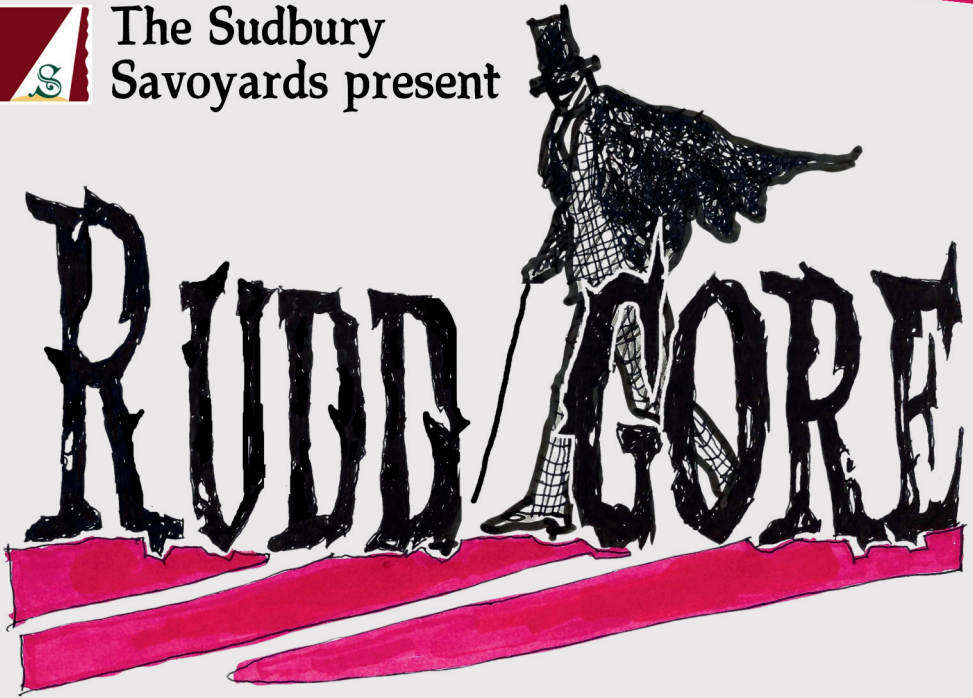




The Sudbury
Savoyards present



or The Witch's Curse

February 22 - March 1, 2025

Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School

Stage Director
Briana Bensenouci

Asst. Stage Director
Nadine Sa

Music Director
Aldo Fabrizi

SudburySavoyards.org



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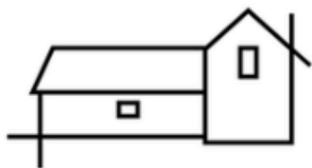
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The Sudbury Savoyards



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Publicity Strategist
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Sound Designer
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Elizabeth Stone

Props Coordinator
Nancy Powers

Please do not take photographs during the Performance.
The use of flash is dangerous and strictly prohibited.
Please silence your electronic devices.

SPECIAL THANKS

Andrew Stevens, Superintendent/Principal LSRHS for his support in negotiating a performance space

Sharita Langston, Administrative Assistant LSRHS for coordinating the rental

Tom Grandprey and Carly Evans for the use of their classrooms at LSRHS

David Wolfe and First Baptist Church of Sudbury for providing rehearsal space

Savoyard Light Opera Company for platforms, docking materials, and costumes

TCAN Players for costumes

Jon Saul for his Facebook fundraiser

The Concord Players for costume collaborations

Chuck Despotopulos, AV & Computer Specialist LSRHS

David Larrick for orchestral scores

Diane Tiger, Katie McNerny, and Will Merchant for subbing in orchestra rehearsals

Jamie Cook for period hair consultation

David Flier-Frederick for providing an improv workshop

Laura Bartlett Abrams for providing the wooden crate

Joyce Isen for loan of percussion equipment

Matt Tragert for the loan of the Trading Post stool

Wegman's for their contribution to *Ruddigore's* Celebration Supper

NVIDIA for their matching contribution

Ben Oehlkers for filling in as rehearsal accompanist

Thank you to those who stepped forward to help after this Playbill went to print.



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This program is supported in part by a grant from the Sudbury Cultural Council, a grant from the Lincoln Cultural Council, and a grant from the Acton-Boxborough Cultural Council, local agencies that are supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

On behalf of The Sudbury Savoyards, I am honored to welcome you to our 2025 production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *Ruddigore*. Gilbert and Sullivan's tenth collaboration, *Ruddigore* premiered in 1887, on the heels of *The Mikado*. Gilbert's storyline was probably pulled from several places, including his previous one act opera, *Ages Ago* and his own Bab Ballads, as well as Heinrich Marschner's 1828 opera, *Der Vampyr*, and the real Murgatroyd family of Yorkshire! Gilbert played with the elements of melodrama here, but in his typical fashion, flipped everything on its head. Is the hero a villain? The villain, our hero? Are the ancestors even dead? Who is really "Mad"?

The Sudbury Savoyards was founded in 1961, and our mission is to produce the works of W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan "on a grand scale," with a large chorus, a full orchestra, costumes, lighting, sound and top-notch performers. Since then, we have produced all thirteen extant G&S comic operas, as well as many summer plays, concerts, and outreach events. We like to say we "put the 'community' in community theater," as we are one of the only groups remaining committed, not only to producing the works of Gilbert and Sullivan, but to a chorus and crew which is open to all who wish to participate, where inclusion and support of all people is at the core of our values.

We also remain committed to the relief of world hunger, having donated over \$250,000 towards that cause prior to our incorporation as an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in 2016. Since then, we have continued to honor that legacy by raising funds for local hunger relief, most recently in conjunction with the Wayside Inn, by presenting *A Christmas Carol* at the Inn's Martha-Mary Chapel in December. We were able to donate \$2,131 to A Place to Turn in Natick this year. We continue to look for ways to fight hunger, include everyone, and produce high quality shows year after year.

Thank you, truly, for your support and appreciation of our company, our production, and our mission. If you would like to further contribute your time, talent, or treasure, please be in touch. You can make a tax-deductible donation at <https://sudburysavoyards.org/support-us/> at any time. We would also love you to join our merry band; on stage, backstage, in the pit, or in the countless other production and company tasks and roles that are required to keep this ship afloat. We really do have a wonderful time together!

