



## Forthcoming Attractions

with The Maskers Theatre Company

### “LADIES IN RETIREMENT”

by Edward Percy and Reginald Denham  
at The Maskers Theatre Workshop  
16.17.18. 19. October  
(Theatre Members only)

A Harold Pinter Double Bill

### “A KIND OF ALASKA” . “ONE FOR THE ROAD”

at The Maskers Theatre Workshop  
20. 21. 22. 23. November  
(Theatre Members only)

### “THE CHRISTMAS REVELS”

A Celebration of Christmas  
in the Music Room at Mottisfont Abbey  
Dates to be announced early December

The Maskers Theatre Company will be in performance  
at The Nuffield Theatre Southampton  
28. 29. 30. 31. January & 1. February  
(Please watch local press for production details.)

The Maskers Theatre Company invites you to participate more fully by supporting  
us at our Maskers Theatre Workshop Venue in Emsworth Road, Southampton.  
Full details of Theatre Supporters Club membership may be obtained from Betty Riggs,  
The Wilderness Lodge, West End Road, Southampton. Telephone 01703 472615.



THE MASKERS THEATRE COMPANY  
AT MOTTISFONT ABBEY  
(COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL TRUST)



A PLAY BY WILLIS HALL  
ADAPTED FROM THE NOVEL BY ALEXANDRE DUMAS

£1 PROGRAMME





## The Three Musketeers Mottisfont 1996

This version of The Three Musketeers is a fast moving, swashbuckling adventure based on Dumas' classic of the same name and adapted by Willis Hall for the Crucible theatre in Sheffield in 1994.

This was Willis Hall's third classic adaptation for The Crucible, the others being Jane Eyre and Mansfield Park (performed as part of this season's programme at the Chichester Festival theatre). He has also collaborated on a number of occasions with Keith Waterhouse their most famous play being Billy Liar.

This production for Maskers follows in the tradition of Cyrano de Bergerac, 1986 and The Rover, 1988 with colour, action, pizzazz, the odd surprise and also the irreverent humour and ensemble playing of The Canterbury Tales (1992) with actors changing hats almost in front of your eyes and mingling with the audience before the show and during the interval.

Set in France in 1625 during the reign of Louis XIII, the story tells of D'Artagnan, a poor but noble Gascon, who journeys to Paris to join the King's Musketeers. Falling in with three of this chivalrous band, Athos, Porthos and Aramis, they set out to foil the evil plans of Cardinal Richelieu and Milady de Winter. The result is an evening of intrigue with prayers from the convent, screams from the Bastille dungeons, carousing from the Inn, swordfights almost everywhere and a missing diamond necklace somewhere in England.

The fashion of the day was for plumes and lace collars, sashes and silks, jewels and velvets... and that was just the men! Whilst the English court was still stifled by starched ruffs and corseted gowns, the French court was all diaphanous skirts, softly flowing tresses, floppy boots, frothing lace and shining rosettes of ribbon. The house and grounds of Mottisfont Abbey is the perfect backdrop for all the finery, skulduggery and derring do.

We are privileged to be able to perform at this special open air venue and once again we will be following the weather forecast and hoping for some balmy summer evenings for picnics and performance. We can probably guarantee barmy evenings of another nature! We are grateful for the good humoured and obliging cooperation of Barry Futter and other National Trust Staff who have enabled us to rehearse as well as perform here. We've had a ball, we hope you will.

A very warm welcome to the Maskers with this year's production of "The Three Musketeers". This is now the fifteenth year that the Maskers have used this beautiful place for an open air theatre production and if rehearsals over the past few weeks are anything to go by, the "Musketeers" will be as good as ever.

Welcome also to you - our guest theatre-goers tonight. You can be assured not only of an excellent evening's entertainment, but also that you are supporting the conservation work here at Mottisfont Abbey, as part of the ticket price is set aside for this purpose.

May I also bring to your attention another exciting special event, to be held on 10th August - "Jazz at the Abbey". We have two excellent jazz bands, who are sure to provide a great evening's entertainment. Why not begin the evening by enjoying a picnic in our lovely grounds before the music begins - bring some friends, relax, and enjoy yourselves. Please remember that by supporting these special events you are also supporting conservation work here in the house, garden, and estate.

May I finish by saying thank you for coming tonight, hoping that you have a very enjoyable evening, and hoping to see you back again very soon.

