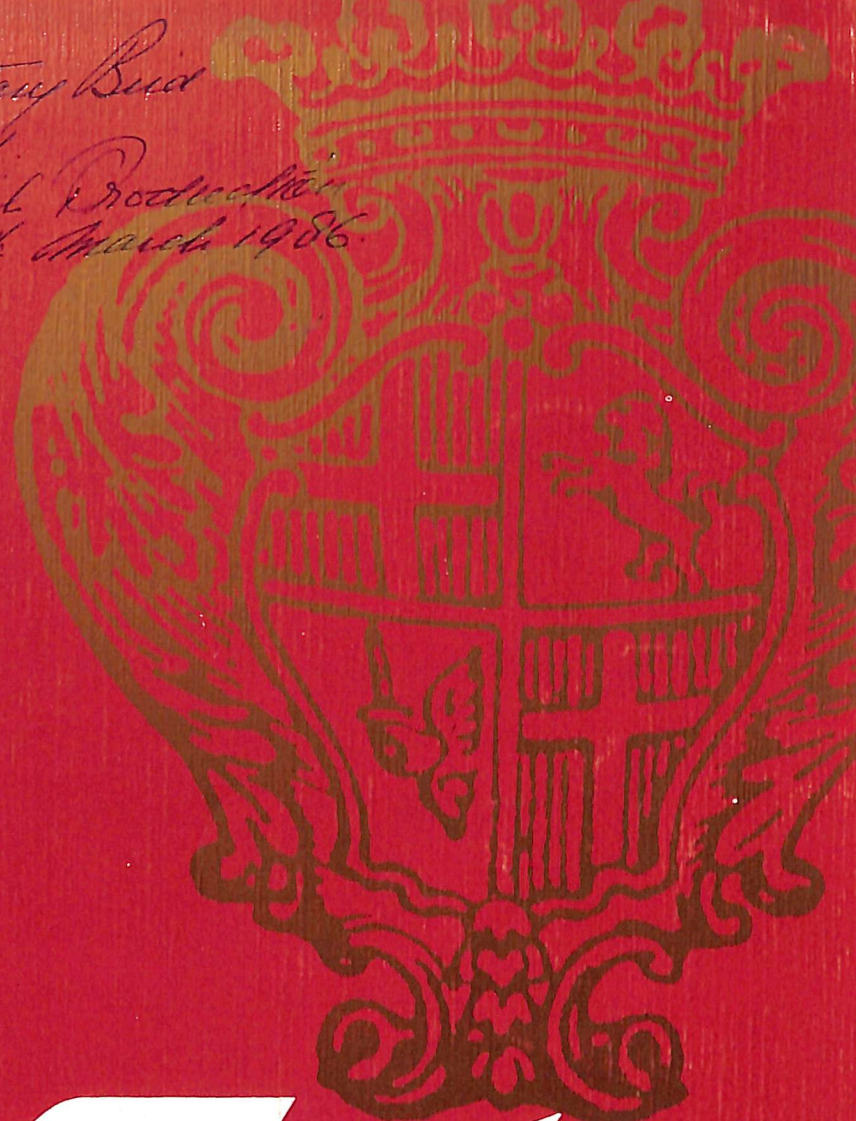


The Secretary Bird

by
Dated Kiri Production
13th to 16th March 1986.



Teatru Manoel

1042

1732



**THE MANOEL THEATRE
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

proudly presents

TREVOR BANNISTER — VIRGINIA STRIDE

in

THE SECRETARY BIRD

BY

WILLIAM DOUGLAS HOME

Produced and Directed by

DAVID KIRK

THURSDAY, 13 MARCH 1986 at 7.30 p.m.

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 1986 at 7.30 p.m.

SATURDAY, 15 MARCH 1986 at 7.30 p.m.

SUNDAY, 16 MARCH 1986 at 6.30 p.m.