Please enjoy your time in our seaside village. The role of "audience" is pivotal in any production, and we are so grateful that you are here today to play the part. Hopefully, we can get a wedding or two booked soon, so the Bridesmaids's Union doesn't go on strike!

Graham Daley

Chair, The Sudbury Savoyards Board of Trustees

CELEBRATING SIXTY-FOUR YEARS OF THE SUDBURY SAVOYARDS



In 1961, as a means of raising money for the new church buildings under construction, a group of Sudbury Methodists decided to put on a production of *Trial by Jury*. Staged in the Parish Hall and costumed with choir robes, this was the beginning of a group that was soon to be christened The Sudbury Savoyards.

Throughout the 1960's the stage in the Sudbury Town Hall provided the setting for the annual Gilbert & Sullivan production. In 1969 expansion onto the stage of the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School was necessary for the second staging of *The Mikado*. This production, with larger sets, more participants on stage and a larger orchestra, began the tradition of presenting "Gilbert & Sullivan on a Grand Scale". As a result, over \$250,000 in proceeds have been donated to the relief of world hunger.

In 2016 The Sudbury Savoyards became an independent 501(c) (3) community theater organization and continues to donate proceeds to worthy causes.



CELEBRATING SIXTY-FOUR YEARS OF THE SUDBURY SAVOYARDS

1961 Trial by Jury	1994 Patience
1962 The Mikado	1995 The Mikado
1963 The Pirates of Penzance	1996 Princess Ida
1964 The Gondoliers	1997 The Yeomen of the Guard
1965 No Performance	1998 Trial by Jury & HMS Pinafore
1966 The Yeomen of the Guard	1999 Iolanthe
1967 Iolanthe	2000 Ruddigore
1968 Ruddigore	2001 The Gondoliers
1969 The Mikado	2002 The Sorcerer
1970 Princess Ida	2003 Patience
1971 The Gondoliers	2004 The Pirates of Penzance
1972 Patience	2005 The Mikado
1973 The Pirates of Penzance	2006 The Grand Duke
1974 Trial by Jury & HMS Pinafore	2007 Iolanthe
1975 The Yeomen of the Guard	2008 The Yeomen of the Guard
1976 The Sorcerer	2009 Utopia, Limited
1977 Iolanthe	2010 Princess Ida
1978 The Mikado	2011 Trial by Jury & HMS Pinafore (50th Anniversary)
1979 Ruddigore	2012 Ruddigore
1980 The Gondoliers	2013 The Gondoliers
1981 The Pirates of Penzance	2014 The Pirates of Penzance
1982 Princess Ida	2015 Patience
1983 Cox and Box & HMS Pinafore	2016 The Sorcerer
1984 Patience	2017 The Mikado
1985 The Yeomen of the Guard	2018 Iolanthe
1986 The Mikado	2019 The Yeomen of the Guard
1987 Iolanthe	2020 HMS Pinafore
1988 Utopia, Limited	2021 No Performance
1989 HMS Pinafore	2022 No Performance
1990 Ruddigore	2023 The Grand Duke
1991 The Gondoliers	2024 Princess Ida
1992 The Sorcerer	
1993 The Pirates of Penzance	

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announce their winter 2026
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Gilbert & Sullivan's

**The Gondoliers;
or, The King of Barataria**

SudburySavoyards.org

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Welcome to *Ruddigore*!

When approaching this production, I was struck by the unique interplay of genres and styles in Gilbert & Sullivan's playful take on melodrama. With its larger-than-life story tropes, stock characters, and supernatural elements, to me, it feels like a fairy tale—complete with curses, heroes, and villains. Fairy tales, by their nature, evoke vivid imagery, and that brought me to one of our key sources of inspiration: illustration.

In *Ruddigore*, the characters are archetypes—so clearly defined that you could almost draw them, their silhouettes alone telling you who they are. Zany twists, sudden shifts, and comedic rhythms stretch *Ruddigore's* performers in ways that lead them to nearly appear as if they are animations. I've tried to bring some of that playful use of the full body to the sometimes more stationary world of opera.

As a 90s baby, the combination of fairy tales, music, and animation really means one thing... a certain animation studio with a mouse mascot. I couldn't help but draw inspiration from their illustrated musical retellings of fairy tales like "The Little Mermaid" and "Beauty and the Beast". You might notice echoes of both of those films in our production, along with some cinematic approaches to the visual flow and construction of the show.

Ruddigore is very much a story about stories. We tell stories to process the things that happen to and around us. To question the construct of stories highlights the questions we have about ourselves. Through its characters, *Ruddigore* asks timeless queries about the ways we define ourselves, process the world, and carry the weight of our histories.

- What defines us? Is it our family, our history, the people we love, or the experiences we've lived?
- What drives us? Are we motivated by our hearts, societal rules, or the expectations placed upon us?
- How much control do we truly have over our own lives? Are we bound by the sins and decisions of our ancestors, or can we forge our own path?

Gilbert & Sullivan shows are like fairy tales or films in that their stories are retold and reviewed over and over again. They are made new by their audience and the environment in which they are viewed. When it comes to theater, we also add into that equation the people on, behind, and below (in the case of the pit) the stage. So, while it has been performed before, and will be performed again, the production of *Ruddigore* you are about to see is singular and will never exist this very way ever again.

That's pretty magical. Or is it scary? Probably both. Both is good.

~Briana Bensenouci, Stage Director

PLOT SYNOPSIS

Ruddigore, or “The Witch’s Curse” was the 10th collaboration between Gilbert and Sullivan. The operetta is a parody of the stock melodrama — the villain who carries off the maiden; the priggishly good-mannered poor-but-virtuous-heroine; the hero in disguise, and his faithful old retainer who dreams of their former glory days; the snake in the grass who claims to be following his heart; the wild, mad girl; the swagger of fire-eating patriotism; ghosts coming to life to enforce a curse; and so forth. But as one critic noted, Gilbert turns the moral absolutes of melodrama upside down: Good becomes bad, bad becomes good, and heroes take the easy way out. The Baronets of Ruddigore are cursed. Anyone who succeeds to the title has to commit a crime every day — or perish in inconceivable agony.

