



**Stoke-on-Trent
Repertory Theatre**

Leek Road, Stoke-on-Trent. ST4 2TR
Telephone: 01782 209897

presents

**Just Between
Ourselves**

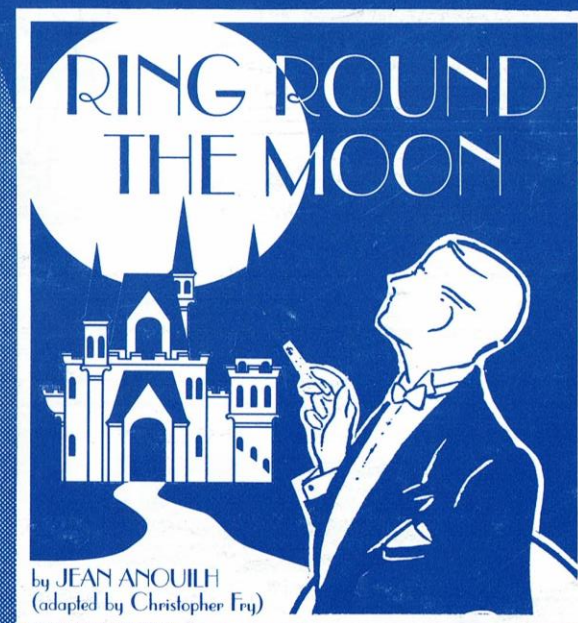
by Alan Ayckbourn

*A comedian's look at the relationship
between a husband and wife
that ends with tragic overtones,
as the husband fails to
notice his wife's needs.*

Tuesday to Saturday 24th to 28th March and
31st March to 4th April 1998 at 7.30pm

**For Telephone Bookings
01782 209784**

**BOX OFFICE OPENS 5.00 pm CLOSSES 8.00 pm
FROM WEDNESDAY 18th MARCH 1998**



by JEAN ANOUILH
(adapted by Christopher Fry)



**Stoke-on-Trent
Repertory Theatre**

78th Season - Programme 50p

CAPEY & CO^{LTD}

INSURANCE BROKERS

Call Ken Brunt

41 Lawton Road, Alsager, Stoke-on-Trent ST7 2AA
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Partners: David E. Adams A.C.I.I., M.L.I.A. (dip) & Kenneth W. Brunt

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Telephone: (01270) 883778 Fax: (01270) 875360



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Good Evening....

....and welcome to the Repertory Theatre, we hope that you will enjoy your evening with us.

Here is a little information about our new theatre which as first time visitors you may find helpful

Car Parking The car park will be open from 6.30pm on performance nights until the closure of the theatre bar. Overspill parking is available on the Staffordshire University Car Park, adjacent to the theatre car park. Neither the Stoke Repertory Theatre nor the Staffordshire University can be held responsible for damage to or loss of vehicles.

Theatre Bar The bar is open from 7.00pm on performance evenings until normal local closing time. Interval drinks may be ordered before the performance. Alcoholic drinks are not permitted to be removed from the bar.

Coffee Bar Coffee is available at the buffet bar in the foyer from 7.00pm on performance evenings and may be ordered for the interval before the performance.

Confectionery A full range is available and on sale in the foyer before the performance. Patrons are respectfully asked not to rustle confectionery wrappings as it can mar the enjoyment of others.

Smoking Smoking is not permitted in the auditorium.

Photography Photography and/or tape (including video tape) recordings in the auditorium during a public performance are prohibited.

The Rep The Rep is a member of The Little Theatre Guild of Great Britain, and is affiliated to the British Theatre Association and International Amateur Theatre Association.



We look forward to seeing you at our next production

The Story

.....is complicated! Hugo and Frederic, twins, live with their Aunt, Madame Desmortes, in a French chateau, just before the First World War. Frederic, gentle and vulnerable, is in love with Diana Messerschmann, daughter of a Jewish millionaire. She treats him with contempt and disdain. Hugo, cold, cynical and ruthless though he is, cannot bear to see Frederic unhappy, so he arranges for a young ballet dancer to pretend to be his friend Romainville's niece, and invites them to his aunt's ball. Pretending to be in love with her, Hugo hopes to make Frederic jealous and so distract him from Diana. Madame Desmortes' niece, Lady India, is also at the chateau. She is Messerschmann's 'official' mistress, but is having a secret affair with Patrice Bombelles, his private secretary. Things do not seem what they are as the evening unfolds.

