

the guide

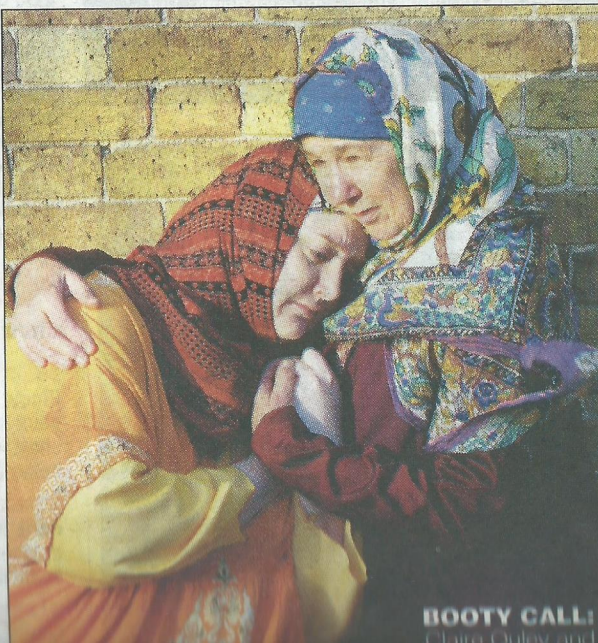
atmosphere, he added.

"We've also thrown in a bit of magic

of the show re-ignited."

org.uk.

Players back in rehearsals after picking up plaudits on an international stage



BOOTY CALL:
Clara Ouley and

ALL the world's a stage for members of Harlow's longest-established drama group after impressing audiences at an international theatre festival in Austria.

Moot House Players presented their haunting adaptation of *The Booty* – Algerian playwright Hamida Ait El Hadj's harrowing parable of Middle Eastern oppression – at a five-day celebration of drama attended by am-dram groups from across the globe.

The play, providing timely comment on the political turmoil sweeping through the Middle East in the wake of the Arab Spring, was performed in Harlow last summer.

It was well received by the international audience at the Abtenau 1st Bohne (Abtenau 1st A Stage) festival held near Salzburg.

opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with other like-minded groups and see what they were doing, to renew old friendships and make new theatrical friends.

"This is the eighth such international festival in which the Players have been invited to take part in recent years, both in Europe and Australia, and in all these places the very different presentations have been received with great acclaim."

Now back in the UK, the company has begun rehearsals for forthcoming production *The New MP*, a darkly comic political play written and directed by MHP stalwart Michael Branwell.

The production will be staged at Moot Hall from July 12-14 at 8pm. Tickets priced at £8 (£6 concessions) are available now from the box office on

>>>classical The ARC serves up another lunchtime musical treat tomorrow (Friday) when Music@Midday returns with a clarinet and piano recital from Aphra Bruce-Jones and Simon Gilliver. The talented duo will be playing sonatas by Francis Poulenc and Johannes Brahms and the *Solo de Concours* by André Messager. Doors open at 12.45pm for lunch and refreshments (included in the admission price) and tickets cost £4.

Gatehouse Arts
West Gate, Harlow
07530 048739

>>>art An intriguing new exhibition of surrealist paintings by Martyn Leggett opens tomorrow (Friday). *Imagined Worlds* runs until July 10 and admission is free.

The Gallery
Parndon Mill Lane, Harlow
(01279) 426042

>>>art An exhibition of paintings and ceramics by Gillian McKenna and Alia Simpson is now on at The Gallery. Inspired by the artists' memories of their respective homelands of Kenya and Sweden, *Where Time Stands Still* runs until Sunday and admission is free.