



RUDDIGORE

Manchester University Gilbert & Sullivan Society (MUGSS)

Director: Peter England

Musical Director: Justin Morley

Geoffrey Toye's overture for the 1920's D'Oyly Carte revival was conducted with a driven reading setting the pace for the rest of the evening. To accompany the overture was a silent film acting out the curse of the Murgatroyd's which was much appreciated judging by the applause.

The scenery for the fishing village of Rederring was sufficient but it was the picture gallery in act two where Graham Jebb's set design showed imagination and the U.V. painting to change the scene for the song "When the Night Wind Howls" worked with great effect.

Costumes made the right statement and the lighting enhanced the atmosphere.

The chorus displayed a great enthusiasm which came across and was welcomed by the audience. Notable performances came from Francesca Still (Mad Margaret), Robin Adams (Sir Despard), Matt Holker (Sir Roderic), Sam McVaigh (Sir Ruthven) and Rebecca Bennett who gave a impressive performance as Rose Maybud showing versatility in acting and singing.

The performance of the evening was that of John Welsh as the "regular out-and-out Lothario", Richard Dauntless.

It was interesting to hear an audience picking up on so much of Gilbert's dialogue: in fact the whole production was interesting.



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