

Nancy Stevens Review

Wolverton Gilbert and Sullivan Society – The Sorcerer

Friday, 19th July 2019

The villagers of Ploverleigh are in the throes of WWII and are celebrating the engagement of Alexis to Aline. Alexis has a plan to share the love by hiring a Sorcerer to brew a sleeping potion in the village teapot. The tainted cuppa causes all who drink it to fall madly in love with the first person they see on waking.....what could possibly go wrong?

The Sorcerer was my second viewing of Wolverton G & S, the first being, Iolanthe, which I so enjoyed, I'm afraid I was not nearly as enamoured of The Sorcerer, which was Gilbert & Sullivan's first production in 1877. However, it was more to do with the story than the cast. It simply didn't capture my imagination, but I couldn't fault the singing, the chorus were excellent and most of the main characters were superb.

Catherine Lee was as magnificent as she was in Iolanthe, her voice, simply perfect. Richard Fraser as The Sorcerer plays the role with the right degree of malevolence/a touch of Del Boy and a creepy David Copperfield – he's mesmerising. I loved the comic duo of Sir Marmaduke and Mrs Partlet, played by Alan and Kim Bennett respectively. Most amusing. The beautiful Claire Moore as Constance has a lovely tone to her voice and Graham Mitchell as Dr Daly (The Vicar) is very watchable. The authenticity of the 1940's costumes, the patter song and a light bright cast made The Sorcerer watchable but I think that G & S's collaborations only got better with time and then came Pinafore, then the hugely successful Pirates, the world-famous, Mikado, Yeoman and of course, The Gondoliers.