

HARLOW ARTS DIARY

Nov. 22nd—Film Society : Stone Cross Hall, 8 p.m., Short Films

Dec. 7/12th—Theatre Guild Christmas Tour of Primary Schools

Dec. 13th—Film Society : Stone Cross Hall, 8 p.m.,
"The Passion of Joan of Arc"

Dec. 15/19th—Brays Grove School : Two Christmas Plays

Dec. 17/19th—Mark Hall School : "Peter," by John Mayall

Dec. 17/19th—Netteswell School : "The Merchant of Venice"

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The Moot House Players

present

HOUSE OF REGRETS

by Peter Ustinov

Characters in order of appearance :

MADAME OLGA ANDREIEVNA BARINOVA	...	Margaret Dyer
MARINA BARINOVA, <i>her daughter</i>	...	Jean Clark
GENERAL ANDREI KUZMICH CHEREVENKO, <i>Madame Barinova's father</i>	Gordon Hewlett
MADAME GLAFIRA IVANOVNA SAMINA, <i>a visitor</i>		Margaret Stephenson
MADAME NATASHA CARLOVNA KROHNE, <i>a visitor from Berlin</i>	Gladys Wilds
TOVARICH STRUKHOV, <i>the General's batman</i>	...	Geoffrey Brimilcombe
ADMIRAL KONSTANTIN KONSTANTINOVITCH PAPANIN, <i>a friend living in the house</i>	Paul Hopkins
GRIGORI CAPITONOVITCH TANSMANN, <i>an old choreographer, also living in the house</i>		Jack Mitchley
TAMARA TIMOFEEVA, <i>Madame Barinova's elder daughter</i>	...	Brenda Llewellyn
SERGEI TIMOFEEV, <i>Tamara's husband, a band leader</i>	...	Brian Clark
PAVEL (PAUL) BARINOV, <i>Madame Barinova's son</i>	Michael Langdon
JUNE DOWNEY, <i>his friend, a show girl</i>	...	Eileen Spraggon

The action of the play takes place in the sitting room on the first floor of Madame Barinova's house in West Kensington

ACT I. Easter morning (Russian style), 1939

ACT II. Sunday morning, September 3rd, 1939

ACT III. A winter evening, late 1940

The play produced by Yvonne Mitchley

Setting by Bettina and Gordon Hewlett. Costumes by L. & H. Nathan and Laws. Wigs by Gustave. Lighting by Harry Edwards. Additional lighting equipment by Strand Electric. Drapes and additional properties by John Terry. Samovar kindly loaned by the Tavistock Theatre Co. Stage Staff : Mary Barker, Anita Flateau.

There will be two intervals during the first of which refreshments will be available

THE AUTHOR AND HIS PLAY

HOUSE OF REGRETS was the first original play of Peter Ustinov's to be seen in London. It was first produced by Alec Clunes at the Arts Theatre in October, 1942 and made a marked impression. Ustinov is now well known in various entertainment fields, both as author and performer, but in 1942 he was only 21 and his only previous writing for the theatre was the translation of Jean Sarment's play FISHING FOR SHADOWS, which had a brief run in 1940. Ustinov's flair for the creation of aged characters is well displayed in this Chekov-like first play and his interest in the problems of international relationships, which was to be developed in his later works such as THE LOVES OF FOUR COLONELS and ROMANOFF AND JULIET, is given its first statement. HOUSE OF REGRETS is concerned with the vicissitudes of a White Russian emigré family and their friends living in exile in Kensington, but its theme is one of the oldest in theatrical history . . . the clash of youth and age in a changing world.

Perhaps because it saw the light of day at a very difficult point in our history this play has been strangely neglected and the Moot House Players are very glad to be able to give Harlow audiences a chance to see the early work of one of our established playwrights.

This will be the Moot House Players second production to be given fully "in the round"; this style of presentation seems peculiarly appropriate to this play and we hope our audiences will feel that they have 'spent an evening with the Barinov's.'

FUTURE PROGRAMME

The Moot House Players hope to present the following plays in 1960 :-

January 27th/30th

CÆSAR AND CLEOPATRA (G. B. Shaw)

February 25th/27th

Two One Act Plays in the County Festival—

STILL LIFE (Noel Coward) and I SPY (J. Mortimer)

March 31st/April 2nd

THE WILD DUCK (H. Ibsen)

May 23rd/28th

ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA (W. Shakespeare)

Following the tradition established in the last few years, the productions in January and May have been chosen for their appeal to younger audiences and we hope that the schools will support them as enthusiastically as they have done in the past.