

the guide

Players given special permission to stage updated revival of award-winning drama

A LONG association with an internationally-renowned playwright and one-time local teacher has given a Harlow drama group the opportunity to stage a special adaptation of an award-winning play.

Moot House Players present Brian Clark's *Whose Life Is It Anyway?* at Moot Hall next week.

And, as a former member of the Players himself, the playwright has granted them special permission to stage an updated version of the play – one of the first am-dram groups in the UK to be given the opportunity to do so.

Sensitively exploring the complex and contentious issue of voluntary euthanasia, the play was originally written for television in 1972 and has enjoyed several revivals since, most notably as a 1981 film starring Richard Dreyfuss and a 1978 stage play with Tom Conti in the lead role.

Set in a hospital room, the drama is centred on sculptor Claire Harrison, who was paralysed from the neck down in an horrific car accident

and is now determined to be allowed to die. Clark presents thought-provoking arguments both in favour of and against euthanasia and explores to what extent government should be allowed to interfere in the life of a private citizen.

Claire Quley takes the central role in MHP's new production and the strong supporting cast includes regulars Dan Powell, Ross Baron, Michael Rees, Karen Clark and Jennifer Southwell.

Director Tony Edwards, who took the lead role in the Players' original 1982 production, told the **Star**: "We urge people to see this play as, given the recent challenges to the law, the issues it addresses are even more relevant today than when *Whose Life Is It Anyway?* was originally written in 1972."

● *Whose Life Is It Anyway?* will be staged at Moot Hall in The Stow from next Thursday (May 12) until Saturday, May 14. Performances start at 8pm and tickets costing £8 (£6 unwaged) are available from the box office on (01279) 639170.

or lunchtime music concert returns for a fourth season tomorrow (Friday) with a harp recital from Jolanta Cole. Soup and crusty bread will be served with a complimentary glass of wine or fruit juice at 1pm before the start of the show at 1.30pm. Admission is £4 including lunch.

GALLERY AT PARNDON MILL
Parndon Mill Lane, Harlow
(01279) 426042

»art A thought-provoking new exhibition of mixed media works contemplating man's ongoing effect on the natural world and its climate continues at The Gallery until May 15. *Climate Changes* features paintings, prints, drawings and textile wall hangings by artists including Anne Daniels and Ian Welsh. Admission is free.

GATEHOUSE ARTS
West Gate, Harlow

»art The first in a new series of window exhibitions is now on display at town centre gallery Gatehouse Arts. *A Window Into Art* features collages by resident artist Jim Brown exploring abstract forms and sculptural ideas through printing, painting and drawing and runs until next week.



CLARE QULEY