
M O O T H O U S E P L A Y E R S

Moot Hall, The Stow, Harlow

Season 1962 - 1963

The Players'

T E N T H A N N I V E R S A R Y

S E A S O N

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The Moot House Players were founded by Maurice Bartell at a meeting held in July 1953 and gave their first public production (BATS IN THE BELFRY) in Moot Hall in January 1954; hence the forthcoming season will include the 10th Anniversary production in January/February 1963. The company's producers have been given a completely free hand in selecting plays for this programme and we hope the resulting mixture will prove to be to our audiences taste.

As usual, two of the productions are designed to appeal to schools audiences and the touring production of EVERYMAN may well interest some of our younger supporters. A rather sad note is necessary here - we have been forced to raise our prices for schools audiences for the first time from 1/6 to 2/- per head. This has been forced upon us by the rising costs of production but we have managed to retain the price for adults of 3/6 as this still gives a reasonable 'margin' for working. We are exceedingly sorry to have to do this but the old price of 1/6 was rather less than the seat cost to provide and the time has come when we can no longer operate on the basis of our adult audiences in effect subsidising our children!

Advance booking enquiries will be welcome for any of the productions mentioned in this leaflet - THE COMEDY OF ERRORS & MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING will be given full publicity to the schools but we shall be happy to offer seats at 2/- to any schools wishing to attend other productions during the season.

KATHLEEN HARCOURT
Business Manager.

5 - 6 October 1962

EVERYMAN A moral play of the fifteenth century

Perhaps the finest of the pre-Elizabethan plays which have survived, EVERYMAN has not been seen in Harlow for some years. The Players have been invited to give this production at Coggeshall Church on September 29th as part of a Religious Arts Festival and it seemed appropriate that it should be given in Harlow prior to its going out on a tour of churches in other parts of the county. The production will be based on that of W.Nugent Monck's, which in turn was influenced by William Poel who first revived it during the early part of this century.

The production will be directed by Jack Mitchley

15 - 16 - 17 November 1962

BLOOD WEDDING by Frederico Lorca

This will be the Players first essay at Spanish drama and the choice will stretch the company to its limits. Written in 1933 by one of the most famous poets of modern Spain, it is one of the few twentieth century works for the theatre which can truly be called a tragedy. It presents a fascinating mixture of lyrical and realistic elements and was one of Peter Hall's first productions as a professional theatre worker in the early fifties. It has been given many times by amateur companies but Hall's production at the Arts Theatre remains its only professional appearance in London.

The Production will be directed by Yvonne Mitchley

30 - 31 January 1 - 2 February 1963 with a matinee on 2 Feb.

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS by William Shakespeare.

With two companies playing Shakespeare continuously in London and Stratford it seems odd that this merry little farce should have been more or less neglected since the last war - prior to 1939 it was a popular choice at Stratford and formed the basis for a musical - THE BOYS FROM SYRACUSE. The present revival will be conceived in festive terms - a farcical comedy of masks and pantomime - something for the holiday season.

The production will be directed by Jack Mitchley

31 March 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 April 1963

REPERTORY WEEK OF CONTEMPORARY BRITISH DRAMA

THE CARETAKER by Harold Pinter

THE WRONG SIDE OF THE PARK by John Mortimer

Following the success of the Players first attempt at amateur repertory during their last season, it has been decided to present the above programme, giving each play three performances and bringing in the Vagrants from Wanstead to give one performance of their current touring show, which is likely to be FIVE FINGER EXERCISE by Peter Shaffer. Details of day to day programme will be circulated later in the season.

THE CARETAKER is probably Pinter's finest play to date..it exhibits his uncanny gift for dramatising ordinary speech to the point where it has poetic impact - it propounds the problems of communication between man and man...it is a comedy of menace... all this and yet something more...

The Play will be directed by Robert Wright

THE WRONG SIDE OF THE PARK was Mortimer's first full length play and one of the first to tackle the impact of the last war on the ordinary people who lived through it. There are moments when one feels Ibsen hovering over the dramatists shoulder - all the important action has taken place before the play begins - but Ibsen would not have left his characters alive at the end of the play - nor contributed so much gentle comedy.

The Play will be directed by Charles Hill

20 - 21 - 22 - 23 - 24 - 25 May 1963 with a matinee on 25 May

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING by William Shakespeare

For our summer Shakespeare this season we turn to one of the great comedies - not without some misgivings, however, as this is one which must always be remembered by John Gielgud's definitive production for the Stratford company and which he has recently recorded. "Comparisons are odorous" as Dogberry says...we can only hope they will not be too unfortunate.

The Play will be directed by Jack Mitchley

In addition to the programme detailed above the Players hope to enter the local one act play festival with plays directed by Phillip Ellis, Ray Ainsworth & Bettina Hewlett.

PLAYS PRODUCED BY MOOT HOUSE PLAYERS
SINCE THEIR INCEPTION IN JULY 1953

- 1954 BATS IN THE BELFRY
GEORGE AND MARGARET
DARK BROWN: VILLA FOR SALE: BROWNING VERSION
- 1955 DISTINGUISHED GATHERING
SEE HOW THEY RUN
- 1956 OLD ACQUAINTANCE
ARMS AND THE MAN: A PHOENIX TOO FREQUENT:
THE MAN WHO WOULDN'T GO TO HEAVEN:
THIRD WIFE TO THEDORE
- 1957 BEAUTY AND THE BEAST
TWELFTH NIGHT
RING ROUND THE MOON
WHEN WE ARE MARRIED
- 1958 LADY PRECIOUS STREAM
CRIME PASSIONEL
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM
* THE LADY'S NOT FOR BURNING
CAPTAIN CARVALLO
- 1959 THE SERVANT OF TWO MASTERS
POINT OF DEPARTURE
HAMLET
* THE SLEEP OF PRISONERS: A PHOENIX TOO FREQUENT
HOUSE OF REGRETS
- 1960 CAESAR AND CLEOPATRA
THE WILD DUCK
ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA
* THE PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD
THE CHERRY ORCHARD
- 1961 THE IMAGINARY INVALID (First performance)
BLITHE SPIRIT
THE WINTERS TALE
* THE MERCHANT OF VENICE
THAT MAN GENTLY (First performance)
- 1962 THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO (First performance)
WHEN THE NEW VINE BLOOMS (First performance)
WAITING FOR GODOT
MACBETH

* Indicates touring production: the 1958 tour played 5 times
in Germany; the 1961, 6 times
in Norway.