

THE MASKERS THEATRE COMPANY

IN THE OPEN AIR

AT MOTTISFONT ABBEY

(Courtesy of the  National Trust)

THE HYPOCHONDRIAC

By Molière

*translated by
Martin Sorrell*

*by arrangement
with
Nick Hern Books*



18 - 28th
July
2001

PROGRAMME



*Rehearsal
Photos*



WELCOME FROM THE NATIONAL TRUST



This year we are celebrating the 800th birthday of the founding of the Augustinian priory on this site by William Briwere. If you will excuse the pun, an awful lot of water has gone under the bridge in that time yet it is still the timeless beauty of the place that people remember most of all. Even during the busiest days of June when the Rose Garden is stunning everyone with its colour and scent, this lovely old place still retains a dignity and tranquillity that reminds one constantly of its long and fascinating history. Do come and visit us throughout the season if you can. There are always things of interest in the garden, and foot & mouth allowing, the estate walk is a delight to enjoy and will tell you something about the variety and beauty of the estate and how we manage it for the benefit of those who follow us.

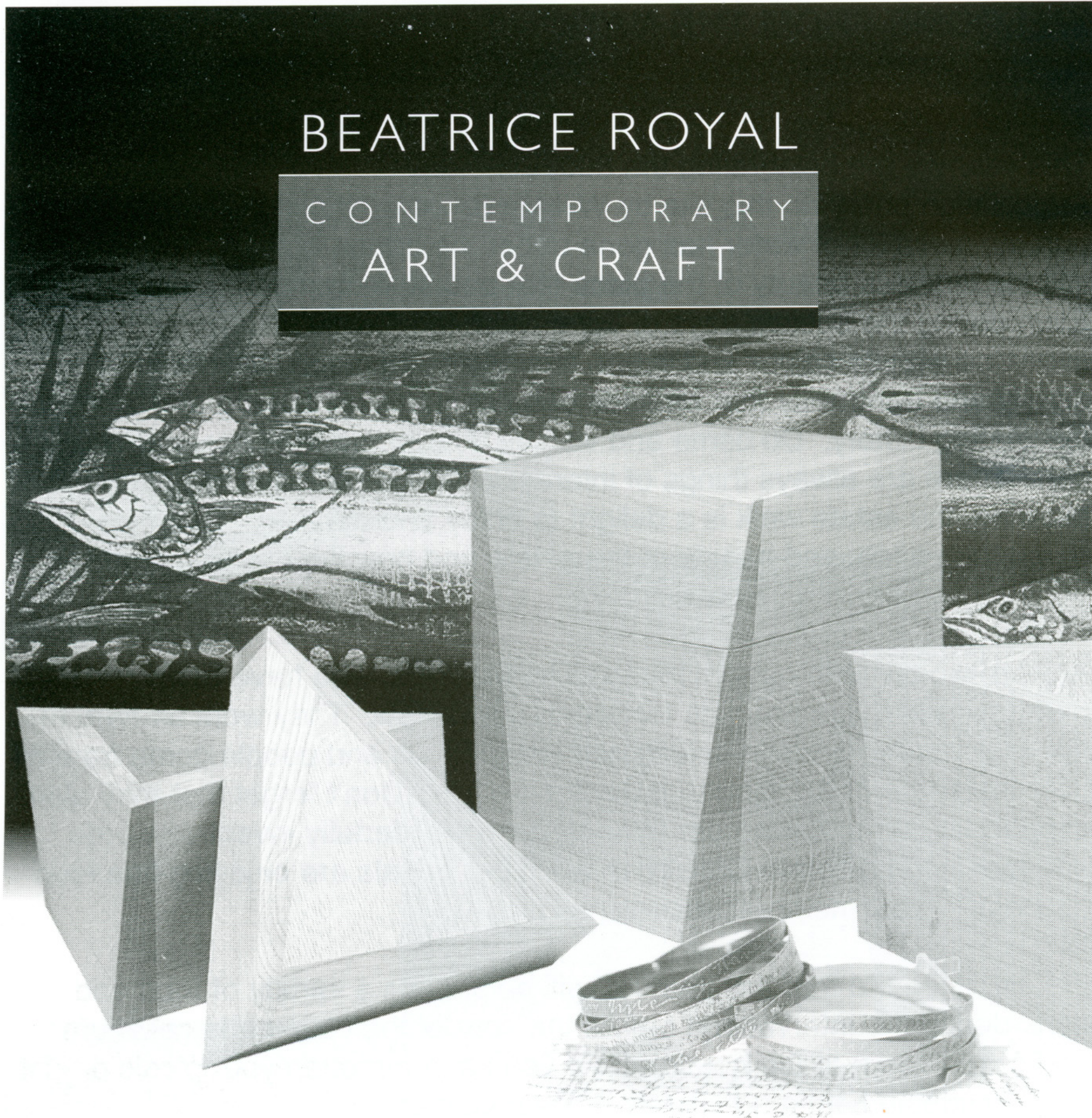
A warm welcome to our old friends The Maskers, who have been performing in these grounds for twenty years now. They work so hard to put on a performance to delight and entertain us and people come from all over the south of England to enjoy their plays. Don't forget that they also support us during December by putting on wonderfully inventive words and music to celebrate Christmas while our guests are enjoying fine food and wine - truly memorable evenings.

