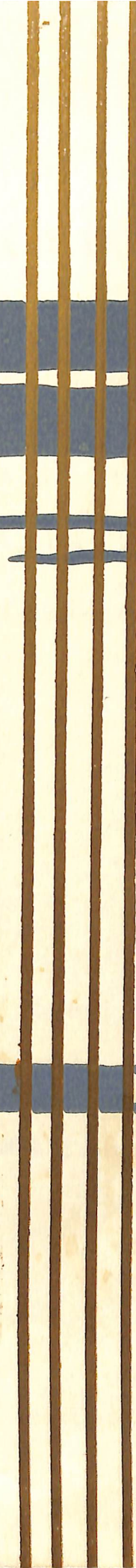


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THREE SISTERS

A DRAMA IN FOUR ACTS BY

ANTON CHEKHOV

Translated by Elizaveta Fen

At The Manoel Theatre, Valletta

Friday 24th February 1967 at 7.30 p.m.

Saturday 25th February at 8.30 p.m.

Sunday 26th February at 6.30 p.m.

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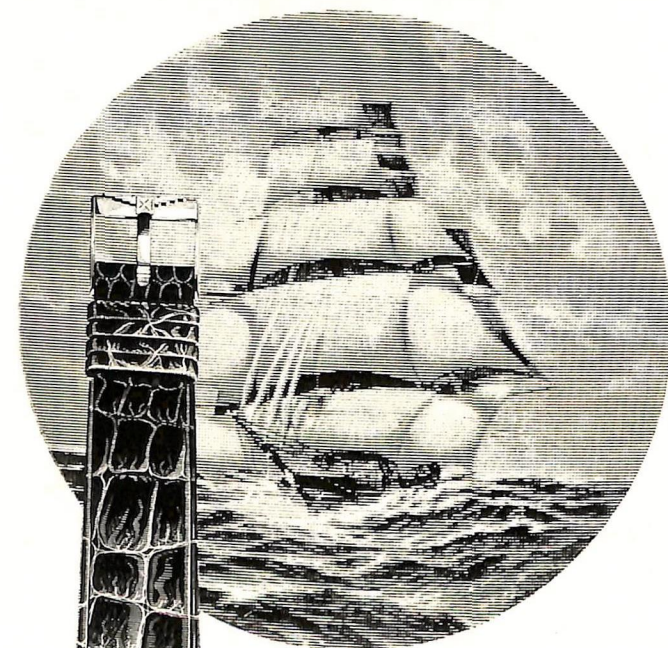
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ABOUT THE PLAY

In a small country town, Irena, the youngest of the three sisters, is celebrating her birthday. The officers of the local garrison call on her. The three girls are matched by three very different men — Vershinin, the Battery Commander, married with two children, who falls passionately in love with Masha, the married sister: Baron Toozenbach, a charming but physically unattractive young man, who adores Irena: and the sinister Soliony, who spends his time baiting the Baron, but who is also madly in love with Irena. The family is completed by the eldest sister, Olga, a schoolmistress, and by the brother, Andrey, shy, awkward and in love with Natasha, a local girl who is being courted by the mayor. The birthday lunch is served but Natasha blushes furiously at being teased, leaves the table, and in comforting her Andrey manages to propose.

A year later Natasha is installed in the house as Andrey's wife and the mother of his child, and already she is beginning to assert herself. The love affair between Masha and Vershinin is increasing in intensity, and Baron Toozenbach is resigning from the army. Irena has taken a job at the Post Office, and Andrey is gambling heavily to try and forget his wife's indiscretions.

Three years go by, and Natasha's affair with the mayor is the talk of the town. Andrey's gambling has forced him to mortgage the house, although it belongs equally to him and his sisters. There is a terrible fire in the town, and the three girls and their friends gather in the small hours. Olga implores Irena to marry the Baron. Masha confesses her love for Vershinin, and Andrey begs the girls to forgive him for mortgaging the house, but he asks Olga for the household keys. The house will now be run by Natasha.

The regiment is leaving now that autumn has come. Irena is to be married to the Baron, but there are rumours of a duel impending between him and Soliony. Olga is headmistress of the school, and the mayor is openly visiting Natasha. Masha's husband still refuses to admit her affair with Vershinin. It would be unfair to disclose the rest of this, perhaps Chekhov's most moving and satisfying play.

