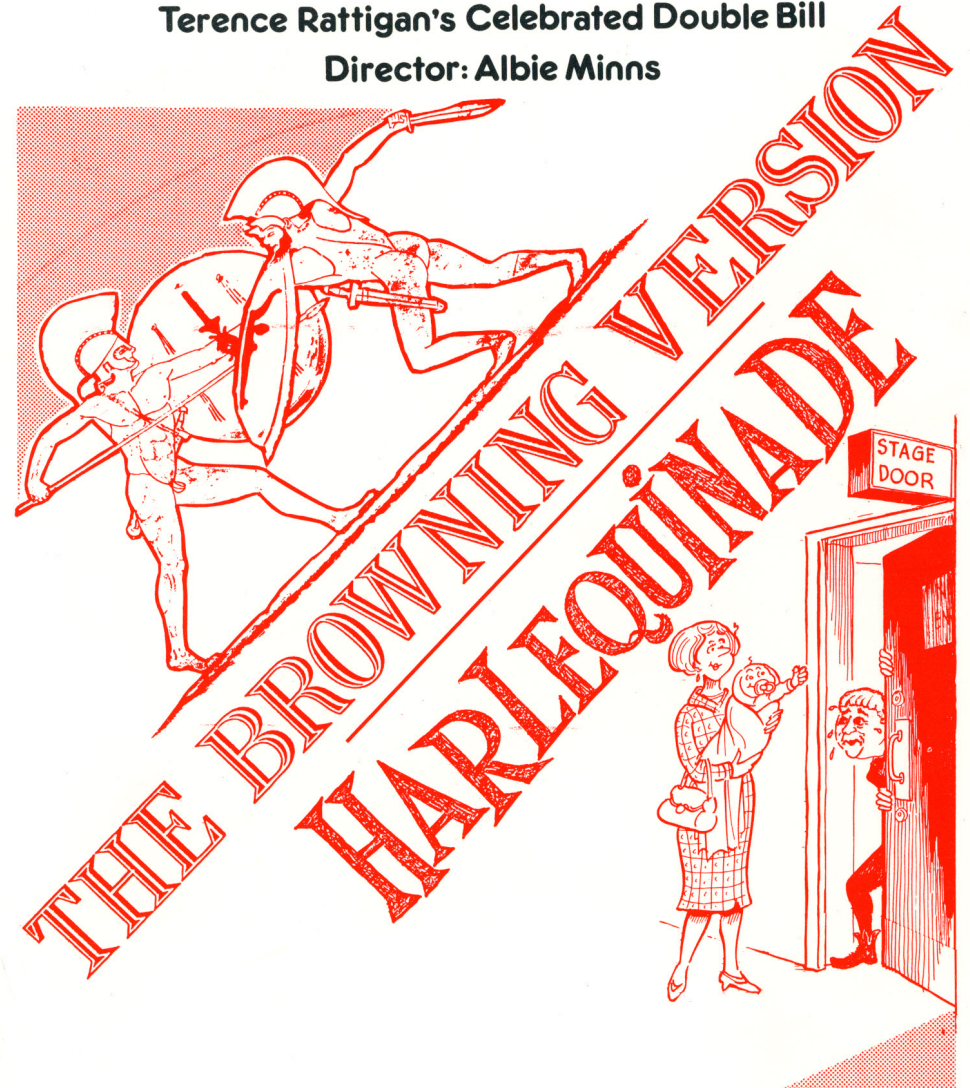


The Maskers Theatre Company at The Plaza Romsey

Terence Rattigan's Celebrated Double Bill
Director: Albie Minns



Patrons are advised that smoking is not permitted in the auditorium. Unauthorised photography, tape or video recording is not permitted.

The audience may leave at the end of the performance by all exit doors. All gangways, corridors, staircases and passages which afford a means of exit shall be kept entirely from obstruction. Persons shall not be permitted to sit or stand in the gangways.

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS BY THE MASKERS THEATRE COMPANY -

December 10th-14th Mottisfont Abbey, Near Romsey - "**At the Changing of the Year**" - A unique opportunity to share with us the Christmas spirit in the delightful setting of the Whistler and Music Rooms. A seasonal ghost story, and an anthology of words and music for the season.

Tickets on sale **NOW** on Lockerley (0794) 40846; price £6 to include refreshments.