Please also note that this year we will be serving a variety of food and drink during the interval and before the start of the play in the cellarium and ground floor of the house. So if you have forgotten your picnic or just want to supplement it do visit us in the cellarium.

Thank you for coming and supporting Mottisfont and the Maskers and I do hope that you have a truly enjoyable evening.

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THE STAR OF THE SHOW

The Times, Saturday June 11th, 1921 page 19

“To be let furnished, from 1st July 1921 with the attractive
SHOOTING OVER THE ESTATE OF 1,500 ACRES AND
1 ³/₄ MILES OF EXCELLENT FISHING IN THE RIVER TEST

MOTTISFONT ABBEY, HANTS.



TO BE LET, FURNISHED, FROM 1st JULY, 1921, with the attractive
SHOOTING OVER THE ESTATE OF 1,500 ACRES,
AND
1 ³/₄ MILES OF EXCELLENT FISHING IN THE RIVER TEST.

The House contains entrance hall, with oak floor, four medium-sized reception rooms, full-sized billiard room, and two oak staircases, ladies' boudoir, sitting room, gun room, 12 principal bed rooms, nursery, six servants' bed rooms, three bath rooms, servants' hall, butler's pantry, kitchen, and usual offices, menservants' rooms. Stabling for 25 horses, coachmen's and stablemen's rooms, laundry, good walled-in kitchen garden, ice house, head gardener's cottage, two keepers' cottages, and two bungalow entrance lodges; good drainage and splendid water supply. *The Abbey is situated within ³/₄ mile Mottisfont and Dunbridge Stations (London and South-Western Railway), four miles from Romsey and ten miles from Winchester.* For further particulars and orders to view apply to Messrs. RAWLENCE and SQUAREY, Salisbury, 3a, Dean's yard, Westminster, S.W.1. and Sherborne, Dorset.

The House contains entrance hall, with oak floor, four medium-sized reception rooms, full-sized billiard room, and two oak staircases, ladies boudoir, sitting room, gun room, 12 principal bedrooms, nursery, 6 servants' bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, servants hall, butler's pantry, kitchen and usual offices, menservants' rooms. Stabling for 25 horses, coachmen's and stablemen's rooms, laundry, good wall-in kitchen garden, icehouse, head gardener's cottage, two keepers' cottages, and two bungalow entrance lodges: good drainage and splendid water supply. The Abbey is situated within ³/₄ mile from Mottisfont and Dunbridge Stations (London and South-Western Railway), four miles from Romsey and ten miles from Winchester. For further particulars and orders to view apply to Messrs Rawlence and Squarey, Salisbury, 3a Deans Yard, Westminster, SW1 and Sherborne, Dorset”.



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DOCTORS IN MOLIÈRE'S TIME - the hierarchy

Medicine was strictly controlled by the Faculty of Medicine.

The Doctors were top of the heap. They were learned in Latin and fine language and had no practical experience whatever.

The Apothecary was well down socially, mixing and administering potions according to the Doctor's instructions. Argan ploughing through the flowery language, then haggling over the price, really happened.

The Surgeon-barber was the lowest of the low - actually doing the work. Thomas invites Angelique to a dissection but he would have taken no part. Martin Sorrell says... "The surgeon dissects in silence, the doctor watches and pontificates in Latin."



A Short History of Medicine (author unknown)

Doctor, I have an earache:

2000 BC: Here, eat this root.

AD1000: That root is heathen. Here, say this prayer.

AD1850: That prayer is superstition. Here, drink this potion.

AD1940: That potion is snakeoil. Here, swallow this pill.

AD1985: That pill is ineffective. Here, take this antibiotic.

AD2000: That antibiotic is artificial. Here, eat this root.

The Hypochondriac

The Hypochondriac has become known as the play that killed Molière. The great French dramatist had often satirised doctors and had little use for them. He was playing the role of Argan - the hypochondriac of the title, who tries to force his daughter to marry a young physician to save on his medical bills - when he suffered a severe pulmonary attack during a performance. He died four days later, his low opinion of what passed for modern medicine in 17th Century France, apparently justified.

