

FUTURE PROGRAMME

The next production in Moot Hall will be our second
Sunday Night of the season -

MERELY PLAYERS
on 21st May 1978 at 8 pm

The programme includes John Mortimer's play
"What shall we tell Caroline?" and a
demonstration of training work with actors,
plus the usual cheese and wine!

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The Players end the season with

THE JEW OF MALTA
Christopher Marlowe's black comedy
on 5, 6, 7 and 8 July
in a production by Roger Parsley

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MOOT HOUSE PLAYERS

present

THE SEAGULL

by Anton Chekov

translated by Constance Garnett

Characters in order of appearance:

MARYA ILYINISHNA SHAMRAEV (called Masha).. .. Rose Wayper
SEMYON SEMYONOVITCH MEDVEDENKO, a school master Adrian Lohrey
PYOTR NIKOLAYEVITCH SORIN, a retired
civil councillor.. Steve Collins
KONSTANTIN GAVRILOVITCH TREPLEV, son to
Irina Arkadin.. Roger Williamson
YAKOV, servant to Sorin Jack Mitchley
NINA MIHAILOVNA ZARETCHNY.. .. Stella Payne
YEVGENY SERGEYEVITCH DORN, a doctor.. .. Charles Hill
POLINA ANDREYEVNA, wife to Shamraev.. .. Jill Williams
ILYA AFANASYEVITCH SHAMRAEV, Sorin's steward ..Robin Harcourt
IRINA NIKOLAYEVNA ARKADIN, (Madame Treplev),
an actress, sister to Sorin.. Yvonne Mitchley
BORIS ALEXEYEVITCH TRIGORIN, a literary man .. David Schacht
Servants in Sorin's house.. .. Amanda Kozak
Jill Fitt

The action takes place in and around
Sorin's country house
in the early days of this century

Act I : The Park, looking towards the lake, Sunset.
Act II : The same. Midday, some days later.
Act III : The drawing room. Midday, some days later.
Act IV : The same. An autumn evening, two years later.

The play produced by Jack Mitchley
Settings by Amanda Dymond and Roger Williamson
Costumes by Laws
Lighting and sound by Christopher Driver
Wigs by Wig Studios

There will be an interval between Acts II and III
during which refreshments will be available

THE AUTHOR AND HIS PLAY

Anton Pavlovitch Chekov (1860-1904) wrote only four major works for the theatre but these have taken their place in the world's repertory as securely as the great plays of Shakespeare. His avowed object "... let everything on the stage be just as complicated and at the same time just as simple as in life" sounds deceptively straightforward but in fact it is very elusive ... perhaps it is enough to say that for Chekov the enemy is life itself ... we can look in vain for heroes and villains in his plays. Perhaps, again, one of the aspects of his work which has been undervalued in many past productions is the strain of ironic comedy - at times near farce - which is present in all his great plays; V.S.Pritchett, reviewing a biography of Chekov, wrote "He is the poet and clown of the heart's activity ... he makes us choke between laughter and emotion at the human muddle" and it would seem that this is the great challenge to the actor.

THE SEAGULL was written in 1895, produced somewhat disastrously shortly afterwards in St Petersburg and then brought triumphantly to life in Stanislavski's famous version with the Moscow Arts Theatre Company in 1898. It has a rather more conventional 'plot' than some of Chekov's other works but resembles them in that it can be regarded as a comedy which takes a sombre turn. It has had many revivals in London and the provinces - one of the most recent being at the Chichester Festival Theatre when Irene Worth played Irina and Robert Stephens, Trigorin. The current Moot House Players production contains no less than four of the cast which played in Moot Hall in 1963, although three of them are seen in different roles. The Constance Garnett translation used in this production is published by Chatto and Windus.

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