



**Moot  
House  
Players**  
present



Alan  
Ayckbourn's  
**nake in the  
Grass**

# Snake in the Grass

## Cast in order of appearance :

Annabel Chester	.....	Claire Quley
Alice Moody	.....	Biddy McAlpine
Miriam Chester	.....	Karen Clark

The action of the play takes place in the garden of the Chesters' family home.

## ACT I

Scene 1 : A late afternoon in August.

Scene 2 : The following day, a little later.

**ACT II** Later the same night.

**There will be one interval of about 15 minutes**

Directed by Jon McNamara

Set designed and painted by Paul Regeli and Bett Hewlett

Set built by Phil Lloyd, Phil Waite and Tony Edwards  
with members of the company

Props by Michael and Rosemary Caswell

Lighting by Chris Driver, Phil Waite & Susan Clarke

Sound by Nick Woodfine

Prompter : Rosalind Barron

Publicity : Biddy McAlpine

## **The Production:**

When Annabel Chester returns to the family home after many years in Tasmania to collect the inheritance left her by her estranged Father, she little expects to be confronted by one of her Father's ex-nurses, Alice Moody, indulging in a little blackmail. It seems that Annabel's younger sister, Miriam, has confessed to murdering Father!

The play certainly twists and turns like a snake in the grass - with the cast finding new meanings and revelations at virtually every rehearsal. We think we have explored the whole width and depth of the plot to the point where we know its secrets ... but we can't be quite sure.

This show sees a new Player walking the boards with us - little did Claire Quley know when she came to help on FOH for "The Tale of the Tinderbox" that a few weeks later she would be appearing in the major role in the next production. It is a joy to welcome Claire as a Moot House Player and to see how quickly she has become, with Karen Clark and Bidy McAlpine, a close knit team.

While you, dear audience, will only see a team of three, no production would be possible without the hard work and dedication of a much larger team - the back stage crew, set builders, painters, props, lighting, designers; the makers and movers who never appear in the spotlights - to them, my grateful thanks.

## **The Author : Alan Ayckbourn**

Alan Ayckbourn is the Artistic Director of the Stephen Joseph Theatre and one of the world's most popular and prolific professional playwrights. He has written 70 full length plays and more than 20 other revues and plays for children. He is also an internationally acclaimed director.

He has received more than 25 awards and honours including an Olivier and a Moliere, Playwright of the Year and the British Guild of Writers' Lifetime Achievement Award. The 1992 Cameron Mackintosh Professor of Contemporary Theatre at Oxford University, he is now Visiting Professor at the University of Hull. In 1994, he received a Montblanc de la Culture Award for Europe for 'establishing a thriving theatrical tradition in Scarborough and for his dedication and commitment to it'. In addition to holding a number of honorary degrees, he was appointed a CBE in 1987 and in 1997 was knighted for services to the theatre.

Fatuous fact: Alan Ayckbourn has been said to be the most performed living playwright in the world. There is no plausible way either to prove or disprove this. But he is undoubtedly very, very popular .....

*During the interval refreshments are available in the bar, which has a club licence.  
Members of the audience with a ticket are entitled to use its facilities.*

## **FUTURE PROGRAMME includes :**

**May 10, 11 & 12th at 8.00pm**

### **“IN THE COMPANY OF CAMPTON” by David Campton (1924-2006)**

We present three of the David's more timeless one-act plays for your examination and entertainment, as a small tribute to a well-respected playwright, who had a long association with the Players.

**“A Point of View”** : It's remarkable just how much influence an old lady, confined to her bed, can have - especially when armed with a pair of binoculars and a clear view of the local High Street! Director : Bett Hewlett

**“Singing in the Wilderness”** : A small group of that endangered species - the fairies of our childhood - stumble into an idyllic clearing in the woods .....but is everything just as it appears? Director : Jon McNamara

**“The Laboratory”** : An apothecary's laboratory in 1560. The apothecary is beset with conflicting demands for potions while being observed by “the authorities” - a potentially catastrophic situation resulting in an unexpected outcome. Director : Rosemary Caswell

**July 12, 13, 14th at 8.00pm**

### **“ROOTS” by Arnold Wesker**

“Roots” is the second play in a trilogy which opens with “Chicken Soup With Barley”. Beatie returns for a holiday to her fenland farm home trying to impose on her stolid family the ideas of a young Jewish intellectual, Ronnie, whom she believes will marry her. But, awaiting his arrival, slowly Beatie realises he will never come and her famous last speech exults that Ronnie has taught her independence and how to free herself from him. Period 1950s.

Director : Tony Edwards

*For production/programme information, details of how to join the Players  
or any other related information contact*

*Jon McNamara : e-mail : [moothouse.players@ntlworld.com](mailto:moothouse.players@ntlworld.com)*

*or 17, Nursery Road, Bishop's Stortford, Herts, CM23 3HJ : (01279 863353)*

*giving your name, address, telephone number or e-mail*

*and, of course, the nature of your enquiry.*

*Your details will be added to our “Mailing List” unless you specify otherwise.*

**The Moot House Players gratefully acknowledge the direct financial assistance  
they receive from their parent body MARK HALL & NETTESWELL CA  
and for the storage facilities provided by HARLOW ARTS COUNCIL**