**B. Futter (Property Manager)**



## The Three Musketeers - Fact or Fiction?

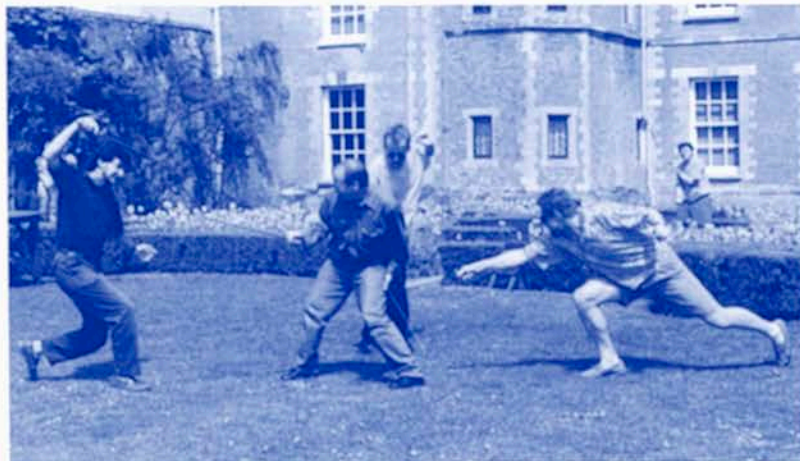
Everyone has heard of The Three Musketeers and many are familiar with the story, either through the novel by Dumas or one of the several film versions. This highly entertaining story is in fact based upon real characters although a good deal of licence has been taken in the telling.

Dumas derived elements of his story from earlier writers, particularly a seventeenth century pamphleteer called Courtlitz.

So, what is fact and what is fiction? Musketeers were mainly from Gascony, were fiercely loyal to Louis and Anne and did defy duelling laws when they clashed with Cardinal Richelieu's guards. The central character, D'Artagnan, was certainly real and was born in Gascony in 1623. He joined the Musketeers, became a captain in 1667 and was killed attempting to capture Maestricht in Holland in 1673. In The Three Musketeers, Dumas places his birth in 1607. Athos, Porthos and Aramis are also known to have existed as Gascon noblemen. They were Armond Athos d Auterielle, Henri d'Aramitz and Isaac de Portau and their captain was the Comte de Treville but their association with d'Artagnan is fictitious.

In the episodes of the story involving the court there is both fact and fiction. Louis, Anne, Buckingham, and Richelieu were very real. The story linking them with d'Artagnan and his companions is not. There was a brief though almost certainly chaste relationship between Anne and Buckingham. Like d'Artagnan, Buckingham also came to an untimely end at the hands of an assassin in Portsmouth in 1627. The real Rochefort was a good soldier and respected courtier who eventually achieved high office. The rest of the characters come from the pen of Dumas or his sources.

The curious medication offered by d'Artagnan senior to his son may have some historical validity. When Cardinal Richelieu was on his deathbed, and all medical hope had been abandoned, his doctors resorted in desperation to an old peasant treatment. He was given a potion of horse dung soaked in white wine. It didn't work!



## Synopsis of scenes

### Act I

Prologue	
Scene 1	The throne room, the Louvre Palace
Scene 2	A farm in Gascony
Scene 3	A market square, some miles from Paris
Scene 4	A courtyard in the rue du Vieux Colombier
Scene 5	Monsieur de Treville's quarters
Scene 6	A courtyard in the rue du Vieux Colombier
Scene 7	Outside the Convent of the Little Sisters of St. Cecilia
Scene 8	The throne room, the Louvre Palace
Scene 9	Monsieur Bonacieux's house
Scene 10	The Bastille dungeons
Scene 11	Monsieur Bonacieux's house
Scene 12	The courtyard, the Louvre Palace
Scene 13	The Queen's terrace, the Louvre Palace
Scene 14	The courtyard, the Louvre Palace

### Act II

Scene 1	The Bastille dungeons
Scene 2	The courtyard, the Louvre Palace
Scene 3	A retiring room, the Louvre Palace
Scene 4	Monsieur Bonacieux's house
Scene 5	A market square some miles from Paris
Scene 6	The Duke of Buckingham's house in London
Scene 7	A market square some miles from Paris
Scene 8	Inside the Convent of the Little Sisters of St. Cecilia
Scene 9	The ballroom, the Palace at Versailles