The Author and Adapter

Jean Anouilh, one of the most prolific of twentieth-century French dramatists, is best known for 'Antigone', 'The Lark', 'Poor Bitos', 'Point of Departure', 'The Rehearsal' and 'Beckett.' Many of his plays deal with the confrontation of innocence with worldliness and experience and with the question of honour, some treating these themes tragically, some in a more light-hearted manner. The play was adapted for the British stage by the dramatist Christopher Fry, who changed the title from 'Invitation to the Chateau' to 'Ring Round the Moon'. Calling it a 'charade with music' was an attempt to convey both the highly theatrical style of the piece and the way the characters are all playing guessing-games with one another.



The Play

Essentially an 'entertainment', there are no deep issues discussed in the play and, as Madame Desmortes remarks, 'everything has to end happily, it's only decent'. The play is extremely theatrical and Anouilh does nothing to detract from the artificiality of the events. Indeed he sets the play in the elegant and superficial society of pre-war days in order to establish the mood of fantasy and the appearance of a fairy story. However, there are hints of more serious considerations when we see what can happen to the innocent poor when they are manipulated by the cynical rich. Indeed, when the play was recently revived at the Chichester Festival Theatre, Christopher Fry restored a scene between Messerschmann and his daughter, Diana, that he had omitted from the original 1950 version. Here the power of money and the rôle of honour are discussed. Anouilh clearly insists that there is no compatibility between money and happiness, a theme already explored in earlier plays.

The Production

'Ring Round the Moon' was originally produced at the Globe Theatre, London, in 1950, by Peter Brook, with Paul Scofield as Hugo and Frederic, Claire Bloom as Isabelle, and Margaret Rutherford as Madame Desmortes.

The play was previously performed by the Repertory Players in 1964, when Ken Lowe, the present director, played Hugo and Frederic and Mary Bartholomew, now Madame Desmortes, played Lady India.

Welcome

We are extremely pleased to welcome the following new members of the Repertory Players, in their first production:

Charles Bartholomew

Catherine Bourne

Diana Halstead

Rachel Baxter

Leonie Heaton

We also welcome back an ex-member, Andrew Thomson (The General)

Cast

Joshua ... <i>a crumbling Butler</i>	Trevor Barlow
Hugo ... <i>a man-about town</i>	James Freeman
Frederic ... <i>his twin brother, in love with</i>	James Freeman
Diana Messerschmann ... <i>engaged to Frederic,</i>	Caroline Yates
<i>secretly in love with Hugo</i>	
Messerschmann... <i>Diana's father, a melancholy millionaire</i>	Charles Bartholomew
Lady India ... <i>his mistress, secretly in love with</i>	Dawn Birks
Patrice Bombelles ... <i>Messerschmann's private secretary</i>	John Wicks
Madame Desmortes ... <i>aunt to Hugo, Frederic and Lady India</i>	Mary Bartholomew
Capulet ... <i>her faded companion</i>	Sue Thompson
Romainville ... <i>a lepidopterist, patron of</i>	Geoffrey Legan
Isabelle ... <i>a ballet dancer</i>	Leonie Heaton
Her mother ... <i>a teacher of pianoforte</i>	Diana Halstead
The General ... <i>a roving military man</i>	Andrew Thomson
Footmen	Ben Cunningham
.....	Steven Meaney
.....	Edward Stokes
Maids	Stephanie Wedgwood
.....	Catherine Bourne
.....	Rachel Baxter

(Hugo and Frederic wish to acknowledge the support of Matthew Stubbs)

Directed by **Ken Lowe**

Assistant Director **Alan Clarke**
Dances Choreographed by **Caroline Yates**

The scene is set in a the grounds of a French chateau in Spring.

Act One: Scene (I) - Morning

Act One: Scene (II) - The same evening before the ball.

Interval

Act Two - That evening, the ball.

Act Three: Scene (I) - The same evening after supper.

Act Three: Scene (II) - Dawn.



