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Finale Act 1 - Hail the Bride

The opening bars allow time for actors to get to this position on stage. BMs enter from upstage left and form an 'aisle'. Men enter from upstage right.

BMs - Hail the bride of seventeen summers (*Rose is brought in by Dame Hannah and led by Natalia.*)

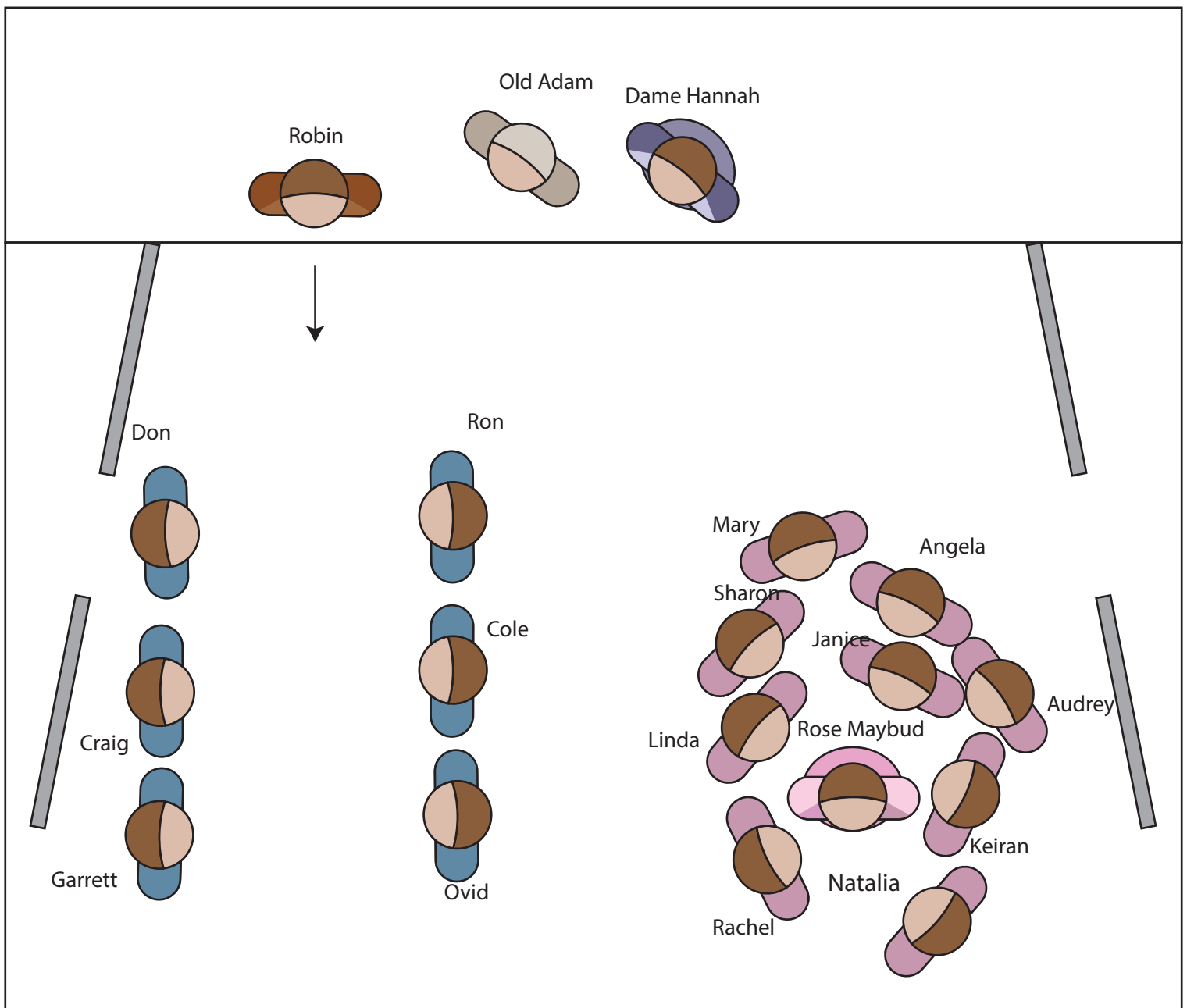
In fair phrases Hymn her praises (*Natalia walks down the 'aisle'*)

She rejoices in your voices

Smiling summer beams upon her (*Rose starts walking down the aisle,*

Men step off riser. Old Adam leads Robin in and they stand on riser watching)

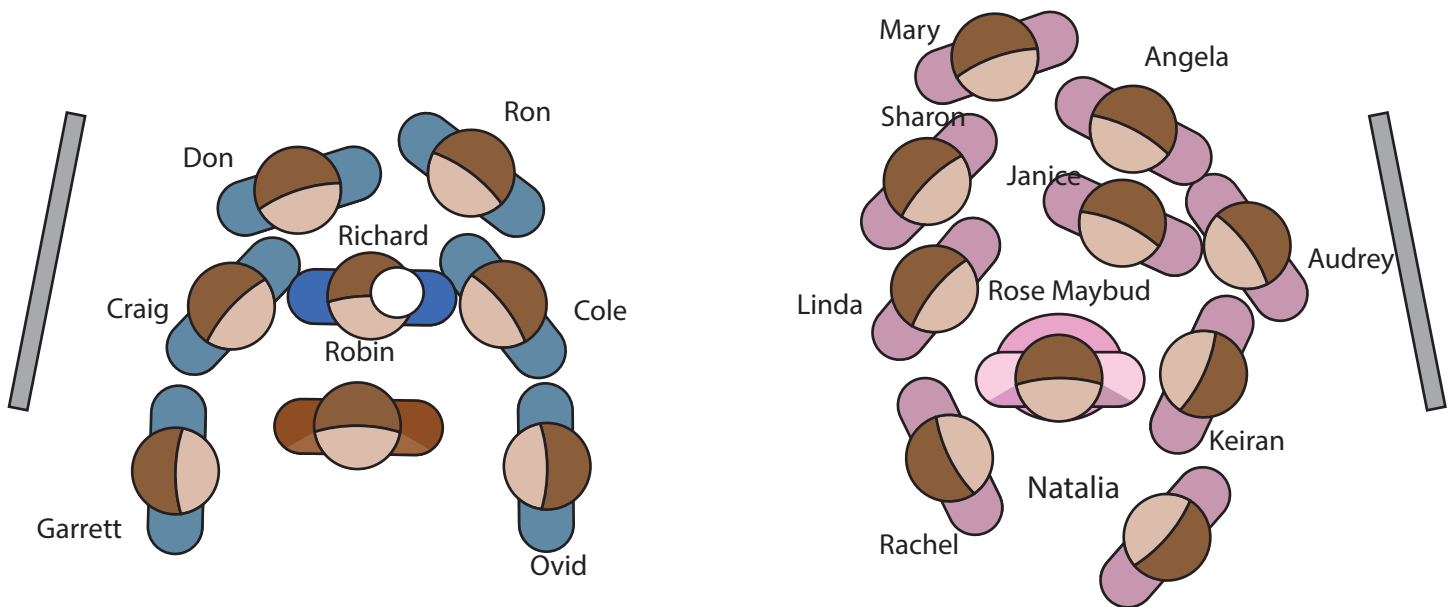
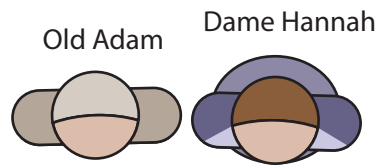
Shedding every blessing on her



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Maidens greet her (*BMs fall in behind Rose*)
 Kindly treat her. You may all be brides some day
 (*BMs are gathered around Rose, but create a simple tableau*)