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David Michael.
Frances Hay

THREE SISTERS

Book

Cast in order of appearance

OLGA (Olga Serghyeevna, Olia) *Frances Hay*

IRENA (Irena Serghyeevna) *Karmen Azzopardi*

MASHA (Maria Serghyeevna) *Beatrice Dennis*

TOOZENBACH (Nikolai Lvovich, Baron, Army Lieutenant)
David Michael

CHEBUTYKIN (Ivan Romanych, Army Doctor) *Philip Parker*

SOLIONY (Vassily Vassilich, Captain) *Ian Cox*

ANFISA (the sisters' former nurse, aged 80) *Babs Marshall Foster*

FERAPONT (Spiridonych, porter from the County Office)
Charles Thake

VERSHININ (Alexandr Ignatyevich, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Battery Commander) *Robin Allan*

PROZOROV (Andrey Serghyeevich, brother of Olga, Irena
and Masha) *Allan Hargreaves*

KOOLYGHIN (Fiodor Ilyich, High School master,
Masha's husband) *Michael Bonello*

NATASHA (Natalia Ivanova, fiancée and afterwards wife of
Prozorov) *Madeleine Attard Montalto*

FEDOTIK (Aleksey Petrovich, Second Lieutenant) *Alan Meadows*

A MAID *Aileen Norman*

Produced by Kay Warren

Three Sisters was first performed on 31st January 1901 in
Moscow.

STAGE MANAGER *David Marshall*

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER *Nicola Correns*

MUSIC *Jo Debono*

SCENERY DESIGN AND PAINTING *Sylvia Rivers Halliday*

WARDROBE *Caroline Howard*

PROPERTIES *Aileen Norman, Sibella Dorman, Anne Cozley*

MAKEUP *Julia Mompalao de Piro, Petra Krepel van de Stolpe*

PROMPT *Janet Palmer*

COSTUMES *Jessie Vella*

BOX OFFICE FOR M.A.D.C. *Charles Izzo*

BOX OFFICE FOR MANOEL THEATRE *Jane Pisani*

HEAD ELECTRICIAN, MANOEL THEATRE *John Laus*

HEAD CARPENTER, MANOEL THEATRE *Joseph Borg*

ASSISTANTS *E. Dalli, F. Mifsud*

Set built by the Manoel Theatre Staff

Songs arranged by Frank Kargol

The action takes place in a country town in Russia, about 1880

ACT ONE The drawing room of the Prozorovs' house, midday

Interval of Fifteen Minutes

ACT TWO The same, eight o'clock at night, a year later

Interval of Fifteen Minutes

ACT THREE Olga and Irena's bedroom, two in the morning,
three years later

ACT FOUR The Prozorovs' garden, midday, autumn of the same
year

K. Warren

Beatrice Dennis



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DWAR ID-DRAMM

Gewwa belt żghira fir-Russja, Irena, l-iżghar fost it-tlett ahwa nisa qieghda tiċċelebra għeluq sninha. L-uffiċjali ta' regiment stazzjonat fil-qrib jiġu biex jifirhulha. It-tlett ahwa jiltaqgħu, fost ohrajn, ma' tlett irġiel ta' karattru differenti — Vershinin, il-kurunell tal-Batterija, miżżewweġ b'żewġ itfal, li jintilef fl-imhabba għal Masha; il-Baruni Toozenbach, ġuvni simpatiku iżda bla ebda ġmiel fiżiku, li jhobb lil Irena; u Soliony, bniedem ċiniku u stramb dejjem mohħu biex jinki lill-Baruni u li anki huwa jhobb lil Irena. Fil-familja hemm ukoll Olga, il-kbira, u Andrey, żaghżugh misthi, mifxul, u li jhobb lil Natasha, tfajla mill-istess belt li kien tefa' għajnejh fuqha s-Sindku. Waqt l-ikla tal-festa kulhadd jinbex lil Natasha, u din titlaq minn fuq il-mejda mixfula. Meta Andrey imur isab-barha jitlogħa ssir martu.

Għaddiet sena. Natasha li issa qieghda toqgħod fid-dar ta' l-ahwa bhala mart Andrey u off ibnu, diga bdiet turi x'issarraf. L-imhabba bejn Masha u Vershinin kompliet tikber; il-Baruni Toozenbach ser jitlaq mill-Armata. Irena bdiet taħdem fl-Uffiċċju tal-Posta, u Andrey taha għal-logħob tal-azzard biex jipprova jinsa l-aġir xejn prudenti ta' martu.

Għaddew tlett snin. Il-belt kollha qieghda tqassas fuq ir-relazzjonijiet bejn Natasha u s-Sindku. Andrey jitlef tant flus fil-logħob li huwa mġieghel jissellef fuq id-dar, għalkemm din m'hix tiegħu wahdu iżda ta' hutu wkoll. Fil-belt isir hruq kbir u l-ahwa u hbiebhom jibqgħu mqajjma sa filgħodu kmieni. Olga thegġeg lil Irena biex tiżżewweġ lill-Baruni. Masha tistqarr imhabbitha lejn Vershinin. Andrey jitlob mahfra lil hutu talli ssellef il-flus. Fl-istess hin huwa jitlob lil Olga ittih iċ-ċwieviet tad-dar. Natasha issa hija l-kmand sasolut tad-dar.