Molière wrote *La Malade Imaginaire* in 1673 as a celebration and entertainment for Louis XIV. He said his aim was 'to please'. Our aim is a happy evening in a beautiful setting.

The Translation

Martin Sorrell, the translator, makes the point that every generation has its own translation because they become dated. The publisher who took the translation, did so on condition that every word was accounted for, so that it could be used for education. We have made some extensive cuts and we have 'softened' the play a little in our interpretation - particularly the scene between Argan and his little daughter Louison, but every word is in the original. Our style of acting is not naturalistic, instead delivered in broad strokes, in harmony with the formal style of the writing and suitable for open air.

Music

In 1673 the music for the Court productions of Louis XIV was written by Lully. However, relations between Lully and Molière became strained when the King granted Lully a monopoly and publishing rights on anything that involved singing. So Molière had the music for *The Hypochondriac* written by Charpentier. Since Lully had artistic control over what was staged at Versailles, that was it for Molière.... The play was not staged at Versailles, but at the Palais-Royal Theatre in Paris. Charpentier's music has been a big influence on the wonderful music Mike Bailey has written for this production.



The play commences at 7.30 pm

The action takes place in Paris.

There will be one interval of 20 minutes
Food and drink served in the Cellarium

CAST

ARGAN, who imagines himself ill	John Souter
BELINE, Argan's second wife	Mollie Manns
ANGELIQUE, Argan's elder daughter, In love with Cleante	Emily Hodgkinson
LOUISON, Argan's daughter	Hannah Stansbridge Lorna Davis
BERALDE, Argan's brother	Brian Stansbridge
CLEANTE, in love with Angelique	Alec Walters
TOINETTE, Argan's servant	Jenni Watson
DR LILLICRAP, doctor of medicine	Graham Buchanan
THOMAS LILLICRAP, his son, and Would-be fiancé of Angelique	Alan Watson
DR. PURGEON, Argan's personal doctor	Ken Spencer
MR FLORID, apothecary	Paul Baker
MR GOODFELLOW, notary	Guy Boney
THE QUEEN	Hazel Glenholmes Sonia Morris
THE KING	David Pike

The action takes place in Paris

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Mike Bailey

SINGERS

Janet Green

Jo Chacko

Julie Baker

Steve Powell

Matthew Peters

Richard Chamberlain

MUSICIANS

Pat Glyn - lute

Kate Dickson - harpsichord, percussion

Hannah Stansbridge - violin

Lorna Davis - recorder

CHOREOGRAPHER

Julia Chittenden

DANCERS

Lindsey Almond

Diane Barney

Amy Carmichael

Felicity Costick

Stephanie Dee

Kimberley Finch

Sophie Purvis

Rosanna Roulston

PRODUCTION TEAM

DIRECTOR	Sarah Lynn
Production Manager	Sheana Carrington
Technical Manager	Ken Hann
Stage Managers	Angela Barks, Helen White
Assistant Stage Manager	Emma Carrington
Set Construction	Douglas Shiell
Set Painting	Maureen Cashman, Jim Officer
Lighting	Clive Weeks, Nathan Weeks, Graham Dennis, Martin Whittaker, Giles Davis, Ben Smith
Staging	Ian McDonald, "Ivy Sound"
Sound	Lawrie Gee, Jan Gee
Properties	Ella Lockett Assisted by Gill Buchanan, Irene Shiell
Special properties and furniture	Ken Spencer
Wardrobe Mistress	Sheana Carrington
Wardrobe Assistants	Claire Littlecott, Margaret Morgan
Wardrobe Hire	Bristol Old Vic, Royal Shakespeare Company, Theatre Costume Shoreham Costume Workshop Sandown Hampshire Wardrobe Burley Players
Front of House Managers	Philippa Taylor, Ron Tillyer, Julia Jupp
Marketing and Publicity	Jan Ward
Programme Compilation	Sandy White

Poster Design & Professional Consultant

Tony Birch

Photography

Clive Weeks

Printing

Bob Howlett, "Howlett Reprographics"

Special thanks to Diploma students in Applied Theatre Technology at Southampton City College for their manufacture of props and furniture for this production.

Thanks also to Chichester Theatre, and Mrs Abrahams at Brook House Veterinary Hospital for props.



The Julia Chittenden School of Dancing

*Studio: 9 Carlton Road, Southampton SO15 2HN
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Biographies

Sarah Lynn - Director - Sarah has appeared in several Maskers' productions including Bertha in "Ondine". "The Hypochondriac" is her directorial debut for the Maskers. She is lucky enough to live in the Test Valley so she doesn't have too far to travel home after each performance.

Mike Bailey - Musical Director - Mike is musical director of The Madding Crowd, a group which specialises in the village band period. Some patrons may also remember him as the hapless "Musician" in "Thieves Carnival".