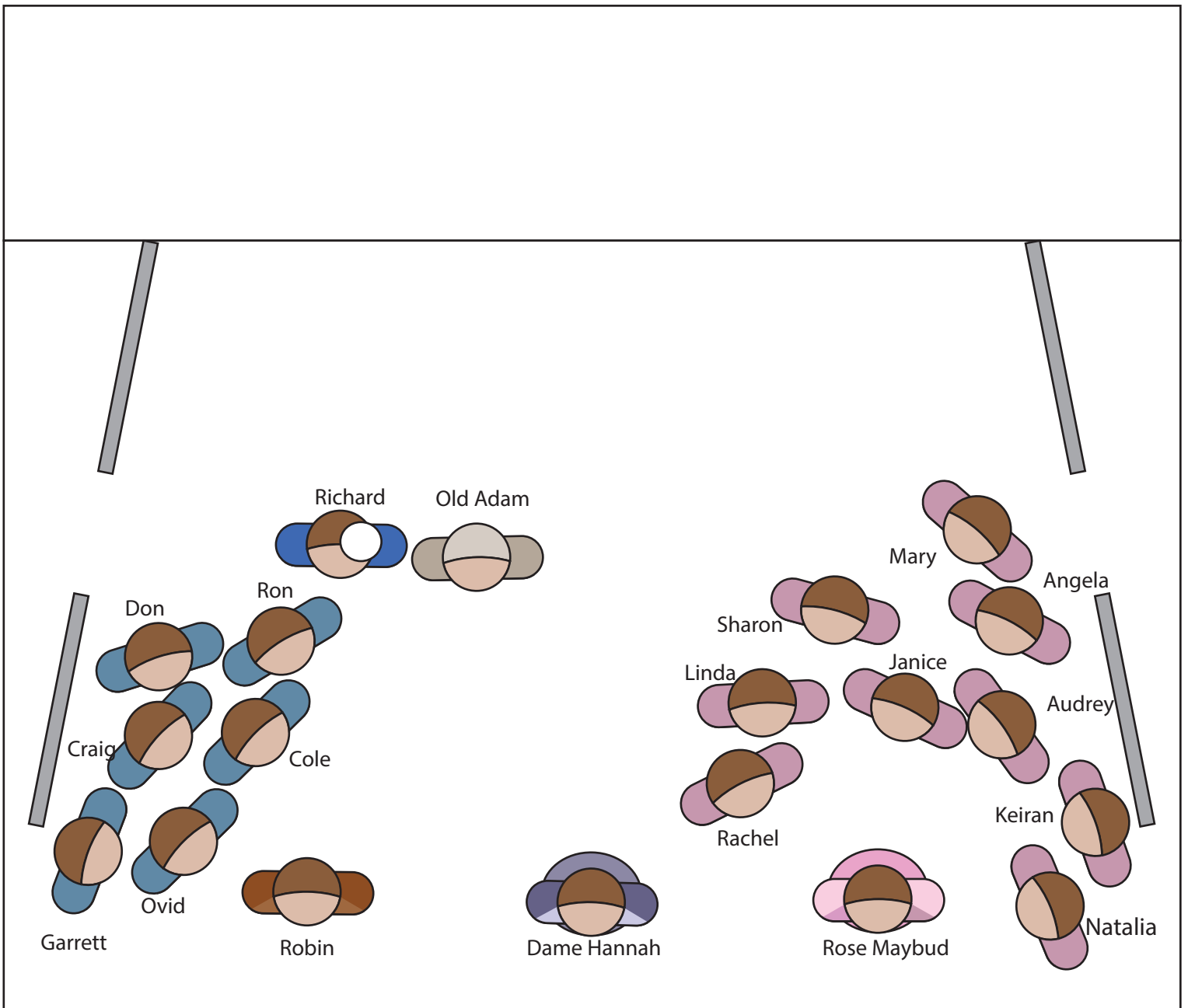
Men - Hail the bridegroom who advances (*Old Adam give Robin an encouraging push forward*)
 Agitated, yet elated. (*Robin begins walking down the aisle*)
 He's in easy circumstances, young and lusty, true and trusty (*Men fall in behind and gather around Robin*)



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*As the men and women sing together they transfer Robin and Rose into a bridegroom and bride.
 Richard brings in a dress coat and top hat for Robin
 He hands these to two men to put onto Robin
 The BMs alter Rose's dress to change it into a wedding gown and add flowers to her hair.*

Chorus - Smiling summer beams upon her, shedding every blessing on her
 Maidens greet her, kindly treat her
 You may all, may all be brides some day.

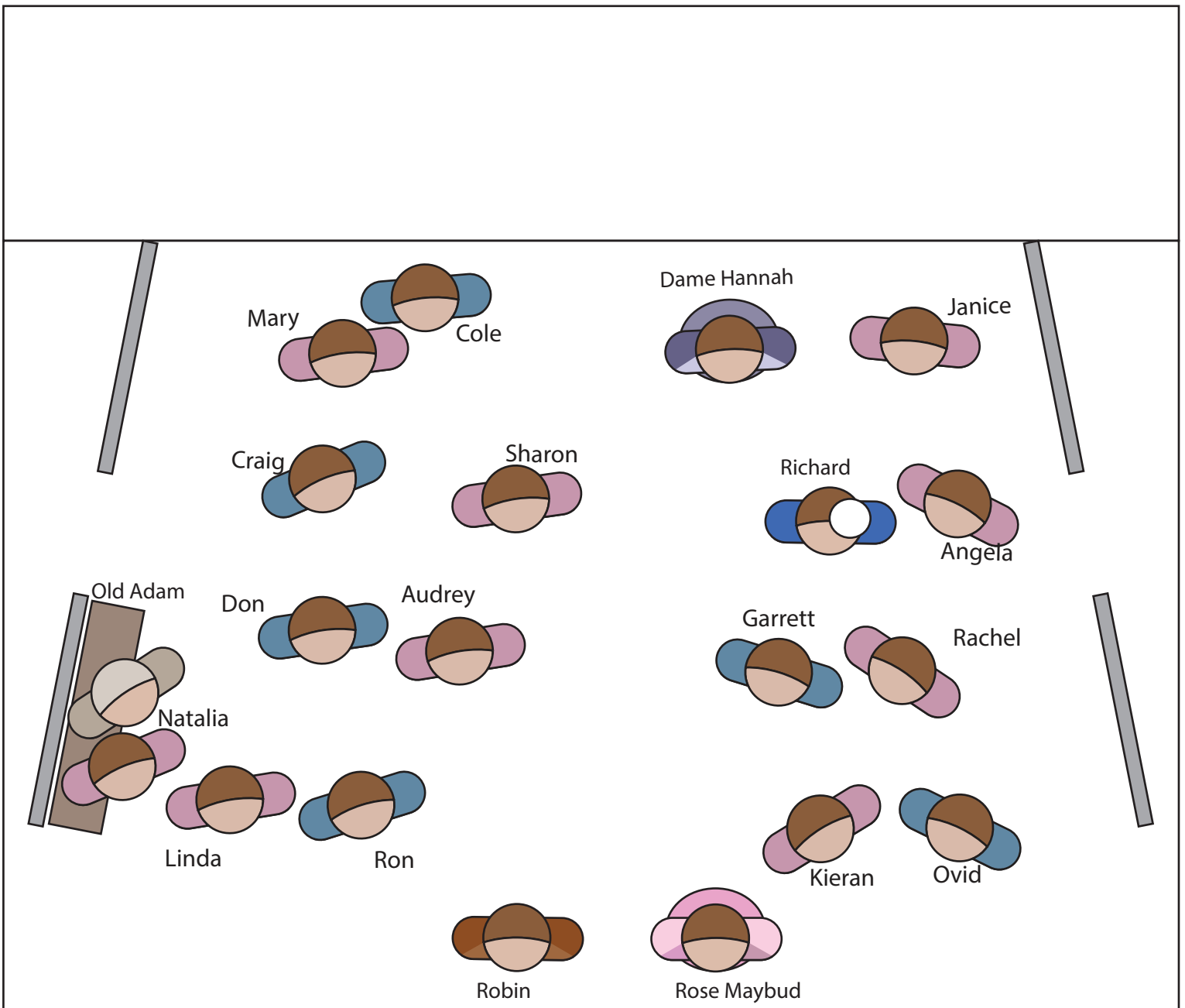


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Madrigal

*As the madrigal begins, the men and BMs finish the bride and groom transformation.
Then they open up the stage. Dame Hannah and Old Adam move forward.
Dame Hannah moves to stage front.*

