

Of all the scripts based on *The Wind in the Willows* this first one by Milne truly captures the flavour of Kenneth Grahame's masterpiece. Indeed, when Grahame saw the play some twenty years after writing the book he had great difficulty in recognising which was his own work and which was Milne's.

Moot House Players first presented *Toad of Toad Hall* exactly thirty-one years ago in January 1967. Although in essence the cast has completely changed, both Tony Edwards and Mick Caswell are the only players who were in the original production, with Tony playing Alfred the Horse and Mick the Policeman. A glance at the programme will show that there has been a role reversal. There has also been a change in the casting of Mole. In this production he is being played by an actress, which accords absolutely with Milne's view of the part. In his forward to the original script he suggests that the casting of an actress in the role would be perfectly in accordance with his perception of the character.

The play is now nearly 70 years old and has worn remarkably well. We have made only a few cuts and we apologise in advance if we have somehow omitted any of your favourite passages in the book.

FUTURE PRODUCTIONS

March 19-20-21

THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH

by Thornton Wilder

Written in 1942, this play was described as "*a comic strip of man's history*". It deals with man's seemingly unending ability to escape global disaster and was, in its time, highly experimental in form. It moves between high drama and surreal comedy with plenty of surprises - including a dinosaur! A lively and a very unusual evening's entertainment.

Directed by Jon McNamara

May 14-15-16

DEATH AND THE MAIDEN

by Ariel Dorfman

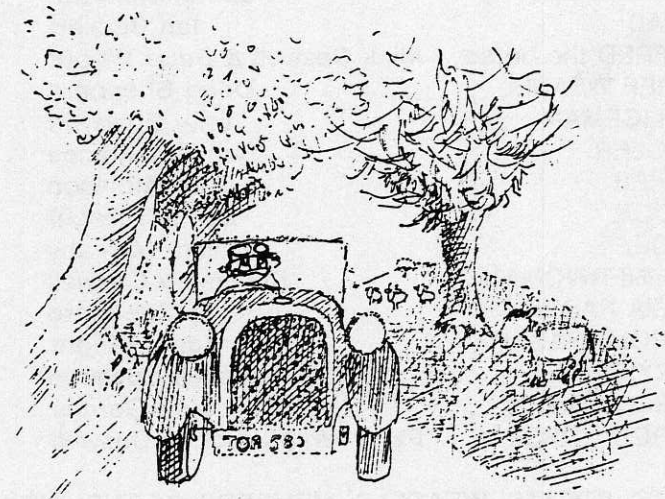
July 9-10-11

UNCLE VANYA

by Anton Chekov

**MOOT HOUSE PLAYERS ACKNOWLEDGE WITH GRATITUDE
THE SUPPORT WHICH THEY RECEIVE FROM THEIR
PARENT-BODY, THE MARK HALL AND NETTESWELL C A.**

TOAD OF TOAD HALL



**by A A Milne
based on *The Wind in the Willows*
by Kenneth Grahame**

1958

MOOT HOUSE PLAYERS
present

TOAD OF TOAD HALL

by A A Milne

based on *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame

Characters in order of appearance:

MOLE	Jennifer Southwell
WATER RAT	Steve Collins
MR BADGER	Jon McNamara
TOAD	Ian Beckett
ALFRED the horse	Mick Caswell & Peter Wright
CHIEF WEASEL	Doug Sheppard
POLICEMAN	Tony Edwards
GAOLER	Bob Quaintance
USHER	Dave Albinson
JUDGE	David Schacht
PHOEBE	Helen Mulcahy
WASHERWOMAN	Rosemary Caswell
MAMA RABBIT	Becky Sheppard
HAROLD RABBIT	Adam Wright
LUCY RABBIT	Rebecca Edwards
BARGEWOMAN	Monica de Gernier
BARGE HORSE	Peter Wright & Mick Caswell

FERRETS, STOATS, WEASELS, MEMBERS OF THE JURY
Dave Albinson, Alex Castle, Mick Caswell, Rosemary Caswell
Monica de Gernier, Rebecca Edwards, Tony Edwards,
Ben Lloyd, Helen Mulcahy, Bob Quaintance, Becky Sheppard,
Doug Sheppard, Adam Wright, Peter Wright

The play directed by Bett Hewlett

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Scene 1	The River Bank
Scene 2	The Wild Wood
Scene 3	Mr Badger's House
Scene 4	The Same - some weeks later
	INTERVAL
Scene 5	The Court House
	SHORT INTERVAL
Scene 6	The Dungeon
Scene 7	The Canal Bank
Scene 8	Rat's Home
Scene 9	The Underground Passage
Scene 10	Toad Hall

There will be one major interval between Acts I and II, during which refreshments will be available in the foyer and the bar. The Bar has a club licence, and members of the audience with a ticket for tonight's performance are entitled to use its facilities.

Settings devised by the director and built by Tony Edwards
and members of the cast

Lighting and sound designed by Christopher Driver;
operated by Simon Brewer

Costumes by Laws and Harlow Theatre Company

Horses by Party Time and Keeleys

Caravan by Gordon Hewlett

Stage Management by Tony Edwards

Stage staff: Sadia Rhys

The Players wish to thank Norah Handscomb for assistance with the music

NOTES ON THE PLAY AND ITS AUTHOR

A A Milne (1882-1956) was an author, playwright and for many years the assistant editor of *Punch*. He became widely popular as the author of light novels and comedies like *Mr Pym Passes By* (1920). He achieved real fame with his four children's books which centred on his son Christopher Robin, who subsequently found this unlooked-for notoriety a great trial in his adult life. Milne adapted *The Wind in the Willows* for the stage in 1928, using the title *Toad of Toad Hall*.