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THE SECRETARY BIRD

CHARACTERS IN ORDER OF APPEARANCES

Hugh Walford
Liz Walford
Mrs. Gray
Molly Forsyth
John Brownlow

TREVOR BANNISTER
VIRGINIA STRIDE
KATIE EVANS
DIANA DE NIMES
SIMON CUFF

The Action of the Play passes in the Living Room of
The Walford's Country House

ACT ONE

SCENE 1 FRIDAY NIGHT
SCENE 2 SATURDAY MORNING

INTERVAL OF 20 MINUTES

ACT TWO

SCENE 1 SATURDAY NIGHT
SCENE 2 SUNDAY MORNING

CREDITS

CHAMPAGNE MOET & CHANDON IMPORTED BY M. DEMAJO
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FOR THE DAVID KIRK PRODUCTIONS

Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager

JONATHAN SHARP
LISA BLOOR

FOR THE MANOEL THEATRE

Booking Clerk
Lights
Stage Carpenters

MICHELLE MUSCAT
VANNI LAUS
EMMANUEL DALLI - FRANCIS MIFSUD

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Night
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Neat
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Hers
Cointreau



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Best wishes
Trevor Bannister



TREVOR BANNISTER trained for the stage at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, after which he spent years in repertory all over the country playing in straight plays, thrillers, verse drama, comedy and farce. The list takes in Shakespeare at the Old Vic. First appeared in London at the Cambridge Theatre in *Billy Liar* with Albert Finney, from whom he later took over the title role. This led to many film and theatre parts including *Cider With Rosie*, *Tickets Please* by D.H. Lawrence and *A Voyage Round My Father* by John Mortimer. Later returned to the West End with *Early One Morning*, *The Corn Is Green* with Flora Robson and *Move Over Mrs. Markham* at the Vaudeville Theatre, in which he created the part of Alistair Spellow, a success which took him to the Middle East, Canada and America. Also directed the provincial tour after returning from South Africa, where he starred in *Boeing Boeing* in Johannesburg.

Has well over 400 television appearances to his credit, playing a range of characters in such programmes as *The Saint*, *Coronation Street* etc. His first big comedy part was as Heavy Breathing in the successful series *The Dustbin Men*. Also created the part of Mr Lucas in the BBC series *Are You Being Served?* and played it in the feature film as well. On BBC radio 2 the series *Oh My Sainted Aunt* was specially written for Trevor and Eleanor Summerfield. Apart from the West End and TV, Trevor also appears in summer seasons and pantomime, in which he is a noted Dame. Has starred in summer at Blackpool, Jersey, Weymouth and Weston-Super-Mare, whilst at Bournemouth one of his seasons broke box office records. In between other commitments he has toured in the leading roles in *Middle Age Spread*, *Your Place Or Mine*, *The Rattle of A Simple Man*, which he also took to Western Australia, and many other plays.

Happy days!
Virginia Stride



VIRGINIA STRIDE has recently finished a year in the West End, co-starring with Richard Todd in *The Business Of Murder*. She trained at RADA, where she won the Forbes Robertson Shakespeare Prize and the Athene Seyler Award. After repertory she came to the West End for the first time in Keith Waterhouse's *Celebration* with the Nottingham Playhouse Company. She was in the opening festival of the Guildford Yvonne Arnaud Theatre in the eighteenth century operetta called *Lionel And Clarissa* and also in the opening production of the Thorndike Theatre, *Leatherhead*, *There Was An Old Woman*, in which she played Dame Sybil Thorndike's younger self, the last play Dame Sybil ever did. Was in the West End again, this time in revue, with *As Dorothy Once Said*.

