THE MASKERS THEATRE COMPANY invite your support at the remaining plays in their 1984/1985 Season.....

Box Office:Lockerley 40757

season's activities please contact
Betty Riggs - Telephone 472619 or writo The Wilderness Lodge, West End Road
West End, Southampton.

Mottisfont Abbey Romsey

In the Open Air

Nuffield Theatre Southampton Box Office: 555028

FOR THE NUFFIELD THEATRE COMPANY

Artistic Director Administrative Director and Licensee

General Manager House Manager Technical Manager Chief Technician Assistant Technician Master Carpenter Stage Door Keeper Theatre Secretary Administrative Assistant Jane Clarke

P.A. to Artistic Director Lizzi Cross Secretarial Assistant Box Office/ Reception

Myra Langham Julie Restall Bar & Catering

> Pat Fellows Pat Jones Nicola Knight Bernadette Muldowney Sue Snow Margaret Stokes

& The Nuffield Theatre Club.

Justin Greene

James Flintoff

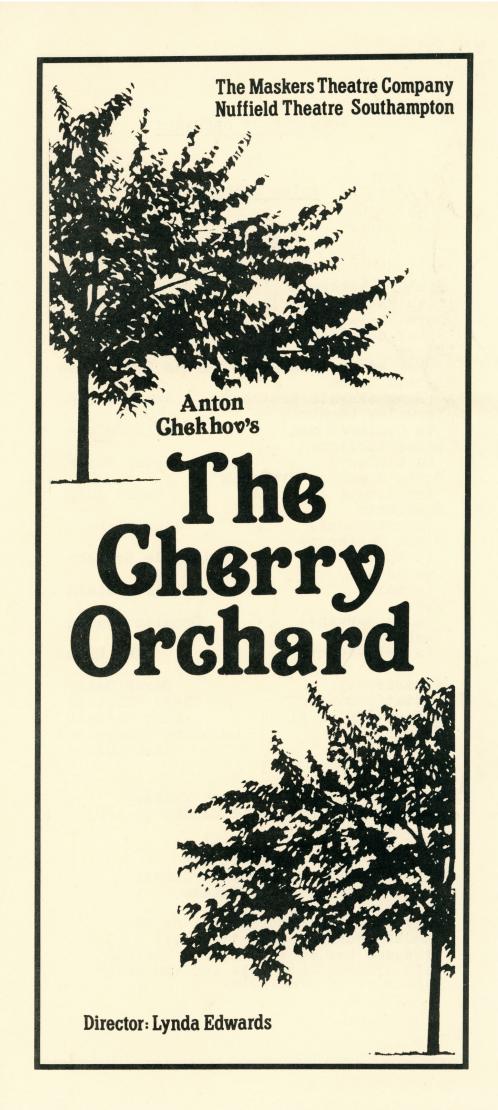
Roger McCann Roberta Beer Stanley Rixon Derek Jones Greg Head Paul Lewis Gary Highmore Jean Adams Alison Thurley Marion Baillie Phyllis Eden Delia Hurst Joyce Glendinning Maureen Kernick Pauline Prentki Molly Wilson Nicholas Beer Lynne Carey Lynda Chamberlin Richard Foster

> Maureen Knight Marion Muldowney

Sue Travers The Nuffield Theatres is administered by an independent Board representing local, financial & theatrical interests. The Theatre gratefully acknowledges financial assistance from the University of Southampton, Southern Arts Association, Hampshire County Council, Southampton City Council, New Forest District Council

The use of cameras or tape recorders in the Theatre is forbidden. The management reserves the right to refuse admission, also to make any alteration in the cast which may be rendered necessary by illness or other unavoidable causes.

In accordance with the requirements of the licensing authority: 1. The audience may leave at the end of the performance by all exit doors 2. All accessways which afford a means of exit shall be kept entirely free from abstruction 3. Persons shall not be permitted to stand or sit in any of the gangways except in positions authorised by the licensing authority 4. The safety curtain shall be lowered and raised at each performance in the presence of the audience.



