

## THE MASKERS THEATRE COMPANY

The Maskers Theatre Company was formed in 1969 by a small group of enthusiastic amateur actors. Since then membership has swelled to over eighty and the company has become well-known for producing a wide variety of productions to a high standard.

The Maskers perform four or five major productions in each season. These will normally include two productions at the Nuffield Theatre, an open air production at Mottisfont Abbey and several shows at other venues. Recent successes at the Nuffield include *The Dresser*, *Lock Up Your Daughters*, *The Servant of Two Masters*, *Rebecca* and *When The Wind Blows*.

This will be the Maskers seventh open air production at Mottisfont Abbey and the venue is a favourite with all the Maskers. Previous productions were: *A Man for all Seasons*; *Tom Jones*; *She Stoops to Conquer*; *Ring Round the Moon*; *Cyrano de Bergerac* and *The Beaux' Stratagem*.

The Maskers are based in Southampton at the Eastpoint Centre. There is now a new group within Maskers - the Maskers Youth Theatre. This is for members aged 15 - 25, who perform separate shows as well as taking part in the main company productions. Their first productions, *Zigger Zagger* and *The Dracula Spectacula*, have been great successes. John Carrington Jr (the Rover) played major roles in both productions.

The Maskers are always delighted to welcome new members. If you are interested in joining the company or if you would like to receive details of Maskers productions on a regular basis, please write to:  
The Maskers Theatre Company,  
10, Rose Road, Southampton SO2 1AE.



## MOTTISFONT ABBEY

Dating from the 12th century, the house was an Augustinian Priory until the Dissolution. Lord Sandys, the Lord Chancellor, was given the Priory by Henry VIII in exchange for the villages of Chelsea and Paddington.

Unusually, he kept the priory and church intact, making his home in the nave of the church - the buttressed wall of the nave forms the north front of the house. Major changes were made in the 18th century and rooms are still decorated in the style of that time.

One outstanding feature is the drawing room with a 'trompe d'oeil' Gothic fantasy painted on the ceiling, walls and curtain pelmets. The room was painted by Rex Whistler in 1938.

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The Maskers Theatre Company extend their thanks to :

Andrew Harris  
John Carrington Snr  
Pinecrafts of Bishop's Waltham  
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and Car Parking

and to

Barbara and John Cavanagh for their assistance and forbearance during the rehearsal and performance period.

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# THE ROVER

by  
Aphra Behn



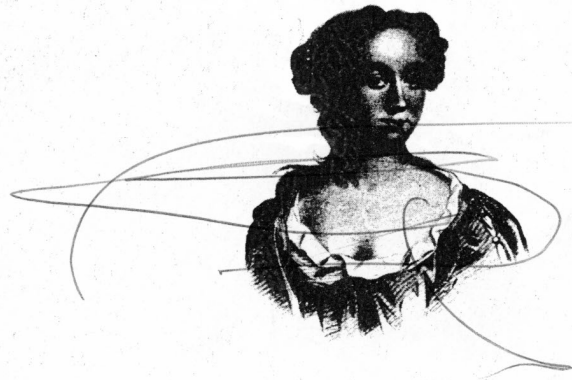
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## APHRA BEHN (1640-89)

Aphra Behn was an English playwright, novelist and poet. Her position as England's first professional authoress has overshadowed her genuine abilities as a dramatist.

She was brought up in Guiana, where her father was lieutenant-governor. In England she married a wealthy Dutch merchant, but by 1666 was reduced to a state of penniless widowhood. After this she worked for a time as a government spy in the Low Countries, though her only reward appears to have been a period of imprisonment for debt. After her release, Aphra Behn turned to writing to support herself and in the eighteen years from 1671 produced fifteen plays, as well as novels and poetry.

Her most successful dramatic work was 'The Rover' (1677) and the comedy was frequently revived during the following century. Much of Aphra Behn's work has been criticised for its coarseness, but it is important to see this as a reflection of a quite extraordinarily coarse age. It would be fairer to view her as a fiercely independent spirit and writer of real talent and warmth, the first woman playwright to live by her own lights and make her way in a man's profession.



## THE MASKERS THEATRE COMPANY

presents

### THE ROVER

by Aphra Behn

#### CAST in order of appearance

|                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Belville         | Brian Stansbridge   |
| Frederick        | Iain Coleman        |
| Blunt            | John Souter         |
| Willmore         | John Carrington Jnr |
| Lucetta          | Hazel Burrows       |
| Sancho           | Alan Watson         |
| Florinda         | Catherine Nolan     |
| Valeria          | Siân Turner         |
| Hellena          | Philippa Venn       |
| Don Pedro        | Jim Smith           |
| Stephano         | Huw Thomas          |
| Callis           | Sheana Carrington   |
| Angellica Bianca | Ros Liddiard        |
| Moretta          | Meri Lawther        |
| Sebastian        | Matty West          |
| Biskey           | Derek Sealey        |
| Don Antonio      | Malcolm Brown       |
| Diego            | Andrew Burrows      |
| Philippo         | David Bartlett      |

Carnival in 17th century Spain. English Cavaliers are in exile in Europe after the Civil War.

#### The Carnival

|         |                    |
|---------|--------------------|
| Matador | Heidi Sheehan      |
| Bull    | Alan Watson        |
| Dancer  | Leo White          |
| 'Roses' | Maria Hutchings    |
|         | Sophie Price       |
|         | Angela Stansbridge |

Mary Andrade, Georgina Bance, Miriam Bance, Jane Britt, Janet Cairney, Julia Campone, Emma Carrington, Gemma Crane, Claire Dobson, Robert Dobson, Emma Jacobs, Susannah Lawther, Davey McKee, Debbie Moorhouse, Adrian Pike, Vicki Rickman, Jane Sealey, Amy Stansbridge, Tom Stansbridge, Jan Ward, Kate Ward, Samantha Warehand, Alice Watson, Ellen Watson, Jenny Watson, Lucy White, Becky White

#### The Musicians

Siobhan Nelson  
Chris Nelson  
Chris Monks  
Milton Grimleigh

#### FOR THE MASKERS

|                      |                             |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Director             | Peter White                 |
| Production assistant | Hazel Burrows               |
| Stage Manager        | Angela Barks                |
| assisted by          | Sue Cunningham              |
| Properties           | Ella Lockett                |
| Special Properties   | Peter Liddiard              |
| Lighting             | Tony Lawther<br>Clive Weeks |
| Sound                | Anthony Baldery             |
| Pyrotechnics         | Mike Jones                  |
| Circus Techniques    | Andrew Harris               |
| Photography          | Hilary Bowen                |

There will be one interval of 30 minutes during which the Cellarium will be open for drinks and other refreshments.