

1996/97 Season

The Visit

Friedrich Dürrenmatt

18th - 21st June 1997

At the Travellers Studio Harrow

Summer Readings

Chosen by members of Proscenium

Each Tuesday in June, July and August 1997

At the Harrow Arts Centre Hatch End

For information regarding readings, contact Isabelle Cartwright - 0181 866 3850

For further information about Proscenium :-
please contact Crystal Anthony - 0181 954 2761

Proscenium is affiliated to the Harrow Arts Council and is a registered charity no 283141

PROSCENIUM

The Seagull

By Anton Chekhov

Translated by Norman Gee

23rd - 26th April 1997 at The Compass Theatre

Anton Pavlovich Chekhov was born on the shores of the Black Sea in 1860. At the age of sixteen his father was declared bankrupt and the family moved, in poverty, to Moscow. Chekhov rapidly had to assume responsibility for his brothers and sister and while studying medicine at Moscow University he became a frequent contributor of essays, short stories and humorous pieces to leading Moscow magazines. During this time he wrote his first play (now lost) and at twenty-one wrote *Platonov* (Presented by Proscenium in 1989 as the opening production at the Travellers Theatre Hatch End under the title *Wild Honey*). By the time he began work on *The Seagull* in 1895, he had been a practicing doctor for over ten years and although he was by now a respected literary figure, the early history of the play did not bode well. The play was submitted as a 'benefit' production for a well known comic actress, Levkeeva.

It is hard to decide which is more surprising, that Chekhov should have allowed the 'fat Leveevka' to have the play, or that she would have wanted it. There was even some talk of her playing Nina. In the event she decided not to appear at all but to perform some comic monologues at the end of the play. A cast was hastily assembled and with six rehearsals on a set gathered from other productions, *The Seagull* was presented to a confused audience of Leveevka's fans. Chekhov left half way through the shambolic performance vowing never to write for the theatre again.

After much correspondence Nemirovitch Danchenko, producer of the Moscow Arts Theatre finally persuaded Chekhov to allow them to perform his play. Stanislavsky directed and played the part of Trigorin and the production was judged by critics to be a great success. This began a long association with the Moscow Arts Theatre which adopted a seagull as its emblem.

The Seagull ACT II

NINA What are you writing ?

TRIGORIN Just making a note. A subject struck me (*puts notebook away*) A subject for a short story. A young girl, like you, has lived on the shores of a lake since she was a child. She loves the lake, just like a seagull, and she's happy and free as a seagull. But a man happens to come along. He sees her

The Seagull

by Anton Chekhov

Cast In order of appearance

Simon Medvedenko	Duncan Sykes
Masha Shamrayef's daughter	Nicola Bielicki
Peter Sorin Arkadina's brother	Michael Gerrard
Constantin Treplef her son	Tim Taylor
Yakof	Roderick Moor-Bardell
Nina Zarechnaya	Emma Davies
The Cook	Anna Crooks
Polina Shamrayef's wife	Susie Thornton
Dr Yevgeny Dorn	David Watkins
Shamrayef Sorin's Bailiff	Jim MacDonald
Irina Arkadina an actress	Evelyn Moutrie
Boris Trigorin	Mark Sutherland
The Maid	Anne Gerrard

Director	Jeanne Hawkes
Translation by	Norman Gee
Stage Manager	Roderick Moor-Bardell
Set Design	Anton Jungreuthmayer
Lighting Design	Simon Niven
Lighting	Paul Ewen
Sound	Robert Ewen
	Paul Chaventre
Costumes	Evelyn Moutrie
Properties	Anne Gerrard/Anna Crooks
Seagull	Jenny Glover
	Animal Instincts

Act1 A wood by the lake on Sorin's estate, evening
 Act 2 The Garden of Sorin's country House, The next afternoon
 Act 3 A Room in Sorin's House, The next day
 Act 4 The Study, 2 years later

There will be one interval of approximately twenty minutes between Acts 2 & 3