have turned out differently had he not given his life to the church and so never settled down with a special companion of his own.

Mr John Wellington Wells - Adrian Hickford

A charlatan who has dabbled in sales and other forms of hustling. He has gathered a few cheap tricks to enhance his gift of the gab and so runs a series of fraudulent operations. Subject to many complaints against him from the Society of Homeopaths and the British Astrological and Psychics Society and a number of other legitimate associations, Special Branch are investigating his scam of tricking the gullible to part with their money for slimming aids and quasi-supernatural potions and philtres.

Ringo B Ratfold QC - Michael Palette

Once a rising star of the courts of justice, Ringo's premature deafness and arterial sclerosis have robbed him of the glittering promise of his earlier years. He now amuses himself by serving faux-writs on his many friends and acquaintances in The Village.

Old Hercules - Mike Vokes

Onetime gardener's apprentice, this wrinkled retainer moved into household duties as a footman and rose to become Sir Marmaduke's valet during his military service. He has never known any home other than the Pointdextre "pile" and since his retirement because of frequent bronchial dispositions he has remained nominally on the staff roll owing to the indulgent compassion of "the young sir" as he insists on calling Alexis.

Residents and Staff

Sue Aiken, David Anderson, Gill Beck, Jo Blackwell, Clare Britton, Samantha Bushell, Amanda Crane, Anne Croudass, Pam Farren, Jill Fitzpatrick, Lizzie Gilbert, Jan Gwynne-Howell, Talia Hedström, Annette Hilton, Louise Hodson, Bob Jones, Graham Light, Alan Matheson, Rosemary Merchant, Colin Paice, Heather Reid, David Rowe, Gill Russell, Claire Smith, Frances Stirrup, Vernon Tottle, Mary Twomey, Mike Vokes.

Lady Annabella Sangazure - Joyce Smith

A minor aristocrat from one of our oldest families who dotes upon her daughter Aline and has, of late, become rather prone to living in the past. Her recollections of her romantic alliances prior to being presented at the 1957 Queen Charlotte's Ball seem to be more in the forefront of her mind now than the concerns of her everyday requirements.

Miss Aline Sangazure - Katie Hickson

The rumour is that Aline is in fact the grand-daughter of Annabella although she has always been brought up as her daughter. Somewhat a modern woman, she has had some scandalous exposure in the press for her rather forward manner in the company of men, particularly those she likes! However, since falling for Alexis Pointdextre, there is not a single paparazzo who has been able to snap anything untoward whatsoever.

Mrs Zora Partlet - Liz Petley-Jones

The matron of The Village. Having long been in the employ of the Pointdextres as Nanny to the younger generations, it was an obvious move to running the medical care side of the home. No one is quite sure that there ever was a Mr Partlet; many assume that the Mrs is a title adopted for the sake of decorum, particularly on the birth of her daughter Constance.

Miss Constance Partlet - Helen O'Sullivan

Keeper of the keys to the drug cabinet and dispensary, Constance is known for her lovely manner rather than her intellectual grasp of matters and her abiding affection for Dr Daly whom she is too shy to tell. Her sweet disposition and generous nature have often caused other gentlemen in The Village to pay her compliments which she simply ignores with a smile.



SCENES

ACT 1

Fete Day.....the grounds of a 'genteel' home

Interval 20 minutes

ACT 2

Midnight the same day

Musical Numbers

Act 1

Ring forth, ye bells
Constance, my daughter
When he is here
The air is charged
Time was, when Love & I were well acquainted
Sir Marmaduke
With heart & with voice
My kindly friends
Happy young heart
My child
With heart & with voice
Welcome, joy!
All is prepared
For Love alone
My name is John Wellington Wells
Incantation - Sprites of earth and air
Now to the Banquet we press

Act 2

'Tis twelve, I think
Dear friends, take pity on my lot
It is not Love
I rejoice that it's decided
Oh, I have wrought much evil with my spells
Alexis! Doubt me not, my loved one!
Engaged To So-and-so
Oh! joyous boon!
Prepare for sad surprises
Or he or I must die

