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THE MASKERS THEATRE COMPANY
IN THE OPEN AIR AT
MOTTISFONT ABBEY

Shakespeare's

A MIDSUMMER
NIGHT'S
DREAM

344



19 to 29 JULY
No performance on Monday 24th

*We wish Maskers Theatre Company
every success with their
Workshop project*

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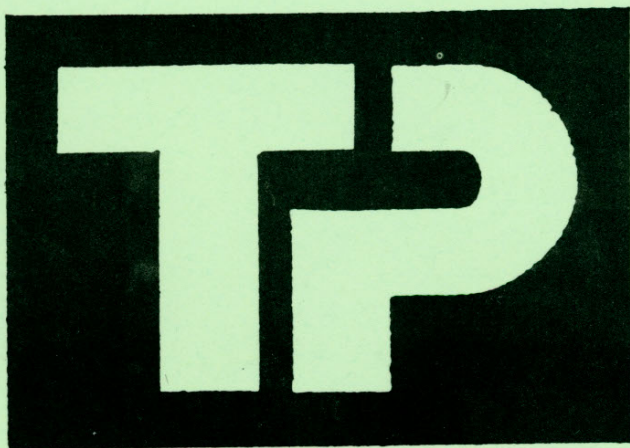
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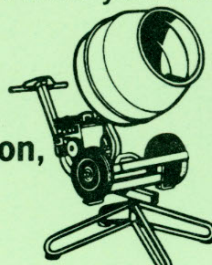


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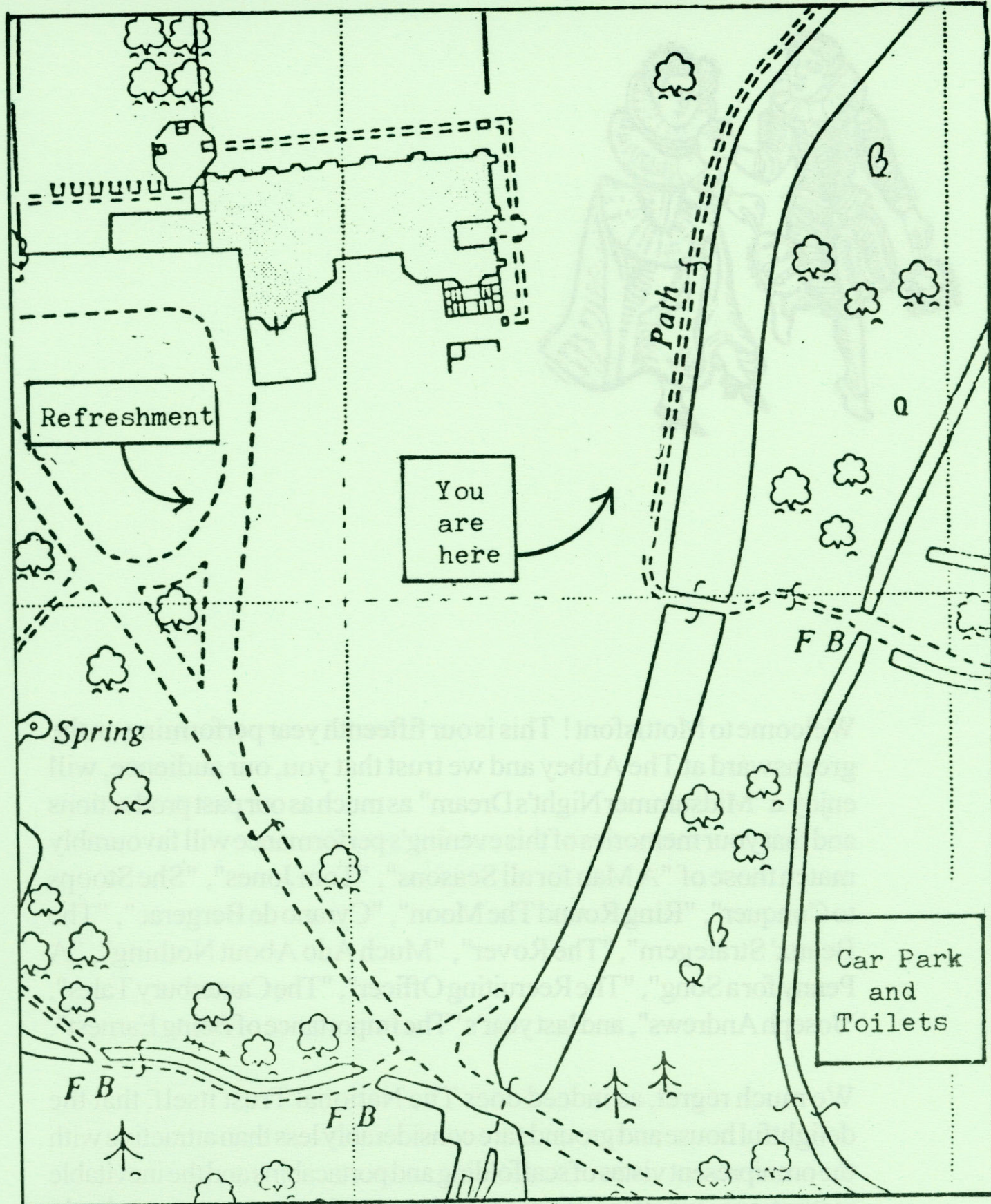