## Cast

D' Artagnan.....	John Carrington Jnr.
Athos .....	Martin Humphrey
Porthos .....	Malcolm Brown
Aramis .....	Brian Stansbridge
Constance Bonacieux .....	Jenny Bartel
Cardinal Richlieu .....	Ian Morley
Rochefort.....	Robbie Carnegie
King Louis XIII .....	Peter Taylor
Queen Anne .....	Joanne Young
Donna Estefana/Mother Superior.....	Angela Mackie
Innkeeper .....	Christine Baker
Clothilde/Nun/Servant.....	Emma Carrington
Monsieur Bonacieux/D'Artagnan's father/ Buckingham's manservant/Footman .....	Albie Minns
Monsieur de Treville/Priest .....	Keith della Gana
Milady de Winter .....	Catherine Blandford
The Duke of Buckingham/1 st Musketeer .....	Alec Walters
Planchet/De Treville's servant/Tailor.....	John Carrington Snr.
Jussac/1 st Gaoler .....	Liam Meggison
2nd Musketeer/2nd Gaoler etc .....	Andy Roberts
3rd Musketeer/Lackey etc.....	Paul Baker
Smallest servant.....	Rosie Bartel

Musketeers, Cardinal's Guards, Countryfolk, Servants, Courtiers, Nuns, Peasants, Spies, Ball guests, played by members of the company led by **Jan Ward and Pauline Howson.** (Without whom the play goes not forward!)

Ball guests/torch bearers also played by Maskers and friends including Katy Ward, Susannah Lawther, Angela, Amy, Tom and Hannah Stansbridge, Kathryn Morley, Maria Anne Bennett, Helen White, Ros & Pete Liddiard, Pam & Geoff Cook, Steve Clarke, Sheana Carrington, Mollie Manns, Sonia Morris, Fran Fleming, Claire Minns, Toni Slaven, Steve Price, Harry Tuffill, Peter Pitcher, Paul Young, Joanna and Rosalind Mackie, Sophie Picton-Jones, Lizzie Boston, Irene, Douglas and Cameron Shiel.

Director .....	Fran Morley
Designers .....	Fran Morley with Roger Lockett
Lighting .....	Clive Weeks & Tony Lawther
Special effects .....	Tony Lawther
Stage Manager .....	Angie Barks



## Production Team

Wardrobe .....	Chris Baker with Kathryn Morley, Sarah Humphries, Sophie
Carrington .....	
Properties .....	Ella Lockett & Irene Shiel assisted by
Sound.....	Simon Wills & Christel Mauffett
Furniture dressed by .....	Lawrie Gee & Emmanuel Vattier
Scenic Artist .....	Jan & Katy Ward, Kathryn Morley, Helen White
Furniture painted by .....	Edwin Beecroft
ASM.....	Ken Spencer
Lighting assistants .....	Julia Campone & Shauna Lockett
Fight Director.....	Nathan Weeks & Gemma Smith
Music arranged by .....	Paul Benzing
Music performed by .....	Chris Nelson
Royal Fanfares .....	Chris Nelson, Belinda Drew and Tony Lawther
Drummer .....	Susie Williams & Jeremy Moss
Voice Coach.....	Andy Roberts
Accent coach .....	Angela Mackie
Costume Change Coordinator .....	Frank Zaragosa
Choreography.....	Kathryn Morley
Fireworks .....	Brenda Bennett & John Burke
Marketing.....	Mike Jones & Tony Lawther
Front of House Managers .....	Jan Ward through the Turner Sims Concert Hall
	Harry Tuffill & Stephanie Bartel

### Acknowledgements

St. Edward's School, Sherfield English for outdoor rehearsal facilities and sword adjustments.

Wigs by Showbiz

Costume hire from Bristol Old Vic and Hampshire County Wardrobe

Publicity by Vicky Griffiths

Artwork by Gary Thompson & Georgina Ward

Turner Sims Concert Hall

Mrs G Berry, St. Anne's Convent School for the skeleton Centre Security Locksmiths

Drummond Read Associates, Antique and Chattel Valuers

Mrs Pat Sutton of Hythe Lacemakers



## A word about our Director...

Fran Morley leads a mixture of old and new faces in 'The Three Musketeers' this year, having previously directed several Maskers productions including 'Flarepath' and 'Noises Off' at the Plaza and 'The Canterbury Tales' here at Mottisfont in 1992. Fran has also directed Southampton Operatic Society at The Guildhall and the Mayflower Theatre and has assisted Patrick Sandford at the Nuffield, working with the children in two Christmas shows, was Associate Director for 'Maid Marion's Mischief' and Assistant Director last year for 'Dark Glory'. She also treads the boards when she can with A Motley Crew, and has played one role for Maskers as Sheila in 'A Day in the Death of Joe Egg'.