ORCHESTRA

Violins	Tessa Welford
	Nuala Land
Viola	Jane Houghton
Cello	Samantha Harris
Bass	Julia Casson
Flute	Lorraine Brazier
Oboe	Barry Collisson
Clarinets	Mandy Moffatt
	Ann Clausen
Trumpet	Shaun Moffatt
Horn	Colin McKay
Percussion	Paul Lovegrove

Chorus
Mrs Partlet & Constance
Constance
Dr Daly
Dr Daly
Sir Marmaduke, Dr Daly, Alexis
Chorus of Ladies
Aline
Aline
Lady Sangazure
Chorus of Men
Lady Sangazure & Sir Marmaduke
Aline, Alexis, Notary & Chorus
Alexis
Mr Wells
Aline, Alexis, Mr Wells & Chorus
Finale

Trio & Chorus
Constance, Notary, Aline, Alexis, & Chorus
Alexis
Aline, Mrs Partlet, Alexis, Dr Daly, Sir Marmaduke
Lady Sangazure & Mr Wells
Aline
Dr Daly
Aline, Alexis, Dr Daly, & Chorus
Alexis
Finale



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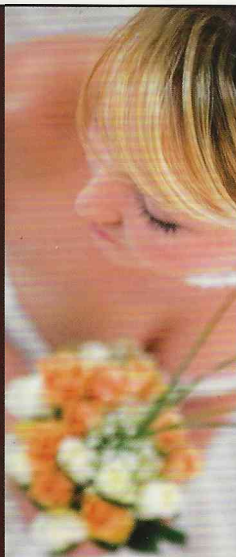
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Angie Barks
Jacqui Beckingham
Jacqui Beckingham, Anne Croudass, Louise Hodson
Suzanne Hall
Sue Aiken
Gill Beck
Sue Aiken with David Anderson, Brian Bush, Brian Hurst
Jacqui Beckingham with Christine Harding, Pam Jones,
Libby Crawford, Helen Guymer, Sian Woodruff
Ruth Walker with Anne Croudass and the cast.
Jo Burnaby
Grace Honeysett, Michael Honeysett, Mary Jackson, Nicky Moore
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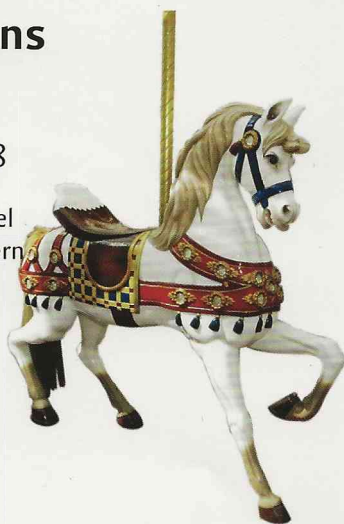
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- Mr Les Yaldren, Caretaker, Western Primary School

Also:

- *Additional Lyrics:* Adrian Hickford and Nichola McKinley
- *Auditors:* Rothman Pantall
- The Meon Valley Preventing Dependency Unit (PDU) for loan of Zimmer frames
- CHAR for location shots
- Chesil Theatre Wardrobe for Lady Sangazure's wig
- All those who have kindly donated raffle prizes

The society appreciates the support of local businesses in Winchester who help us through their sponsorship and by advertising in our programme. If you would like to become a sponsor or to place an advertisement in the programme for our next production please contact Vernon Tottle on 01962 779611 or Gill Russell on 01962 855615. Email: secretary@winchester-operatic.org.uk



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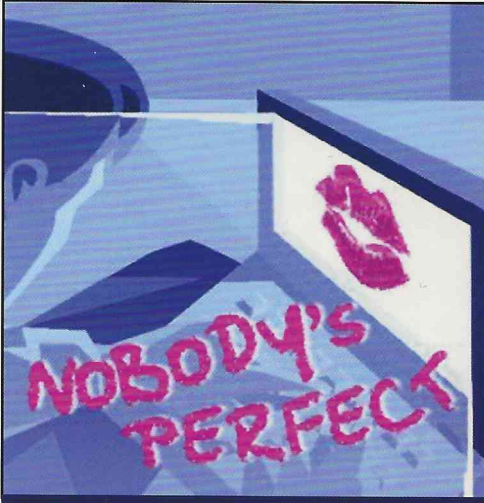
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