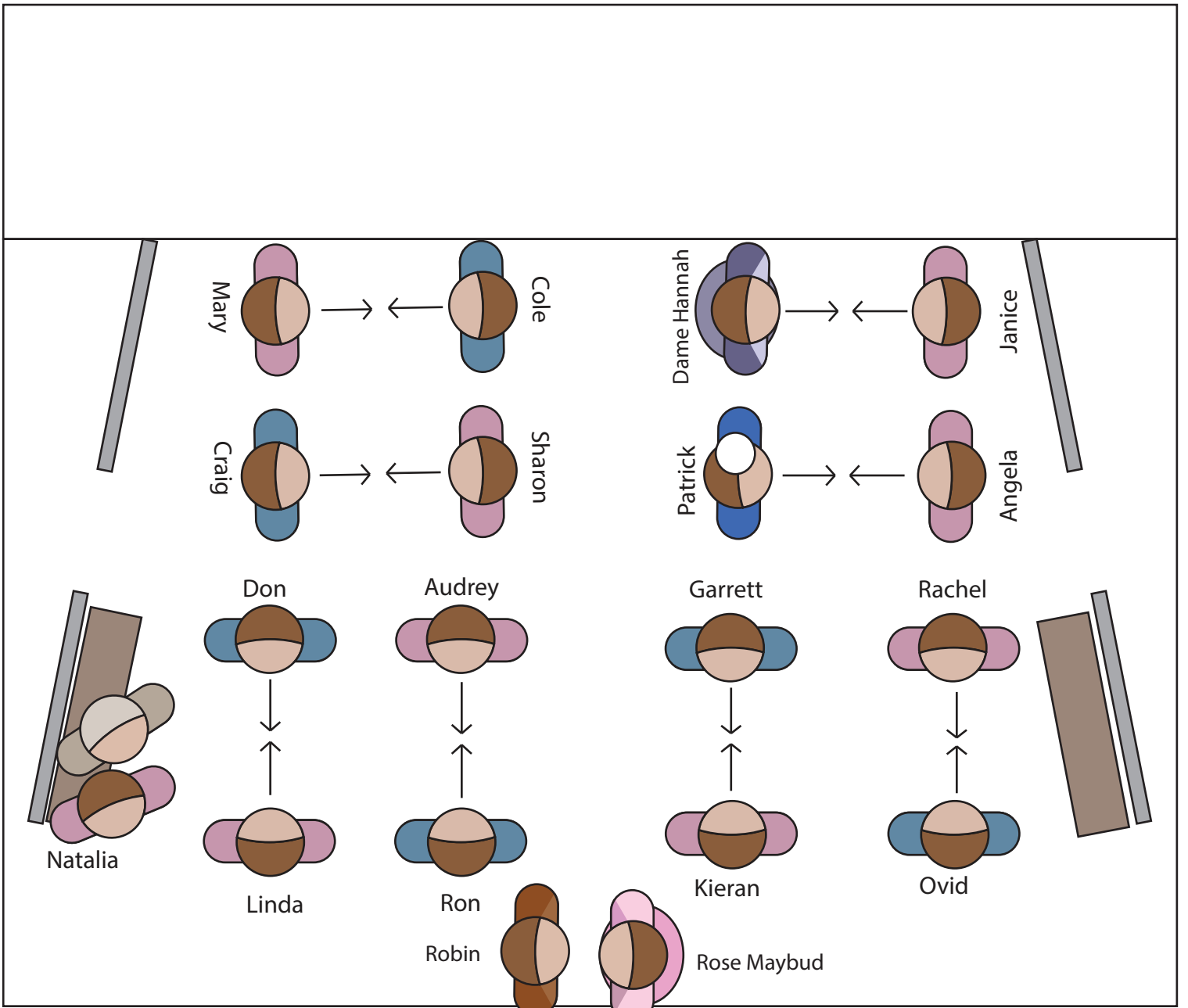
DH - In the springtime seed is sown. In the summer grass is mown
In the autumn you may reap. Winter is the time for sleep.
Winter is the time for sleep.

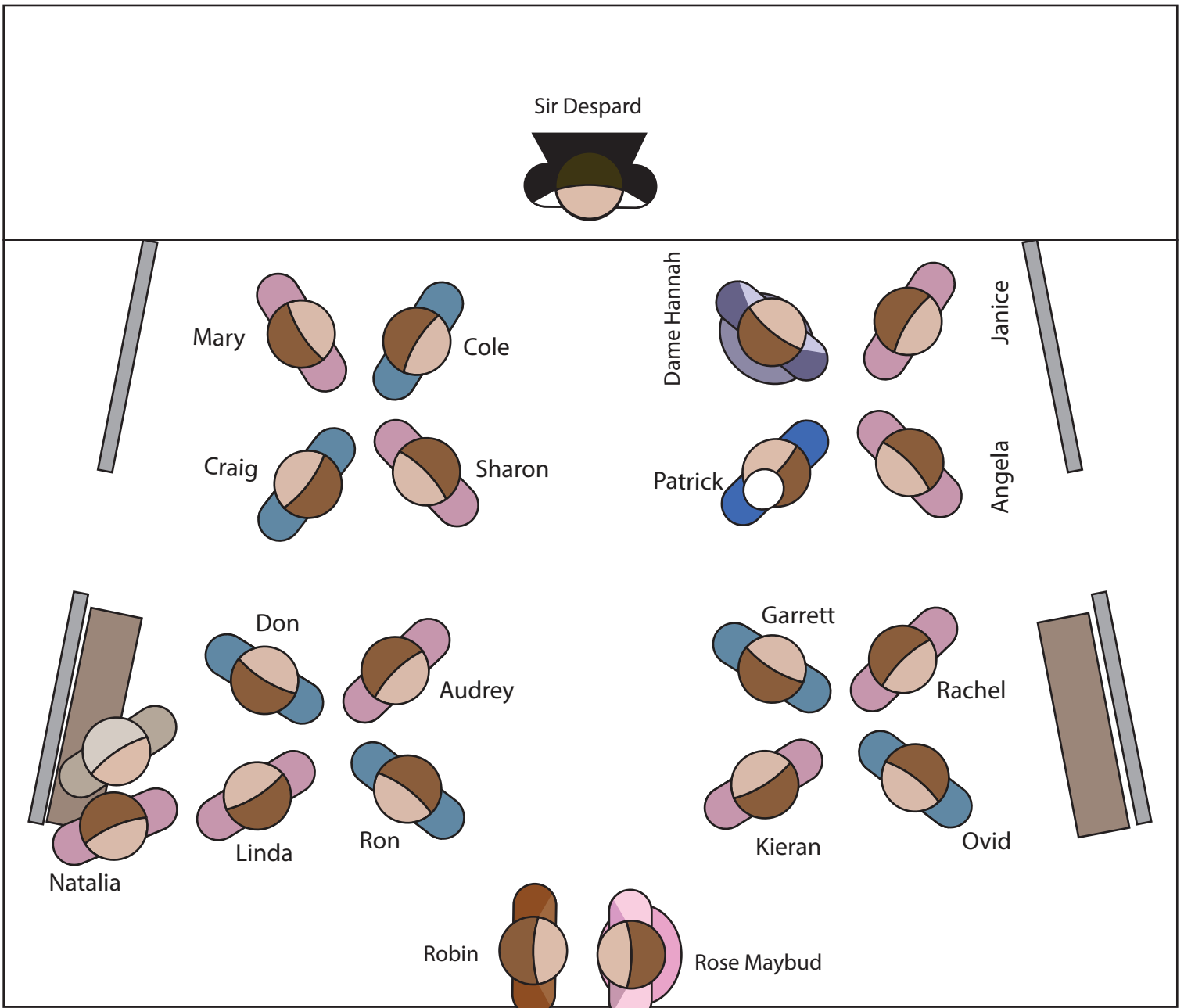


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Men and BMs 'intermingle' as they sing until they are with their partner that they dance with for the gavotte. Old Adam and Natalia sit on the bench. Robin and Rose approach each other. Dame Hannah moves upstage.