Robin Oakapple, a young farmer, loves Rose Maybud, but both are too shy to tell the other. But Robin has a secret. He is really Sir Ruthven Murgatroyd, the rightful Baronet of Ruddigore, in disguise. His younger brother, Despard, believing Ruthven to be dead, has assumed the title. Robin’s foster brother, Richard, seeking Rose for himself, tells Despard of Robin’s deception, and Robin is forced to accept his true position, losing Rose to Richard in the process. Now the Baronet of Ruddigore, Robin is confronted by the ghosts of his ancestors who step from their picture frames in the gallery of Ruddigore Castle to confront him for failing to conscientiously commit his daily crime. Robin eventually finds a way of satisfying his ancestors demands whilst continuing to live a blameless life.

***The New England Gilbert and Sullivan Society
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Sunday, June 22: THE MIKADO in Natick, MA

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www.negass.org

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ

Sir Ruthven Murgatroyd / Robin Oakapple	David Smyth
Rose Maybud	Lindsey Buccella
Richard Dauntless	Ben Oehlkers
Sir Despard Murgatroyd	Jeremy White
Mad Margaret	Elaine Crane
Dame Hannah	Carolyn Schwartz
Sir Roderic Murgatroyd, 21st Baronet of Ruddigore	Lonnie Powell
Old Adam Goodheart	Ben Morse
Zorah*	Clara Haymon
Ruth*	Graham Daley
Sir Rupert Murgatroyd, 1st Baronet of Ruddigore*	Matt Tragert
Sir Jasper Murgatroyd, 3rd Baronet of Ruddigore/2nd Ghost*	Liam Hefferman
Sir Lionel Murgatroyd, 6th Baronet of Ruddigore*	Randy Glidden
Sir Conrad Murgatroyd, 12th Baronet of Ruddigore/3rd Ghost*	Matt Garber
Sir Desmond Murgatroyd, 16th Baronet of Ruddigore/4th Ghost* . .	Brad Amidon
Sir Gilbert Murgatroyd, 18th Baronet of Ruddigore*	Jon Saul
Sir Mervyn Murgatroyd, 20th Baronet of Ruddigore/1st Ghost* .	Santo Mammone
Bridesmaids Union*	Debbie Crane
Bridesmaids Union*	Dianne DeChellis
Bridesmaids Union*	Jennifer Dohm
Bridesmaids Union*	Ann Ferentz
Bridesmaids Union*	Nora Sporn

**also Ensemble Member*

ENSEMBLE of Villagers, Gentry, and Spirits of Ruddigore Castle

Matt Behrle, Brendon Chetwynd, Kirsten Chetwynd, Meryl Eisenstein,
Kai Fay, Sue Flint, Kristiana Graves Floss, Deborah Gaz, Cat Glidden,
Laurel Martin, Larry Millner, Aire Nifong, George Oliver, Mei-Lin Po,
Tom Porcher, Karen Powers, Martin Reiss, Mary Jo Reiss, Alan Rohwer,
Emily Rubinfeld, and Larry Seiler

ACT I

The Fishing Village of Rederring, in Cornwall

ACT II

The Picture Gallery in Ruddigore Castle

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**Act 1 - La Bohème
The Telephone
Act 1- La Traviata**

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1887 Publicity Drawing

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act I

1. Fair is Rose. *Zorah and Chorus*
2. Sir Rupert Murgatroyd. *Hannah and Chorus*
3. If somebody there chanced to be *Rose*
4. I know a youth *Rose and Robin*
5. From the briny sea *Chorus*
6. I shipp'd, d'ye see, in a revenue sloop. *Richard and Chorus*
- 6a. Hornpipe
7. My boy, you may take it from me *Robin with Richard*
8. The battle's roar is over. *Rose and Richard*
9. If well his suit has sped. *Bridesmaids Union*
10. In sailing o'er life's ocean wide. *Rose, Richard, and Robin*
11. Cheerily carols the lark *Mad Margaret*
12. Welcome, gentry *Chorus*
13. Oh, why am I moody and sad? *Sir Despard and Chorus*
14. You understand? I think I do *Richard and Sir Despard*
15. Finale Act I *Ensemble*

Act II

16. I once was as meek *Sir Ruthven and Adam*
17. Happily coupled are we *Rose, Richard and Bridesmaids Union*
18. In bygone days. *Rose, Sir Ruthven, and Bridesmaids Union*
19. Painted emblems of a race. . *Sir Ruthven, Sir Roderic, and Chorus of Baronets*
20. When the night wind howls * *Sir Roderic and Chorus*
21. He yields, he yields *Baronets and Chorus*
22. Away, remorse!. *Robin*
23. I once was a very abandoned person *Margaret and Despard*
24. My eyes are fully open *Margaret, Sir Ruthven, and Despard*
26. There grew a little flower. *Hannah with Sir Roderic*
27. Finale Act II *Ensemble*

*Arrangement by Aldo Fabrizi

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Tony Parkes

November 10, 1949 – May 6, 2024



Tony fell in love with Gilbert & Sullivan at the age of eight, when he saw the Bil Baird Marionettes do *HMS Pinafore* on television. He dreamed of being a G&S performer and memorized all the patter songs, but instead chose to pursue a career as a square and contra dance caller, traveling internationally, making recordings, and developing his singing and patterning skills.

A fan of The Sudbury Savoyards, Tony joined the group in 1997 which began his progression into ensemble and leading roles, backstage and technical work, serving on the Board of Trustees, choreographing, participating in summer shows and July 4th Sudbury parade floats, and Stage Directing.



Tony appeared with us in all 13 extant Gilbert & Sullivan operettas, some two and three times, plus at least 4 Summer Shows, and made his Stage Director debut with *The Sorcerer* in 2016.

Tony was a true G&S aficionado, knowing every word to every operetta, and was always ready to help define words, explain references, or play the piano. Just last year he was bestowed with the honor of 'Yeoman of Regard' in recognition of his love for The Sudbury Savoyards by sharing his expertise, generosity, guidance, and extraordinary efforts for over 27 years.

