

MOOT HOUSE PLAYERS

present

THE CONSTANT WIFE

by W. Somerset Maugham

Characters in order of appearance:

MRS CULVER, Constance's mother	Yvonne Mitchley
BENTLEY, the Middletons' butler	Kenneth Collins
MARTHA CULVER	Jennifer Southwell
BARBARA FAWCETT	Mary Stableford
CONSTANCE MIDDLETON	Una Smith
MARIE-LOUISE DURHAM	Sue Harte
JOHN MIDDLETON, F.R.C.S.	David Schacht
BERNARD KERSAL	Christopher Childs
MORTIMER DURHAM, husband to Marie-Louise	Ron Lomas

The scene is set in the drawing room in the Middletons' house in Harley Street.

Act I .. A summer afternoon in the late 1920s.

Act II .. Late afternoon, a fortnight later.

Act III .. One year later. Afternoon.

The play produced by John Hadler

Costumes by Laws; properties by Roger Williamson; lighting and sound by John Hadler; stage management by Roger Williamson and Jill Williams.

There will be intervals between the acts.

Refreshments will be served in the foyer during the first interval.

NOTES

The Author and his Play

W. Somerset Maugham (1874-1965) is better known in these days for his short stories and novels, but from 1907 to 1933 he was a dominating figure in the London theatre - in 1908 he set up a record by having four plays running simultaneously. He is known best for his sardonic humour and excellent craftsmanship and his plays demonstrate these qualities to perfection, depending as they do on situation rather than character and the polished epigram rather than sustained brilliance in dialogue. He will probably be best remembered by the dramatic historians of the future for his "serious comedy" THE CIRCLE, which has had many revivals since it first appeared in 1921, but THE CONSTANT WIFE has as much claim to the attention of modern audiences as this earlier work. It was first given in London in 1927, revived just before the Second World War and then in the late sixties received star treatment by John Gielgud with Ingrid Bergman in the lead. In many ways it can be regarded as an early stirring of "Women's Lib" and it has a great deal of plain speaking on the subject of marital relationships which must have created quite a stir in 1927. It remains a crisp 'drawing-room' comedy in the great English tradition of Comedy of Manners stretching from Congreve, through Wilde and Coward, to Ayckbourn.

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FUTURE PROGRAMME The next major production will be

THE HOMECOMING by Harold Pinter in Moot Hall on 29, 30 and 31 January 1976 - probably Harold Pinter's best play and the third foray by the company into Pinter territory! The production will be directed by Roger Parsley.

Prior to this the Players will be touring local primary schools during the week of 8th December with a new play by James Hinkin called THE RAGGLE TAGGLE MOB - an exciting affair about Hungarian Gypsies, specially for Christmas.

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Moot Hall The Stow Harlow Essex

13 14 15 November 1975