

## VALETE

Sadly, this will be the last production in which Karen Neal will appear with the company for some time. She joined us some 10 years ago and since that first appearance as a Jumbly Girl has played a succession of parts of all sizes, culminating in leading roles in PYGMALION, BLOOD WEDDING, THE LADY'S NOT FOR BURNING and BERNARDA ALBA; in addition, she has contributed a notable adaptation of TREASURE ISLAND and the creation of an improvised piece for a local festival. She is leaving us to study theatre arts at Middlesex Polytechnic and we hope it may be possible for her to make occasional appearances in the future with the company to which, she has asked us to say, she owes a great debt of gratitude for invaluable opportunity and experience. Both Players and audiences will miss her.

## FUTURE PROGRAMME

This production brings to a close one of the most difficult seasons the Players have ever known. Almost exactly one year ago the disastrous fire in Moot House destroyed almost our entire collection of furniture and properties built up over 30 odd years; we have succeeded in presenting the 1987/88 season as planned and have tried to keep our presentation standards up to the level which our faithful audiences deserve. We now are faced with another upheaval as the builders move in to replace the roof of Moot Hall and to restore and refurbish the sorely damaged Moot House. We hope very much to be able to open our 1988/89 season in October/November with a further edition of our FULL OF JOYS music hall and Brian Clark's most recent play, THE PETITION, which he has promised us as a contribution to our "fighting fund"; other author's under consideration include David Mercer and Charles Dickens ! Our Free Mailing List membership will receive full details in September.





1988

Moot House Players

present

# THE COMEDY OF ERRORS

by William Shakespeare

Characters in order of speaking:

ÆGEON, a merchant of Syracuse

SOLINUS, Duke of Ephesus

A MERCHANT, friend to Antipholus  
of Syracuse

ANTIPHOLUS of SYRACUSA, son to Ægeon

ROMIO of SYRACUSA, his servant

ROMIO of EPHEBUS, twin to Dromio  
of Syracuse, servant to Antipholus

ADRIANA, wife to Antipholus of  
Ephesus

LUCIANA, her sister

ANTIPHOLUS of EPHEBUS, twin to  
Antipholus of Syracuse

ANGELO, a goldsmith

BALTHAZAR, friend to Antipholus of  
Ephesus

LUCE, servant to Adriana

A MERCHANT, creditor to Angelo

GUARDS TO THE DUKE

A COURTEZAN, mistress to Antipholus  
of Ephesus

ÆMILIA, an Abbess, wife to Ægeon

PINCH, a schoolmaster & 'conjurer'

COURTEZANS and CLIENTELE at the  
"Porpentine Tavern/Brothel"

David Schacht

Charles Hill

Colin Hayman

Larry Saunders

Ken Collins

Ken Collins

Jenny Southwell

Sharon Searl

Larry Saunders

Tony Davey

Colin Hayman

Debbie Foster

Stuart Everrit

Christine Scriven

Ian Beckett

Karen Neal

Yvonne Mitchley

David Schacht

Marian Bush

Sandra Child

Gillian Holland

John Banks

Adrian Kennard

Paul Richards

The scene is set in a street in Ephesus

The play produced by Jack & Yvonne Mitchley

The play will be given in two parts with one interval  
during which refreshments will be available in the  
foyer.

The setting devised by the producers, decorated  
by Paul Regeli & members of the cast & built by  
Roger Williamson; lighting and sound by Christopher  
Driver, operated by Michael Branwell; Costumes by  
Laws; Masks by Theatre Zoo (London) & The Changing  
Room (Bishops Stortford); Signpost by Driver;  
Traditional Greek dance music specially recorded  
by Emily Frith and John Hutchins; Prompt, Jill  
Williams.

## THE PLAY

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS is one of Shakespeare's  
early plays, first performed around 1593/94  
but not published until the collected edition of  
his works in 1623. It is an amazingly well  
constructed piece based on the Roman dramatist  
Plautus's play MENECHMI ("The Mechnus Twins") -  
but Shakespeare complicated the farcical issues  
by inventing twin servants to add to the twin  
masters !

## THE PRODUCTION

The play is fundamentally a street scene - no  
interiors are called for - and hence we felt it an  
ideal piece for an 'avenue' playing space. Hence  
we present a street in Ephesus with an abbey,  
a combined tavern/brothel (somewhat high class !)  
and "The Phoenix", as Antipholus' house is  
called. This is the classic setting for the  
Italian improvised masked comedy and we have used  
some of the conventions to go with it....all the  
actors are masked and there is some material in  
the text which would have surprised the author !  
We hope that it will prove to be as enjoyable  
as it appeared to be when the Players first  
presented it in 1963 as their 10th anniversary  
show. Three members of the present cast are playing  
the same parts as they did then, whilst one has  
risen from a courtesan to an abbess and our  
prompter has retired from being second guard !