

"..... When I was young
 I had not given a penny for a song
 Did not the poet sing it with such airs
 That one believed he had a sword upstairs."

—W. B. Yeats.

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The Moot House Players

present

A PENNY FOR A SONG

by John Whiting

Characters in order of appearance :

WILLIAM HUMPAGE, <i>a look-out</i> ...	...	...	Robert Wright
SIR TIMOTHY BELLBOYS ...	...	...	Kenneth Collins
SAMUEL BREEZE, <i>servant to Hallam Matthews</i> ...	...	...	Peter Banyard
LAMPRETT BELLBOYS, <i>brother to Sir Timothy</i> ...	...	...	Jack Mitchley
HESTER, <i>his wife</i> ...	...	...	Joan Arnold
DORCAS, <i>their daughter</i> ...	...	...	Stephanie Lewis
HALLAM MATTHEWS, <i>a London exquisite</i> ...	...	...	David Schacht
EDWARD STERNE, <i>a young progressive</i> ...	...	...	Roger Marshall
A SMALL BOY ...	...	...	Edward Walls
GEORGE SELINCOURT, <i>a soldier</i> ...	...	...	Peter Spraggon
PIPPIN, <i>a maidservant</i> ...	...	...	Pat Collier
THE REV. JOSEPH BROTHERHOOD	} <i>members of the</i>	...	Stephen Collins
JAMES GIDDY		...	Robert Walls
RUFUS PIGGOTT		...	Graham Robinson

The action takes place in the garden before Sir Timothy's house in Dorset during one day in the summer of the year 1804

The play produced by Gordon Hewlett

Settings by Gordon and Bettina Hewlett; Costumes by Laws; Uniforms and Wigs by L. & H. Nathan; Music by Alan Aplin and Eric Jones; Sound Effects by Edwin Scott; Lighting by the Family Edwards; Research and design for fire engine by Helen Eldridge with construction by Edward Kindler; Stage Management by Peter Spraggon, Pat Collier and Heather Ballentyne; Properties by Yvonne Mitchley

Refreshments will be available in the foyer during the single interval

PRODUCER'S NOTE

A PENNY FOR A SONG is a play on two levels: a delightful whimsical comedy with an underlying anti-war theme. It was John Whiting's first play to reach the West End, but despite an all-star cast, with decor by Emmett, it ran for only a month in 1951. SAINT'S DAY and MARCHING SONG were no more successful and Whiting became disillusioned with the theatre, ceasing to write for it until the Royal Shakespeare Company commissioned a new play from him in the early sixties—THE DEVILS—which was an immediate success. Thus encouraged, he revised A PENNY FOR A SONG for the same company's production in 1962. It is this version we use here at Moot Hall.

Whiting puts over his philosophy through the characters of Edward Sterne and Hallam Matthews—there is, of course, something of the author in them both. Like Sterne he was, in his youth, strongly left-wing in politics; in his forties, before his tragically early death in 1963, he came closer to the disillusionment and scepticism of Matthews.

When Dorcas falls in love with Sterne one could expect a romantic ending but the author makes no concession to sentiment; Dorcas says "... you don't cry over spilt milk or lost lovers," and the play ends quietly on a dying fall. This production endeavours to let the play speak for itself. It is to be hoped that the philosophy will come through and that, you, the audience, will be in sympathy with it.

G.H.

FUTURE PROGRAMME

The next production in Moot Hall will be

PRESENT LAUGHTER

by Noel Coward

on March 10th, 11th and 12th, 1966

Coward's work has not been presented by the Players in Moot Hall since BLITHE SPIRIT in 1961 and it is with much pleasure that they are able to announce that his brilliant comedy of the forties will be given by the combined strengths of the resident company and the Vagrants, who will be remembered for touring productions given in Harlow of THE LIVING ROOM, FIVE FINGER EXERCISE and PRIVATE LIVES

The production will be directed by Kenneth Collins