

FUTURE PROGRAMME

Our audiences may have already noticed that our season does not finish with this last major production in Moot Hall. Many will know that the Players are taking part in an international theatre exchange involving ourselves and the Jirasek Company from the Czech Republic, together with the oldest established company in Australia, the Goulburn Liedertafel Company, founded as a light opera company in 1891. MHP will appear with the Jirasek Company at the international Hronov Festival on 5 and 7 August and will bring back the Czech company with them for appearances at the Playhouse. Details below:

THE PLAYHOUSE, HARLOW

Wednesday 12 August at 7.30 pm

THE GOULBURN LIEDERTAFEL THEATRE from Australia present

On the Bridge by Vaclav Klicpera

G'day, Mate! devised by the Company

THE JIRASEK THEATRE COMPANY from the Czech Republic present

The Little Predators from *The Insect Play* by Karel Čapek

Thursday 13 August at 7.30 pm

THE JIRASEK THEATRE COMPANY from the Czech Republic present

Bottom's Dream from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare

MOOT HOUSE PLAYERS present

Homeland by Vaclav Klicpera, premiered in English at Moot Hall in 1997

OUR 1998-1999 SEASON

We plan to present a full programme of five productions in Moot Hall beginning in November. Full details will be circulated to members of our FREE MAILING LIST. If you are not already on this list and wish to be included, please leave your name and address with any member of the company

Various titles are under discussion, but only one has been finalised - *The Owl and the Pussycat* by David Wood - which will be presented in January 1999.

Other writers being considered are Alan Ayckbourn, Brian Friel, Timberlake Wertenbaker, Anton Chekov and William Shakespeare. There is a possibility that our Sunday night performances of Merely Players may be revived, with two versions of the Hamlet story. Watch out for details.

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

Scenes from

Anton Pavlovitch

Chekov

Uncle Vanya

1998

Uncle Vanya

Translated by Constance Garnett

Characters in order of appearance:

MARINA, <i>an old nurse</i>	Yvonne Mitchley
MIHAIL LVOVITCH ASTROV, <i>a doctor</i>	Nigel Porteous
IVAN PETROVICH VOYNITSKY, <i>called VANYA</i>	Ian Beckett
ALEXANDR VLADIMIROVITCH SEREBRYAKOV, <i>a retired professor</i>	David Schacht
SOFYA ALEXANDROVNA, <i>called SONYA,</i> <i>his daughter by his first wife</i>	Jo Tarran
ILYA ILYVITCH TELEYEGIN, <i>called WAFFLES,</i> <i>a poverty-stricken landowner</i>	Gordon Hewlett
YELENA ANDREYEVNA, <i>Serebryakov's second wife</i>	Vanessa Smith
MARYA VASSILYEVNA VOYNITSKY, <i>Vanya's mother, Serebryakov's 1st wife</i>	Amanda Jacobs
YEFIM, <i>a labourer</i>	Rees Thomas

The play directed by Jack Mitchley

The action takes place in and around the Serebryakov country estate

ACT I	The garden.	An afternoon in late summer
ACT II	The dining room.	Midnight some weeks later
ACT III	The dining room.	A morning in late autumn
ACT IV	Vanya's room.	Later the same day

Setting devised by the director and carried out by Tony Edwards and the company

Costumes by Laws - Properties by members of the company

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

Map by Paul Regeli - Publicity by Michael Jackson

Assistance with music: Norah Handscomb and John Reeve-Butler

Scenes from

There will be one major interval between Acts II and III, 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.

NOTES

Moot House Players first gave *Uncle Vanya* in 1965 and revived it in 1982; since that date it has become one of Chekov's most popular plays in the English-speaking world. There have been no fewer than three major film versions during the past two years, in addition to many productions in the professional theatre.

The play had a mixed reception during its early years. It was written during 1898/99, some seven years after an earlier treatment of the same theme in *The Wood Demon* (revived in the West End recently). Chekov offered the play to the Maly Theatre just before *The Seagull* had its great success at the Moscow Arts Theatre, but the Maly turned it down as "dramatically unsound and socially irrelevant" and it was eventually produced to some acclaim at the Moscow Arts in 1899.

Uncle Vanya is very much a family piece and has the smallest cast of any of his major plays. As ever, the accent must be on *ensemble* playing; hence our third version is cast entirely from actors who have had some experience in one or more of the eleven Chekov productions which Moot House Players have given since 1960, while two of the present cast have appeared in all three *Vanyas*. We are particularly glad to welcome Amanda Jacobs back to the company after an absence of several years.

As usual, Chekov offers, in his own phrase, "a ton of love", and the strong conservation theme which runs through the play should strike a chord with 1998 audiences. Whichever way you look at it - either as a near tragedy which takes a comic turn or as a comedy which nearly turns to tragedy - *Uncle Vanya* is a play of real people struggling for happiness whilst coping with frustration at every turn.

Countryside Life