

1957/1958 SEASON

THE OLD VIC COMPANY

A MIDSUMMER
NIGHT'S DREAM

William Shakespeare

6^D

THE OLD VIC

- 1816 Foundation stone laid.
1818 Opened as the Royal Coburg, with "Trial By Battle", a melodrama.
1833 Name changed to Royal Victoria Theatre in honour of the heiress to the throne.
1879 Taken over by Emma Cons, a social worker, and re-opened as "The Royal Victoria Coffee Music Hall" offering "a purified entertainment and no intoxicating drinks".
1886 The freehold bought by public subscription on behalf of the people of London.
1898 Lilian Baylis, niece of Emma Cons, joined her as manager of the theatre.
1912 Emma Cons died and Lilian Baylis assumed sole control of the Old Vic.
1914 First season of Shakespeare's plays. Between this date and 1923 the Old Vic became the first theatre in the world to present the complete cycle of Shakespeare's plays.
1926 Ninette de Valois joined the organisation and laid the foundations of the Sadler's Wells Ballet companies (now the Royal Ballet).
1931 Sadler's Wells Theatre completed and opened with "Twelfth Night" under the management of Lilian Baylis, to become eventually the home of opera and ballet leaving drama to the Old Vic.
1937 Lilian Baylis died.
1940 Closed by enemy action. The Company made its headquarters at the Victoria Theatre, Burnley, playing occasional seasons at the New Theatre, London.
1944-Spring, 1950 The Company made its regular home at the New Theatre.
1950 The Old Vic re-opened to the public.
1953 Inauguration of the plan to stage within five years all the thirty-six plays in the First Folio of Shakespeare. This plan is now in its final season.

(The omissions in this necessarily incomplete sketch may be filled and amplified in: A Theatre for Everybody by Professor E. J. Dent, Old Vic Saga by Harcourt Williams, and Old Vic Drama and Old Vic Drama 1947-57, both by Audrey Williamson.)

THEATRE ROYAL, BRISTOL.

- 1766 Theatre opened with "A Concert of Music and Specimen of Rhetoric".
1778 Royal Licence granted by King George III.
1940 Closed by enemy action.
1942 Acquired for the people of Bristol by public subscription, assisted by the Arts Council.
1946 Bristol Old Vic Company formed by Old Vic organisation at the request of the Arts Council. Bristol Old Vic Theatre School opened.
1950 Bristol Corporation joined the Management Committee.

(Prospectus of Bristol Old Vic Theatre School can be obtained from: The Registrar, 2 Downside Road, Bristol 8.)

BOOKS AND RECORDS

SHAKESPEARE AT THE OLD VIC, 1956-57 by Mary Clarke; PAUL ROGERS by Audrey Williamson; SHAKESPEARE TODAY by Margaret Webster; TEN YEARS OF THE BRISTOL OLD VIC by Audrey Williamson and Charles Landstone; A PICTURE HISTORY OF THE BRITISH THEATRE (540 pictures) by Raymond Mander and Joe Mitchenson; OLD VIC DRAMA (2) by Audrey Williamson, and ROBERT HELPMANN by Kathrine Sorley Walker.
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, with Moira Shearer, Robert Helpmann and Stanley Holloway (orchestra conducted by Sir Malcolm Sargent), H.M.V. 3 records, ALP 1262-4. HAMLET, with John Gielgud, Leon Quartermaine, Paul Rogers, Coral Browne, Yvonne Mitchell and Alan Webb, H.M.V. 3 records, ALP 1482-4. T. S. Eliot's MURDER IN THE CATHEDRAL, with Robert Donat, Columbia, 2 records, 33CX 1086-7. ROMEO AND JULIET, with Claire Bloom, Alan Badel, Athene Seyler, Lewis Casson and Peter Finch, H.M.V. 3 records, ALP 1053/5. MACBETH, with Alec Guinness and Pamela Brown, H.M.V., 2 records, ALP 1176/7.

