

Fry's attitude to his own verse form was stated for all to read in the preface to the first edition of THE LADY..."...every man is free to think of the writing as verse, or sliced prose, or as a bastard offspring of the two...it is, in the long run, speech."

The Players first gave THE LADY in Harlow in 1958 and later took it on tour, culminating with performances in Germany, in which the present producer played the part of "Humphrey". The programme 'logo' is the one used during the tour some 30 years ago.

#### FUTURE PROGRAMME

May 5-6-7, 1988

THE HOUSE OF BARNARDA ALBA  
by Federico Garcia Lorca  
Translated by Eileen Innes

The revival of this great play was prompted by the success of BLOOD WEDDING last season coupled with the popularity of BARNARDA ALBA during its West End run 1986/87.

We are happy to report that Eileen Innes, who translated the play for us in 1968, is still living in Essex and we hope that she will at last be able to see her version in action - in 1968 she was away from England during our performances.

It is not possible at this date to say whether the above production will be given in Moot Hall; the Hall is due for a new roof and it may well be that this will prevent our using it in May. We shall, of course, seek an alternative venue and keep our faithful audiences well informed.





1968

Moot House Players  
present

THE LADY'S NOT  
FOR BURNING

by Christopher Fry

Characters in order of appearance:-

RICHARD, clerk to the Mayor	Mike Halidij
THOMAS MENDIP, a discharged soldier	Michael Rawle-Cope Linsey Green
ALIZON ELIOT	Ian Beckett
NICHOLAS DEVIZE, the Mayor's nephew	Yvonne Mitchley
MARGARET DEVIZE, mother to Nicholas	Colin Hayman
HUMPHREY DEVIZE, brother to Nicholas	Tony Davey
HEBBLE TYSON, the Mayor	Karen Neal
JENNET JOURDEMAYNE	Jack Mitchley
THE CHAPLAIN	Gordon Whittle
EDWARD TAPPERCOOM, a Justice	
MATTHEW SKIPPS, a rag'n'bone man	Robin Harcourt

The scene is set in the house of Hebble Tyson, Mayor of the town of Cool Clary, and the date is 1400 A.D., more or less exactly. The action takes place during a day in April.

The play produced by Charles Hill

The play will be given in three parts with two intervals, during the first of which refreshments will be available in the foyer.

The setting devised by the producer and built by Roger Williamson and members of the company; painting by Marian Bush and the company; costumes by Laws; lighting and sound designed by Christopher Driver and operated by Michael Branwell. The Chaplain's bass-rebec made and kindly loaned by Ernest Norris. Proprietor, Jill Williams. We were particularly glad to welcome back as 'last minute' technicians, Gordon and Bettina Hewlett, who were both heavily involved with the Players' first production of the play.

NOTES Christopher Fry was born in Bristol in 1907 and this production can be seen as a belated celebration of the 80th birthday ! His first impact on the London theatre was made in 1946 with his famous one-act play A PHOENIX TOO FREQUENT and this was followed in March, 1948 by THE LADY, which was staged at the Arts Theatre in Great Newport Street. This production was revived at the Globe in 1949 with a cast headed by John Gielgud and Pamela Browne. THE LADY took London by storm and it has remained Fry's most popular play both with actors and audiences alike. The essential theme is that of Renaissance and the play is set in the Spring following seven hard years of war. This struck a chord with the audiences of the late forties, especially with its emphasis on youth and hope. Fry wrote several more verse plays after THE LADY and at one time there seemed a possibility that the English Theatre might return wholeheartedly to poetic drama; instead our stages were invaded by kitchen sinks and ironing boards !

Interestingly enough, Fry returned to the theme of the discharged soldier in his latest play, which was commissioned by the BBC for radio and heard late last year.