Waslet il-harifa u r-regiment ikollu jitlaq. Irena tiddeċiedi li tiżżewweġ lill-Baruni. Sadattant jiġru xniegħat li ser isir idwell bejn il-Baruni u Soliony. Olga issa saret il-'headmistress' tal-iskola... Natasha qieghda tilqa' lis-Sindku go darha bil-miftuħ... ir-raġel ta' Masha ma jammettix li martu thobb lil Vershinin...

U hawn inhallu lill-udjenza tissieheb mal-karattri fil-ġrajjet li jwasslu għat-tmiem ta' dan id-dramm li forsi huwa l-aktar wieħed sodisfaċenti u diffiċli li kiteb ANTON CHEKHOV.



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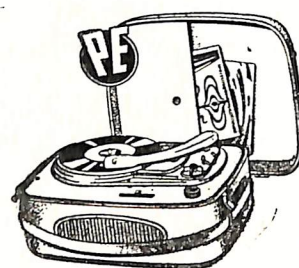
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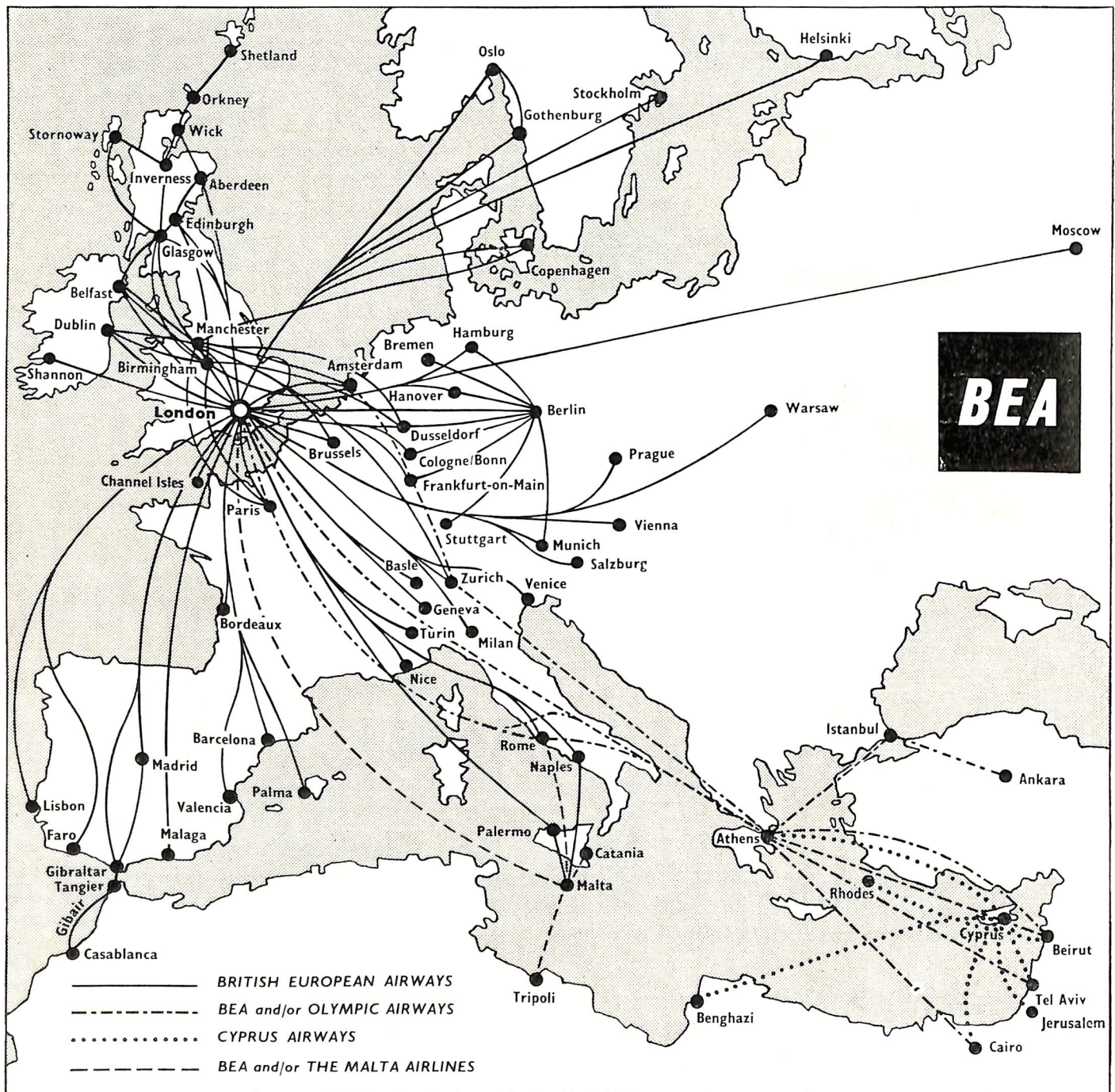
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