

THE TRAGEDY OF THE DVTCHESSE Of Malfy.

*As it was Prefented priuatly, at the Black-
Friers; and publiquely at the Globe, By the
Kings Maiefties Seruants.*

The perfect and exact Coppy, with diuerfe
*things Printed, that the length of the Play would
not beare in the Prefentment.*

VVritten by *John Webfter.*

Hora. ——— *Si quid* ———

——— *Candidus Imperti fi non bis vtere mecum.*

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The Moot House Players

present

THE DUCHESS OF MALFI

by John Webster

Characters in order of appearance :

ANTONIO BOLOGNA, <i>Steward of the Duchess' household</i>	Peter Spraggon
DELIO, <i>friend to Antonio</i>	Kenneth Collins
THE CARDINAL, <i>brother to Ferdinand and the Duchess</i>	Don Henderson
DANIEL DE BOSOLA, <i>a soldier of fortune</i>	Howard Rawlinson
FERDINAND, <i>Duke of Calabria</i>	Jack Mitchley
RODERIGO, <i>gentleman attending the Duke</i>	Victor Moody
CASTRUCHIO, <i>an old lord, husband to Julia</i>	Brian Harte
GRISOLAN, <i>gentleman attending the Duke</i>	Peter Banyard
JULIA, <i>wife to Castruchio, mistress to the Cardinal</i>	Gillian Hill
THE DUCHESS OF MALFI, <i>sister to Ferdinand and the Cardinal</i>	Yvonne Mitchley
CARIOLA, <i>her gentlewoman</i>	Joan Arnold
DUKE MALTESTE	Ron Lomas
MARQUIS OF PESCARA	Edward Bryant
A DOCTOR	Brian Harte
ANTONIO'S SON	Edward Walls

Waiting women, servants, executioners, madmen, etc.

Eileen Spraggon, Enid Davey, Victor Moody,
Jean Walls, Reginald Stewart, Jill Williams,
Terry Lamb, Brian Harte, Don Henderson,
Ron Lomas

*The action takes place variously in the Duchess' palace at Malfi, the
Cardinal's palace, Rome and near Loretto at the Shrine of Our Lady*

The play produced by Charles Hill

Settings by Gordon and Bettina Hewlett, assisted by Edward Kindler.
Costumes by Laws. Wigs by Nathanwigs. Nylon Stockings by Kayser
Bondor. Lighting by Harry and Barry Edwards. Properties by
Reginald Stewart. Stage staff under the direction of Jean Walls, Anthea
Congden, Mervyn Brown.

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

NOTES

THE PLAY AND THE AUTHOR

The exact date of writing and production of THE DUCHESS OF MALFI is not known though it is thought to be 1613. It was first published in 1623 and our programme cover reproduces the title page of this edition. As this title page indicates, it was first played by Shakespeare's own company at the Globe and Richard Burbage, who created so many of the great Shakespearean roles, played the part of Ferdinand. The play is very much of its period . . in many ways the ultimate development of the 'revenge' play . . but enlivened and made truly tragic by the power of Webster's poetic imagination and finally evoking compassion rather than sensation.

The story runs as follows : the Duchess of Malfi, a rich widow, is advised by her brothers never to marry again. In defiance of their promptings she secretly marries Antonio, the Steward of her household and bears him three children. Her brothers, Ferdinand and the Cardinal, are informed of these happenings by the spy they have planted in the Duchess' household, Daniel de Bosola. The Duchess is arrested, imprisoned and murdered. The murder affects the mind of Ferdinand and disgusts Bosola, who determines on revenge. This revenge results not only in the deaths of the two brothers but of Bosola himself, together with other innocent persons. The story is based on a real tragedy of Renaissance Italy.

Little is known of John Webster's personal life ; he seems to have been an actor and undoubtedly contributed to many plays as part author. His reputation rests on two great tragedies, THE DUCHESS OF MALFI and THE WHITE DEVIL, both compounded of horror and sublime poetry.

FUTURE PROGRAMME

This production brings to a close the Moot House Players season of Seven Plays, although UNCLE VANYA has still to appear at the Reading Festival of the Arts in June, CHRIST IN A CONCRETE CITY is due to travel to St. Giles Church, Norwich and RED PEPPERS, having won in succession the local one act play festival, the Essex County Festival and the BDL Divisional Festival will continue to represent Essex at the BDL Eastern Area Festival in Croydon on May 31st.

Plans for next season are not yet finalised but play titles which have been discussed include THE TAMING OF THE SHREW (Shakespeare), PRESENT LAUGHTER (Coward), THE THREE SISTERS (Chekov) together with a production of a Norwegian play to be directed by Torbjørn Halvorsen from the Rogaland Theatre, Stavanger. Final details will be circulated to our mailing list in early September and the first production is scheduled for the week ending October 2nd, 1965.