

The Moot House Players

present their tenth Shakespearean production in Moot Hall in the dramatist's four hundredth anniversary year

THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR

Characters in order of appearance:

ROBERT SHALLOW, <i>a country justice</i>	...	...	Victor Moody
ABRAHAM SLENDER, <i>his cousin</i>	...	...	Brian Hart
SIR HUGH EVANS, <i>a Welsh parson</i>	...	...	Duncan Logan
GEORGE PAGE, <i>a gentleman of Windsor</i>	...	...	William Taylor
SIR JOHN FALSTAFF	...	...	Gordon Hewlett
BARDOLPH	...	...	David Hughes
PISTOL	} <i>followers of Sir John</i>	...	Peter Banyard
NYM		...	Peter Graves
ANNE PAGE, <i>daughter to George Page</i>	...	...	Stephanie Lewis
MISTRESS PAGE, <i>wife to George Page</i>	...	...	Enid Davey
MISTRESS FORD, <i>wife to Frank Ford</i>	...	...	Joan Arnold
SIMPLE, <i>servant to Slender</i>	...	...	John Sargent
ROBIN, <i>page to Sir John</i>	...	...	Christopher Spraggon
HOST OF THE GARTER INN	...	...	Don Henderson
MISTRESS QUICKLY, <i>housekeeper to Dr. Caius</i>	...	...	Yvonne Mitchley
JOHN RUGBY, <i>servant to Dr. Caius</i>	...	...	Robert Walls
DR. CAIUS, <i>a French physician</i>	...	...	Kenneth Collins
MASTER FENTON, <i>a gentleman</i>	...	...	John Donovan
FRANK FORD, <i>a gentleman of Windsor</i>	...	...	Peter Spraggon
JOHN	} <i>servants to Mistress Ford</i>	...	Danny Killick
ROBERT		...	Bob Ganguly
WILLIAM PAGE, <i>son to George Page</i>	...	...	Martin Spraggon

The scene is set in and around Windsor and the houses of Ford and Page and the Garter Inn.

The Play produced by Jack Mitchley

Settings by Gordon and Bettina Hewlett. Costumes by Laws. Wigs by Nathanwigs. Mr. Hewlett dressed by L. & H. Nathan Ltd. Special properties kindly arranged by Vandyke Engineering Ltd. and Timothy White Ltd. Lighting by Harry Edwards. Music arranged from contemporary sources by John Genower and played by Sylvia Herrington and Paul Handscomb. Dance arranged by Duncan Logan.

Stage Staff: Jean Walls, Susan Lloyd, Alexandra Kersley and Jill Williams.

The play will be given in two parts with one interval during which refreshments will be served

NOTES

THE PLAY and the PRODUCTION

THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR was first published in a quarto version in 1602 but its date of composition and first performance may have been as early as 1597. The text is a difficult one in that it contains many topical references and shows signs of adjustment for various special performances. The acting version used in the present production is based on the Folio text of 1623 with a few small cuts in the interests of intelligibility to modern audiences. It is the only completely "middle class" play which Shakespeare ever wrote and there exists a strong tradition that it was composed on the direct command of Queen Elizabeth who wished to see Sir John Falstaff in love. Whether there is any truth in this will probably never be established but the play has always been a popular one owing to its wealth of farcical situations and character, even though Falstaff himself is not the towering comic figure of the history plays of HENRY IV. The present production uses a stage akin to Shakespeare's own and costumes approximating in date to that of the play.

THE ANNIVERSARY

This present production is the first of three items in the Moot House Players current season designed to celebrate the four hundredth anniversary of Shakespeare's birth. The next event will be presented on April 26th and will consist of a recital of music, poetry and scenes from the plays presented informally under the joint direction of John Genower and Jack Mitchley. The final item in celebration of this important event will be the production of VOLPONE by one of Shakespeare's outstanding contemporaries Ben Jonson, which will be given at the end of the season in June.

FUTURE PROGRAMME

A one act play—HER AFFAIRS IN ORDER—is being prepared for entry in the local one act play Festival in February (See Arts Diary).

The next production in Moot Hall will be the Players first musical—

EXPRESSO BONGO by Wolf Mancowitz, March 12—14, 1964

Philip Ellis has been forced to relinquish this production which will now be directed by the Players' Chairman, Kenneth Collins.

IN CELEBRATION OF
THE FOUR HUNDREDTH
ANNIVERSARY

THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR

1564-1964



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ARTS DIARY

Feb. 7 Film Society

Technical College, 8.0 p.m.

" 13-15 Kozack Players

Tye Green C.A., 8.0 p.m.

" 22 One Act Play Festival

Technical College, 7.30 p.m.

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