

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Images available at [lamplighters.org/pr\\_images.html](http://lamplighters.org/pr_images.html)



SAN FRANCISCO, California (23 Nov, 2015) – Lamplighters Music Theatre will produce Gilbert & Sullivan’s *Ruddygore* this winter, a comic masterpiece that melds the world of Jane Austen with a good old-fashioned English ghost story and a dash of Wuthering Heights romance. *Ruddygore* was first performed by the D’Oyly Carte Opera Company at London’s Savoy Theatre in 1887 and ran for 283 performances. Controversy over the “hideous and repulsive title” in an otherwise favorable first week review in the Illustrated London Review led Gilbert to quickly change the spelling to “Ruddigore”. Since times have changed considerably since 1887, the Lamplighters choose to honor the original spelling. Gilbert derived the story from his own one-act operetta, *Ages Ago*, and based the character of Mad Margaret on Madge Wildfire from *The Heart of Midlothian* by Sir Walter Scott.

When inflicted with a family curse, Sir Ruthven Murgatroyd fakes his death and disguises himself as simple farmer Robin Oakapple, leaving his brother Sir Despard to carry the curse of being forced to commit one deadly crime a day or perish in inconceivable agony. Before long, Robin falls in love with virtuous maiden Rose Maybud, but he finds himself in a love-triangle with his foster brother, Dick Dauntless. Add to the mix Mad Margaret who has been driven to insanity by the curse on her beloved Despard, a bevy of professional bridesmaids, and a ghostly chorus of ancestors, and you have a topsy-turvy recipe for fear and fun.

Full details are posted at <http://lamplighters.org/season/season.html>. For further information call 415-227-4797 or email [info@lamplighters.org](mailto:info@lamplighters.org).

### WALNUT CREEK

**WHERE:** Leshher Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive  
**WHEN:** Friday, February 12 at 8PM • Saturday, February 13 at 2PM & 8PM • Sunday, February 14 at 2PM  
**TICKETS:** For tickets please call 925-943-7469 or visit [lesherartscenter.org](http://lesherartscenter.org)

### SAN FRANCISCO

**WHERE:** Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 700 Howard Street, San Francisco  
**WHEN:** Friday, February 19 at 8PM • Saturday, February 20 at 2PM & 8PM • Sunday, February 21 at 2PM  
**TICKETS:** For tickets please call 415-978-2787 or visit [ybca.org](http://ybca.org)

### MOUNTAIN VIEW

**WHERE:** Mountain View Center for Performing Arts, 500 Castro Street  
**WHEN:** Saturday, February 27 at 8PM • Sunday, February 28 at 2PM  
**TICKETS:** For tickets please call 650-903-6000 or visit [mvcpa.com](http://mvcpa.com)

**PHOTOS:** Web ready digital art is available at [lamplighters.org/about/pr\\_images.html](http://lamplighters.org/about/pr_images.html)  
Please call 415-227-4797 or email [jkay@lamplighters.org](mailto:jkay@lamplighters.org) for hi-res, print ready digital art.

Read more about *Ruddygore* vs *Ruddigore* at <http://lamplighters.org/about/news.html>.

Stage Director: Jane Erwin Hammett  
Music Director/Conductor: Baker Peeples  
Costume Designer: Judy Jackson MacIlvaine

**Lamplighters Music Theatre** was founded in 1952 to produce the comic operas of librettist W.S. Gilbert and composer Arthur Sullivan, and is now recognized as one of the world's pre-eminent Gilbert & Sullivan companies. The Lamplighters' repertoire includes all the surviving works of these creative geniuses, as well as a select group of comic operas and classic musicals by other composers that exemplify their artistic vision. Critically acclaimed artistic successes for the Lamplighters include honors for Best Production and Best Director at the International Gilbert & Sullivan Festival in Buxton, England and local awards in nearly every performance, direction, and design category, including Outstanding Production of a Musical at the 2015 Theatre Bay Area Awards for *H.M.S. Pinafore*. The hallmarks of a Lamplighters production are lavish costumes and sets, live orchestra, excellent comic acting, and gorgeous unamplified singing that showcases the beauty and purity of the human voice.