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PROGRAMME

"PLOT and PASSION"

MARCH 31st and APRIL 1st, 1939

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Affiliated to the British Drama League.

TWENTIETH SEASON, 1938-1939.

President:

In deep sorrow we have to record the untimely death of our President, Dr. H. D. Everington, a constant and kindly supporter of this Club since its inception in 1919.

We make no attempt to name a new President for the present season, feeling that in this manner we best can mark the loss we all feel so deeply.

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PRODUCER'S PAGE.

A few years ago we anticipated the trend of modern science by making a Television Theatre the framework on which to build a musical production. Tonight we are going to the other extreme by taking a drama written nearly ninety years ago, adapting it to meet the particular needs of the Club, and adding such music as the romantic nature of the theme demands.

The play is an excellent one judged by any standards, and it enjoyed a long and successful run when it was first presented at the Royal Olympic Theatre in 1853. "The Times," criticising the first night, states "At an early hour the various entrances of the house were thronged with an expectant multitude. The crowd inside the theatre was such as might have been expected from the throng without, and the brilliant aspect of the private boxes recalled the days when the same house was raised by Mdme. Vestris to the summit of fashion." Referring to the play itself, they continue "In an age which abounds with careless dramatic writing it is agreeable to come to a work written with so much literary taste and so much careful consideration. The author has laid out his plans, created his characters and contrived their respective positions like a truly conscientious artist." "The Morning Post" critic writes, "The house was densely crowded and the play showed us a dramatic picture which for design, colouring and expression may be reckoned with the very best that the modern stage has produced." An interesting link with that first night lies in the fact that Mrs. Stirling, who created the part of Mdme. de Fontanges, is directly related to a prominent Croydon family.

It was necessary to adapt the script because in its original form there were only two women's parts, one of which, Cecile, was merely negligible. This part has been expanded therefore and the parts of Mdme. and Mlle. Fourneaux and the four dancers were added. In amending the plot to include these additions and alterations we were careful to preserve the original atmosphere of the play and, so far as lay in our power, the same style of writing.

In choosing the music to be interpolated in the production, our Musical Director, Mr. Wilfrid Marsh, was faced with the difficulty of reconciling allegiance to the period of authorship with the particular demands of the situations of the play. After much painstaking research it was found that for various reasons the first alternative was impracticable, and he has therefore embodied music chosen solely for its suitability to the theme. The stickler for unity of authorship and composership may have reason to complain, but we feel sure our audiences will approve this choice.

With these few words we consign our labours to your judgment. We have quoted the words of the critics of the first night. The sole remaining copies of the play are in our possession. Its span of life has ended. With you lies an equally momentous task—the criticism of its last performances.

Plot and Passion

A PLAY WITH MUSIC

Freely Adapted by DOROTHY and LESLIE COOPER from an Early Victorian Drama.

Music arranged by WILFRID W. MARSH, L.R.A.M.

CHARACTERS:

Cecile (Lady's Maid to Mdme. de Fontanges)	NORA HANSLEY
Jabot (House Steward)	JOHN TREDINNICK
Joseph Fouché (alias The Abbé Lenoir), Duke of Otranto, Minister of Police ...	W. HENRY SKEEN
Maximillian Desmarets (alias Mons. Lebon), Head of the Secret Department of Police	LESLIE COOPER
Edouard Marquis De Cevennes	OLIVER BRISCOE
Marie de Fontanges	AUDREY PELLEW
Henri De Neuville (Secretary to De Cevennes)	ROY POWELL
Henriette Fourneaux	ISABEL SKEEN
Helénè Fourneaux (her daughter) ...	ELEANOR PARKER
Karl Grisboulle (a subordinate of Desmarets)	HAROLD HERBERT
Heloïse	JOAN BYE
Suzette	JEAN ARIS
Jeanne	BARBARA KING
Veronique (Dancers ... ...)	ALTHEA WOOLRICH
1st Gendarme	ALAN VINCENT
2nd Gendarme	PETER BOULTON
Berthier, Prince of Neufchatel (Grand Chamberlain)	N. JAMES SETTEN

Time: The beginning of 1810.

ACT 1. An apartment in the house of Madame de Fontanges in Paris.

ACT 2. The terrace of a house in Prague. Four months later.

ACT 3. The same as Act 1. A few days later.

(There will be intervals of 10 minutes between the Acts).

Production by . . . . . DOROTHY COOPER

Musical Direction by . . . WILFRID W. MARSH, L.R.A.M.

Stage Direction by . . . . . NORMAN J. MARSH

Dance in Act 2 arranged by NANCY PRIVETT.

Dancers' Costumes designed by Mrs. S. P. CROSS.

Scenery designed by N. J. MARSH and T. F. CLARKE and executed in the Club's Studio by R. B. WHITE, F. J. WHITE, F. T. PELLEW, F. A. SHEARING.

Lighting by W. WATKINS.

Property Masters: P. E. NAISH and ALAN VINCENT.

Costumes and Furniture by The Drama Service Association.

THE SANDERSTEAD DRAMATIC CLUB ORCHESTRA

Hon. Conductor: W. W. Marsh, L.R.A.M.

1st Violin:
May Fletcher (Leader).
S. C. Whitbread.
M. H. Hawkins.

2nd Violin:
W. L. Bolton.

Viola:
Miss Agnes Collins.

'Cello:
H. W. E. Sercombe.

Double Bass:
G. Morris.

Flute:
R. G. Etches.

Oboe:
Mrs. K. Hansley.

Clarinet:
D. A. C. Kelly.

Bassoon:
I. A. Evans.

Trumpet:
A. R. Westbury.

Trombone:
H. A. Collins.