Lucy Dean

March 1, 1943 – May 28, 2024



A beloved member for several decades, Lucy joined the chorus of bridesmaids and the costume construction crew for our 1990 production of "Ruddygore" and participated onstage through the 1997 production of *The Yeomen of the Guard*.

Lucy was involved with costume construction and /or Costume Design for the following 30 years, retiring in 2020 after *H.M.S. Pinafore*. She was also a member of the New England Unit of the Herb Society of America, serving as the Chair from 1996-1998, and was a long-time member of the Memorial Congregational Church in Sudbury, where she taught Sunday School.

Lucy was especially talented in hat-making, assembling costume kits to be made at home, covering backstage wardrobe duties, pitching in as house staff for summer shows, and enjoyed marching in the July 4th Sudbury Savoyard parade floats. She always rose to the challenge whenever needed and was depended on greatly.

ORCHESTRA

Aldo Fabrizi, Conductor

Violin I

Tinson Lam
(Concertmaster)
Basema Safa-Mallal
JB Stevens
Dorothy Linsner

Violin II

Jim Van Sciver
Jiayang Chien
Sandhya Ramakrishnan
Erin Faulder

Viola

Ted Sussman
Claire Arakaki

Cello

Raj Kumar
Boris Goldowsky

Bass

Lynn Sa

Flute I

Alex Andrews

Flute II / Piccolo

Emma Donnelly

Oboe

Paul Ragaller

Clarinet I

Michelle Markus
Steve Umans

Clarinet II

Bill Hoke

Bassoon

Kevin Bergquist
Steve Malionek

Cornet I

Ali Lauer

Cornet II

Sally McInnis

Horn I

Bob Berens

Horn II

Abby Snyder

Trombone I

Andrew Conway

Trombone II

Bob Weller

Percussion

Gabby Pierre-Louis

Orchestra Manager

Andrew Conway

Rehearsal Accompanists

Naré Kim
E. Justin Simone

Bryce Denney
Gina Fiore & Stephen LeRoy

WHO'S WHO IN RUDDIGORE



Brad Amidon (Baronet and Ensemble) is appearing in his thirteenth G&S production with The Sudbury Savoyards. With these performances in *Ruddigore*, Brad has now appeared on stage in all 13 extant Gilbert and Sullivan operettas! Past performances on this stage include Captain Fitzbattleaxe (*Utopia, Limited*), Cyril and King Gama (*Princess Ida*), the Pirate King (*The Pirates of Penzance*), Strephon (*Iolanthe*), Leonard Meryll and Jack Point (*The Yeomen of the Guard*), and Captain Corcoran (*HMS Pinafore*). Other non G&S roles include Fredrik Egerman (*A Little Night Music*), Will Parker (*Oklahoma!*), Aldolpho (*The Drowsy Chaperone*), Charlie (*Brigadoon*), and Algernon (*The Importance of Being Earnest*).



Lindsey Buccella (Rose Maybud) is ecstatic to be back on stage with The Sudbury Savoyards, especially because *Ruddigore* is one of her favorites! Other roles with the Savoyards include: Princess of Monte Carlo (*The Grand Duke*, 2023), Co-Music Director (*HMS Pinafore*, 2020), Chorus (*The Yeomen of the Guard*, 2019), Celia (*Iolanthe*, 2018), and Yum-Yum (*The Mikado*, 2017). By day, Lindsey teaches elementary music in Shrewsbury. She would like to thank her husband Francesco for his love and support.



Debbie Crane (Bridesmaids Union and Ensemble) is happy to be back on the Sudbury stage with so many talented longtime friends and she appreciates every opportunity. Thank you to the stellar directorial and production team for all their hard work. Debbie has been performing in community theater for more than 20 years with a range of experiences in light opera, musicals, and plays. When not on stage she teaches Music Together®. Thanks and love to Steve for his support.



Elaine Crane (Mad Margaret) An EMACT DASH award winner for Best Actress in a Musical (Maria in *The Sound of Music*, with The Concord Players) with several other nominations for both acting and costuming, Elaine is a versatile singing actress who enjoys performing in a variety of genres, from opera (Susanna- *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Micaëla- *Carmen*) to musical theatre (Fiona- *Brigadoon*, Marian- *The Music Man*, Guenevere- *Camelot*, Lili/Kate- *Kiss Me Kate*) to G&S (most of their heroines, including two turns as *sweet* Rose Maybud!) She can be heard on the original soundtrack recordings of *Song on the Wind*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *Ruth*, by Concord composer David MacAdam of New Life Fine Arts. An honors graduate of The Boston Conservatory, Elaine is the founder and executive director of Greater Worcester Opera (now in their 22nd year), with whom she'll be performing the role of Lucy in *The Telephone* this coming June in their innovative "opera in English" production. She's a proud board member and past president of NEGASS and loves singing choruses in public. She invites you to visit her website, www.elainecrane.com. Soli Deo Gloria.



Graham Daley (Ruth, Bridesmaids Union and Ensemble / Artistic Producer) is honored to return to The Sudbury Savoyard stage in the role of Ruth. She has been involved with the group for the last nineteen years, as a producer, trustee, crew member, chair, and in roles such as Iolanthe in *Iolanthe*, Aline in *The Sorcerer*, Edith in *The Pirates of Penzance*, Kate in *The Yeomen of the Guard*, Chloe in *Princess Ida*, and Phylla in *Utopia, Limited*. She has also appeared in productions with The Concord Players, Savoyard Light Opera Company, and The Cannon Theatre. When not on stage or behind the curtain Graham supports and educates teens, particularly in the biological sciences. She is grateful to her mother and the rest of her beloved support system, and to The Sudbury Savoyards for being such a supportive and loving theater family.



Dianne DeChellis (Bridesmaids Union and Ensemble) is excited to be working with The Sudbury Savoyards again after having performed in *Princess Ida* last year! A recent favorite role is “Molag” from the show *Firebringer*. In late March she will be performing with Stageworks in their upcoming concert, *Generation Compilation*. She holds a BA in Theater from Northeastern University. Currently Dianne is a special education teacher in Lexington, MA. Thank you Judy, Liam, Jackson, and Brian for your patience and support! Thank you to the Savoyards for the opportunity to sing and be a part of this wonderful community!



