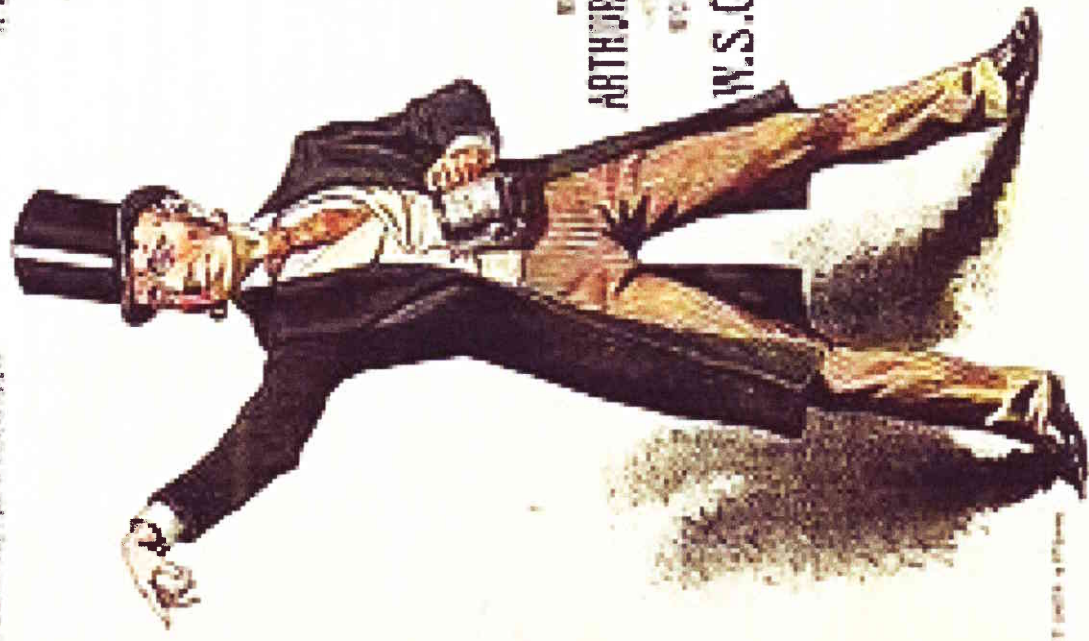


SAVOY THEATRE
A BOUPLY CAST



MUSIC BY
ARTHUR SULLIVAN
WORDS BY
W.S. GILBERT.

THE SORCERER.



OPERA COMIQUE
presents
THE SORCERER

words by **W.S. GILBERT**
music by **ARTHUR SULLIVAN**

PRINCIPALS

Sir Marmaduke Pointdextre
Lady Sangazure
Alexis
Aline
Mrs Partlet
Constance
Notary
Dr Daly (as a young curate)
John Wellington Wells
Chorus of villagers Talley villagers and members of Opera Comique
Narrator (Dr Daly as mature village minister) John Walford
Accompanist Nigel Smith
Director Kevin Sivyer

Peter Roper
Denise Baugh
Simon Cooksey
Bronwen Beckett
Irene Kent
Sonia Martin
Stuart Hales
Paul Baugh
Richard Whitehead
John Walford

THE SORCERER

First produced at the Opera Comique 17th November 1877

SYNOPSIS

ACT 1

The villagers of Ploverleigh are gathered in the grounds of Sir Marmaduke's mansion to celebrate the engagement of Alexis and Aline. Constance alone is depressed by the fact that she is besotted with the local vicar, Dr Daly who is oblivious to her feelings. Her mother determines to push the situation along – without success.

The engagement ceremony is preceded by an emotional reunion of Lady Sangazure and Sir Marmaduke, who then join in the celebrations.

After the ceremony, Alexis enthuses to Aline on his twin themes of 'true love being the source of every earthly joy' and 'men and women being coupled in matrimony without distinction of rank'. In support of these principles, he has engaged a Sorcerer – John Wellington Wells – to distribute a love philtre (potion), so that the villagers may share in their happiness. Wells arrives and confirms that his 'Patent Oxy-Hydrogen love-at-first-sight philtre' (potion) will have the desired effect and those who drink it will lose consciousness for a short period and, upon reawakening, will fall madly in love with the first person they set eyes upon.

The villagers arrive later for the banquet, the philtre is added to the tea and all who partake of it fall insensible to the ground.

ACT 2

Alexis, Aline and Wells creep among the sleepers to confirm that the spell has worked. They retire when there are signs of stirring and later, in a dramatic awakening, the villagers indeed form the most unlikely alliances, none more so than the luckless Constance who has landed the plain old Notary!

Alexis and Aline are overjoyed that the experiment has worked, but Aline is alarmed when Alexis demands that they themselves should take the philtre to ensure that their love will last forever. She refuses and a tense atmosphere is relieved only by a confused Dr Daly, who still yearns for a partner.

Sir Marmaduke and Mrs Partlet shock everyone with the announcement that they too are engaged. Wells also has a problem, in that Lady Sangazure is pursuing him enthusiastically, under the philtre's influence.

Aline is left alone and decides, against her will, to take the philtre to prove her love for Alexis, but all goes tragically wrong when she awakes and falls for Dr Daly no less. They are discovered embracing by Alexis, who is devastated to be told by Dr Daly of the tragic consequences of the experiment. Alexis publicly denounces Aline and the villagers appeal for a hasty solution to the problem from Wells. He explains that the spell may be broken only if he or Alexis is prepared to sacrifice his life. The villagers, not surprisingly demand that Wells dies immediately and he does so, in dramatic circumstances, whereupon all come to their senses and return to their original (true) loves and enjoy Sir Marmaduke's feast of muffins, toast and gay Sally Lunns