



Moot House Players
Present

THE GIN GAME



By D. L. Coburn

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Cast

Weller Martin Robbie Chittick

Fonsia Dorsey Jennifer Southwell

Directed by Tony Edwards

**The play is set any time between 1975 and the present day
in the unused Sun Lounge of a run-down
Senior Citizens' Home somewhere in America**

Act One

Scene One Sunday afternoon, Visitors' Day

Scene Two Sunday afternoon, one week later

Act Two

Scene One The following evening

Scene Two The following Sunday afternoon

There will be an interval of 15 minutes between Acts One and Two

Set Design - Bettina Hewlett and Paul Regeli

Props - Rosemary and Michael Caswell

Lighting - Phil Waite and Nick Woodfine

Sound - Jon McNamara

Prompt - Biddy McAlpine

**With thanks to Harlow Rainbow Services
for the loan of the wheelchairs**

**The set was built by Phil Lloyd, Geoff Leeds,
David and Monica Albinson and members of the Company**

Production History

The Gin Game opened on Broadway on October 6th, 1977 at the John Golden Theatre and ran for 517 performances. The Play was directed by Mike Nichols and starred the married couple Hume Cronyn and Jessica Tandy. The play has come to be closely associated with them. Jessica Tandy won the 1978 Tony Award for Best Actress in a Play.

It was produced in the UK in 1999 with Joss Ackland and Dorothy Tutin at the Savoy Theatre, directed by Frith Banbury.

It was revived on Broadway 1997 at the Lyceum Theatre where it ran for 145 performances. Charles Dunning and Julie Harris co-starred, directed by Charles Nelson Reilly. It received Tony Award nominations for Best Revival of a Play, Leading Actress in a Play and Direction of a Play. Television versions were made in 1981 with Cronyn and Tandy and in 2002 with Dick Van Dyke and Mary Tyler Moore.

The Author

D. L. Coburn was born in Baltimore in 1938. he came to prominence in 1977 with *The Gin Game* which was his first play.

Since then, he has written *Bluewater cottage* (1979), *Guy* (1983), *Nable Adjustment* (1985), *Return to Blue Fin* (1991), *Fear of Darkness* (1995), *Firebrand* (1997) and *The Cause* (1998). He has also written TV pilots for CBS and ABC and several screenplays including *Flights of Angels* (1987), *A Virgin Year* (1991) and *Legal Access* (1994).

Director's Notes

I came upon this play by chance when I was looking for one to replace *Night Must Fall*, which unfortunately I was unable to cast. What struck me immediately was *The Gin Game's* ability to present "Senior Citizens" in an unsentimental way - people who have an emotional and economic past and who, to an extent, are trapped by it.

I was also interested by the play's comments on American welfare, with its insurance-based and privatised provision of care and I noted the parallels with our own care system. Fonsia and Weller would not be funded by the state for a place in an elderly persons' home in this country as they would not be considered eligible for that type of care.

I hope you will find this play amusing, thought-provoking and, possibly, disturbing.

OUR NEXT PRODUCTION :

July 10th, 11th and 12th at 8.00 p.m.
ARMS AND THE MAN by George Bernard Shaw
Directed by Rosemary Caswell

All's fair in love and war and, certainly, the Balkan States have seen their share of both - nothing changes except the colour of the uniforms! The story of the Chocolate Soldier is as new and fresh as spring flowers and yet as old as the hills.

DATE OF FUTURE PRODUCTIONS :

November 6th, 7th and 8th, 2008
February 5th, 6th and 7th, 2009
March 19th, 20th and 21st, 2009
May 14th, 15th and 16th, 2009
July 9th, 10th and 11th, 2009
November 5th, 6th and 7th, 2009

Please note that ALL performances start at 8.00 p.m.

We are looking for potential directors and cast and reading plays to determine the programmes for these dates. Any volunteers or suggestions for plays we could/should do would be very welcome.

We can be contacted at

moothouse.players@ntlworld.com

Details of past and future productions can be found on the Company's website

www.moothouseplayers.com

please visit and bookmark the site

Moot House Players acknowledge, with thanks, the help of their parent organisation - the Mark Hall and Netteswell Community Association.

All ticket holders are invited to make use of the facilities of the Moot House Social Club bar before, during and after the performance.