"THE CHERRY ORCHARD"

by

Anton Chekhov

The Cast

Lyuba Ranevskaya

(an estate owner) Mollie Manns Anya (her daughter) Belinda White Varya (her adopted daughter) Sheana Carrington Leonid Gaev (Ranevskaya's brother) James Smith Yermolay Lopakhin (a business man) Bill McCann Peter Trofimov Peter White (a student) Boris Simeonov-Pishchik (an estate owner) David Jupp Charlotte Jenni Watson (a governess) Simon Yepihodov Philip de Grouchy (a clerk) Dunyasha (a maid) Carol Clark Firs Douglas Coates (a manservant) Yasha (a manservant) Ken Hann Derek Sealy A passer-by A Stationmaster Chris Williams A Post Office clerk Rory Kinahan Caroline Drinkwater Guests Jean Durman

The action takes place on Madame Ranevskaya's estate in Russia in 1903

Act I In Spring
Act II In Summer
Act III In late Summer
Act IV In Autumn

There will be one interval of 20 minutes during which the fully licensed bar will be open. Coffee, soft drinks, chocolate and ice cream will also be available.

FOR THE MASKERS THEATRE COMPANY

Lynda Edwards Director Ken Spencer Designer with Imogen Hobbs Julia Patterson Tony Lawther Stage Manager Production Assistant John Carrington Enid Clark Properties Caroline Drinkwater Assistant Stage Managers Keith Larkin Jan Ward Tim Hobbs Adam Hobbs Tim Archer Jenni Watson Furniture Lighting Clive Weeks Sue Cunningham Sound Angela Barks Pamela Sylvester Choreography Guitar John Murfit Flute Urin Stone Wardrobe Chris Baker Janet Cairney Meri Lawther Publicity Set Construction Manager John Riggs

Music used during the performance includes Russian folk songs sung by Ivan Rebroff and traditional Russian folk melodies recorded specifically for the performance

"THE CHERRY ORCHARD"

Chekhov's final and most mature play is well structured and the balance beween comedy and pathos is finely held. We see clearly Chekhov's gentleness and compassion as well as his objectivity. In the play we are shown the confusion of those members of the landed aristocracy who, at that time in Russia, were losing their money, their land, their status and their sense of order. Against these people we are shown the new. rising breed of progressive "builders of the future" - the question is posed whether a future built on the total destruction of the old order can be a "glorious" one.

This is a play about the new order versus the old order, about a cherry orchard which may or may not symbolise lost hopes, but most importantly it is about people, their quiet despair, their frustrations, their hopes, their weaknesses and their strengths. The wide range of characters which Chekhov uses to people his stage, from the quietly tragic to the loudly farcical create the illusion of life for us. "Life as it is - not on stilts".

ANTON CHEKHOV

Anton Chekhov, Russia's greatest dramatist, undoubtedly influenced the development of modern European drama. His new "drama of mood" touched playwrights from Gorky to Finter. Born in 1860 in Taganrog, the third of six children. Chekhov developed an early flair for the dramatic as a skilled comic actor with an instinct for entertaining. After graduating as a doctor in 1884, Chekhov concentrated on short story writing during the 1880's and became very successful in this field. He produced stories imbued with his own characteristic blend of poignancy, asringency, detachment and carefully controlled humour. He had previously written one full length play (Platonov 1881) and between 1888 & 1891 he wrote his famous one-act farces including "The Bear". However it was not until "The Seasgull" was performed by The Moscow Arts Theatre in 1898 that Chekhov really received acclaim as a dramatist. This partnership with The Moscow Arts Theatre and , in particular with its' director Stanislavsky, led to successful productions of "Uncle Vanya" "Three Sisters" and finally "The Cherry Orchard". Chekhov was a very sick man for most of his adult life and died shortly after finishing tonight's play in 1904.