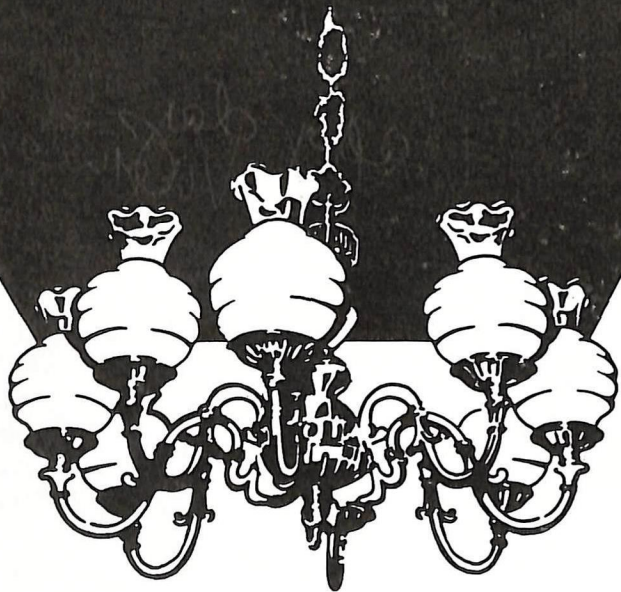
Other theatre work at Windsor, Sheffield Crucible and the Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh includes *Candida*, *Mrs Warren's Profession*, *Heartbreak House* and Michael Frayn's *Clouds*, twice with Trevor Bannister. Has toured nationally in *Move Over Mrs. Markham*, playing the title role, and co-starred with Richard Todd in a tour of *In Praise Of Love*. Toured Sweden with an anthology called *Shakespeare In Love*. Was awarded an Arts Council Singing Bursary to consolidate her experience in pantomime and revue, and has since played in *Salad Days* and as Desiree in Sondheim's *A Little Night Music*.

Virginia has starred or guest-starred in many plays and series on TV: the original *Z Cars*, *Champion House*, *The Expert*, *The Mind of J.G. Reeder* and Granada's *This Year Next Year*. On film she played Anne Heywood's sister in *I Want What I Want* and had cameos in two Norman Wisdom films. Radio work includes reading two serial for *Woman's Hour* and featuring in *Afternoon Theatre* and *Saturday Night Theatre*.

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SIMON CUFF

Simon Cuff has just returned from three months travelling around India, before which he was playing the co-lead role of Shere Khan in *The Jungle Book* with Fenella Fielding at the Adelphi Theatre. This followed eight months last year playing Shakespearian leads such as Orsino, Bassanio and Glendower at the St. George's Theatre. Before that Simon was touring cathedrals with *The Dean's Tale*, a new play by Alan Drury, playing the youngest bishop in theatrical history. He trained for the stage at the Welsh College of Music and Drama after two years as a newspaper journalist. Since 1966 he has played seasons with thirteen repertory companies, from Pitlochry to Nairobi, via Vienna where he played opposite Dame Anna Neagle in *Relative Values*. He has created regular characters in six television series, most notably Dave Braddock in *Doctor in The House* (39 episodes), the title role in *The Black Arrow* (27 episodes) and Dr. McCabe in *The Freewheelers* (6 episodes). He has also appeared in *Jack The Ripper*, *The Very Merry Widow*, *Z Cars* and *Wright's Boffins*.

Best wishes
Diana de Nimes

DIANA DE NIMES

Diana de Nimes was trained at Elmhurst and after spending two years performing cabaret and club theatre in Italy she worked in repertory throughout this country, including seasons at Plymouth, Henley and Sheringham. Her national tours include Annie in *Living Together*, Collette in *The Lady From The Sea*, Vivien Norwood in *House Guest* by Francis Durbridge and the pre London tour of *The Old Jest*. West End appearances include *Stage Struck* at the Vaudeville Theatre, *House Guest* at the Savoy and *See How They Run* for the Theatre of Comedy at the Shaftesbury. She has appeared in many pantomimes, including *Cinderella*, *Aladdin* and *Mother Goose*, and in *Musical Thunderbox* for Westward Television and *Come Back Mrs. Noah* for the BBC.

