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THE ASPERN PAPERS

A Comedy of Letters, adapted for the Theatre
by MICHAEL REDGRAVE
from the story
by HENRY JAMES

At the Manoel Theatre
VALLETTA

Thursday 28th April, 1966 at 7.30 p.m.
Friday 29th April, at 7.30 p.m.
Saturday 30th April, at 8.30 p.m.
Sunday 1st May, at 6.30 p.m.

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THE ASPERN PAPERS

Jeffrey Aspern was an early American literary genius, whose work puzzled scholars for many years because of the sudden dramatic change in the quality of his writing during the last three years of his life. Henry Jarvis (H.J.) an American man of letters, has a fanatic's interest in Aspern and is collecting material for a centenary edition of his work, when a hoard of documents is found which suggests that the clue to the Aspern mystery lies in Venice. H.J. also finds that Aspern's 'fair Juliana', (Miss Bordereau) the inspiration of the poet's last period, is still alive, though over a hundred years old, living in Venice as a recluse; H.J. decides to visit the city and try to obtain whatever documents she may still possess. Through the offices of Mrs Prest, an American living in Venice, he makes the acquaintance of Miss Bordereau and her timid middle-aged niece Tina, and rents rooms in the enormous decayed palazzo in which they live, attended by Assunta, the maid. But Miss Bordereau is unapproachable and H.J. tries to gain influence over her niece, in an unprincipled attempt to obtain his 'precious papers'. Pasquale his manservant also intervenes. But we will not disclose the outcome of their activities, or the fate of the ASPERN PAPERS.

THE LONDON PRODUCTION

Michael Redgrave has adapted, for the stage, Henry James' mysterious and evocative short story. The play was first produced in London at the Queen's Theatre, on 12th August, 1959, under Michael Redgrave's own direction. The cast was as follows:

Nancy Nevinson
Pauline Jameson
Michael Redgrave
Flora Robson
Beatrix Lehmann
Olaf Pooley





Gieves



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THE ASPERN PAPERS

ASSUNTA, the maid

ANNIKKI MULES

FRANCES HAY

HENRY JARVIS (H. J.'s friend

ASSUNTA, the maid

ANNIKKI MULES

FRANCES HAY

HENRY JARVIS (H. J.), a Man of Letters

ASSUNTA, the maid

ANNIKKI MULES

FRANCES HAY

HENRY JARVIS (H. J.'s friend

ASSUNTA, the maid

ANNIKKI MULES

FRANCES HAY

HENRY JARVIS (H. J.'s friend

ASSUNTA, the maid

ANNIKKI MULES

FRANCES HAY

HENRY JARVIS (H. J.'s friend

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HENRY JARVIS (H. J.'s friend

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HENRY JARVIS (H. J.'s friend

ANNIKKI MULES

FRANCES HAY

HENRY JARVIS (H. J.'s friend

ANNIKAL HAY

HENRY JARVI

The action of the play takes place in the 'Sala' of Miss Bordereau's house in Venice

KATHLEEN WARREN

ACT I

An afternoon in the spring of 1895

ACT II

Scene 1 Six weeks later, afternoon
Scene 2 Three weeks later, early evening
Scene 3 Later that evening

ACT III

Twelve days later, afternoon

STAGE MANAGER C.W. Barraclough ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER Bob Dickerson SCENERY DESIGNED BY Marjorie Stewart and Dapling Cleen PROPERTIES Madeleine Attard Montalto MAKE-UP Petra Krepel van de Stolpe Jessie Vella Ladies' Dresses by Music Thomas Vassallo, 216 Merchants Street, Valletta CHAIRS BY Joe O'Gorman BOX OFFICE FOR M.A.D.C. Anne Brincat BOX OFFICE FOR MANOEL THEATRE John Laus HEAD ELECTRICIAN Manoel Theatre Joseph Borg HEAD CARPENTER F. Mifsud ASSISTANTS E. Dalli

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BABS MARSHALL - FOSTER

..... who is taking the key part originally played by Beatrix Lehmann in the London production, has been connected with both the professional and the amateur stage for many years, and has, indeed, acted in Malta before and after the war. Babs Marshall-Foster recalls taking part in an intimate revue with Jack and Claude Hulbert while she was still a student; after training at the Scottish National Theatre Drama School she joined Manchester Rep., and Malta has seen her on the stage in a number of M.A.D.C. productions including The Arcadians, The Quaker Girl, Rookery Nook, Dear Octopus, and Hay Fever. She continues her acting in England, too, where she is a member of the Questors Experimental Theatre at Ealing. Here, she says, extremely interesting and challenging plays are produced, and she has acted in a modern dress version of Electra as well as in the first presentation of the stage production of Finnegan's Wake. The theatre, in fact, has become for her very much part of her life, and the M.A.D.C. is delighted to welcome her as 'Miss Bordereau' in this mysterious, subtle and atmospheric adaptation of Henry James' The Aspern Papers.



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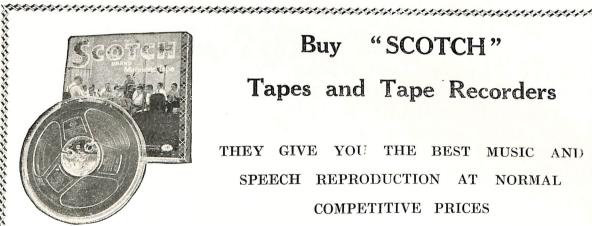
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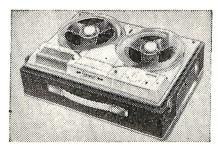


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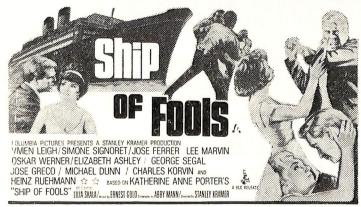
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