

THE MOOT HOUSE PLAYERS

present

THE HOUSE OF BERNARDA ALBA

by Federico Garcia Lorca
translated by Eileen Innes

Characters in order of their appearance:

A SERVANT		Henrietta Branwell
LA PONCIA, companion to Bernarda		Yvonne Mitchley
A BEGGAR WOMAN		Jacqui Cresswell
ADELA)	Karen Neal
MARTIRIO)	Gillian Childs
AMELIA)	Deborah Foster
MAGDALENA)	Jennifer Southwell
ANGUSTIAS, Bernarda's daughter by her first husband		Susan Williamson
BERNARDA ALBA, widow of Antonio Maria		Una Smith
MARIA JOSEPHA, Bernarda's mother		Chelo Brown
PRUDENCIA, friend to Bernarda		Gillian Hill
WOMEN IN MOURNING		Marian Bush, Holly McKibbins, Nerissa Penna, Sharon Searl

The scene is set in the living room of Bernarda's house in a small town in Southern Spain, 1936.
The action covers several weeks in the summer.

ACT I: The day of the funeral of Antonio Maria.
ACT II: Afternoon. ACT III: Night.

The play produced by Jack Mitchley

Setting devised by the producer, built by Roger Williamson & Robin Harcourt; costumes by Laws; lighting and sound by Christopher Driver and operated by Michael Branwell; properties by Chelo Brown and Yvonne Mitchley; prompter, Jill Williams; flamenco guitar music recorded by Manitas de Plata, Paco Pena and Pepe de Almeria. Reapers' song in Act II by David Schacht, recorded by the men of the company.

There will be one major interval, between Acts I and II during which refreshments will be available in the foyer

Our deepest thanks are due to Eileen Innes of Great Easton for the admirable translation, which was first prepared for the Players' production of the play in 1968; three members of the cast of that show are associated with this revival - Gillian Childs, Yvonne Mitchley and Jill Williams, two on stage and one 'on the book'.

This production is due to play at Maldon Arts Centre in June, 1988 and hence a short note is appended on the Players' history. MOOT HOUSE PLAYERS form the drama section of the Mark Hall and Netteswell Community Association in the "new" town of Harlow. The group was formed in 1954, since when the Players have given 175 major productions on their home ground as well as many touring shows, experimental evenings etc. Their repertory has included everything from BATS IN THE BELFRY to HAMLET and TREASURE ISLAND to HEDDA GABLER but a feature has always been made of new plays and new translation by members of the company; currently the Players are working on a one act play by Donald Burton, a sometime Player, now well known as a professional actor but yet to make his mark as a dramatist.

1988

FEDERICO GARCIA LORCA (1898 - 1936) One of the few Spanish dramatists whose work is known world-wide, Lorca has been much in the British public's eye over the last few years - it almost seems as if the fiftieth anniversary of his assassination brought with it a somewhat belated appreciation of his stature as a dramatist. Some of his early work was laden with symbolism and elements of this persisted in his great trilogy of tragedies written in the thirties, culminating with BERNARDA ALBA; but Lorca was steadily moving away from the more obvious 'difficult' elements in his writing...what he wanted desperately was to appeal to the people in the cheapest seats - the 'gods' of the theatre - and significantly, BERNARDA ALBA, completed just before his tragic death, was sub-titled by him "A drama about the Women in the Villages of Spain, intended as a photographic document". We have tried to bear this conception in mind and also to remember that Lorca wrote comedies as well as tragedies - this play is often treated as unrelieved gloom, which seemed to us insupportable for three acts and, more importantly, to be contrary to the author's intentions when aiming at 'gods'. We are also convinced that the strain of madness stemming from Bernarda's mother is equally important in leading to the eventual tragedy and this makes the character of Bernarda herself much more understandable; nevertheless, the tragedy is not that of Bernarda alone but of the House of Bernarda - there are seven protagonists not just one !

FUTURE PROGRAMME Our next productions are scheduled for Moot Hall on May 29th (MERELY PLAYERS - the premiere of Donald Burton's comedy BLUE MURDER) and July 7 - 9 (THE COMEDY OF ERRORS). It is still not possible to say whether Moot Hall will, in fact, be available for either - the Hall is due for a new roof and it may well not be possible to use it for either show. We shall, of course, seek an alternative venue and keep our faithful audiences well informed. Book the dates and, if you are not already listed on our FREE MAILING LIST please see that you leave your name and address with any member of the company or at 162 Orchard Croft, Harlow. (H.25959)

The Family Tree as it emerges from Lorca's text