Jennifer Dohm (Bridesmaids Union and Ensemble / Cast Manager) is delighted to be a member of the Bridesmaids Union. Jennifer has been with The Sudbury Savoyards since 1997, and has performed multiple times in the chorus of almost all of the Gilbert and Sullivan operettas (except for *Utopia, Limited* and *The Grand Duke*). Jen has also performed G&S with the North Shore Light Opera Company and Valley Light Opera. Outside of the Savoyards, Jen sings with Sound & Spirit, an intergenerational choir based in Natick. By day, Jen is a high school Latin teacher and mom to two teenage daughters.



Ann Ferentz (Bridesmaids Union and Ensemble) is delighted to be performing in her lucky thirteenth production with The Sudbury Savoyards. With this trip to Reddering, she has now appeared in fully staged productions of all 13 G&S operettas! She is deeply grateful to The Sudbury Savoyards for making this possible, particularly for bravely mounting productions of *Utopia, Limited* and *The Grand Duke*. She has made more friends than she can count and sung more roles than she could ever have imagined. Thanks also to Dad for owning *Trial by Jury*, which started this obsession; to Mom and Dad for the Light Opera of Manhattan outings and additional D'Oyly Carte albums; and to music teacher Mrs. Nieves for the 7th grade production of *Patience*. A big shout out to Briana for making this such a fun production for one and all and to Aldo for applying his composition skills to Act II. And finally lots of love to the Bridesmaids Union—bouquets at the ready, ladies!



Matthew Garber (Baronet and Ensemble) is very excited to be performing in his third production with The Sudbury Savoyards, having previously played Guron in *Princess Ida* and performed in the chorus in *The Grand Duke*. His recent stage experience includes playing multiple roles in the Savoyards' rendition of *A Christmas Carol*, as well as performing improv comedy. While not on stage he can be found playing guitar, gaming, or with a cat in his lap.



Randy Glidden (Baronet and Ensemble) is excited to be portraying one of the ghost baronets in this year's Sudbury Savoyards' production of *Ruddigore*. Having been an admirer of scary books and movies since childhood, Randy is thrilled to bring to life one of the long dead baronets of the House of Ruddigore! When not in his scary baronet makeup, Randy will be appearing in the men's chorus. Randy is a longtime member of The Sudbury Savoyards, having played leading roles in *The Grand Duke* (The Herald), *The Mikado* (the Mikado), *The Sorcerer* (the Notary), *The Yeomen of the Guard* (Sir Richard Cholmondeley), *Patience* (Major Murgatroyd), and *The Pirates of Penzance* (Samuel). In addition, Randy appeared as Andrew Carnes in the Savoyard Light Opera's production of *Oklahoma*. Randy is a retired anesthesiologist and makes his home in Natick. He is proud to note that his daughter Cat is a member of the women's chorus.



Clara Haymon (Zorah, Bridesmaids Union and Ensemble) is so thrilled to be a part of her first show with the Savoyards! Her acting and singing experience includes shows such as *Deathtrap* (Sidney Bruhl), *The Wolves* (#14), *Murder on the Orient Express* (Countess Andrenyi), and *Clue* (Mrs. White), as well as singing in the choruses of *Carmen* and *Otello* with the Houston Grand Opera (on top of other countless school and competition choirs that she doesn't have the space to list). On top of that, she was the president of her college a cappella group (Hi BU Allegrettos!) and co-directed Jean-Paul Sarte's *No Exit*. Clara would like to give a special thank you to her roommates and boyfriend for dealing with her singing for months, her coworkers for being extremely supportive when she shows up to work exhausted, her family and friends for encouraging her to audition in the first place, her future cat (that only exists on adoption websites...for now), DayQuil for the three times she's had a cold throughout the rehearsal process, and the Savoyards for being so kind and welcoming during her first show!

Francis P Harrigan II, P.E.

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Liam Hefferman (Baronet and Ensemble) has been performing G&S since second grade (significantly longer than any sane person!), but this is their first season with The Sudbury Savoyards. His last run of *Ruddigore* was in eighth grade - also as a Ghost! - but they're also veteran of acting in & directing *The Pirates of Penzance*, *The Mikado*, *Patience*, *The Yeomen of the Guard*, *Iolanthe*, and many others. Since last picking up the libretto, they've been working in short films in front of and behind the camera, doing local drag, and assisting backstage with a variety of small productions in the Boston area, as well as actually lucrative work in tech. Liam would like to thank their grandfather Sean and music director Thomas for instilling a deep love for G&S in them at a young age, and his parents and (loving, long-suffering) partner Sarah for putting up with all the singing under his breath for the last few months.



Santo Mammone (Baronet and Ensemble) is delighted to play one of the Ghost Baronets in *Ruddigore*, his fourth Sudbury Savoyard production. Previously, he played Scynthus in *Princess Ida*, the Prince of Monte Carlo in *The Grand Duke*, and the Bosun in *HMS Pinafore*, along with numerous chorus and bit parts with other companies. By day, Santo enjoys books about history and philosophy, games of strategy and chance, and a bit of woodworking every now and then.



Ben Morse (Old Adam Goodheart) was born and raised in Natick, and lives there now with his lovely wife, Sue. He has enjoyed many happy years performing with The Sudbury Savoyards, and has played Sir Joseph in *HMS Pinafore*, Major General Stanley in *The Pirates of Penzance*, Grosvenor in *Patience*, KoKo in *The Mikado*, the Lord Chancellor in *Iolanthe*, and the Grand Duke in *The Grand Duke*. Ben has been pleased to work for many years with Greater Worcester Opera and appeared in the Winter Cabaret February 8, 2 roles in the upcoming Love, Italian Style presentation, June 5-8, and the yearly Summer Concerts in July and August. He has served for almost 30 years with New Life Fine Arts Musical Theater, most recently playing the role of Mordecai in the original musical *Esther: For Such a Time as This*. Ben is also on the board of the New England Gilbert and Sullivan Society (NEGASS).



