

THE MOOT HOUSE PLAYERS
present

WHEN THE NEW VINE BLOOMS

by Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson

Translated from the Norwegian by Inger Collins

Characters in order of appearance:

PASTOR HALL	Jack Mitchley
ALBERTA, Arvik's second daughter	Bettina Hewlett
GUNDA, Arvik's third daughter	Susan Lloyd
JOSEFA,) their friends.. .. .	(Janet Nelson
ANNA,)	(Rosemary Eales
HELENE, Arvik's youngest daughter.. ..	Jill Williams
WILHELM ARVIK, a farmer.. .. .	Kenneth Collins
ALVILDE, Hall's daughter	Goolmohr Dhalla
Fru.ARVIK, Arvik's wife.. .. .	Margaret Stephenson
MARIA, her servant.. .. .	Lyn Harris
KARL TONNING, a sea captain	Richard Morley
Two Porters	(George Tarry
MARNA, Arvik's eldest daughter	(Harry Edwards
	Christine Thorpe

The play takes place in the garden of Arvik's house in the year 1909. The time is high summer - Act I: Early morning. Act II: Later the same day. Act III: The next morning.

The play produced by Yvonne E.Mitchley

Setting designed and built by Gordon and Bettina Hewlett:
Costumes by Laws: Lighting by Harry Edwards: Wigs by Gustave.
Stage Staff: Diane Burret and George Tarry.

There will be one major interval between Acts I and II, during
which refreshments will be served

Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson (1832 - 1910)

In Norway, Bjørnson and Ibsen are regarded as equals - they are by far the best known 'classic' writers; outside Norway, however, Bjørnson is very little read and hardly ever played. In direct contrast to Ibsen the lonely introvert, Bjørnson was a "man of the people", taking part in everything that was going on in society, writing articles, novels, poems, plays and using his great gift for oratory - an April shower in the cultural life of his country. He was an uneven dramatist but several of his plays are just as highly regarded as any of Ibsen's.

WHEN THE NEW VINE BLOOMS ("Naar den ny vin blomstrer")

This was his last play, published only one year before his death, but in many ways it is his "youngest" and, in reading and playing this text, it is difficult to remember that the date is 1909 - not 1929! The title is part of a proverb - "When the new vine blooms, the old vine ferments" - and the theme the eternal one of youth and age, young girls falling in love with older men and vice versa - vitality, tears and laughter, April to the last day of December.

The Moot House Players were fortunate enough to see the resident company at the Rogaland Theatre in Stavanger perform this play last summer and they determined to obtain a translation and give it in Harlow as a contribution to the "twin town" relationship. This proved to be considerably more difficult than had been expected as the only translation into English which could be traced was not available; fortunately, one of the members of the company, Inger Collins, was able to undertake the preparation of a new translation specially for the Moot House Players and they are happy to be able to present this new version in Moot Hall less than a year after seeing the play in Stavanger.

The Moot House Players wish to record their grateful thanks to Inger Collins for all her work both before and during rehearsals, to Alan Hunter for the verses which occur in the Third Act, to the Rogaland Theatre Company for loan of scripts and photographs and to Wilhelm Thomsen of Stavanger and the Norwegian Embassy, London for the loan of exhibition material.

This version of WHEN THE NEW VINE BLOOMS was first performed on April 8th, 1962.

ENGLISH PREMIER OF BJØRNSON'S
"WHEN THE NEW VINE BLOOMS"

To be performed by Harlow Amateurs
with their own translation

The talented amateur drama group in Stavanger's English friendship town, Harlow, the Moot House Players will present on Sunday, April 8th the English premiere of Bjørnson's "When the New Vine Blooms". When the group was in Stavanger last year, they saw the performance at the Rogaland Theatre and enthused so much over Bjørnson's comedy that they had it translated into English. The play has been given the title "When the New Vine Blooms" and it was translated by Inger Collins, the Danish wife of one of the players, Kenneth Collins. Yvonne Mitchley has produced the play and Jack Mitchley takes the part of Pastor Hall. The Norwegian Ambassador has been invited to the premiere on April 8th and the play will also be performed on April 9 th.

WHEN THE NEW VINE BLOOMS 1908 PRIVATE LIVES 1930 WAITING FOR GODOT 1952

WHEN THE NEW VINE BLOOMS 1908 PRIVATE LIVES 1930 WAITING FOR GODOT 1952

THREE COMEDIES



WHEN THE NEW VINE BLOOMS 1908 PRIVATE LIVES 1930 WAITING FOR GODOT 1952

WHEN THE NEW VINE BLOOMS 1908 PRIVATE LIVES 1930 WAITING FOR GODOT 1952