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MOOT HOUSE PLAYERS

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Moot Hall, The Stow, Harlow  
present

Box Office:  
130 Orchard Croft  
Harlow, Essex  
telephone: 25111  
and 51 Park Court  
Harlow, Essex

A SEASON OF SEVEN PLAYS

For the first time the Players have decided to stage seven productions in one season, in addition to making their usual entry in the local One Act Play Festival. This will throw a considerable strain on the technical crew (not to mention the actors!) and hence it is felt to be impossible to hold one production throughout the season for touring purposes, as has been the practice in recent years. Instead, it is intended to make several of the productions available for a few touring dates immediately following their runs in Harlow. This will give our regular patrons for tours a choice of plays for the first time.

Several of the season's plays are suitable for children's audiences - notably ROMEO AND JULIET, ROMANOFF AND JULIET and THE ITALIAN STRAW HAT, with THE DUCHESS OF MALFI for the Sixth Forms. These will be given full publicity to the schools but we shall be happy to accept bookings for other productions in the programme.

The price of tickets will remain the same as last season, 4s for adults and 2s for children, in spite of the continuing rise in costume cleaning and other costs.

A further improvement in the comfort of the seats will be implemented shortly. We wish to thank all who have contributed to the CUSHION FUND and hope that contributions will continue so that all chairs may be cushioned and covered at seat and back.

ANITA FLATEAU  
130 Orchard Croft

HUGH WEATHERLY  
51 Park Court

1 - 2 - 3 October 1964

THE GLASS MENAGERIE by Tennessee Williams (Available for tour)

This gentle atmospheric "memory play" by a dramatist who has become known for torrid sex dramas heavy with symbolism, may come as a surprise to audiences who only know the later plays and the "Baby Doll" film. THE GLASS MENAGERIE was Williams' first play to be produced on Broadway and the one which made his name. It was first seen in this country in a production by Sir John Gielgud in 1948 and was given in Harlow several years back by a professional company run by Studio Theatre Limited.

The production will be directed by Jean Walls

7 - 8 - 9 November 1964 THE PLAYERS FIFTIETH PRESENTATION IN  
MOOT HALL

EPITAPH FOR GEORGE DILLON by John Osborne & Anthony Creighton

John Osborne is certain of his place in the history of English drama of the twentieth century - LOOK BACK IN ANGER heralded the "break through" of the new wave of dramatists and the creation of the original 'angry young man'. Oddly enough, now that the dust of battle has settled, EPITAPH FOR GEORGE DILLON, which pre-dates LOOK BACK by several years, appears much the better play - it seems to have more valuable things to say and says them in dialogue rather than monologue! By a happy coincidence the play was written in 1953, the year in which the Moot House Players were founded, which makes it an appropriate choice for their 50th presentation in Moot Hall.

The production will be directed by Peter Hill

8 - 9 - 10 - 11 - 12 December 1964

ROMEO AND JULIET by William Shakespeare (Available for tour)

Having begun Shakespeare's Quatercentenary year with a comedy the Players finish it with his earliest tragedy, which has been increasing in popularity recently in consequence of WEST SIDE STORY and the famous Old Vic/Zefferelli production. This will be the fourth major tragedy of Shakespeare's to be staged at Moot Hall and it is intended to costume it in the style of the Italian Renaissance and stress the youthfulness of theme and treatment.

The production will be directed by Jack Mitchley

28 - 29 - 30 January 1965

UNCLE VANYA by Anton Chekov

(Available for tour)

Two of the most highly regarded of the Players productions in recent years have been THE CHERRY ORCHARD (1960) and THE SEAGULL (1963); emboldened by this and the fact that the current National Theatre production has brought the play into the public eye, the third of Chekov's major plays will form the first presentation of the New Year with a cast drawn entirely from that of last season's SEAGULL.

The production will be directed by Jack Mitchley

4 - 5 - 6 March 1965

ROMANOFF AND JULIET by Peter Ustinov

Actor, mimic, novelist, dramatist, clown - Ustinov is all these but above all, and always, a brilliant entertainer. His "masterpiece" has yet to reach the stage but this serious-minded political charade, based loosely on ROMEO AND JULIET, makes a fascinating "double" with the Shakespeare play and is just as topical to-day as when it was first produced some 8 years ago.

The production will be directed by Yvonne Mitchley

8 - 9 - 10 April 1965

AN ITALIAN STRAW HAT by Eugene Labiche and Marc Michel

Labiche was a prolific writer of "boulevard" farce in the middle years of the last century. This play has long been established as a masterpiece of French humour and has been in the repertory of the Comedie-Francaise for many years. This adaptation, with music, was first given in this country in 1943 and the Players intend to retain the music for this production. This is a play which sets out to do nothing other than provide a hilarious evening out - a rarity in the modern theatre, except at the Whitehall with Brian Rix and his merry men.

The production will be directed by Kenneth Collins

26 - 27 - 28 - 29 May 1965

THE DUCHESS OF MALFI by John Webster (Available for tour)

Following the kind reception given to the Players' first essay into non-Shakespearean 17th century drama (VOLPONE), the season will close with another experimental production of a 'minor' Jacobean author. THE DUCHESS OF MALFI is very much a play of its period - in some ways the ultimate development of the 'revenge' play, to which genre Shakespeare's contribution was HAMLET - but enlivened and made truly tragic by the power of Webster's writing and poetic imagination.

The play will be directed by Charles Hill

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Productions available for tour during the season are:  
THE GLASS MENAGERIE : ROMEO AND JULIET : UNCLE VANYA.  
Applications for dates should be made as early as possible  
to Anita Flateau, 130 Orchard Croft, Harlow (Telephone:25111).

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In addition to the above programme at Moot Hall, the Players hope to be represented in the local One Act Play Festival on 13th February 1965 with two plays: THE BEAR (Chekov) and RED PEPPERS (Coward).

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THE BOX OFFICE: With the increase in the number of productions we have also increased the number of Box Office 'staff'. The following team will be in charge of front-of-house arrangements: Anita Flateau dealing with advance bookings, Hugh Weatherly controlling tickets at the desk, with the assistance of Pat Durrant and Janet Wise, particularly during the refreshment interval, together with the usual invaluable assistance from members of the company not otherwise involved in the current production.