Ben Oehlkers (Richard Dauntless) is excited to be making his debut with the Savoyards with this production. Other acting credits include Robbie - *A Man of No Importance* (The Footlight Club); Ensemble - *Allegiance* (Speakeasy Stage Company); Henry - *Next to Normal* (Boston Theater Dance Company); Zangara - *Assassins* (FUDGE Theater Company); Marius - *Les Misérables* (Woodland Theater Company); Adam - *Children of Eden* (Wellesley Players). Ben pinches between acting and music-directing, having recently music directed for The Footlight Club (*Pippin*), The Concord Players (*The Secret Garden*, *Titanic* - DASH 2022 award winner for Best Music Director), and Vokes Players (*Cabaret*). During the day, Ben works as a software architect for athenahealth.



Lonnie Powell (Sir Roderick Murgatroyd) Previously with Sudbury, he was Ernest Dumbkopf in *The Grand Duke*. Other G&S roles include The Pirate King, Captain Corcoran, Duke of Plaza Toro, Wilfred Shadbolt, Nanki Poo & Ralph Rackstraw. Recent non-G&S performances include Mr. Laurence in *Little Women* and Captain Smith in *Titanic* with The Concord Players. He is a graduate of the Indiana University School of Music and lives in Natick with his wife, Karen.



Jon Saul (Baronet and Ensemble) It's been a minute since Jon has been back to the Savoyards, but he's glad to be spooky on stage again! Last seen as the detective and costumier in *The Grand Duke*, and having been with the group for 27 years, it's difficult to come up with new things to say. He's really happy to see old friends and make new ones in this wonderful cast. Jon tests hospital software for MEDITECH, Inc. Endless gratitude for all the support from his family and theatrical friends.



Carolyn Kelly Schwartz (Dame Hannah) is delighted to be performing again with The Sudbury Savoyards. Past G&S roles include the Baroness von Krakenfeldt (*The Grand Duke*), Ruth and Kate (*The Pirates of Penzance*), Katisha (*The Mikado*), Dame Carruthers (*The Yeomen of the Guard*), and Constance (*The Sorcerer*). Recent opera credits include La Zia Principessa (*Suor Angelica*) and Hansel (*Hansel and Gretel*). She dedicates this performance to the memory of her loving grandparents, Joseph and Jeanne Kelly.



David Smyth (Sir Ruthven Murgatroyd / Robin Oakapple) is a Boston-based baritone, well-known for his charismatic stage presence and distinctive, warm timbre. He has sung numerous roles in opera, operetta, and oratorio, and recent highlights include Silvio in *I Pagliacci*, Rabbi David in *L'Amico Fritz*, Count in *Nozze di Figaro*, and Florian in *Princess Ida*. David discovered a passion for classical singing shortly after completing his doctoral studies in mathematics, and continues to study privately while also working as an associate professor in the math department at Tufts University.

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Nora Sporn (Bridesmaids Union and Ensemble) is thrilled to be making her Sudbury Savoyards and Gilbert & Sullivan debut with *Ruddigore!* Her love for singing and musical theater began with performing in musicals and in the chorus at her high school in Pelham, NY. Since then, her adult theatrical pursuits have been more limited, although she enjoyed portraying the wicked stepsister Louise in *Ashpet: An Appalachian Cinderella Story* and Mother in *Der Jasager*. In addition to her onstage roles, Nora has been a member of several local choruses, including the Harvard-Radcliffe Chorus, the Harvard Summer Chorus, and the Camberville Somerchoir. She is now excited to embrace a new era of community theater opportunities with The Sudbury Savoyards, Opera51 (*Don Giovanni*, *Sweeney Todd*), and beyond! Nora sends her love and gratitude to her family, particularly her parents, who regularly drive 2+ hours from the Berkshires to see her shows, as well as to her friends and her beloved, crazy-eyed cat, Pepper.



Matt Tragert (Baronet and Emsemble / Dramaturg / Accessibility Supervisor) In this, his seventh year with The Sudbury Savoyards, Matt is pleased and honored to step into the role of Rupert Murgatroyd, the original Bad Baronet for this year's production of *Ruddigore*. His lifelong passion for the operetta genre, and the operas of Gilbert and Sullivan, started at the age of 10 in a production of *HMS Pinafore*. Since then, he has performed with Derby Square Theater, Ipswich Summer Theater, NorthShore Light Opera, Connecticut Opera, Light Opera on the Sound, The Light Opera of Manhattan, and Boston Concert Opera. He studied Opera Performance at the Hartt School of Music. Matt is currently employed at Mass College of Art & Design as the Assistant Director for Student Accessibility and is deeply committed to promoting Disabilities and the Arts. He would like to extend thanks to his family and friends, the cast and crew of the Savoyards, and his BFF, without whom this would not be possible!



Jeremy White (Sir Despard Murgatroyd) enjoys playing villains, particularly comic ones. Previous villains played: The Mikado, Mr. Bumble, the Russian Constable, KGB Agent Molokov, Chef Louis, Cinderella's step-sister, General Genghis Khan Schmitz, the Wizard of Oz, and a classic mustache-twirling scoundrel in 8th grade.

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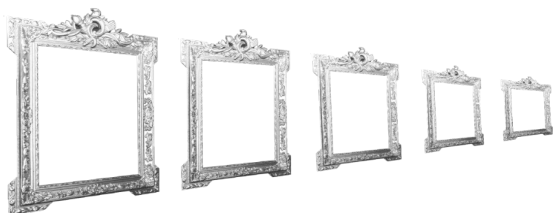
Briana Bensenouci (Stage Director / Choreographer) *Ruddigore* is Briana's third show with The Sudbury Savoyards and her first as Director. Briana returns to The Sudbury Savoyards after serving as Assistant Director for and performing in the chorus of 2024's *Princess Ida*. Her first Gilbert & Sullivan escapade in 2023's *The Grand Duke* earned her a DASH Award for Stand-out Ensemble Member. She joined the company's Board of Trustees in 2023 and currently serves as its Treasurer. She's deeply grateful for the opportunity to direct this year's production and thanks the cast, crew, orchestra, production team and all who give their time and treasure to the Savoyards for their talent, commitment, and contributions. Briana extends her gratitude to her family and friends for their ongoing support, particularly her husband who ensured she retained both clean clothes and relative levels of sanity during the directing process. Briana lives in Framingham and sunlights as a management consultant.



