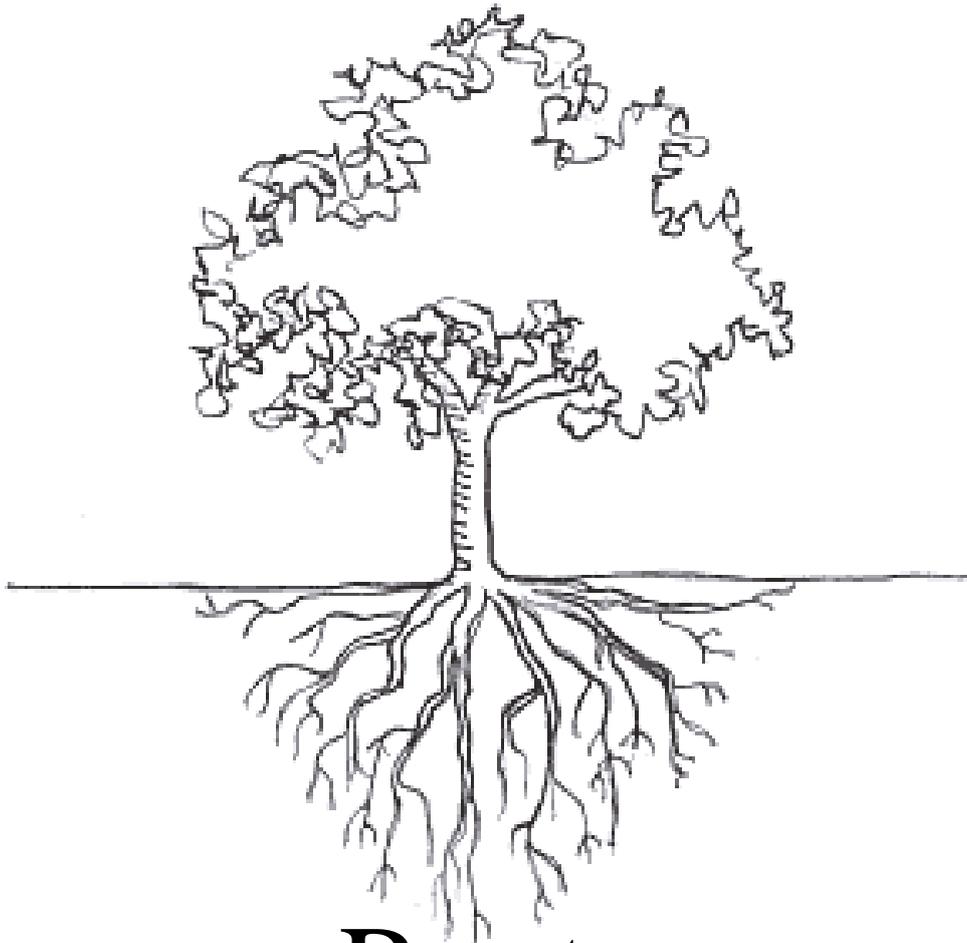




Moot House Players
present



Roots

by

Arnold Wesker

July 12th, 13th, 14th 2007

ROOTS by ARNOLD WESKER

Cast in order of appearance

Beatie Bryant	Claire Quley
Jenny Beales	Karen Clark
Jimmy Beales	Michael Doe
Mrs Bryant	Biddy McAlpine
Mr Bryant	Geoff Leeds
Frankie Bryant	Ian Beckett
Pearl Bryant	Elsbeth Morrish
Stan Mann	David Schacht
Mr Healy	Tony Edwards

Directed by Tony Edwards

Act One An isolated cottage in Norfolk, the house of the Beales

Act Two

 Scene 1 Two days later at the cottage of Mr and Mrs Bryant, in the kitchen

 Scene 2 The same a couple of hours later

Act Three Two weeks later in the front room of the Bryant's cottage

The play is set in 1958

There will be two intervals of approximately 15mins

Set by	Paul Regeli and Bett Hewlett
Props	Michael and Rosemary Caswell
Costumes	Rosemary Caswell and Jan Pearson
Lighting and Sound	Phil Waite and Michael Branwell
Stage Management	Phil Lloyd and Phil Waite
Publicity	Biddy McAlpine

Programme Notes :

We have not attempted to imitate authentic Norfolk accents. In part because of the difficulty in accurately reflecting the dialect and in part because, although this play is set in Norfolk, it would arguably be appropriate for any isolated rural setting.

