



**MOOT HOUSE PLAYERS**

*present*

**July 7th, 8th, 9th at 8.00p.m.**



# THE BOOTY

by Hamida Ait El Hadj & Farid Bennour  
translated, adapted and directed  
by Michael Branwell

**At Moot Hall, The Stow, Harlow CM20 3AG**

# THE BOOTY

by Hamida Ait El Hadj & Farid Bennour  
Translated & adapted by Michael Branwell

Cast (in order of appearance)

KHEDOUMA, a widow	Monica Albinson
GHANIMA, her daughter, an elective mute	Claire Quley
AL-KHETEBBE, a bank clerk	David Albinson
THE QUEUE	Rosalind Barron, Toni Beeson, Michael Caswell, Geoffrey Leeds, Jacqui Leeds, Dan Powell, Michael Rees
YOUNG MAN	Dan Powell
SONIA, another widow, Khedouma's friend	Bridget McAlpine
FRANCES LUDLOW, a television reporter	Rosalind Barron
TV TECHNICIANS	Michael Caswell, Dan Powell
H.E. EDDINE AL-KHADDI, Minister for Family Affairs	Geoffrey Leeds
GUARDS	Michael Caswell, Dan Powell

Set Design by Margaret Beenson

Costumes by Rosemary Caswell

Props and Furniture by Michael Caswell

Lighting Design by Philip Waite

Sound by Michael Branwell

Prompter : Rosemary Caswell

There will be one interval of 20 minutes.  
Refreshments are available in the Club Bar,  
to which all audience members are welcome.

## About the play and the author

*The Booty* is an important play, insofar as it shows the actual effect of terrorism, both governmental and anti-governmental, on women and families, about which we have read and seen a great deal, especially during the recent “Arab Spring”. However, the play was written some fifteen years ago and acquired from the author, Hamida Ait El Hadj, at the time living in exile in Paris, as disjointed manuscripts and badly typed odd pages. I am grateful to Djemal-Eddine Kechacha for translating the pieces originally in Arabic and Berber into French, which I translated and adapted to produce this play. During the original translation, Hamida came to England as our guest and approved the version played here in Harlow (at Victoria Hall), in Australia and at the Almeida Theatre in London. Much of the writing, which so accurately mirrors the recent utterances of some dictators in the Maghrib (the “Arab West”), predates their speeches by about fifteen years. It was horribly prophetic then and is chillingly contemporary now. The script really has not been copied from current news reports!

Hamida Ait El Hadj graduated from the University of Paris and also studied at the Higher Institute of Theatre and Film in Kiev in the years before 1995. She returned to Algeria to teach and write, but, immediately following the first and only performances of *The Booty* in Algeria, she was forced into exile in Paris. She has now been able to return to her native Algeria, where she is currently teaching in l’Institut National d’Art Dramatique de Bordj El Kiffan. Her most recent play, *The River*, like *The Booty*, features a deaf mute who is able only to talk to the audience!

Every incident in the play is based on fact: the mass shootings of civilians, Ghanima’s ordeal, the New Family Code and Frankie’s protective measures all tally with reports from North Africa and the Middle East. Only (sadly) NATV - and its deliberately annoying jingle - remains as a pure invention of the translator! However, in 1999, it was Hamida who suggested the use of an interviewer to explain the evils of the State and its Family Code to those, like us, who had never experienced them.

**Michael Branwell**

## **THE 2011-2012 SEASON :**

**The 2011/12 season** will begin from November 17th-19th with adventure and derring-do aplenty as the Players' Pugnacious Plundering Pirates take to the High Seas with an entirely original melodrama entitled **Avarst Behind!** by your own, your very own, Paul Regeli. So hoist the Jolly Roger, splice the Mainbrace, shiver your timbers and come aboard for an evening of sheer melodramatic enjoyment!

The programme for the rest of season has not yet been finalized, but you can rest assured that there will be the usual mix of comedy and drama, with something for everyone and even every play for some of the audience - and actors.

### **DRAMA CLASS**

From September 2011, the once-popular Players' Drama Class for Adults will be restarting after far-too-long a gap.

The first class will be on September 14th and it will be held from 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. on the second, third, fourth and (occasionally) fifth Wednesdays of every month.

Phone the Box Office (01279 639170) for full details.  
Come and enjoy yourselves - and learn a thing or two along the way!

Moot House Players can be contacted at  
**[moothouse.players@ntlworld.com](mailto:moothouse.players@ntlworld.com)**

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

**[www.moothouseplayers.com](http://www.moothouseplayers.com)**

If you are not on our mailing list to receive these Newsletters and e-mails in advance of each production, please leave your name, address and e-address at the Box Office after the show.

**Moot House Players acknowledges, with thanks,  
the help of their parent organisation, the  
MARK HALL & NETTESWELL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**