Brendon Chetwynd (Co-Technical Director / Producer / Co-Set Designer / Builder / Ensemble) has been with the Savoyards since the 1999 production of *Iolanthe*. After many years backstage in a variety of roles, he returned to performing in the ensemble with his wife Kirsten. The Savoyards are a welcoming community and he is proud to consider them part of his extended family.



Herschel Clopper (House Manager) joined The Sudbury Savoyards in 2010 after chaperoning his granddaughter Alyssa, then age 13 in 2009, one of the ingénues in the 2010 production of *Princess Ida*. The next year, Phyllis and Hersch joined the Savoyards, with Phyllis in the chorus and Hersch backstage on sound assist. From 2010 through 2016 he performed on stage in the chorus as a bass and has helped in sound and also in set construction. He has been a Trustee for several years and was Treasurer in 2016 when the Savoyards transitioned to a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. He was also Ad Chief and later Editor of the Savoyards' playbill during the years 2016 to 2020. Hersch is happy to return to active duty again this year as House Manager and is very appreciative of the help and assistance of the House Staff volunteers. A huge thank you to Dennis O'Brien for taking on the position of Assistant House Manager and being my right-hand man.





Andrew Conway (Orchestra Manager) A man of exalted rank who is always willing to take the consequences, Andrew is thrilled to be playing trombone in his twelfth consecutive Sudbury Savoyards production (and his eighth as Orchestra Manager). Andrew plays trombone with the Savoyard Light Opera Company, the Charles River Wind Ensemble, and the Bedford Big Band; and electric bass with a yet unnamed classic rock band. He's honored to be playing with these 25+ gifted instrumentalists and very grateful that they choose to participate. He's thankful for the constant support of his wife Kimberly, his daughters Gemma and Elsa, and his mum for the early encouragement.



Sara DeLong (Publicity Strategist / Producer) is a performer and arts administrator with a particular penchant for contemporary works and modern interpretations of the classics. In her element in musical theatre as much as opera, Sara is a frequent player of G&S with select previous roles including Mabel (Light Opera Theatre of Sacramento), Patience (MIT Gilbert & Sullivan Players), and Phyllis (Arlington Friends of the Drama). Last seen on the Sudbury Savoyard stage as Lady Blanche in 2024's *Princess Ida*, she also played Lisa in 2023's *The Grand Duke*, Phoebe in 2019's *The Yeomen of the Guard*, and co-produced the group's 2020 *HMS Pinafore*. A whole-hearted Sudbury Savoyard, Sara now serves on the board and helps lead the Communications Committee as well as the Fundraising Committee. When not on stage or producing, Sara can be found directing, engaging in excessive sass, or concert managing for the award winning ensemble, Blue Heron. www.Sara-DeLong.com



Blair Eig (Co-Technical Director / Producer / Co-Set Designer / Builder) feels fortunate to be involved in his second production with The Sudbury Savoyards. Accustomed to being both onstage and backstage, he has traded in his costume (he was Arac in *Princess Ida* last year) for his carpentry tools as co-technical director and co-set designer for *Ruddigore*. A transplant from Maryland, Blair has extensive experience in light opera and especially G&S. He has had principal bass-baritone roles in over 40 productions for the Victorian Lyric Opera Company, the Forgotten Opera Company, the Washington Savoyards and others. For most of these he provided technical and carpentry skills, including designing and constructing sets for 100+ students in school productions of G&S for 22 years. Favorite roles include Judge and Usher in *Trial by Jury*, Dick Deadeye in *HMS Pinafore*, Sargent of Police in *The Pirates of Penzance*, Arac and Hildebrand in *Princess Ida*, Mikado and Pooh Bah in *The Mikado*, Despard in *Ruddigore*, Wilfred in *The Yeomen of the Guard*, Don Alhambra in *The Gondoliers*, Phantis in *Utopia, Limited*, and Rudolph and Prince of Monte Carlo in *The Grand Duke*. When not building sets or on stage, Dr. Blair is a retired physician and devoted husband, father and grandfather.



Aldo Fabrizi (Music Director) began his musical career as a double bass player, performing with esteemed organizations such as the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Boston Pops, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Opera Company of Boston, Boston Ballet, Handel & Haydn Society, Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra, and the Buffalo Philharmonic. He has been awarded fellowships at prestigious festivals including Tanglewood, Aspen, Los Angeles Philharmonic Summer Music Festival, and the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria. Through these experiences he has collaborated with renowned artists such as Leonard Bernstein, Seiji Ozawa, Kurt Masur, Michael Tilson Thomas, Luciano Pavarotti, Erich Leinsdorf, Sarah Caldwell, Christopher Hogwood, John Williams among many others. Since 2012, Mr. Fabrizi has served as Music Director of Valley Light Opera, most recently conducting *The Mikado*. He's also the Music Director of the Greater Worcester Opera where an upcoming project includes *La Bohème* (Act 1), Menotti's *The Telephone*, and *La Traviata* (Act 1). These performances of *Ruddigore* mark his return to The Sudbury Savoyards where he conducted *The Grand Duke* in 2023.



Sue Flint (Co-Costume Designer / Construction) is happy to be working with Co-Designer Donna Roessler, and with the talented cast and crew of *Ruddigore*. She got involved in community theater in 2013, following her daughter onto the stage for the Savoyards' production of *The Gondoliers*. She has done costume design for The Sudbury Savoyards (*Iolanthe*, *The Yeomen of the Guard*, *HMS Pinafore*, *The Grand Duke*, *Princess Ida*, and *A Christmas Carol*), Arlington Friends of the Drama (*Angel Street*), and The Concord Players (*Brighton Beach Memoirs* and *How I Learned to Drive*), and coming this spring for TCAN (*And Then There Were None*).