THE MASKERS THEATRE COMPANY WOULD LIKE TO THANK

RAODS and the Plaza Theatre; Roger Shaw Chemist, Romsey; The Headmaster and Staff of Melchet Court School, Sherfield English for rehearsal facilities; Southern Evening Echo; King Edward School, Southampton and Claire Minns for typing so many rehearsal schedules and showing much patience for our new Director in his first production.

The Maskers Theatre Company is 22 years old and based in Southampton. If you would like to join us, please contact our Membership Secretary Jan Ward, 123 Upper Shirley Avenue, Southampton, Tel No 782746.

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ABOUT THE PLAY

"The Browning Version" and "Harlequinade",-"Playbill" as the two one-actors were called - were revived in 1980 by the National Theatre. Many of Rattigan's most convincing plays have a boy or young man, at a testing moment of life, at the middle of them. His need in the period after Oxford to justify his choice of career to his father by becoming a success, seems to have left him with what we might be inclined to call an obsession with father-son relationships. In "The Browning Version" there is no father and son as such; instead, as a substitute father, we have the figure of the elderly schoolmaster on the point of retirement, Andrew Crocker-Harris. Taplow, the boy, needs the approval of "the Crock" (in order to get his remove), but so does "the Crock" need the admiration of Taplow if his entire life is not to be pronounced a failure.

Rattigan was educated in the 1920's at Harrow School where he was a classicist. He played Cricket well and played in the Eton and Harrow match at Lords. This detail is all brought forward in time to cover the period in which they play was written. The insights of the play are such that it remains timeless and will, I hazard, outlast even the system of privileged private education and the compulsory study of classics on which it is founded.

"Harlequinade", the original stable mate of "The Browning Version", recalls the wartime provincial touring theatre. The play is rooted in those tatty tours that brightened many a blacked-out or austerity-grey evening, and it also contains a flashback to the author's undergraduate acting experience; but the real subject is the Cowardlike one that theatrical people are a happy breed set apart from ordinary mortals in their own sealed off world, subject to a different set of motivations from the rest of us. This was the only time he ever wrote a play about actors, and *Dame Maud*, contains more than a suggestion of *Dame Sybil Thorndike*. Rattigan's gift of invention and surprise was never more fluent.

Antony Curtis, Literary Editor of the London Financial Times and author of the studies of Maugham and Rattigan.

THE BROWNING VERSION

By Terence Rattigan

The time is July 1948, the place is the Sitting Room of the Crocker-Harris' rooms in a public school in the South of England.

Cast In Order Of Appearance

*John Taplow
Frank Hunter
Millie Crocker-Harris
Andrew Crocker-Harris
Dr Frobisher
Peter Gilbert
Mrs Gilbert*

*Matthew Bence
Ian Morley
Mollie Manns
Ken Spencer
David Pike
Simon Wills
Maria Hutchings*

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*Both Plays Are
Directed By Albie Minns*

There Will Be One Interval Of 20 Minutes

Antony Baldery will play the Piano before the first play and during the Interval

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FOR THE MASKERS THEATRE COMPANY

*Assistant to The Director
Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Managers
Set Design
Set Construction*

*Set Painting
Set Dressing
Lighting Design
assisted by
Properties
Wardrobe
Sound
Poster Design
Publicity
Front of House Coordinator*

HARLEQUINADE

By Terence Rattigan

The time is 1948, the place is the stage of a Theatre in a Midlands town.

Cast In Order Of Appearance

*Arthur Gosport
Edna Sely
Dame Maud Gosport
Jake Wakefield
George Chudleigh
1st Halberdier
2nd Halberdier
Miss Fishlock
Fred Ingram
Poppy
Muriel Palmer
Tom Palmer
Mr Burton
Joyce Langland
Policeman
Monks*

*David Bartlett
Philippa Taylor
Hazel Burrows
Ken Hann
Douglas Coates
Ian Morley
Neville Green
Christine Baker
John Carrington
Dawn Finbow
Kate Atkinson
Kevin Spencer
Graham Buchanan
Jane Royle
Bruce Atkinson*

Bruce Atkinson, Kevin Mitchell

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Nichola Horne

Angie Barks

Julia Campone, Tony Lawther

Ron Tillyer

Chris Finbow, Ron Tillyer, Darryl Palmer

Brian Longford, Kevin Hugnes

Edwin Beecroft

Jan Ward, Jean Durman

Clive Weeks

Ali Mountford

Ella Lockett, Jean Durman

Helen Officer, Julie Zillwood, Angie Stansbridge

Lawrie Gee

Ken Spencer

Michael Patterson

Belinda Drew

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