

HABEAS CORPUS

"And Now For Something Completely Different" would have been a good introduction to the award-winning play *Habeas Corpus*. Hampstead Garden Suburb Drama Society's production of the Alan Bennet play won three prizes at the Barnet Drama Awards, and was all the better for being a radical departure from what many expect from a drama society.

A sort of surrealist farce, it took place on a set starved of props with a magnificent glaring cubist-style backdrop showing figures haunted by their carnal anxieties. A work of art in itself, its creator Jo Hann won first prize for set design.

Onstage the events revolve around the household of Doctor Arthur Wickstead. Malcolm Willey won himself the best actor award for his sardonic performance as the Doctor who is at once aware of the sickly carnal endeavours going on around him, and also prey to them himself.

Meanwhile the other characters make frantic efforts to get what they don't have.

The doctor's daughter Connie (Judy Gubbay) is so anxious about her lack of bust that she orders an artificial one in the mail. Arriving to make some final adjustments to it, Shanks the salesman (Marcus Ezekiel) mistakes the girl's superbly



Sir Percy surprises Dr Wickstead (Malcolm Willey) with The Hon. Felicity Reempers (Julia Barker).

endowed mother Muriel (Joselin Tobin) for the wearer of the appliance'.

A strong cast included good performances from Colin Gregory as the meticulously acted Sir Percy Shorty, old flame of Muriel, and the doctor's hypochondriac son Dennis (Jeremy Johnston).

Through it all, events are watched with detached interest by the domestic, Mrs Swabb, played by Andrew Forney. She alone has her passions well under control, and she comments to the audience about the extraordinary situations that the others get themselves into.

There are plenty of bedroom-farce antics as the plot becomes ever more complex.

But the cast of Richard Kinder's production kept the strands

together well, with some good timing to keep everything bubbling.

And like watching a corpse decay, the carnal obsessions of the characters grows sickly as the play winds on; the good doctor remarks that in the end all this madness is a bit of a waste of time.

Indeed. And if there is one fault with the play, it is that there is no point to it, no central focus. It is just a series of events that roller-coaster along without apparent purpose.

Perhaps the whole point is that there is no point, that after the huffing and puffing and worrying and scheming the carcasses are no happier, a little older and probably no wiser. Christopher Stephen

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Canon Throbbing (David Rance) catches Connie in a compromising situation with Sir Percy (Colin Gregory).

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WHO'S WHO AT THE TRUST

We thought it would be interesting to give a brief profile of the five full-time members of the Trust Staff.

Jean Burtchett is the "mother" of the Trust, having worked as the book-keeper for the last 13 years. She has been closely associated with the Suburb all her life and in 1931 gained a scholarship to the Henrietta Barnett School. Besides maintaining her connections with the School, Jean has become involved with the Institute and is an active member of the Institute Society as well as sitting on the main Institute Council. Her approach to life has been founded on the joint motto of the School and Institute that "No endeavour is in vain". Her daughter is a lecturer at the London Business School and she has two young grandchildren. Jean lives in Finchley rather than on the Suburb since she feels she can be more objective to Dame Henrietta's own belief that the Suburb should be an inspiration to a worldwide community.

Jean Carton has been working as the Trust Architect's personal assistant for six years. She has two grown-up children and lives in Harrow. Her son is a banker with Hoare Govett and her daughter has been studying drama. Before joining the Trust Jean lived in West Germany where she worked as a librarian for the British Services. In her spare time Jean is studying for an Open University Science and Arts Degree. Other interests include gardening and yoga.

Wilfred Court joined the Trust 3½ years ago, within one day of Chris Kellerman, as the Trust Architect. Since qualifying as an architect at the Cambridge School of Architecture, Wilfred's experience has been very varied. He worked in West Africa and Southern Asia, and for 5



Back Row: Rosie Loyd, Wilfred Court, Chris Kellerman - Front Row: Jean Carton, Jean Burtchett

years he was staff Architect to Ahmadu Bello University in Nigeria. When he returned to the UK Wilfred became an Associate in charge of a Peterborough office of a major international practice and was involved in a wide variety of different projects. Between 1977 and 1984 he was in private practice, and in his spare time he still undertakes private commissions with particular emphasis upon Historic Building work. Wilfred has three daughters, the eldest of whom recently graduated from Cambridge in

modern languages. He spends three days on the Suburb, working for the Trust, and his home is in King's Cliffe a village outside Peterborough. His main outside interests are the local Church and the Parish Council.

Christopher Kellerman has been Trust Manager since February 1984 following a career which included jobs with Tate and Lyle, Standard Chartered Bank and two mining finance houses. For the last fifteen years he has lived in Hampstead Way. Before joining the Trust he was very active in the Residents Association and for a period was Vice Chairman. Chris grew up in Hendon and attended King Alfred School, whose playing fields were the Heath Extension. He studied at the universities of North Carolina, the American University of Beirut, and the London School of

Economics, where he received an M.Sc(Econ). Main spare time activities include squash, tennis, music and travel. His 13 year old son goes to Mill Hill School.

Rosie Loyd is the most recent recruit to the Trust Office having joined 6 months ago as the Trust Manager's assistant. For the last 26 years she has lived on the Suburb, in Meadway, and for a short time in Waterlow Court. Throughout this time she has been involved in a wide range of Suburb activities. Rosie is an allotment holder and a member of several Suburb groups. In the past she has been a Warden, a member of St Jukes Parochial Church Council, as well as attending a number of classes at the Institute. Once her four children had grown up she completed a part-time degree course at Hatfield Polytechnic in Contemporary Studies which included some Architectural Appreciation (1890-1930) and some Town Planning. Rosie is a member of the Decorative Arts Society, and Thirties Society.



The New Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust Limited
862 Finchley Road, Hampstead Garden Suburb, London NW11 6AB
Telephone: 01-455 1066 & 458 8085