Lowell Gilbert (Master Electrician) Lowell Gilbert is infamous for not taking his bio blurbs seriously, and most notably was not, in fact, trained in theatrical technology by feral wolves. He has been helping out with literally throwing light on Sudbury Savoyards shows for a number of years now, adjusting colors without having to figure out non-intuitive technologies like "paint." Lowell enjoys working with other theatre groups as well as The Sudbury Savoyards, including the Savoyard Light Opera Company and Theatre III, among other groups in the area. If you contact him, he will probably be happy to climb ladders for you too.





Laurel Martin (Administrative Producer / Co-Set Designer / Scenic Painter / Educational Tour Coordinator / Ensemble) is thankful to be working this year with such a fantastic team of Producers. She is also pleased to be back on the stage. During her 24 years with the company, she has worn a variety of “hats” including Technical Director, Props Designer, Scenic Painter, Graphic Designer, Vice Chair, and Chair of the Board. Some of her favorite theatrical roles with the group are the title role in *Mary Rose*, The Mute (*The Fantasticks*), Frieda (*You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*), Ada (*Princess Ida*), Ermengarde (*The Matchmaker*), Fleta (*Iolanthe*), and Martha (*The Grand Duke*). Locally, she has also worked with the Cannon Theatre and Acme Theatre both as an actor and Stage Director, and with TCAN as Set Dresser. She sends warm thanks to Dan, Linnea, Davin, Matt, Brendon, Blair, Graham, Sara, and all the members of her theater “family” for their love and support.



Nancy Powers (Props Coordinator) has been involved with The Sudbury Savoyards since 1986. Singing with the chorus for 2 (or sometimes 3) times for each operetta, serving on the Board of Trustees, serving as Cast Manager, Social Chair, and hosting many cast parties! For the past several years she has enjoyed designing and procuring props which help actors explain the story of the play visually. She hopes you all enjoy *Ruddigore*.



Donna Roessler (Co-Costume Designer / Construction) is happy to be costuming with Sue Flint for The Sudbury Savoyards once again this year. She recently co-costumed their production of *A Christmas Carol*. Donna has costume designed for several local theater groups, including SLOC, Theatre III, TCAN Players, The Concord Players, Opera 51, and Vokes. By day Donna is retired and, when not happily spending hours in her sewing workroom, she devotes some of her time volunteering to deliver Meals-On-Wheels to seniors. She is also a long-time dedicated volunteer for Save A Dog, Inc. of Sudbury, serving as a member of the Board of Trustees and also as the Events Director.



Nadine Sa (Assistant Stage Director / Stage Manager) is having a great time working with this cast and production team. Favorite credits include Co-Producer for *The Play That Goes Wrong* (The Concord Players, DASH Award Winner for Best Play), and Stage Management for *Cabaret* (Vokes), *Titanic: the Musical* (The Concord Players, DASH Award Winner for Stage Manager), *The Secret Garden* (The Concord Players), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Needham Community Theater), *HMS Pinafore* (The Sudbury Savoyards), *Mountaintop* (Lexington Players), *Percy Jackson and The Lightning Thief* (Wellesley Theater Project) and *The Color Purple* (The Umbrella Stage Company). When not living at the theater, she is living her best life traveling.



Elizabeth R. Stone (Makeup Designer) realized that she's been doing makeup for G&S productions since 1999, working with the MIT Gilbert & Sullivan Players, Arlington Friends of the Drama, and The Sudbury Savoyards. She has also worked with haunted houses, Theatre@First, The North Cambridge Family Opera, and is a freelance facepainter. She was nominated for an EMACT DASH award for her makeup designs for AFD's fall 2022 production of *Iolanthe*. Her cat has graciously endorsed this bio.

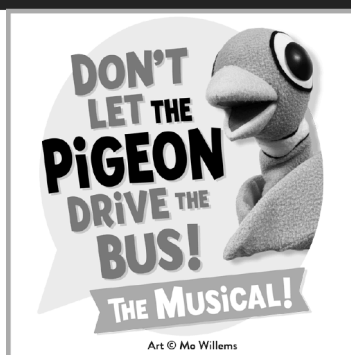


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Costume Designers	Sue Flint, Donna Roessler
Set Designers	Laurel Martin, Brendon Chetwynd, Blair Eig
Costume Construction Coordinators	Sue Flint, Donna Roessler
Set Construction Supervisors	Blair Eig, Brendon Chetwynd, Laurel Martin
Props Coordinator	Nancy Powers
Makeup Designer	Elizabeth Stone
Master Electrician	Lowell Gilbert
Sound Designer	Bill Lopoulos
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Lighting Crew	Brian Cutler, Stephanie Schanda, David Silber
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Costume & Wardrobe Crew	Jennifer Albanese, Julie Anderson, Kai Fay, Ann Ferentz, Marianne Hatton, Shahn Knights, Kathy Lague, Paula Moravek, Nancy Powers, Mary Jo Reiss, Andrea Roessler, Sal Triolo
Props Construction Crew	Laura Abrams, Matt Behrle, Dianne DeChellis, Jennifer Dohm, Laurel Martin, Karen Powers, Tom Powers, Nora Sporn
Sound Crew	Bryce Denney, Jimmy Lopoulos
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Stage Director / Choreographer	Briana Bensenouci
Music Director	Aldo Fabrizi
Assistant Stage Director	Nadine Sa
Publicity Strategist	Sara DeLong
House Manager	Herschel Clopper
Assistant House Manager	Dennis O'Brien
Rehearsal Liaison	Laurel Martin
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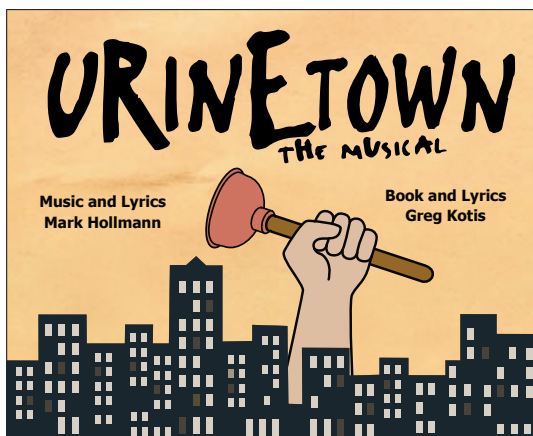


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