

FUTURE PROGRAMME IN MOOT HALL

Sunday, June 1st. Merely Players XIV

AN EIGHTEENTH CENTURY EVENING

A kind of trailer for the last production of the season which will follow in July

The Players present an evening of music, dance, poetry and drama, together with food and drink. All drawn from the eighteenth century in a similar fashion to the highly successful Elizabethan evening earlier in the season

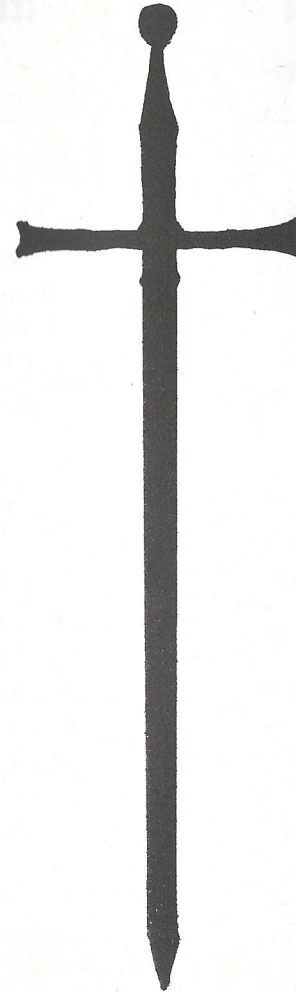
July 9th, 10th 11th and 12th

THE BEGGARS OPERA

The famous musical by John Gay

A festive production using eighteenth century type settings designed by Anthony Kinsey and directed by Jack and Yvonne Mitchley to bring the season to a merry close

Full details of these and all future programmes will be mailed to you if you leave your name and address with front of house staff. This service is entirely free



MOOT HOUSE PLAYERS

present

Murder in the Cathedral

by T. S. Eliot

Characters in order of appearance :

A CHORUS OF WOMEN
OF CANTERBURY

Virginia Valentine Jean Walls
Janet Pearson Helen Cheeseman
Sandra Watkiss Jacqui Cresswell
Gladys Edwards Susan Perkins
Chelo Brown

THREE PRIESTS OF
THE CATHEDRAL

Phillip Jennings Jack Mitchley
David Nicholson

A MESSENGER

Christopher Driver

ARCHBISHOP THOMAS BECKET

David Schacht

REGINALD FITZURSE

Tom Leonard

WILLIAM DE TRACI four

Tony Edwards

HUGH DE MORVILLE knights

Roger Williamson

RICHARD BRITO

Michael Caswell

The scene is set in and around the cathedral in Canterbury, 1170 A.D.

PART ONE - The Archbishop's Hall on December 2nd

INTERLUDE - The Archbishop's Sermon on December 25th

*PART TWO - The Archbishop's Hall and the Cathedral on
December 29th*

The play produced by JACK and YVONNE MITCHLEY

*In Moot Hall and at other times on tour, when an interval is required, it will
come immediately after Part One*

Setting, Lighting and Sound in Moot Hall by Roger Williamson and
Christopher Driver. Lighting and Sound on tour by Christopher Driver
and Harry Edwards

Wigs: Wig Studios. Costumes by Laws. Banners: Gwen Dymond

Music arranged and performed by David Schacht.

Armour: Phillip Jennings and Lyn Harris. Prompt: Jill Williams

This programme arranged and hand-set by Robert Driver

The play was first produced at the Canterbury Festival, June, 1935 in the Chapter House only a few yards from the site of the actual assassination. It transferred to London and has been revived on many occasions, most recently in 1972 by the Royal Shakespeare Company.

The story of this martyrdom and the events which led up to it has formed material for several plays. Eliot's version stands apart in that it is more concerned with Becket's struggle with his own conscience rather than his relationship with Henry II. As Eliot sees him, Becket is desperately afraid of committing the ultimate treason - "to do the right deed for the wrong reason" and the dramatist examines this question of personal responsibility not only on the part of the Archbishop but also on that of his assassins. The play was a landmark in the 30s in that it moved away from naturalism, the prevailing mood of the time, making use of various verse forms, direct audience address, cinematic techniques in scene sequence as well as a complicated use of a chorus - sometimes part of the action, sometimes commenting on it. The present production attempts to do justice to the verse while allowing members of the chorus full scope for taking part in the action where the text seems to allow. It would appear from the reactions of the cast that the play was probably ahead of its time and its revival has been welcomed - we hope that our audiences will have the same feeling.

Following performances in Moot Hall the company will visit churches in the county as under:

May 24th: Braintree May 31st: Brentwood June 7th: Colchester
June 14th: Hatfield Heath June 21st: Southend

Details of times, etc. can be obtained from Harlow 25959