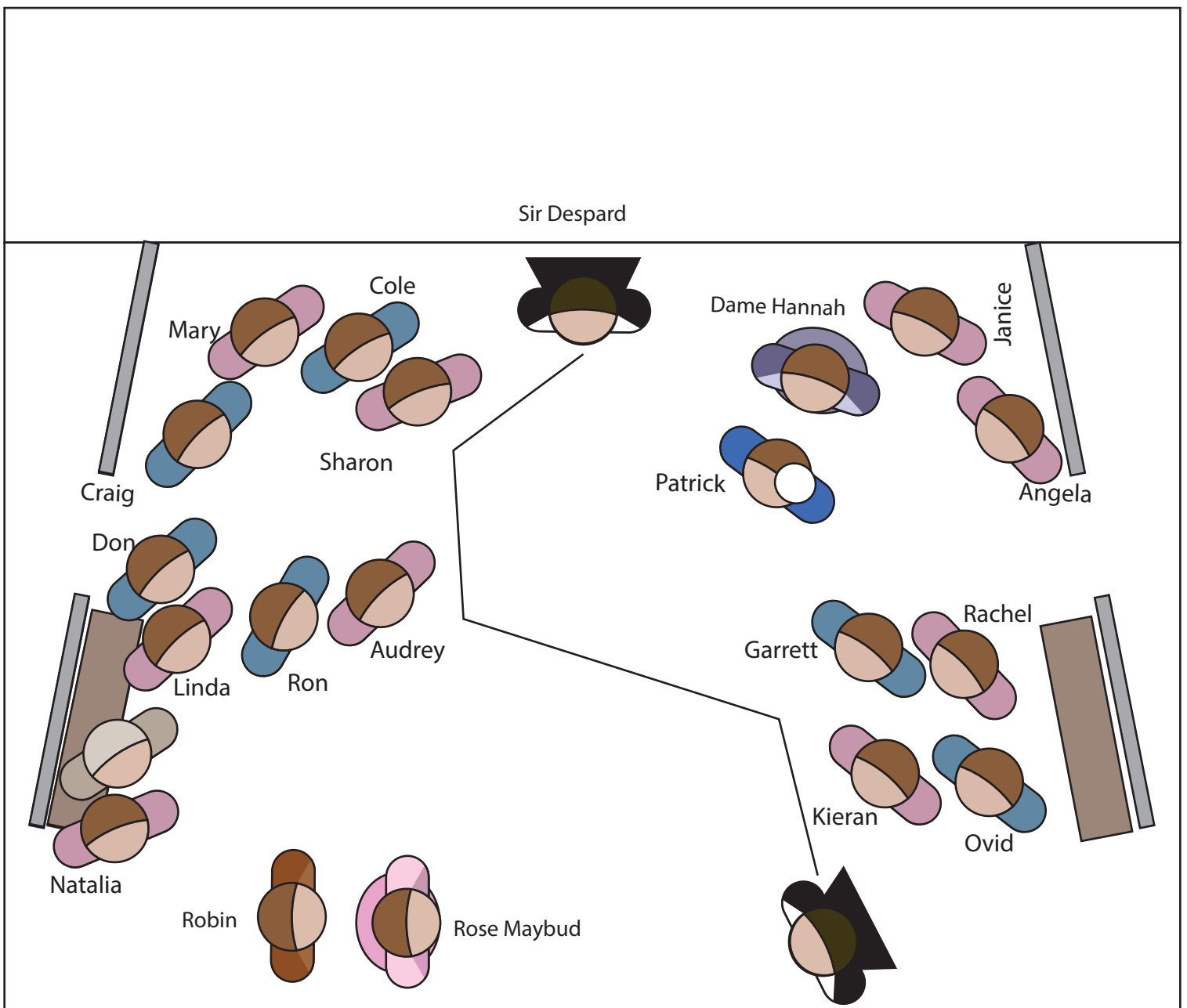
Chorus - Spring and summer pleasure you, Autumn aye and winter too
 Ev'ry season has its cheer, Life is lovely all the year
 Fa la la la ...





End of Gavotte, Entrance of Sir Despard

Despard - Hold bride and bridegroom, ere you wed each other...
(music pauses, Despard steps down from riser, crowd separates)



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Once all actors are in their position, Despard continues singing and moving forward

...I claim young Robin as my elder brother *(gasp from the crowd)*

(Despard moves back and forth informing the crowd)

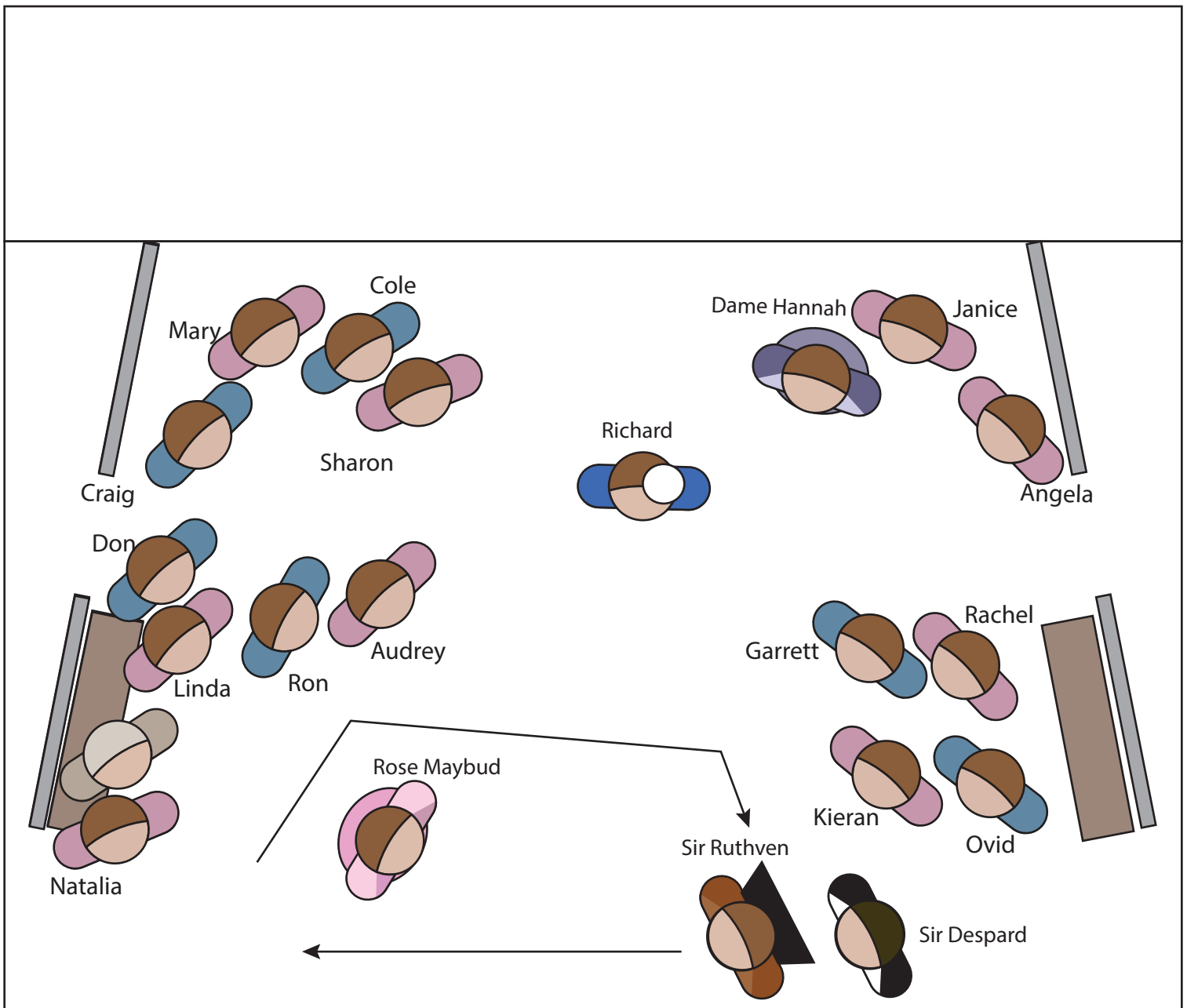
His rightful title I have long enjoyed.
I claim him as Sir Ruthven Murgatroyd.

(Rose turns to face Robin)

Rose - Deny this falsehood Robin as you should it is a plot.
I would if conscientiously I could but I cannot.