THE OLD VIC THEATRE

Waterloo Road, S.E.1

WATERloo 7616

Chairman of the Royal Victoria Hall Foundation:
THE VISCOUNT ESHER, G.B.E.
Clerk to the Governors and Licensee . . . GEORGE CHAMBERLAIN

Old Vic Trust Ltd.

in association with

The Arts Council of Great Britain

presents

THE OLD VIC COMPANY

in

THE PLAYS OF SHAKESPEARE

Director:

MICHAEL BENTHALL

Administrative Director:

ALFRED FRANCIS

THE DIRECTORS OF OLD VIC TRUST LIMITED

Chairman: SIR BRONSON ALBERY

LADY VIOLET BONHAM CARTER, D.B.E.	OLIVER POOLE, Esq., C.B.E., T.D.
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THE OLD VIC WORKS BY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE JOINT COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL THEATRE AND THE OLD VIC.

A Midsummer Night's Dream

by WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Cast in order of speaking:

Theseus, *Duke of Athens* JACK GWILLIM
 Hippolyta, *Queen of the Amazons, betrothed to Theseus*
 MARGARET COURTENAY
 Philostrate, *master of the revels to Theseus* HAROLD INNOCENT
 Egeus, *father to Hermia* DAVID WALLER
 Hermia, *daughter to Egeus, in love with Lysander*
 ROSEMARY WEBSTER
 Demetrius } *in love with Hermia* { JOHN HUMPHRY
 Lysander } RICHARD GALE
 Helena, *in love with Demetrius* CORAL BROWNE
 Quince, *a carpenter* PAUL DANEMAN
 Bottom, *a weaver* FRANKIE HOWERD
 Flute, *a bellows mender* RONALD FRASER
 Starveling, *a tailor* DANIEL THORNDIKE
 Snout, *a tinker* DEREK FRANCIS
 Snug, *a joiner* JAMES CULLIFORD
 Attendants on Theseus and Hippolyta
 ADRIENNE HILL, BARBARA LEIGH-HUNT,
 BARRIE INGHAM, MICHAEL CULVER
 Puck, *or Robin Goodfellow* KEITH TAYLOR
 First Fairy JUDI DENCH
 Oberon, *King of the fairies* DEREK GODFREY
 Titania, *Queen of the fairies* JOYCE REDMAN
 Second Fairy JULIET COOKE
 Peaseblossom } BRIDGET WOOD
 Cobweb } *fairies* { GILLIAN BOSWORTH
 Moth } STELLA ORTON
 Mustardseed } VALERIE GIBSON
 Other fairies attending on their King and Queen
 JEAN ATKINSON, NANCY KWAN

Produced by MICHAEL BENTHALL
 Decor and costumes by JAMES BAILEY
 Music composed by MENDELSSOHN, arranged by GORDON JACOB

Scene : Athens, and a wood near it

There will be two intervals of ten minutes

Orchestra under the direction of FREDERICK MARSHALL

First performance of this production at the Old Vic Theatre on 23rd
 December 1957

*Misses Gibson, Wood, Bosworth, Orton, Kwan and Atkinson appear by arrangement with
 The Royal Ballet School.*

Stage Director ROY PARKER
 Company Manager DOUGLAS MORRIS
 Stage Managers PETER SMITH, JOHN WAYNE
 Master Carpenter KENNETH BONFIELD
 Acting Chief Electrician W. A. SMITH
 Wardrobe Mistress ANTOINETTE MARA

OLD VIC PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT

Production Manager: J. A. TITCOMBE

Wardrobe Manager JANE HELDER
 Scenery Workshops W. H. PARKER
 Scenic Artist LESLIE WOOLNOUGH
 Property Workshops HELEN THOMAS
 Forestage plaster columns by R. Panichelli & Sons. Cycloramas and Front Curtain
 painted by Alick Johnstone Ltd. Men's costumes by Sue Jackson and Richard Cattermole;
 women's costumes by Andrew Storie; armour, jewellery and decoration by Constance Oden
 and Audrey Taylor; helmets and fairies' headpieces by Eric Gates; costumes painted by
 Rita Taylor; shoes and tights by Anello & Davide; wigs by Wig Creations; armour
 processed and metal fabrics by Beadec Ltd.

