



**MOOT HOUSE PLAYERS**

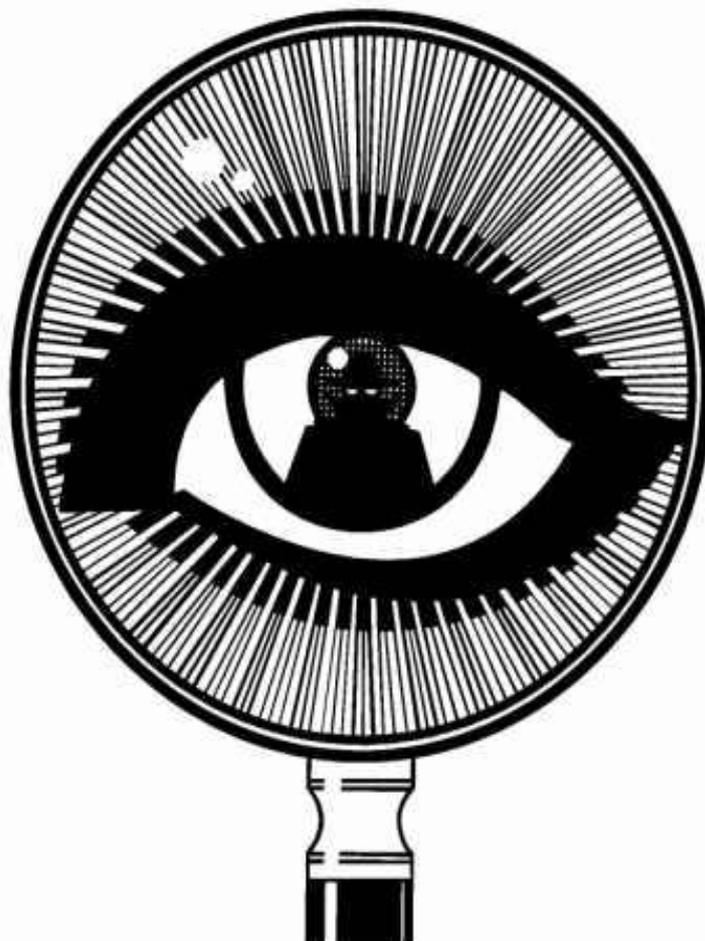


*present*

March 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> at 8.00pm

# **MURDER IN COMPANY**

by Philip King and John Boland  
directed by Jon McNamara



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

# **Murder In Company**

**by Phillip King and John Boland**

## **Cast**

Alan Wilson	Matthew Truman
Margaret Stephens	Angela Hodgson
Ted Smith	Alan Hodgson
Philip Stephens	Geoff Leeds
Ronnie Meadows	Dan Powell
Phoebe Kershaw	Claire Quley
Patricia Robins	Kerry Rowland
Doris Stewart	Bridget McAlpine

Directed by Jon McNamara

Lighting by Phil Waite

Production Manager - Anne Farr

Prompt - Jenny Southwell

Props - Mick and Rosie Caswell

Act 1 - An evening in February 7.15pm

Act 2 – 15 minutes later

Interval

Act 3 – A fortnight later 7.45pm

**Murder in Company** is a very entertaining mystery thriller with flashes of humour. A Dramatic society (much like the Moot House Players!) is assembling in the local hall to rehearse a production of a mystery-thriller under its somewhat dictatorial director. The events and strains within the company, however, more than equal those in the play they are to present. Romantic involvements within the company lead to the possibilities of blackmail and to add to the confusion there is a “proowler” in the town attacking women. The rehearsals proceed under ever increasing difficulties as events spiral “out of hand” culminating when someone is found dead! Murder – or accidental death? Although the authorities are happy it was accidental a shadow of doubt remains amongst the company as almost everyone might and could have arranged for the tragic “accident” and two weeks later the matter is resolved in a most unexpected manner.

An evening of absorbing entertainment with the added bonus of seeing how a company works in the rehearsal situation.

**Notes:** The writers of this epic are quite well known: Phillip King (1904-1979) was better known for his Farces - such as *See How They Run* and many others - all of which made their way into very successful films. Mr King wrote three plays with John Boland, the first of which was *Murder In Company* (1973). John Boland (1913-1976) was better known as a novelist and science fiction writer - his best known book being *The League of Gentlemen* which was turned into very successful film. Although the play is nearly forty years old it is remarkably un-dated in its plot – everything that occurs in the play is as likely to happen in 2011 as in 1973! Caretakers are still a pain, people directing plays are still driven demented by their casts - people still fall in love and eventually everything sorts itself out! Some of the language has been modernised - but even that hasn't changed too much. One of the joys of the production is that it is ideal for an amateur company with the set simply being the hall in which we normally work - I know, since this is the third time I have produced the show - normally in halls with very few facilities. I think the Moot House Players are by far the most talented company I've produced the show for - so please, sit back and enjoy - and see if you can guess “who-dun-it”

Anyone interested in joining the Players should talk to the front of House Staff and fear not, rehearsals of the Moot House Players are in general, far less eventful!

Jon McNamara

## **DATES FOR THE REST OF THE 2010 - 2011 SEASON :**

### **MAY 12th - 14th - "Whose Life Is It Anyway?"**

by ex-MHP member Brian Clark. Tony Edwards will direct this still topical and thought-provoking play. It may be 30 years since it was written, but it resonates even more with the reports of war casualties we are so used to nowadays.

### **JULY 7th - 9th - "The Booty"**

by Michael Branwell after Hamida Ait El Hadj and Farid Bennour. Directed by the author. Our proposed International Festival has had to be cancelled as group after group decided that the trip over the Channel was too much to be contemplated. However, we are delighted to be able to revive "The Booty", a play first produced in 1999, but, with North Africa, like other parts of the post-colonialist Arab world, suffering civil war and revolution, this play is even more relevant than it was a dozen years ago. Funny, moving and dramatic, this is one production not to be missed.

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

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, please leave your name and address at the Box Office - if you have an e-mail address we can use, please let us have it, as we can, more easily, reach everyone by e-mail in advance of each production.