(Crowd looks angrily at Robin)

Chorus - Ah base one! Ah base one!



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Robin makes his way toward Despard

Robin - As pure and blamless peasant I cannot I regret

Deny a truth unpleasant I am that baronet (*Despard places the cape on Sir Ruthven*)

Chorus - He is that baronet! (*shocked*)

Robin - But when completely rated, bad baronet am I

That I am what he stated, I recklessly deny! (*Sir Ruthven makes his way back to Rose*)

Chorus - He recklessly denies (*pleased*)

Robin - When I'm a bad bart I will tell taradiddles (*Rose looks displeased and saddened*)

Chorus - He'll tell taradiddles when he's a bad bart (*Couples partner up and kick - left, then right - in place*)

Robin - I'll play a bad part on the falsest of fiddles (*Sir Ruthven dances around Rose*)

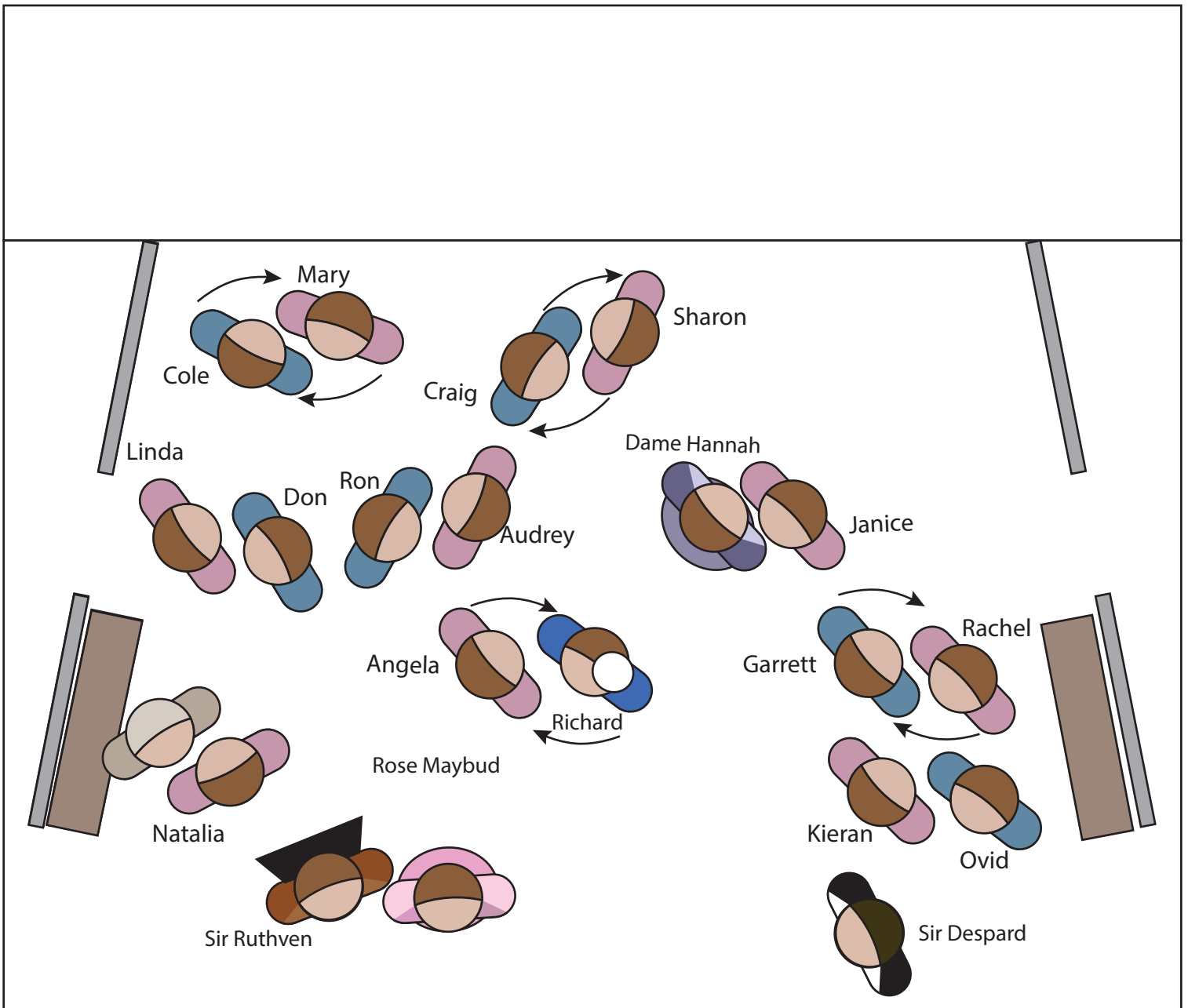
Chorus - On very false fiddles he'll play a bad part (*Couples kick again - only during the chorus parts*)

Robin - But until that takes place I must be conscientious

Chorus - He'll be conscientious until that takes place (*kick*)

Robin - Then adieu with good grace to my morals sententious

Chorus - To morals sententious adieu with good grace. (*kick*)



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(Couples do a triple-step facing each other and turn clockwise)

Chorus - When he's a bad bart he will tell taradiddles!

On very false fiddles he'll play a bad part,

(Couples reverse direction - do a triple step counter-clockwise)

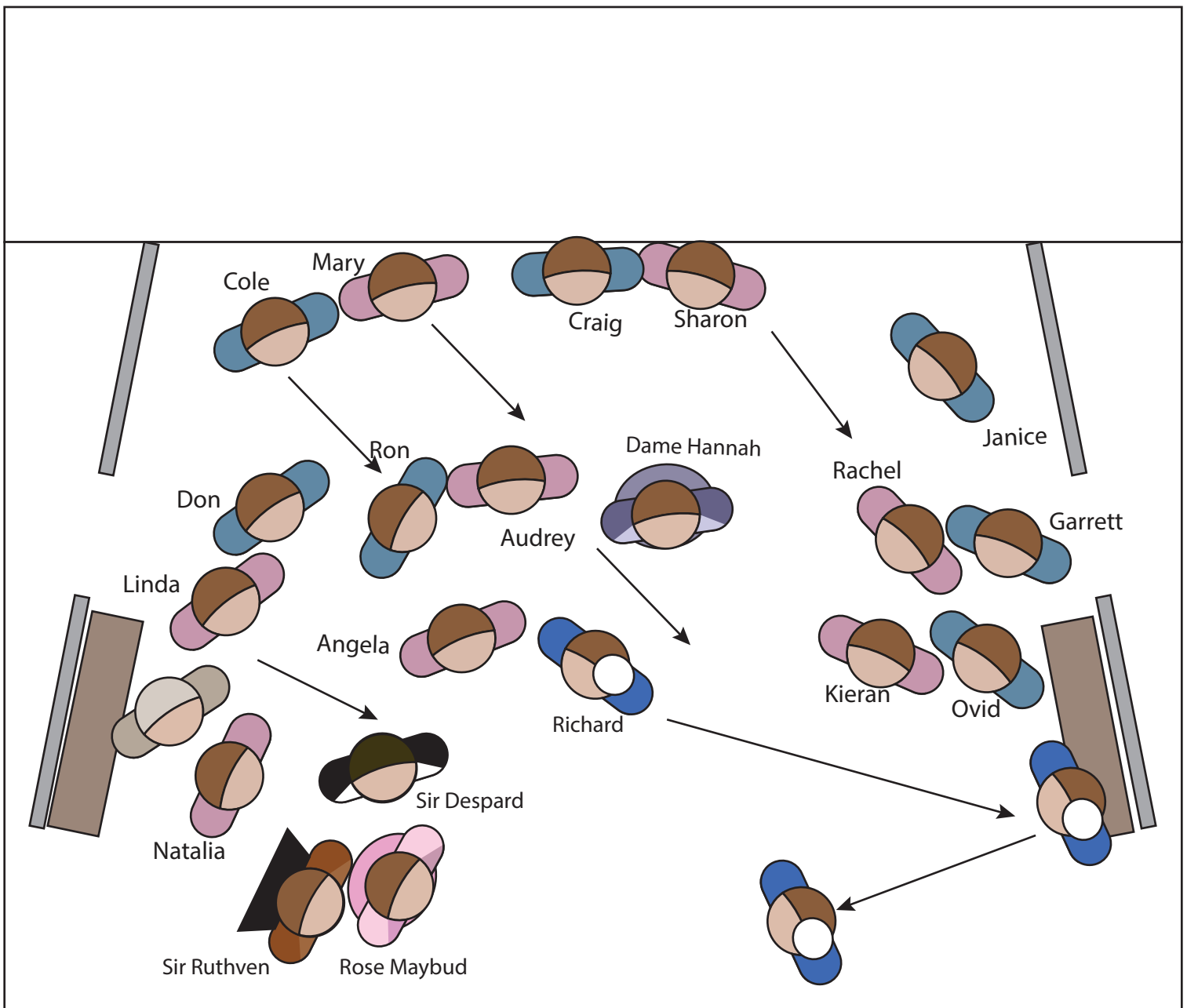
He'll play a bad part on the falsest of fiddles

And tell taradiddles when he's a bad bart!

