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**"HABEAS CORPUS"**

Alan Bennett's riotous and farcical examination of English sexual inhibitions:  
at The Theatre Royal, Winchester from Tuesday 25 to Saturday 29 October.  
Advance Booking information from The Theatre Box Office 0962 843434.

The Maskers Theatre Company are celebrating their Silver Jubilee this year.  
From their beginnings over a couple of sessions of cups of coffee and a first  
general meeting in the library at Chilworth Manor, Southampton in July  
1968, the Company continues to flourish, some 200 productions or so later.  
New members, in any capacity, are always given a hearty welcome: if you  
feel you would like to be part of our next twenty-five years then please  
telephone Mrs. Betty Riggs, our Membership Secretary on 0703 472619.

*the maskers theatre company*





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## Coopers & Lybrand

We are delighted to be supporting the  
production of  
"HEDDA GABLER"  
by the  
Maskers Theatre Company

### IBSEN & "HEDDA GABLER"

The Norwegian dramatist, Henrik Ibsen, was born in 1828 and the plays he wrote in the second half of the century established his reputation as the "father" of modern European drama. He is perhaps best known for his naturalistic studies of contemporary life, all of which (including Hedda Gabler) reveal a fascinating tension between the lifelike surface and the surging romantic symbolism beneath it. The inherent theatricality of his work has been the source of its continuing vitality, along with his recurring themes – evident in Hedda Gabler – of the individual's need for sustaining illusions, the battle between heredity and environment and the conflict between self-fulfilment and society. The play also touches on issues of male and female sexuality and how society determines sexual roles – issues as relevant in the 1990s as they were in the 1890s.

Hedda Gabler had its world premiere in Munich in 1891 and appeared in London later that year with Elizabeth Robins in the title role. Like "Ghosts", "A Doll's House" and "The Wild Duck" it reflects Ibsen's concern with problems of personal and social morality and its central character is one of the most enigmatic and intriguing women in dramatic literature. Part black comedy, part tragedy, "Hedda Gabler" sardonically explores the frustrations of women in a Victorian bourgeois society and in particular Hedda's struggle to escape the constraints of her own inhibitions and moral cowardice. Her corrosive qualities spring from her need to put some meaning into defiance ironically destroys everything, including her reputation which she has sought so fiercely to guard.

The staging of this touring production by The Maskers Theatre Company reflects the constraints of performing in more than one venue. At the same time the need for simplicity of presentation has helped us to avoid the heavy Victorian pictorialism of so many Ibsen productions and to concentrate on the characters and the play's emotional texture.

HEDDA GABLER  
by  
Henrik Ibsen  
(translated by Michael Meyer)

George Tesman	David Pike
Hedda Tesman, his wife	Karen Upfield
Juliana Tesman, his aunt	Mollie Manns
Mrs. Elvsted	Belinda Drew
Judge Brack	Ken Spencer
Eilert Loevberg	Brian Stansbridge
Bertha, a maid	Christine Baker

The action takes place in Tesman's villa in a small Norwegian town.

ACT I	-	A September morning
ACT II	-	The afternoon of the same day
ACT III	-	Early the next morning
ACT IV	-	The evening of the same day

There will be intervals after ACT I and ACT II.

Between ACT III and ACT IV the lights will be lowered to denote the passage of time.

Director: Ron Stannard

"They are passionate but they are afraid of scandal".

"They perceive that the times are full of missions worth devoting one's life to, but they cannot discover them".

"My intention has been to depict human beings, human emotions and human destinies against a background of certain prevailing social conditions and views".

"Life is not tragic – Life is ridiculous – and that cannot be borne".

(From Ibsen's working notes on "Hedda Gabler")

For The Maskers Theatre Company

Set Designer .....	Ken Spencer
Lighting Designer .....	Ron Tillyer
Stage Manager .....	David Jupp
Set Construction.....	Douglas Shiell
	Geoff Cook
	Chris Finbow
Sound Recordist.....	Lawrie Gee
Sound Operator .....	Meri Mackney
Properties .....	Jacky Pearce
Wardrobe Mistress .....	Serene Brown
Wardrobe Hire .....	Bristol Costume Services
Wig Hire .....	Showbiz (Southampton)
Marketing & Publicity.....	Roger Mallock
	Jan Ward
	Michael Patterson

The Company would like to thank  
Fleurs The Florists, and Pinecrafts of Bishops Waltham

The Staff at The Gantry, Southampton  
and John & Jane Waddington at The Medieval Hall, Salisbury for their  
assistance with the production

**THE MASKERS THEATRE WORKSHOP APPEAL**

In January, The Company acquired freehold premises in Emsworth Road, Shirley, Southampton and have launched an appeal campaign to renovate and refurbish the property to provide a fully equipped theatre studio/rehearsal room, a technical workshop, storage area and club facility.

Your support is invited for the next appeal event which is "SHOWBIZ GOES TO WAR" – an affectionate look at D Day and The Forties in song, comedy and anecdote – to be presented at The Turner Sims Concert Hall, Southampton, on **Sunday 22 May at 7.30 p.m.**

and, for your diary:

"AN EVENING WITH LESLIE THOMAS" – the celebrated novelist and raconteur, with members of The Company, leads a pot-pourri of poetry and prose. At The Turner Sims Concert Hall, Southampton, at 7.30 p.m. on **Sunday 20th November.**

Advance Booking from The Nuffield Theatre Box Office: 0703 671771

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The Maskers Theatre Company are indebted to the following companies for their continuing support of The Workshop Appeal by their donation of materials for the Refurbishment Programme at The Workshop

Elliott Brothers, Travis Perkins, & Jewsons of Southampton, Brewer & Sons of Shirley, Pipe Scenes of Portswood, The Builder Center of Eastleigh and The Totton Timber Company.

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*With Compliments*



Breckenridge & Viana are pleased to support the Maskers Theatre Company in their production of Hedda Gabler and wish them every success.



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