best wishes
Katie Evans

KATIE EVANS

Katie Evans was trained at the Guildford School of Music and Drama after which she appeared in repertory at Newcastle, Nottingham, Basingstoke, Chelmsford, Wimbledon, Eastbourne, Chesterfield, Hull and Worthing. She was in *Murder At The Viacarage* in West End at the Fortune Theatre, in Achilles at the Cockpit, and in *Alice In Wonderland* at the Roundhouse. She did the very long post West End tour of *Taking Steps*, playing the part of Kitty, the post West End tour of *Cards On The Table* and played Candida in a revival of Hugh William's *Flipside*. She also does pantomime and radio and has been seen on TV in *Softly Softly*, *Monty Python*, Blue Peter's Special on Sir Walter Raleigh and as Miss Hapgood, the library assistant, in BBC's *Sorry*

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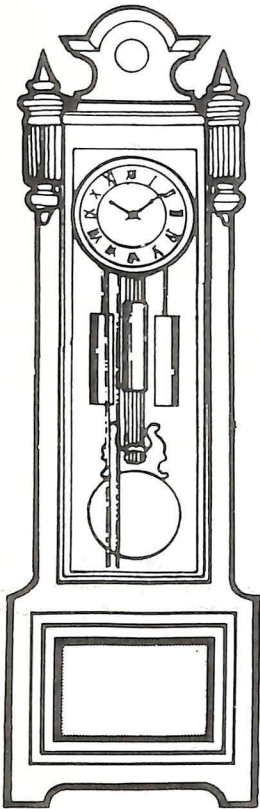
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JONATHAN SHARP

Best wishes Jonathan Sharp

Jonathan Sharp was born in London and appeared with OUDS and on the Edinburgh fringe whilst at university. He started his acting career in New Zealand with productions of *Sherlock Holmes*, *Mary Stuart*, *Uncle Remus*, *Aladdin* and the male lead in the Australasian premiere of David Hare's *Teeth 'n' Smiles*. Returning to the U.K. his first part was at the Old Red Lion, Islington in *Bloomers From Brash Street*, since when his parts have ranged from an Ugly Sister in *Cinderella* to the tormented composer, Shostakovitch in *Master Class*. He has worked in repertory in Northampton and with the Curham Theatre Company, and on tours of *Gaslight*, *Stagestruck*, *The Exorcism* and *Ten Little Indians*. Jonathan also works as a composer and pianist. He collaborated with Rick Lloyd, founder of the Flying Pickets in Rick's show, *Live and Get By* and spent last summer in Ned Sherrin's new version of Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Rakepayers* *Iolanthe*. TV appearances include *Pictures* for BBC2.

LISA BLOOR

Lisa Bloor trained at the Guildford School of Acting, winning their award for Best Musical Performer for 1983. Her first professional appearance was in *Tom Foolery* at the Playhouse Salisbury, after which she played Prince Charming in their pantomime, *Cinderella*. She has recorded three programmes for the Dave Allen Show on BBC TV, was recently seen as Nancy Holmes in *When We Are Married* at the Thorndike Theatre. *Leatherhead* and has just recorded an episode of *Demsey & Makepeace* for London Weekend Television. Her father is a freelance broadcaster and her mother was a dancer. Lisa's interests include dancing singing, horseriding, all sports and cars.

Love Lisa Bloor

DAVID KIRK (*Producer and Director*) was born in the North East of England, the son of a popular Scottish doctor, who also wrote poetry some of which has recently been reprinted in a publication about Glasgow called *Noise And Smoky Breath*. Educated at Edinburgh and Cambridge, he was intended for Law but turned instead to the theatre, first of all as an actor, then as a director. Opened his first company when he was 25 in a theatre leased from Durham University with a cast that included Andrew Sachs as the juvenile lead. Went on to present seasons in larger cities and sometimes runs of farce with TV stars at major seaside resorts. Has directed and presented many touring productions of new plays and revivals, just occasionally taking them into the West End. He is married to actress Patricia Temple and has one daughter and two sons, none of whom have anything to do with the theatre.