During this chorus Despard remains composed but 'feels' the music.

Sir Ruthven tries to entice Rose to dance. She refuses.

Natalia does piroettes with Old Adam's assistance.



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(As the chorus ends, the front of the stage clears a bit ready for Zorah's part)

Zorah - Who is the wretch who hath betrayed thee?

Let him stand forth!

Richard - 'Twas I! *(Richard steps left and forward)*

Chorus - Die Traitor! *(Richard is frightened by the mob mentality - backs up to the bench and collapses on it. The chorus takes one threatening step forward.)*

Richard - Hold, my conscience made me! Withhold your wrath!

Within this breast there beats a heart whose voice can't be gainsaid

It bade me thy true rank impart, and I at once obeyed

(Richard gets up from the bench and makes his way toward Robin)

I knew twould blight thy budding fate

I knew twould cause thee anguish great

But did I therefore hesitate?

No! I at once obeyed!

(Chorus expressions change to understanding)

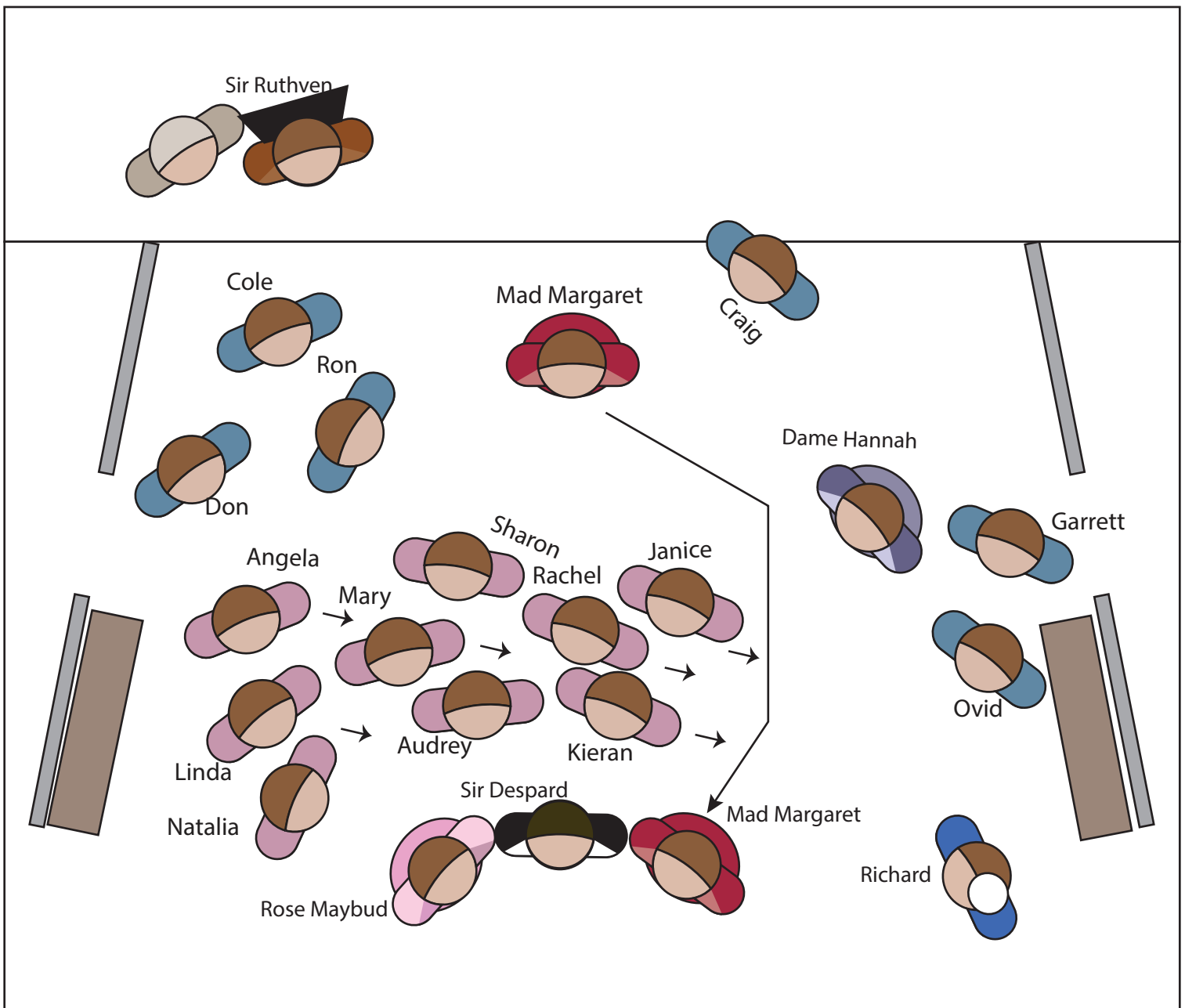
Chorus - Acclaim him who, when his true heart bade him young Robin's rank impart, immediately obeyed!

(Rose turns to Sir Ruthven)

Rose - Farewell! Thou hadst my heart 'twas quickly won! But now we part, thy face I shun!

Farewell! Go, bend the knee at Vice's shrine, of life with me all hope resign.

Farewell, farewell, farewell. *(Sir Ruthven moves upstage. Old Adam follows. Despard moves to comfort Rose)*



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(Mad Margaret enters on the back riser)

Rose - Take me - I am thy bride! *(Rose falls at Despard's feet and hugs his right leg)*

(BMs rush over behind Rose)

BMs - Hail the bridegroom, hail the bride. When the nuptial knot is tied;
Every day will bring some joy that can never, never cloy

Despard - Excuse me, I'm a virtuous person now.

Rose - That's why I wed you *(Rose continues holding Despard's leg, but looks up at him)*

Despard - And I to Margaret must keep my vow.

(During this exchange, Margaret has crept forward. Then she rushes to Despard's side)