## The Goodies

Making his acting debut in 'Oh What a Lovely War' at the tender age of 11, John Carrington Jnr. (D'Artagnan) has been an active member of Maskers ever since, starting Maskers Youth in 1987. You may have seen him taking leading roles in 'The Rover', 'The Canterbury Tales', 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' and 'Habeus Corpus' or in one of the many other character parts he has played. Martin Humphrey (Athos), having previously done some dramatic and operatic work with other groups, recently joined Maskers for 'The Man who Came to Dinner' at the Theatre Royal. A familiar face here at Mottisfont is Brian Stansbridge (Aramis), one of our longest serving members, who has appeared in no less than eight of our shows here as well as numerous other Maskers productions. Last year's audiences will no doubt remember Brian's 'Bottom' from 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' while Malcolm Brown's previous Mottisfont performances in 'The Beaux Stratagem' and 'The Rover' look set to be *outripped* by his *streak* of genius as Porthos in 'The Three Musketeers'! John Carrington (Planchet), a founder member of the Maskers Theatre Group, was in our first ever production, 'Much Ado About Nothing', appearing in it again at Mottisfont in our 25th Anniversary year. He has taken parts in many a production including 'A Man for all Seasons', the first Maskers play at Mottisfont, and has also directed for Maskers and Maskers Youth. In contrast, Keith Della Gana (Monsieur de Treville) makes his first appearance with Maskers, although he has previously taken part in drama festivals with other groups.



## The Baddies

Involved in Maskers since 1987, audiences may have seen Ian Morley (Cardinal Richelieu) here in last years 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' or before that in 'The Recruiting Officer'. Some of Ian's other performances include 'Flarepath', 'Seasons Greetings', 'Harlequinade' and 'Noises Off'. Robbie Carnegie (Rocheport) loves acting at Mottisfont so much that he travels up daily from Chichester in order to do so. This will be his seventh consecutive production. In contrast, Liam Meggison (Jussac) appears in his first Maskers show this summer. As a Mottisfont 'virgin' we have promised to be gentle with him. Having spent a decade in Maskers, Catherine Blandford (Milady de Winter) has been in 'The Rover' and 'Recruiting Officer' at Mottisfont as well as other Maskers productions. Given the opportunity, Catherine enjoys cross dressing, but I don't think that will be possible this year (spot the bump...)!



## The Royals

Joining Maskers last year for 'A Woman in Mind' and 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', Peter Taylor (King Louis XIII) has also taken part in various melodramas and revues and awaits the opportunity to demonstrate to audiences his amazingly flawless Canadian accent! 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' was also the first major Maskers production for Joanne Young (Queen Anne), who has ten years' previous acting experience with other groups, and was Alec Walters' second time out at Mottisfont, following 'The Importance of Being Earnest' in 1994. Alec, who plays the Duke of Buckingham, says he is on the look out for young maidens to replace the bunch of ramshackle excuses for servants that Buckingham currently has to put up with! Mottisfont productions that Jenny Bartel (Constance) has been involved in include 'The Recruiting Officer' and 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. Jenny has also acted with A Motley Crew and is hoping to study for a degree in Drama next year. 'The Canterbury Tales' was Angela Mackie's last time at Mottisfont, but being a member for ten years she has taken part in many other Maskers plays. Angela (Donna Estefana) is also involved with various operatic societies and has been our 'Company Voice Coach' for this show.



## Supporting Rabble

'The Three Musketeers' marks Albie Minns' 10th Anniversary with Maskers. Albie plays Monsieur Bonacieux and has been involved in seven of the last ten Mottisfont productions (as well as other Maskers shows) so seasoned visitors will know his face well. Christine Baker (Innkeeper) has been an active member of Maskers for over 20 years. You may have seen her out here in 'Canterbury Tales' and 'Joseph Andrews' or remember her serving the odd glass of wine over in the Catering Tent last year! Having been involved with the Maskers all her life (sad but true) Emma Carrington (Clothilde) is a 'Maskers baby' and has taken part in 'The Rover', 'Cyrano de Bergerac', and 'Joseph Andrews' as well as some productions (but more parties) with Maskers Youth.