Spencer Golding

WILLIAM DOUGLAS HOME (*Author*) has a string of West End successes to his name including *Now Barabbas* (1946), *The Chiltern Hundreds*, *The Bad Samaritan*, *The Reluctant Debutante*, *The Dame Of Sark*, *Lloyd George Knew My Father* and *The Kingfisher* (1978). A younger son of the Earl of Home and brother of the present Lord Home (sometimes Sir Alec Douglas Home), perhaps the fount of inspiration for the political comedies from *The Chiltern Hundreds* to *The Reluctant Peer*. Has also published two autobiographies *Half Term Repent* and *Mr. Home Pronounced Hume*. His hobbies are golf, politics and bridge.

Angela

Sam

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Grand Master *Antonio Manoel de Vilhena*, a Portuguese, was elected Grand Master in 1722. A man of great intellectual qualities, he was popular with all, and his "savoir faire" earned him everyone's love.

At the beginning of his reign, fearing a second Turkish invasion of Malta, he promptly took steps against such an eventuality, and the enemy, seeing his preparedness, sailed away without even attempting a landing.

Having fortified the Island, he began to find ways and means of encouraging civil enterprise, and in the political field he managed to negotiate a treaty of peace with the Sultan of Constantinople.

As a befitting gesture towards the People of Malta, he built in 1732 the Manoel Theatre which is a living monument to his achievements. It keeps his memory fresh and glorious in all those who cultivate the Arts and all those who seek an honest recreation. as is implied by the Theatre's motto: "*Ad honestatem populi oblectationem*".



THE MANOEL THEATRE FOYER

The Bonici Palace on the corner of Old Bakery Street, acquired by the Manoel Theatre two decades ago, has been completely restored and now constitutes its foyer. It can be approached from the auditorium, the level of your box, or from the original courtyard. Climbing the staircase with its shallow steps of white Carrara marble you see at every turn shell-shaped niches in one of which you may find the bust of your favourite composer. Further up, double doors inset with bevelled-edged mirrors lead to impeccable cloakrooms.

There are wall brackets and chandeliers from Vienna, heavy silk curtains in bluey/green and gold, a pair of candelabra once the property of the Messina family.

You will see engravings characters and scenes from famous operas and showcases in which are to be found *memorabilia* of the Theatre collected throughout the years. An antique mirror hangs above the eighteenth century mantelpiece. Beautiful furniture has been collected from the Auberges and carefully restored. The ceiling is a particular delight, the newly hand-painted beams, so near in colour to the curtains, are decorated with the Maltese Cross and small crowns picked out in gold.

Keeping guard over all this splendour stands the bust of Grand Master Antonio Manuel de Vilhena which was recovered from Manoel Island.

A visit to the Manoel Theatre Foyer is a must for every art lover, this splendid old house, restored to its pristine glory, makes a marvellous venue for any art Exhibition. The setting and acoustics are perfect for recitals and poetry reading.

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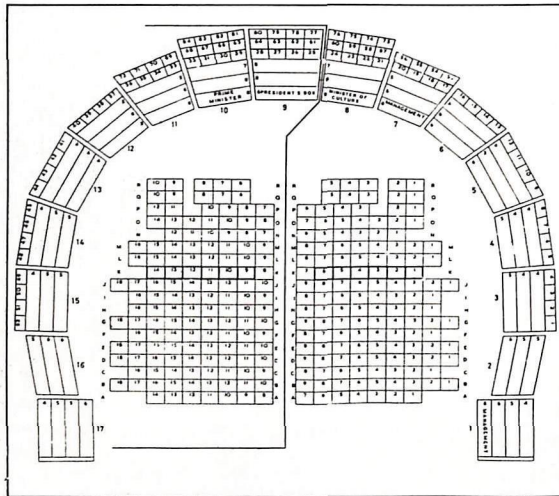
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MANOEL THEATRE BOOKING PLAN

Late comers will not be admitted to the Auditorium.

Smoking is not permitted in the Auditorium, in the Boxes and in the Gallery.

The Management reserve the right to vary or omit any part of the programme without previous notice.

Patrons are reminded that the taking of photographs during the performance is not allowed.

Children even when accompanied by their parents, will be required to occupy a seat.

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