Publicity Manager (WAT. 4871) PATRICK IDE
 Publicity Secretary Anne Bolton
 Photographs by Tony Armstrong Jones, 20 Pimlico Road, S.W.1.
 House Manager MARGOT CAMERON
 Accountant JEAN PATTISON
 P.A. to Directors JULIA WOOTTEN
 Box Office (WA Terloo 7616) HENRY OSBORN

SMOKING IS NOT PERMITTED IN THE AUDITORIUM

The management reserve the right to refuse admission, and to make any alteration in the
 cast which may be rendered necessary by illness or other unavoidable cause.

Photographs must not be taken during the performance.

First Aid facilities in this theatre are provided by St. John Ambulance Brigade members
 who give their services voluntarily.

In accordance with the requirements of the Lord Chamberlain—

1.—The public may leave at the end of the performance by all exit doors and such doors
 must at that time be open. 2.—All gangways, passages and staircases must be kept entirely
 free from chairs or any other obstructions. 3.—Persons shall not in any circumstances be
 permitted to stand or sit in any of the gangways intersecting the seating, or to stand in any
 of the other gangways. If standing be permitted in the gangways at the sides and rear of
 the seating, it shall be strictly limited to the number indicated by the notices exhibited in
 those positions. 4.—The safety curtain must be lowered and raised in the presence of each
 audience.

THE BOX OFFICE IS OPEN FROM 10 A.M. TO 8 P.M.



CORAL BROWNE



JOYCE REDMAN



FRANKIE HOWERD

SHAKESPEARE AT THE OLD VIC

1956-57

by MARY CLARKE

Copies of this account of productions in the 1956-57 Season are on sale in the bars, price 25/-, or may be obtained from your local bookseller.

The book is profusely illustrated with photographs of the actual productions, by Angus McBean, Houston Rogers and Pamela Chandler. (Publisher: Hamish Hamilton.)

THE NEW YEAR

Repertory will be resumed after the run of "A Midsummer Night's Dream". "Hamlet", with John Neville and Coral Browne, will be joined in February by "King Lear" with Paul Rogers in the title role. Paul Rogers returns to the Company after an extensive tour of Australia as Hamlet and as Lord Foppington in "The Relapse", under the management of the Elizabethan Trust.

Coral Browne will play Goneril in "King Lear", with Barbara Jefford as Regan and Rosemary Webster as Cordelia, Paul Daneman is the Fool, Jack Gwillim, Kent; Derek Francis, Gloucester; Derek Godfrey, Edgar and John Humphry, Edmund. Douglas Seale, who is to join the Company as Associate Director, will be responsible for the production, with Leslie Hurry as designer.

"Pericles", with John Neville, will be added to the repertory in early April, under the direction of Michael Benthall, with Desmond Heeley as designer.

The Five-Year Folio Plan will be completed in May with "Henry VIII", in which Queen Katharine will be played by Edith Evans and Cardinal Wolsey by John Gielgud. The title role will be played by Harry Andrews. London Sainthill is to be the designer for this play, with Michael Benthall as director.

In July, during the Brussels Exhibition, the Company will give four performances in Brussels and four in Antwerp. The repertory will include "Hamlet" and "Henry VIII".

Booking dates for all these productions will be duly notified to Old Vic Club members. See below for membership particulars.

For regular information of Old Vic productions, join THE OLD VIC CLUB. The annual subscription is 5/- for an individual or on behalf of an organisation. Just send your name and address, together with 5/- for the first year, to:

The Secretary, THE OLD VIC CLUB,
Old Vic Theatre, Waterloo Road, S.E.1.

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