

"JONAH is a play about a man who feels let down by God. He looks at the state of the world and concludes that, if there is such a thing as divine justice, the wicked must be punished. However, a God's eye view of the world is not necessarily the same as Jonah's. I have tried to keep all the elements of the original story even though they may not be immediately recognisable. The action is set in the church, which means that it takes place here and now, which in turn means that there will be no whale; the episode is, however, still there giving, I hope, the feeling of being inside a whale, i.e. completely cut off from the rest of the world, alone in darkness.

Although the basic idea is serious there is music, action, comedy and colour, in which I hope everyone will eventually feel involved so that the total experience will be what the best theatre should always be - a celebration."

#### THE MOOT HOUSE PLAYERS

The Players form the Drama Section of the Mark Hall and Netteswell Community Association in the new town of Harlow. They have been in existence since 1954, during which period they have given over 180 major productions in their own hall, in addition to many one act plays and recitals. This record includes a number of religious plays, both modern and mediaeval, all of which have been toured in Essex and further afield.

The Players are always looking for recruits both to the acting strength and to the audience...please communicate with their Secretary at

162 Orchard Croft, Harlow CM20 3BH

(Tel: 0279 - 25959)

for further details.

*"Now the word of the  
Lord came unto*

*the son of Amittai..."*

J  
O  
N  
A  
H

1989

MOOT HOUSE PLAYERS

present

J O N A H

by David Campton

Characters in order of their appearance:

JONAH	David Schacht
A DRUNK	Ron Kingsmill
A BOY	Ian Beckett
A GIRL	Holly McKibbins
FIRST BUSINESS MAN	Gordon Whittle
SECOND BUSINESS MAN	Tony Davey
A DOWDY WOMAN	Sue Williamson
A GRAND LADY	Gillian Hill
A VIOLENT MAN	Jon McNamara
HIS OPPONENT	Alan Ovendon
A FIGURE IN GREY	Mike Rawle-Cope
MRS.JONAH	Una Smith
FIRST CLEANER	Christine Scriven
SECOND CLEANER	Yvonne Mitchley
A SWEEPER	Alan Ovendon
YOUNG JONAH	Douglas Sheppard
MISS JONAH	Nerissa Penna

The Play takes place in this church

The play produced by Jack Mitchley

Lighting by Christopher Driver; music and sound effects by Duncan Lane; stage management, Henrietta Branwell.

The Players are indebted to Harlow Leisure Services for the loan of lighting equipment and to Ken Wirdnam of Raxcrest Ltd. for technical advice.

This production would have been impossible without the ready co-operation received by the Players from all three churches visited on this short tour

Notes:

THE AUTHOR AND HIS PLAY

Some twenty years ago the Chelmsford Cathedral Arts Council decided to sponsor an event which would help to foster the growth of theatrical presentation in the churches of Essex. Several dramatists were approached and asked to write a play specifically for performance in a church; David Campton accepted the commission and JONAH is the result. The play was given its first performance in the Cathedral on November 3rd, 1971 with Richard Carpenter - better known as writer than actor with many TV scripts to his credit - playing the lead part. Moot House Players provided the rest of the cast and took the production on a short tour after the performances in Chelmsford. For various reasons it did not prove possible to present it in any of the Harlow churches so that the current series of showings in local churches are the first in Harlow and district.

David Campton started writing for the theatre under the guidance of Stephen Joseph when the latter was just starting his experiments in theatre-in-the-round; Joseph's Studio Theatre Company visited Harlow several times before the Playhouse was built and David Campton has provided a number of other scripts for the Players and joined the audiences in Moot Hall on several occasions. He says of his own play.....