Timpani:
J. A. Warrington Rogers.

Piano:
Mrs. Harley Pound.

N.B.—Any instrumentalists desiring to join the Orchestra are invited to communicate with the Hon. Conductor.

ANNUAL DINNER AND DANCE

will be held at the

GREYHOUND HOTEL, CROYDON

On THURSDAY, APRIL 27th

Reception 7.15 Dinner 7.45

The Chair be taken by S. A. Polley, Esq.

The guest of the evening will be the well-known actor and author, Vernon Sylvaine

Norman Petchey's Band has been engaged

Tickets can be obtained from Norman J. Marsh, 70, Norman Avenue, Sanderstead, at 7/6 each Uplands 3627

MEMBERS' NIGHT

::

It is probably not realised by many members of the audience that there are now over fifty Acting Members in the Club, and, whilst this is a very good thing, it does raise the difficult problem of casting every Acting Member for a part in a play.

You have already seen nearly thirty members play parts in three plays this year, and it has been decided to arrange for three One Act Plays to be produced on Saturday, April 22nd, entitled "The Playgoers" by Arthur Pinero, "The Master Key" by Wilfred Massey and "Get it at Denby's" by Bernard Merivale.

These three very entertaining plays will give you an opportunity to see the work of a large number of members, some of whom are new to the Club, others who are taking their first part in a "straight" play, and a few whose work you have already seen this year.

The Club, in accordance with their policy, encouragement of the younger members, have placed the production in the hands of three members, who have never before been responsible for producing for the Club and will thus gain useful experience which it is hoped will be of benefit to the Club in the future.

As this evening's performance is in addition to the Club's usual programme, it is not possible to include the price of admission in the annual subscription, therefore tickets will be for sale to all members and their friends at 2/6 and 1/6, and it is hoped you will give us your support, as we do want to finish up this season with a "bang" and "Full House" signs up.

* * * *

We, who are responsible for your entertainment on this night are going to do our best to give you an enjoyable evening, for the younger and less experienced members are taking this chance with both hands, doubtless recalling Mr. Carroll Levis's injunction that "The Discoveries of to-day may well be the Stars of to-morrow."

* * * *

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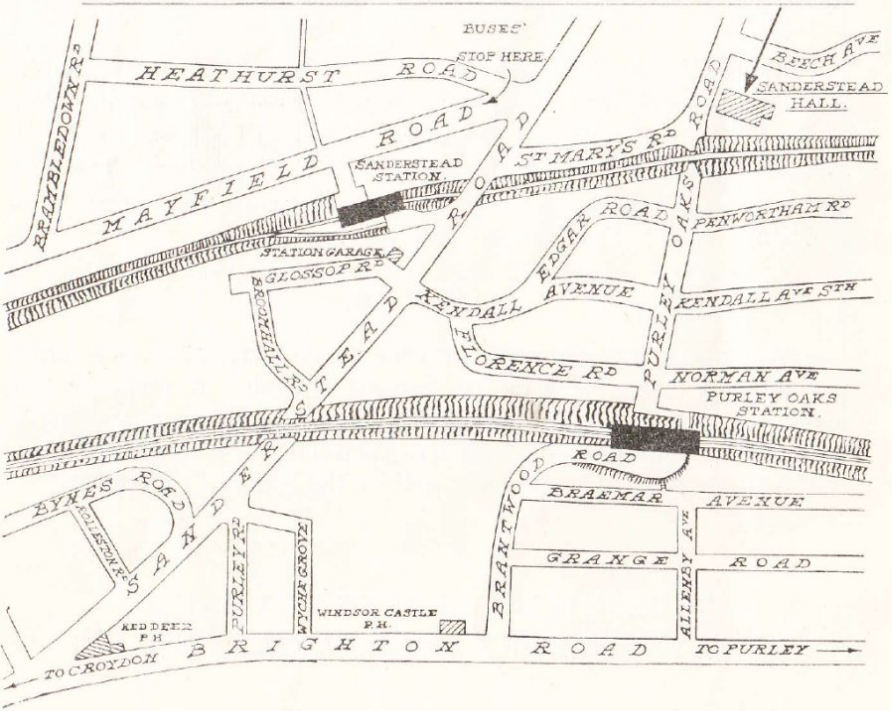
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The Times

LONDON, MONDAY, OCTOBER 17th, 1853.

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.

The Public is respectfully informed that this Theatre will be opened tonight when the following Bill will be presented

"The Camp at the Olympic"

An Introductory Extravaganza by M. Planché

To conclude with

PLOT and PASSION

a Drama in 3 Acts by Tom Taylor.

Fouche—Mr. Emery, Desmarets—Mr. Robson, De Cevennes—Mr. Leslie, Berthier—Mr. White, De Neuville—Mr. A. Wigan, Jabot—Mr. Lindon, Grisboulle—Mr. H. Cooper.
Mdme. de Fontanges—Mrs. Stirling.
Cecile—Miss Turner.

Stalls 5/- Boxes 4/- Pit 2/- Gallery 1/-

Second Prices at 9 o'clock.

continu organi ing, "A One w more a the s spea affecti all wit thusia I am k memb of the s at all. primar in the in Some t ment of he cou anoth leave o I hav cussion in the reply t impor not th is e ing th can g fine r and me h and ha hope m is buil I celeb of eight see one one w orga fin p

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Purley Oaks	7.27	7.50

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Selhurst	...	7.32	...	...	7.12	...	7.42	...
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South Croydon	7.33	7.38	7.44	7.49	7.18	7.30	7.48	7.49
Purley Oaks	7.35	7.41	7.47	7.52	7.21	7.32	7.51	7.52

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