JEWSON
HIRE
POINT



Welcome to Mottisfont! This is our fifteenth year performing on the greensward at The Abbey and we trust that you, our audience, will enjoy a "Midsummer Night's Dream" as much as our past productions and that your memories of this evening's performance will favourably match those of "A Man for all Seasons", "Tom Jones", "She Stoops to Conquer", "Ring Round The Moon", "Cyrano de Bergerac", "The Beaux' Strategem", "The Rover", "Much Ado About Nothing", "A Penny for a Song", "The Recruiting Officer", "The Canterbury Tales", "Joseph Andrews", and last year's "The Importance of Being Earnest".

We much regret, as indeed does The National Trust itself, that the delightful house and grounds are considerably less than attractive with the omnipresent vistas of scaffolding and portacabins and the inevitable restrictions - we all look forward to the many improvements currently under way. We would like you to know that we share your discomfort and we would ask you to spare a thought for this year's Company who will spend the fortnight in the only dressing space available - a loosebox in the stable yard!!



During the interval of a performance - which was not going too well - of one of Shakespeare's other plays, I once heard a schoolboy say plaintively, "I wish it was "A Midsummer Night's Dream". His was not a subtle form of theatre criticism; but the remark illustrates the affection in which this play is held, and the general confidence in its power to entertain. For many people it forms their first introduction to Shakespeare, whether in reading round the class or performance in village hall, school grounds, or professional theatre. And it continues to please many who would not normally enjoy a Shakespeare play



BANK HOLIDAY MAGIC AT MOTTISFONT

Mottisfont Abbey is not always wrapped up in scaffolding and corrugated iron. Regular visitors will know that the Abbey is a beautiful building, providing the perfect centrepiece for these gardens. Both the National Trust and the Maskers Theatre make good use of the Abbey as a backdrop for their annual plays and musical entertainments.

In this the National Trust's Centenary year, Mottisfont Abbey is undergoing major renovations. When it re-opens at the start of the 1966 visitors season, there will be a long awaited tea-shop, more show-rooms, an exhibition and a conference suite inside.

The scaffolding is due to come down at the end of August, and the National Trust is celebrating with a brand new event called THE MOTTISFONT REVELS.

From Friday 25 - Sunday 27 August, the moonlit house and garden will provide the setting for three nights of family entertainment on a magical theme. Magicians, illusionists, dancers and acrobats will perform around the garden amid sculpture, lighting and decorations. There will even be stunt kites and a hot air balloon. This is a chance to put on fancy dress, bring a picnic and a rug and see Mottisfont as never before. Each evening will be rounded off with a firework finale to fabulous percussion music by top player Alisdair Malloy. It promises to be a breathtaking event.