Paul Baker - Mr Florid - Paul has made an appearance in every Mottisfont production since 1996 in a variety of disguises. Who can remember his evil torturer in "Three Musketeers"? Who can forget his King in "Ondine"?

Guy Boney - Mr Goodfellow - this is Guy's first Maskers' production, but many will recognise him as a refugee from Stockbridge Dramatic Society where he has played Lord Goring in "An Ideal Husband" and Falstaff in "Merry Wives of Windsor".

Graham Buchanan - Dr Lillicrap - Graham won last year's Daily Echo Curtain Call Award as Best Director of a Drama for "Lysistrata". The tables have now turned as Sarah who played Calonike in "Lysistrata" is now directing the director!

Lorna Davis - Louison - this is Lorna's first production for the Maskers and she plays a dual role as both actress and musician.

Emily Hodgkinson - Angelique - Emily has completed a degree in Drama and Education Studies at King Alfred's College. She loves singing and her ambition is to perform professionally. Emily will be pleased to talk to any casting directors in the audience.

Mollie Manns - Beline - a Masker since 1970, Mollie last appeared at Mottisfont as Lady Hurff in "Thieves' Carnival". She also directs for Maskers, most recently "Wild Oats" at Mottisfont and "Cider with Rosie" at the Nuffield Theatre.

John Souter - Argan - John's comic genius was last seen in A Motley Crew's production of "Taming of the Shrew" at Breamore Barn in 2000. His last Mottisfont production was "The Rover" where he was drenched with water nightly. (Perhaps that's why it took so long to persuade him back).

Ken Spencer - Dr Purgeon - a founder member of the Maskers, Ken has been associated with most of the Mottisfont plays in one capacity or another. As an actor he was an outstanding Cyrano in "Cyrano de Bergerac" and he most recently directed "Ondine".

Brian Stansbridge - Beralde - Brian will be recognised by many since he has appeared in more than 50% of the Mottisfont productions - including the lead in "Tom Jones" back in 1983, the Miller in "Canterbury Tales", and Bottom in "A Midsummer Night's Dream".

Hannah Stansbridge - Louison - Hannah's first play at Mottisfont was "Ring Round the Moon" (her mother was pregnant at the time) and she has grown up with the Maskers, taking her first speaking role in "Thieves Carnival".

Alec Walters - Cleante - as the only real doctor in the house, it's odd that Alec should not be playing the part for which he is best qualified. However he is also well qualified as the love interest having already played Demetrius in the "Dream", Hans in "Ondine", Harry Thunder in "Wild Oats", Duke of Buckingham in "Three Musketeers" and Jack Worthington in "Earnest" - all at Mottisfont.

Alan Watson - Thomas Lillicrap - this is Alan's ninth Mottisfont show. His most heroic role was as a Gascon soldier in "Cyrano de Bergerac" when he was killed and thrown in the river from the bridge every night.

Jenni Watson - Toinette - Jenni has been a Queen, a Fairy and a Chicken - and that was just in "Canterbury Tales". She deserved a medal for that production because she broke her leg on the first night (by falling off her perch in chicken costume) yet she only missed one performance.

Why not join us?

If you'd like to become a member of The Maskers Theatre Company as an actor, director, behind the scenes, front of house or just for the social side, then we'd be pleased to hear from you. Contact our membership secretary, Betty Riggs, on 023 8047 2619 or through our website:

Previous Mottisfont Productions by The Maskers Theatre Company

- 1982 A Man for all Seasons
- 1983 Tom Jones
- 1984 She Stoops to Conquer
- 1985 Ring Round the Moon
- 1986 Cyrano de Bergerac
- 1987 Beaux Strategem
- 1988 The Rover
- 1989 Much Ado About Nothing
- 1990 Penny for a Song
- 1991 The Recruiting Officer
- 1992 The Canterbury Tales
- 1993 Joseph Andrews
- 1994 The Importance of Being Earnest
- 1995 A Midsummer Night's Dream
- 1996 The Three Musketeers
- 1997 Ondine
- 1998 Wild Oats
- 1999 Thieves' Carnival
- 2000 Lysistrata
- 2001 The Hypochondriac
- 2002 Alice - 21st Anniversary Production

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by David Hare

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Alice

at MOTTISFONT ABBEY

17-27 July 2002

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THE NATIONAL TRUST

The Maskers Theatre Company return to Mottisfont on the 7th, 14th and 21st December to provide the yuletide entertainment between the four courses of the Abbey's delicious Christmas Supper taken in one of the private dining rooms.

Tickets at £45 per person must be pre-booked by telephoning
01794-340757.



*Rehearsal
Photos
by Clive
Weeks*



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