## Ensemble

Amongst our more recent recruits is Paul Baker (who has stood in for Aramis during many rehearsals when Brian was called to work away.) Andy Roberts has previously assisted with sound but now audiences can see him for the first time on stage. 'The Three Musketeers' will also be Pauline Howson's first Mottisfont show but she is certainly no stranger to the stage having acted in countless amateur productions, including a touring company, and organising children's drama workshops. Pauline loves open air shows and her first venture at Mottisfont sees her dividing herself into many parts! Jan Ward has been involved in most of our productions over the last ten years, either on or off stage, and as a consequence Katy Ward has been familiar with Maskers since the age of two. Jan's professional experience as Marketing Manager of the Turner Sims Concert Hall has also often been put to good use.

**Please note all of the above are open to offers to appear in 'The Bill'.**



## The Techies

As usual a Mottisfont show calls for much technical back-up. Crewing "The Three Musketeers" are a mixture of "old-hands" and "fresh-blood". Stage Manager is Angie Barks whose first show with the Maskers was also the first Maskers Mottisfont show "A Man for all Seasons". Angie is assisted by Julia Campone who is an experienced gopher for several Mottisfont crews. Julia can turn her hand to anything and will be seen, on some evenings, on the lighting desk.

Two lighting designers experienced in both open-air and theatre design have joined forces on "The Three Musketeers": Clive Weeks & Tony Lawther. Clive has lit the majority of the open-air productions since the Maskers first started full open-air shows at Avington House. Clive was responsible for the lighting design of last year's open-air production "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and his most recent production for the Maskers was "Cider with Rosie" at the Nuffield, Southampton. Tony took the part of Sir Richard Rich in "A Man for all Seasons" and has contributed technically to a number of spectacular Mottisfont productions such as "Cyrano de Bergerac" and "The Rover". He also lit Fran's last production at Mottisfont, "Canterbury Tales". Tony's ambition is to get his name mentioned in the programme the most number of times check it out in this one).

Some relative new-comers on the lighting team are: Helen White - last year's stage manager, now turning her hand to lighting; Gemma Smith - lighting operator from last year gaining experience before moving on to progress her studies in theatre; and Nathan Weeks - who, previously involved with rigging lights for various Mottisfont shows, had his first Mottisfont as lighting operator last year.

Sound is provided by Lawre Gee, who has done more Maskers shows than he cares to remember. He has been far and wide in his search for appropriate music and sounds as usual. Lawrie's advisor on the French connection and his assistant sound operator is Emmanuel Vattier Emmanuel first appeared with the Maskers on stage in "Cider with Rosie".



## Wardrobe, Props and Furniture

The Wardrobe mistress is also mine host of Le Cochon qui Pete. Christine Baker has dressed many a production. This show demands multiple costume changes with the possibility of recycling some of them for crowd use in the finale. I have not asked her what her final total is, I shouldn't think she knows, but it is multi several!

Props are taken care of by the redoubtable Ella Lockett, Half of a team which has worked with Fran on several productions. Ask Ella to find the most outrageous item and she will find it somewhere. She particularly remembers "Noises Off" - "All those sardines!" and "Canterbury Tales" She will be assisted by Irene Shiel and Christel Mauffet.

Mottisfont provides us with all the set we need but we did need furniture This was taken care of by the other half of the Lockett team, big Roger. He used to be known as a lighting man but sailing has taken him away from running lighting boards to boards of another kind. He particularly remembers building a splendid boat for "Death on the Nile" and the amazing reversible truck for "Noises Off". His ingenuity for this production has been extraordinary. Shown a roughish sketch of what Fran had in mind and told to manage with two tables, two benches and eight stools, he has made metamorphic furniture par excellence. Edwin Beecroft has painted many delightful embellishments to Maskers' sets and has produced the banners and signs for this production, of which Le Cochon qui Pete is the piece de resistance.

These teams are augmented by many other people behind the scenes to enable another major Maskers' production to grace the lawns of this lovely National Trust property.