Production Team

Stage Manager	Bill Hancock
Lighting Designer	Malcolm Rushton
Lighting Technician	Matthew Rushton
Sound Designer	Mike Adams
Sound Technician	Debbie Rowley
Assistant Stage Managers	John Beeston
	Martin Allsop
	Jayne Blake
	Abi Dodd
	Gill Franklin
	Beverley Halfpenny
	Jan Johnson
	Shelley Ridell
	Eric Tipping
	Yvonne Tipping
	Derek Tipton
	Young Rep
	Irene Dodd
Wardrobe	John Cumberlidge
Costume & Wig Consultant	Janet Clarke
Properties	Lindsay Rushton
	Glennis Rushton
	Peter Croft
	Keith Williams
Company Photographer	Tony Crompton
Theatre Bar Manager	Stella Woolliscroft
Front of House Manager	Brenda Swancott
Box Office Managers	Sandy Holland
Refreshment Organiser	

Acknowledgments

Tango music arranged by Ray Baddeley - Courtesy of Ray Johnson Productions

We are indebted to the St. John Ambulance Brigade, whose members voluntarily attend all our performances.



Playbill



We shall be presenting this season....

Tuesday to Saturday
24th to 28th March
and 31st March to 4th
April 1998

JUST BETWEEN OURSELVES

by Alan Ayckbourn

Although this play begins with a masterly insight into the relationship between a man and his wife, viewed with a comedian's eye, it turns out to be the bleakest of all of Ayckbourn's works. It ends with tragic overtones, as the husband fails to notice his wife's needs and his own shortcomings.

Tuesday to Saturday
19th to 23rd May
and 26th to 30th
May 1998

A LADY OF LETTERS from 'TALKING HEADS'

by Alan Bennett

One of the famous series of monologues, originally written for television, exploring the problem of loneliness.

THE BROWNING VERSION

by Terence Rattigan

This famous play continues the theme of loneliness, this time of a schoolmaster forced into early retirement. As he prepares to leave, he discovers emotions within himself that he thought were long dead.



Friday 24th and
Saturday 25th
April 1998

The Young Rep
presents

TWOPENCE TO CROSS THE MERSEY

by Helen Forrester - Adapted by Valerie Windsor

PLEASE
SUPPORT
THE YOUNG
REP

Tuesday to
Saturday
14th to 18th
April 1998

One-Off Productions presents
Virginia Bryan in SHIRLEY VALENTINE
by Willy Russell
Telephone: 01270 882114 for details



Monday to Saturday
4th to 9th May and
Monday 11th to Saturday
16th May 1998

"MUSIC MAN"

Musical production to be staged at The Rep by the
Stoke-on-Trent Operatic Society
(with a matinee on Saturday 9th)

FRIENDS OF THE REP



If you are not already a member of the FRIENDS why not join us?

Our aim is to fill the theatre by raising public awareness of the Repertory Theatre.

We also organise informative and social events for FRIENDS throughout the year.

IT COSTS NOTHING TO BE A FRIEND !

Please complete the form below to be on our mailing list.

To Our Existing Friends

A big thank you for those who helped to sell the tickets towards the Grand Draw. This raised a magnificent £2,500 for the theatre.

We would also like to invite you to a 'Hair and Fashion Evening' on the 11th March at the Rep in aid of Repertory Funds. Tickets are now available.

FRIENDS OF THE REP APPLICATION

Please include my name on the mailing list

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE No.

Please return this form and hand it in at the Box Office or send-to: Sue Warren, 6 Monyash Close, Meir Park, ST3 7RR



Your Theatre Needs You !!!



Why Remain a
spectator in
our theatre?

Why not
become an
active member?



As an amateur theatre we have room for every kind of talent: acting, scenic design, set construction and painting, sound, lighting, music, bar work, wardrobe, properties, Front of House, backstage, Box Office, kitchen and administration ... the list goes on - there's plenty to keep you busy and interested.



If you would like to take an active part in helping to run our theatre, come along to an informal meeting and we'll have a chat and show you round. Members night is Tuesday when "The Green Room" is available, from around 8.30 pm., and we'll see you in the Bar!



Alternatively, drop us a line (S.A.E., please, at least 9" x 4") to request a membership application form and we'll take it from there. (Experience not essential - but any you may have would be welcome!) Come and join us!

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