Mad Marg - Have I misread you *(kneels and hugs Despard's left leg)*

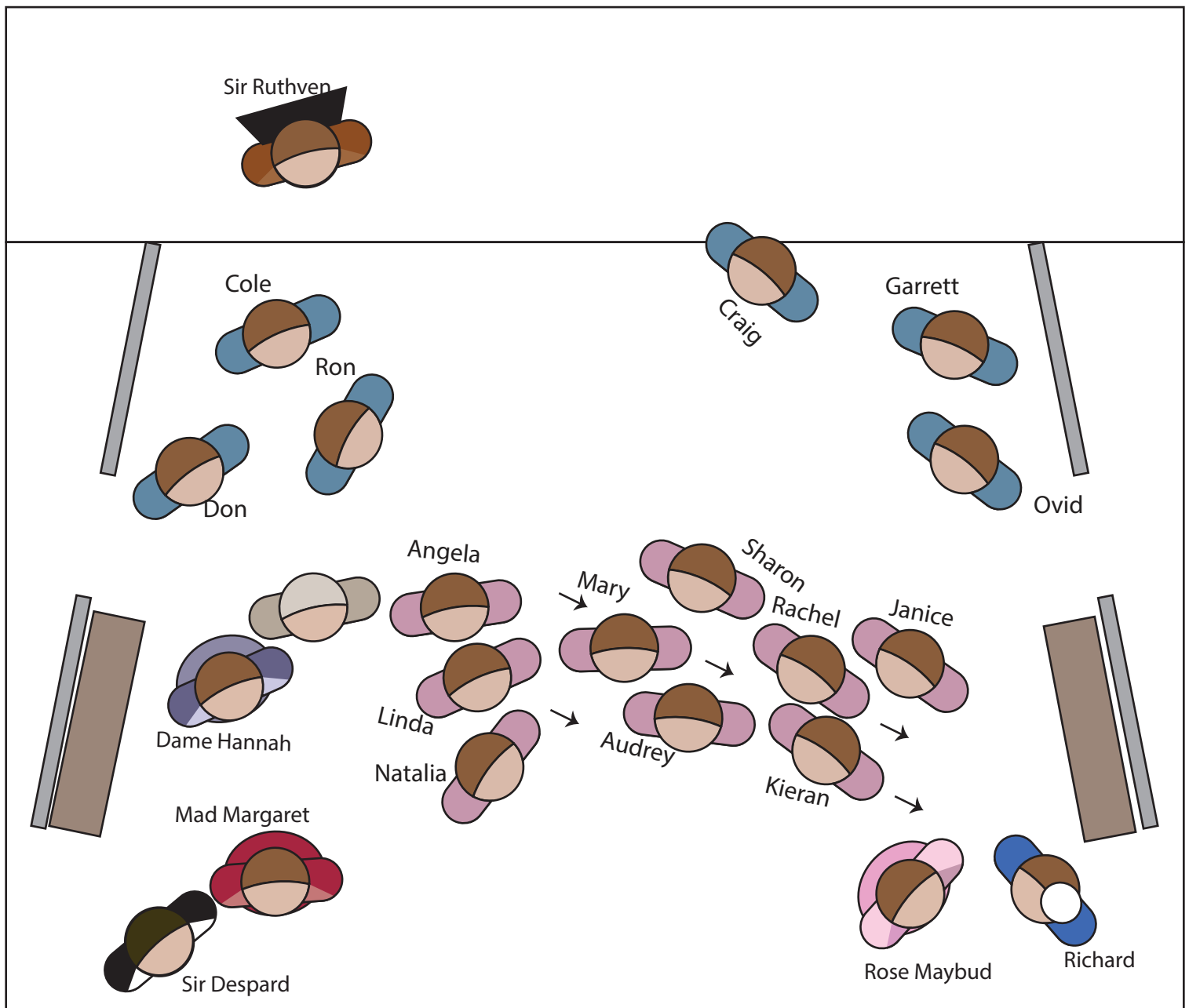
Oh joy with newly kindled rapture warmed, I kneel before you!

(Despard pulls his right leg from Rose's grasp)

Despard - I once disliked you. Now that I've reformed, how I adore you!

(BMs shuffle slightly to the left so they are behind Mad Margaret and Despard)

BMs - Hail the bridegroom, hail the bride. When the nuptial knot is tied;
Every day will bring some joy that can never, never cloy



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(Rose rises, looks around, sees Richard and rushes to him)

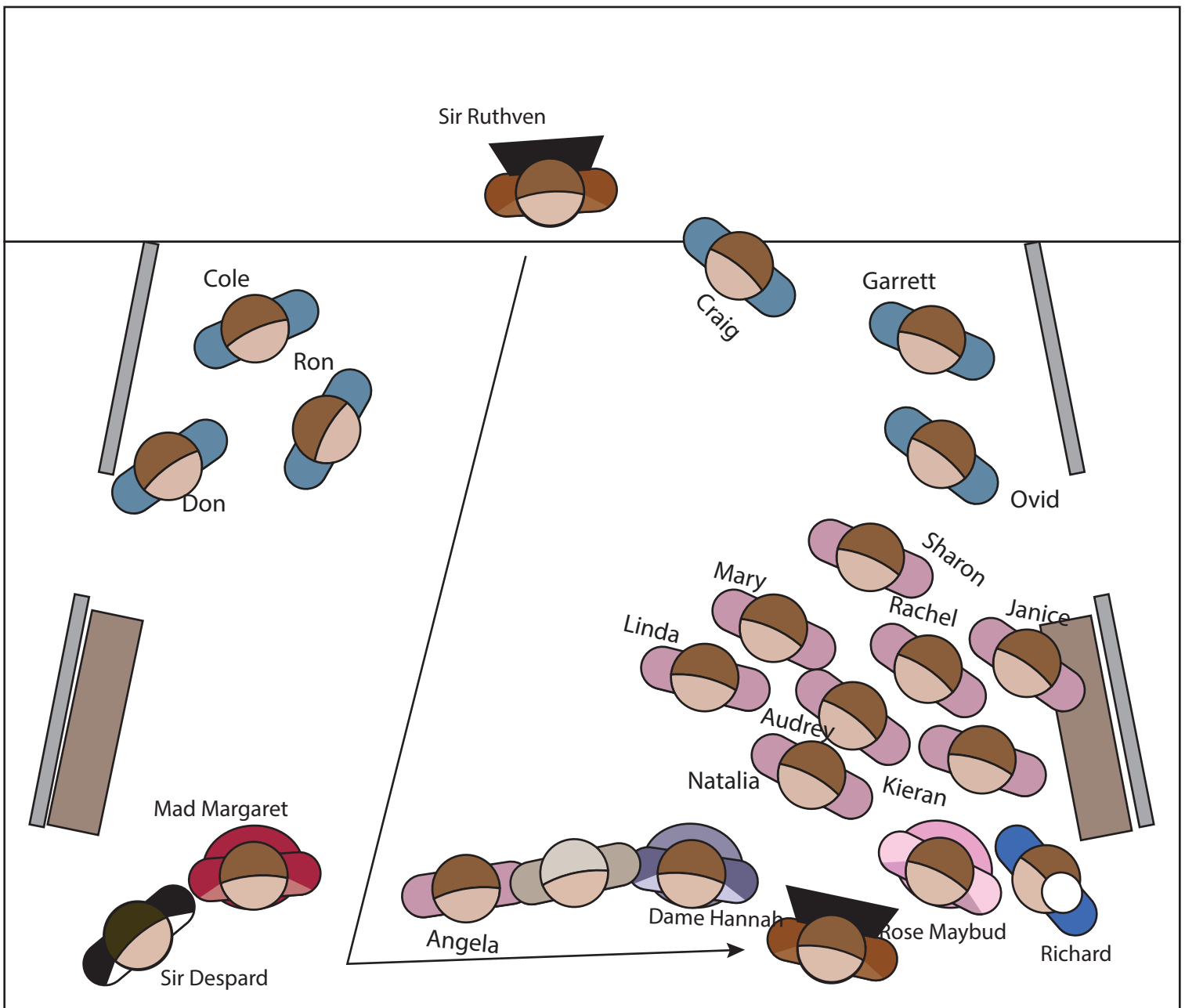
Rose - Richard, of him I love bereft, Through thy design, Though art the only one that's left, So I am thine!

(BMs shuffle again to the left behind Rose and Richard)

BMs - Hail the bridegroom, hail the bride. When the nuptial knot is tied;
Every day will bring some joy that can never, never cloy

Rose&Richard - Oh, happy the lily when kissed by the bee, and sipping tranquilly quite happy is he.
And happy the filly that neighs in her pride, But happier than any, a pound to a penny,
A lover is, when he embraces his bride!

Marg&Despard - Oh, happy the flowers that blossom in June, and happy the bowers that gain by the boon,
But happier by hours the man of descent, who folly regretting, Is bent on forgetting
His bad baronetting and means to repent.