Roots was first presented at the Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, on the 25th May 1959 with Joan Plowright playing the role of Beatie Bryant. It transferred to the Royal Court Theatre in June of that year and later on to The Duke of York's. Although written nearly fifty years ago, Roots nevertheless has enormous resonance for today's Pop Idol and Big Brother society.

"Do you think we really count? You don' wanna take any notice of what them ole papers say about the workers bein' all-important these days - that's all squit! 'Cos we aren't. Do you think when the really talented people in the country get to work they get to work for us? Hell if they do? Do you think they don't know we 'ont make the effort? The writers don't write thinkin' we can understand, nor the painters don't paint expectin' us to be interested - that they don't, nor don't the composers give out music thinkin' we can appreciate it. 'Blust,' they say, 'the masses is too stupid for us to come down to them. Blust,' they say, 'if they don't make no effort why should we bother?'" So you know who come along? The slop singers and the pop writers and the film makers and the women's magazines and the tabloid papers and the picture-strip love stories - thaas who come along, and you don't hev to make no effort for them, it come easy... The whole stinkin' commercial world insults us and we don't care a damn. Well Ronnie's right - it's our own bloody fault. We want the third-rate - we got it!"

Roots is the second of the plays in Arnold Wesker's trilogy. The others being Chicken Soup With Barley, an account of his communist East London upbringing, and I'm Talking About Jerusalem, which dealt with an experiment in rural living. Wesker ranks among the seminal figures in British theatre history. With John Osborne and Harold Pinter, he was one of the Angry Young Men who, from the stage of the Royal Court, led the revolution against the vacuity of drawing room theatre with a more visceral, working-class model. The Wesker trilogy, long a staple of the school syllabus, has sold more than 500,000 copies, propelling it into modern theatre's top-10 bestseller list. Wesker was and remains a politically engaged playwright. His strength lies in his ability to write plays which, whilst having a political analysis, nevertheless are accessible, the antithesis of the more overt and arguably alienating Agit-Prop of the sixties and seventies.

Stephen Daldry, who directed the revival of The Kitchen in 1994, states "The plays are extremely personal. They are an obvious expression of left-wing ideas, dreams and hopes, but he is never for a moment dogmatic, and more in that Royal Court tradition of liberal humanism. In terms of his role among the defining generation of writers who emerged from 1956 onwards, Arnold has a key place."

ARNOLD WESKER, FRSL, Hon. Litt.D. born London 1932, is the author of 42 plays mainly for the stage, four books of short stories, two collections of essays, a book for young people, three more of non-fiction, and an autobiography. He was awarded a knighthood in 2006.

During the interval refreshments are available in the foyer and the bar. The bar has a club licence and members of the audience with a ticket for the evening performances are entitled to use its facilities

**MHP DATES for the
2007/2008 SEASON**

Nov 8th, 9th, 10th 2007;
Jan 31st, Feb 1st, 2nd 2008;
March 13th, 14th, 15th 2008;
May 15th, 16th 17th 2008;
July 10th, 11th 12th 2008.

We hoped you have enjoyed the variety and range of shows we have presented throughout this last year. These have included *Mort* by Terry Pratchett, an adaptation of the *Tinderbox* by Bett Hewlett, *Snake in the Grass* by Alan Ayckbourn and three short plays by David Campton..

We are now looking at devising a programme for next year which we hope will continue to be as varied. We are particularly keen to develop links with schools. So if you know of plays that will be on the curriculum and would like to see presented please be sure to let us know. We are also looking to expand the numbers of actors, technicians and directors.

So, if you want to join us or have any suggestions for the programme please contact us on the MHP website.

Contact Jon McNamara
(see below)

For production/programme information, details of how to join the Players or any other related information contact Jon McNamara : Email moothouse.players@ntlworld.com or 17, Nursery Road, Bishops Stortford, Herts, CM23 3HJ : (01279 863353) giving Name, address, 'phone number, email and, of course, the nature of your enquiry. Your details will be added to our "Mailing List" unless you specify otherwise.

www.moothouseplayers.com

**The Moot House Players gratefully acknowledge the direct financial assistance they receive from their parent body
MARK HALL & NETTESWELL CA
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HARLOW ARTS COUNCIL**