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● Members of the cast of Ruddigore at Louth's Riverhead Theatre.

Fast and witty drama

THE New London Opera Group once again graced the stage of the Louth Playgoers' Theatre, with Gilbert and Sullivan's delightful operetta Ruddigore.

As entertaining as the story is improbable, this brilliant musical satire – a parody of Victorian melodrama – attracted an appreciative first night audience from miles around.

The characters in Ruddigore are colourful, delivering songs and dialogue which are fast and witty.

This was a most enjoyable evening with some notable performances.

Soprano Megan Carrier as the fickle maiden Rose Maybud sounded as lovely as she looked and the contrast between Philip W Errington as Robin Oakapple and the

Ruddigore, The New London Opera Group Louth Playgoers' Riverhead Theatre

"cheeky chappy" character of his foster brother Richard Dauntless, played by Robert Felstead, worked beautifully.

Ashley Mercer's portrayal of Sir Despard was impressive, as was the wickedly comic performance of Kirsti Whitlocke as Mad Margaret.

A chorus of eternal bridesmaids (appearing at the slightest hint of a wedding) made a very amusing motif and then of course there were the ghosts... but it's better not to spoil it for those who haven't yet seen it.

Ruddigore is on at Riverhead Theatre, Louth, at 7.30pm tonight and tomorrow. Tickets, priced £10, are available from the box office on (01507) 600350.

Guest reviewer Helen Appleton