

What is Love? 'tis not hereafter

Present mirth hath

PRESENT

What's to come is still unsure:

In delay there lies no plenty;

Then come kiss me, sweet and twenty,

Youth's a stuff will not endure.

By NOEL COWARD (after William Shakespeare)

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The Moot House Players and The Vagrants

present

PRESENT LAUGHTER

*A light comedy in three acts*

*by Noel Coward*

*Characters in order of their appearance :*

DAPHNE STILLINGTON	...	...	...	Andrea Bennett
MISS ERIKSON	...	...	...	Winifred MacDonnell
FRED	...	...	...	Edward Bryant
MONICA REED	...	...	...	Yvonne Mitchley
GARRY ESSENDINE	...	...	...	Brian Brockman
LIZ ESSENDINE	...	...	...	June Fortune
ROLAND MAULE	...	...	...	John Thorne
HENRY LYPPIATT	...	...	...	Stephen Collins
MORRIS DIXON	...	...	...	Paul Caddick
JOANNA LYPPIATT	...	...	...	Christine Thorpe
LADY SALTBURN	...	...	...	Lyn Harris

*The action of the play takes place in Garry Essendine's studio in London*

The play produced by Kenneth Collins

Settings by Gordon and Bettina Hewlett; Costumes supervised by Christine Thorpe; Properties by Yvonne Mitchley; Lighting by Harry and Barry Edwards; Stage Staff under the direction of Stephen Collins.

ACT I. Morning

ACT II.

Scene 1. Evening. Three days later

Scene 2. The next morning

ACT III. A week later

*There will be one major interval after Act I. during which refreshments will be available*

PRESENT LAUGHTER

NOTES

THE PLAY

PRESENT LAUGHTER was written in 1942 and has had two subsequent productions in the West End in 1947 and during the past year. The recent production, in fact, closes one week before our first night. Noël Coward has himself played the part of Garry Essendine. It is tempting—but surely rather fanciful—to imagine that Coward has depicted typical theatrical personalities. One wonders how many times he must have suffered aspiring playwrights to have created a character like Roland Maule, and whether he himself carried out the advice he puts in the mouth of Garry Essendine before he wrote his first success THE YOUNG IDEA at the age of 22. But let us not do too much serious thinking. Here is a play full of theatrical people behaving as we fondly imagine they do and the cast hope that they will present laughter throughout the three acts.

THE PRODUCTION

For this production Moot House Players are combining with The Vagrants Company of Walthamstow. It will not be the first time that members of The Vagrants have acted with Moot House, but it is the first time that the two companies have toured together with The Vagrants playing the majority of the parts. Our audiences may well remember previous Vagrants productions of PRIVATE LIVES by Noël Coward, THE LIVING ROOM by Grahame Greene and FIVE FINGER EXERCISE by Peter Shaffer. Most of the actors appearing in those productions appear in this play and we trust that our various audiences will welcome old and new players alike.

FUTURE PROGRAMME

The next production in Moot Hall will be

ANNA CHRISTIE

*by Eugene O'Neill*

on April 21st, 22nd, and 23rd, 1966, at 8 p.m.

This early play by one of America's most distinguished dramatists will fill a gap in the Players' repertoire—they have given very few plays from the American theatre—and they are glad to welcome Robert Wright back as producer for the first time since THE CARETAKER in 1963.

The production will be directed by Robert Wright

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