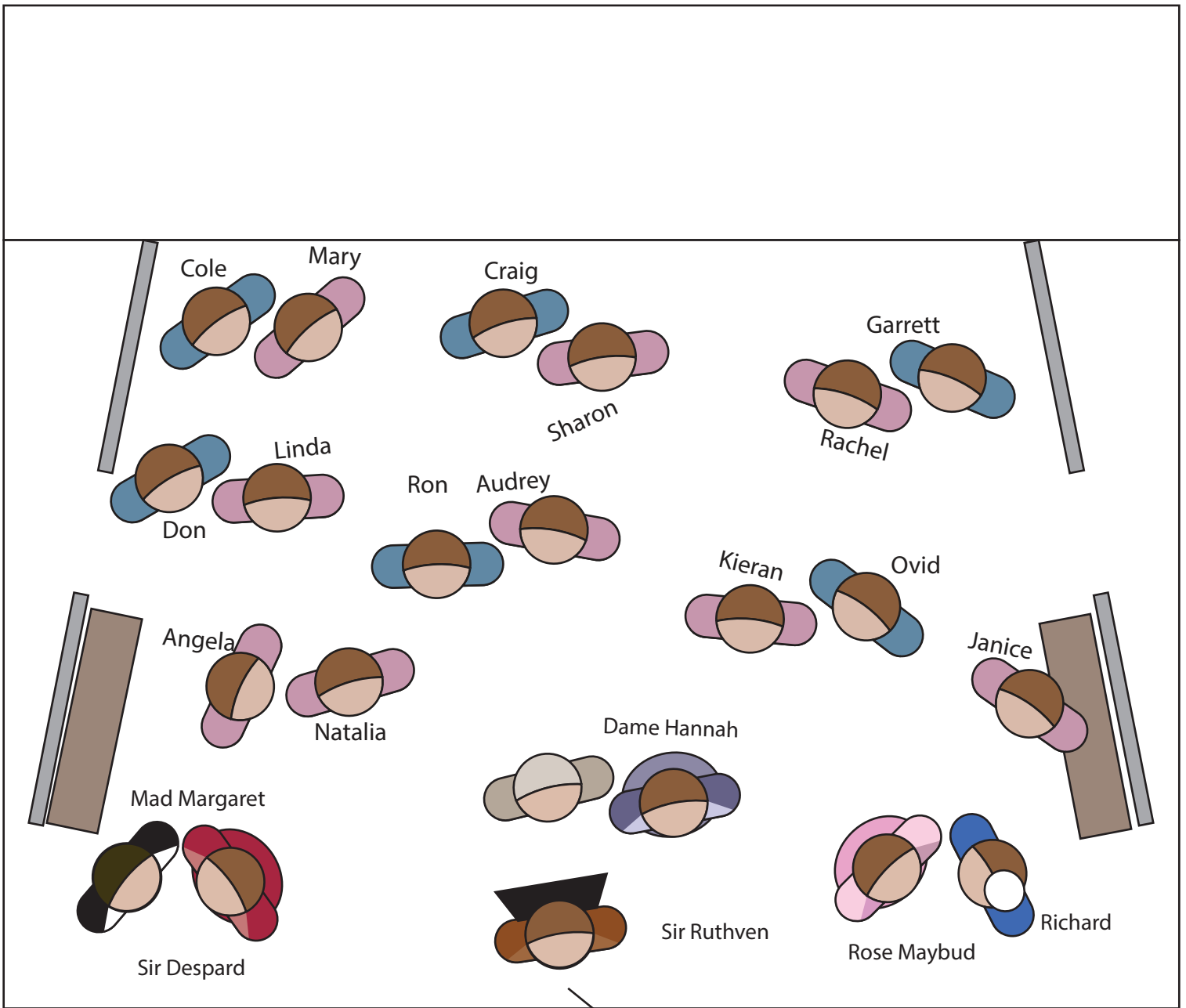


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Zorah, Dame Hannah, Old Adam (during the past two verses they have slowly made their way forward)

Oh happy the blossom that blooms on the lea, likewise the opposum that sits on a tree
 When you come across 'em, they cannot compare with those who are treading the dance at a wedding
 While people are spreading the best of good fare.

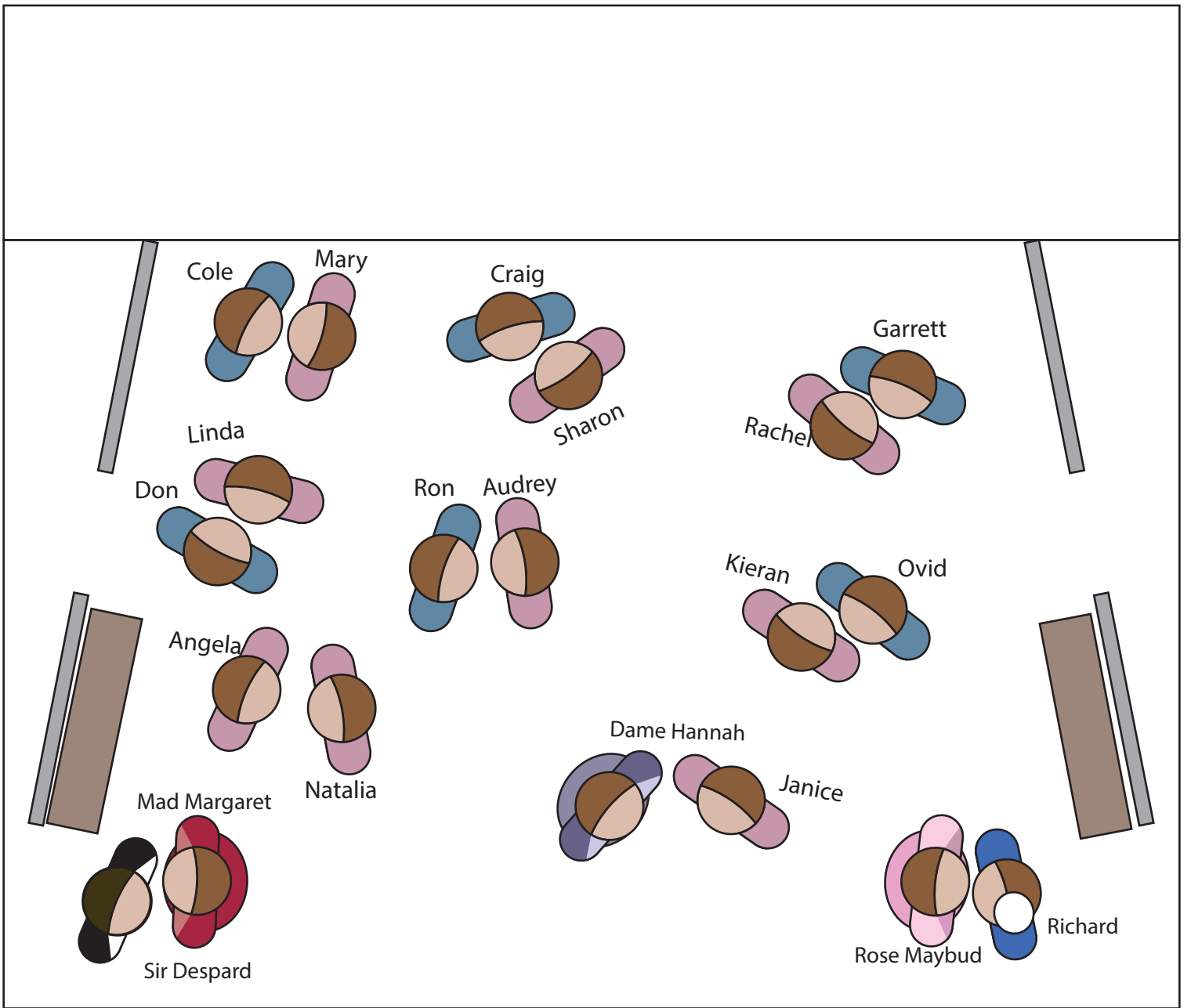
Sir Ruthven (charges from the back riser with cape flailing) - Oh, wretched the debtor who's signing a deed
 And wretched the letter that no one can read, but very much better their lot it must be
 Than that of the person I making this verse on, whose head there's a curse on, alluding to me



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*Couples reform and begin singing. Sir Ruthven moves back and forth madly. Then grabs Old Adam
Both Sir Ruthven and Old Adam exit through the audience.*

Chorus - Oh, happy the lily when kissed by the bee; and sipping tranquilly quite happy is he
And happy the filly that neighs in her pride; but happier than any, a pound for a penny
A lover is when he embraces his bride,
Embraces his bride,
Embraces his bride.



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Dance and Curtain