

# The Moot House Players

present

## The Recruiting Officer

by George Farquhar

### Characters:

MR. SCALE	} Two Justices	..	Mick Caswell
MR. BALANCE		..	Brian Krengel
MR. WORTHY, a gentleman of Shropshire		..	Stephen Collins
CAPTAIN PLUME	} Two Recruiting Officers	..	Paul Caddick
CAPTAIN BRAZEN		..	Kenneth Collins
SERGEANT KITE .. .. .		..	Gordon Hewlett
BULLOCK, a countryman .. .. .		..	Brian Harte
COSTAR PEARMAIN	} Two recruits	..	Mick Caswell
THOMAS APPLETREE		..	James Spall
THOMAS, a smith .. .. .		..	James Spall
A POACHER .. .. .		..	Bob Walls
A COLLIER .. .. .		..	James Spall
A CONSTABLE .. .. .		..	Christopher Childs
KITE'S DRUMMER .. .. .		..	Bob Gale
STEWARD TO BALANCE .. .. .		..	Christopher Spraggon
MELINDA, a lady of fortune .. .. .		..	Mary McStravick
SILVIA, daughter to Balance .. .. .		..	Gillian Powell
LUCY, maid to Melinda .. .. .		..	Sue Grundy
ROSE, a country wench .. .. .		..	Jill Williams
COLLIER'S WIFE .. .. .		..	Mary Stableford
POACHER'S WIFE .. .. .		..	Eileen Spraggon
MELINDA'S SERVANT .. .. .		..	Beverly Lewis
Recruits, crowd, etc. .. .. .		..	Terry McStravick, Bob Walls, Christopher Spraggon

*The action takes place in Shrewsbury in 1705 ; the scenes are set variously in the market place, the walk by Severn Side, Melinda's house, Balance's house, Silvia's lodging and a Courtroom.*

The play produced by Charles Hill

Settings by Gordon and Bettina Hewlett ; Costumes by Laws ; Wigs by Nathanwigs ; Weapons by Bapty & Swords of York ; Boots by Anello and Davide ; Stage Management by Tony Edwards ; Lighting by Gladys and Harry Edwards

*There will be two intervals during the second of which refreshments will be available*

### NOTES

#### A WORD FROM THE AUTHOR

" 'Twas my good fortune to be ordered some time ago into the place which is made the scene of this comedy. I was a perfect stranger to everything in Salop but . . . . Some little turns of humour I met with almost in the shade of (the Wrekin) gave rise to this comedy, and people were apprehensive that, by the example of some others, I would make the town merry at the expense of the country gentlemen. But they forgot I was to write a comedy, not a libel ; and that whilst I held to nature, no person of any character could suffer by being exposed. I have drawn the justice and the clown in their *puris naturalibus* : the one an apprehensive, sturdy, brave blockhead ; and the other a worthy, honest, generous gentleman, hearty in his country's cause . . . . ."

*George Farquhar.*

#### THE PLAY AND THE PRODUCTION

THE RECRUITING OFFICER was presented 447 times between 1706 and 1776 without missing a single season. It continued in the repertory of provincial companies throughout the nineteenth century and has been revived several times in our century, perhaps the most notable being in the first season of the National Theatre, December 1963.

There is a modern critical tendency to read into the play a conscious satire on war and the military, but Farquhar himself says that his intention was a comedy, not a libel, drawn from observation. If there is satire, it derives from Farquhar's cynical reporting of events he experienced.

*Charles Hill.*

#### FUTURE PROGRAMME

The next production in Moot Hall will be


## HAY FEVER

by Noel Coward


Thursday, Friday and Saturday, November 21st, 22nd and 23rd, 1968

This famous comedy of late '20's manners needs no introduction. It will be the fourth of Coward's plays to be produced by the Players and will be directed by Jean Walls





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raise and levy such able-bodied men  
as have not any lawful calling or  
employment, or visible means for  
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to serve as soldiers.”



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