The Mottisfont Revels will, we hope, become an annual event, raising money for restoration projects such as the current one. Tickets are £13.00 for adults and £5.00 for children. If you would like to find out more about the revels or other centenary activities please call the National Trust Southern Region Box Office on 01372 451596.

We hope to see you back at Mottisfont in August, but in the meantime enjoy your Midsummer Night's Dream with the excellent Maskers Theatre Company.

THE COMPANY

Theseus		Martin Caveney
Egeus		Harry Tuffill
Lysander		John Carrington
Demetrius		Alec Walters
Philostrate		Peter Taylor
Quince		Ian Morley
Snug		David Jupp
Bottom		Brian Stansbridge
Flute		Simon Wills
Snout		Tony Bull
Starveling		Albert Minns
Hippolyta		Nichola Caveney
Hermia		Joanne Young
Helena		Belinda Drew
Oberon, King of the Fairies		David Pike
Titania, Queen of the Fairies		Jan Shrouder
Puck, or Robin Goodfellow		Robbie Carnegie
Peaseblossom	} fairies	Melanie McCoustra
Cobweb	}	Amy Stansbridge
Moth	}	Jenny Bartel
Mustardseed	}	Rebecca Foote

The play will be presented in Two Acts. There will be an interval of some 30 minutes during which our Refreshment Tent will be open.

The audience is advised that Strobe Lighting will be used for a short sequence during the production

FOR THE MASKERS THEATRE COMPANY

Technical Director	Ron Tillyer
Stage Manager	Helen White
Set Construction	Geoff Cook, Douglas Shiell, Alan Baker
Lighting Design	Clive Weeks
Lighting Team	Edward Randall, Gemma Smith, Nathan Weeks
Sound	Lawrie Gee, Bryan Langford, David Allington
Properties	Irene Shiell
Wardrobe Hire	Bristol Costume Services Hampshire County Wardrobe
Wardrobe Team	Christine Baker, Mollie Manns
Fairy Costumes	Sarah Humphrey
Front of House Manager	Stephanie Bartel
Refreshments	Christine Baker, Philippa Taylor
Choreography and Movement	Adrienne Bath
Marketing	Jan Ward
Publicity	Michael Patterson
Box Office Manager	Sylvia Pankhurst

The production directed by Ken Spencer.

The Maskers Theatre Company would like to extend their thanks to David Stone and Trevor Saxby of The National Trust at Mottisfont for their continued assistance and forbearance during the rehearsal Period.

THE MASKERS THEATRE was formed in 1968 with the coming together of just 12 amateur actors, actresses and 'rude technicals' all of whom shared a 'professional' approach to their chosen hobby. The membership is now over a hundred and, some 220 productions (large and small) later, The Company maintains its well earned reputation as the leading, most active and successful in the area.

With the acquisition of its own home in Southampton, our activities will be extended. Final casting is being undertaken this week for our next production in October and the auditions for our first production in 1996 are being held in September interested ?

THE MASKERS THEATRE WORKSHOP FUND-RAISING APPEAL

Regular patrons of The Maskers will know that we have been fund-raising since the start of 1994 to meet the costs of buying, refurbishing and equipping our new base in Southampton. We are delighted to report that with the benefit of two substantial grants from the Foundation for Sports and The Arts and from the Arts Council Lottery Board to supplement our own fund-raising efforts, we hope to raise the final sum needed to reach our £165,000 target at the Gala Evening here at Mottisfont. Members of the audience at last year's production of *The Importance of Being Earnest* who indulged us by buying tickets for our car raffle will be pleased to know that the winning ticket drawn at the end of the summer was held by a member of the Mottisfont audience - Miss Alison Durnford, who had come from Hersham in Surrey with friends and she has called the car "Oscar"!



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