1984

# THE MOOT HOUSE PLAYERS

present

## JONAH

A Play by David Campton

Characters in order of their appearance :

JONAH	David Schacht
A DRUNK	Ron Kingsmill
A BOY	Ian Beckett
A GIRL	Holly McKibbins
FIRST BUSINESSMAN	Tony Davey
SECOND BUSINESSMAN	Gordon Whittle
A DOWDY WOMAN	Sue Williamson
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A SWEEPER	Alan Ovendon
YOUNG JONAH	Doug Sheppard
MISS JONAH	Nerissa Penna

The Play is set in this Church

PRODUCED BY JACK MITCHLEY  
STAGE MANAGEMENT & LIGHTING BY CHRIS DRIVER  
MUSIC & EFFECTS BY TONY TROWLES

## DAVID CAMPTON AND HIS PLAY

JONAH is the outcome of a decision made some years ago by the Cathedral Arts Council to sponsor an event which would help to foster the theatre arts. Following on this, David Campton, a writer best known for his work on TV and radio but who started his career writing plays for Stephen Joseph's Studio Theatre Company, was approached and accepted a commission to write a play specifically for performance ecclesiastical settings rather than theatres.

Campton says of Jonah ; "The play is about a man who feels let down by God. He looks at the state of the world and concludes that, if there is such a thing as divine justice, the wicked must be punished. However a God's eye view of the world is not necessarily the same as Jonah's. I have tried to keep all the elements of the original story - even though they may not be immediately recognisable.

The action is set in the Church, which means that it takes place here and now, which in turn means that there will be no whale! The episode is, however, still there, giving, I hope, the feeling of being inside a whale, i.e. completely cut off from the rest of the world, alone in the darkness. Although the basic idea is serious there is music, action, comedy and colour, in which everyone should eventually feel involved, so that the total experience will be what the best theatre should always be - .....  
A Celebration"

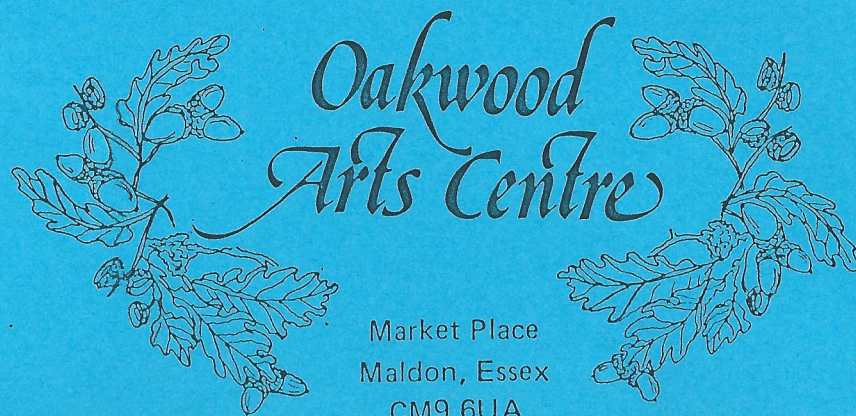
## THE MOOT HOUSE PLAYERS

It is ten years since Oakwood Arts Centre started its programme of artistic events with a production by the Players in All Saints Church, Maldon of Murder in the Cathedral by T.S.Eliot. Since then they have brought several of their 'smaller' productions to the Hall in the Arts Centre, but are now back in full force using the beautiful Church of St Mary as their 'stage'.

The Players form the Drama Section of the Mark Hall and Nettleswell Community Association in Harlow and have been in active existence since 1954. During this time they have given over 200 major productions in Harlow, including 16 Shakespeare, as well as many one act plays and recitals. Their repertoire includes several religious plays, both modern and mediaeval - their production of two East Anglian Mystery Plays was seen in Chelmsford Cathedral in 1967, where JONAH was first produced in 1971.

OAKWOOD ARTS CENTRE has a full programme of events through the year covering most aspects of artistic disciplines. As the Hall is not very large, we are grateful to the powers that be at St Mary's for enabling us to welcome back the Moot House Players to stage Jonah. Donations will go towards 'swelling' the Fund for 'transplanting the organ!' With many thanks!





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Maldon, Essex  
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Tel: (0621) 852317

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