

April in Paris

by John Godber

O.C.T. first performed this very funny play in October of 1997.

It was very well received on that occasion and we have had a number of requests for a repeat showing.

We are, therefore, offering you another chance to see how Bet & Al cope with their trip to France.

Tickets will be £5.00 and all proceeds will go to the Girls' School fund for their 1999 World Challenge Adventure to Ecuador.

Please support this worthwhile cause on :

Weds. Thurs. & Friday

September 16th, 17th & 18th

7.30 p.m. HMSG Main Hall

JOGGERS & KNIGHTSBRIDGE

by Geraldine Aaron & John Mortimore

These two one act comedies will form our Autumn Production to be held here at HMSG Main Hall.

We hope that you will be able to join us for another enjoyable evening of drama courtesy of O.C.T

Look out for further publicity! Tickets will be available from Monmouth Cycle Centre and Brian Williams.

Performance dates :

Thursday, Friday & Saturday

October 15th, 16th & 17th

7.30 p.m. HMSG Main Hall



Off Centre Theatre
presents

TONS OF MONEY

A farce by
**Will Evans and
Valentine**
Adapted by

**Alan
Ayckbourn**

28th - 30th May 1998

**AT THE HABERDASHERS'
MONMOUTH SCHOOL
FOR GIRLS**

Admission £4.50 & £4.00



Off Centre Theatre is a member of the National Operatic and Dramatic Association

Message from the Chairman

As Chairman of O.C.T. it is my pleasure to welcome you to our production of *Tons of Money*.

A tremendous amount of forethought, planning, rehearsing and construction goes into every production, but of course, without you - our supporters - it would be to no avail. We are, therefore, grateful for your shared enthusiasm of promoting live theatre in our community.

We hope you have an enjoyable evening and we should like to think we will see you all again for our forthcoming productions. These are to be:- Two one act plays, *Joggers* by Geraldine Aaron and *Knightsbridge* by John Mortimer, directed by Jim Newcomb and to be performed in October.

We then, of course, will be staging our annual pantomime over the New Year, which this time will be *Sleeping Beauty* directed by myself and Stephanie Harris.

Then in the Spring of '99 we will be staging *Uncle Vanya* by Anton Chekhov directed by Jeanne Dauncey.

O.C.T. is always looking for new members and whether that means you have an interest in treading the boards, working backstage, front of house, helping with design, construction, painting or sewing you would be welcome. Please don't be shy - leave your name and telephone number with one of our front of house team and we will contact you.

There is no doubt that O.C.T. will, with your support, continue to entertain you for many years and if you have enjoyed yourself this evening please tell your friends and family.

Thank you once again for your support.

Anne MacFarlane
Chairman. O.C.T.



The Cast

Jim Newcomb, is one of the OCT originals whose Pantomime Dames have made him very much loved in the area. He is our most active Director and last Autumn's *April in Paris* was arguably his best one act offering.



Barbara Spence created Miss Sophie for OCT; she was a memorable Jane Hayling in *Fools Paradise* and has played many character roles. Recently she produced *Summer Showtime* and *Beauty and the Beast*

Anne Thomas has been well known in the area as a singer for over 35 years. She has been a Principal with Monmouth Operatic Society since 1989. She played Countess Cruella in *Beauty and the Beast* and has appeared regularly in Variety. This is her first straight role.

Anne MacFarlane is a founder member of OCT, its Chairman and Musical Director. She has masterminded the Pantomimes in recent years and played many leading roles, including Beverly in *Abigail's Party* and Bet in *April in Paris*

Oliver Priestley-Leach is a newcomer to OCT and plays the lead role of Aubrey.

Gordon Casson is Assistant Director and has been with OCT since 1988. He played Ormonroyd in *When We Are Married*.

Geoffrey Manning created James for *Miss Sophie* and is a former Chairman of OCT. He played Dr Rance in *What the Butler Saw* and many character roles. He directed *When We Are Married* and is a regular pantomime favourite.

Sheila Atherton is a newcomer to OCT and plays the role of Jean Everard.

Dick Pates has appeared in Variety and Pantomimes since 1995. He played 'Him' in *Interior Designs*.

David Price played Canon Throbbing in *Habeas Corpus* and Sir Wilfred in *Witness for the Prosecution*. He appeared regularly with the Trojan Players.

Tons of Money

by Will Evans and Valentine

Adapted by Alan Ayckbourn

Cast

(in order of appearance)



Sprules, a butler	Jim Newcomb
Simpson, a parlourmaid	Barbara Spence
Miss Benita Mullett	Anne Thomas
Louise Allington	Anne MacFarlane
Aubrey Henry Maitland Allington	Oliver Priestley-Leach
Giles, a gardener	Gordon Casson
James Chesterman, a solicitor	Geoffrey Manning
Jean Everard	Sheila Atherton
Henry	Dick Pates
George Maitland	David Price

Directed by Cedric Gibbons

With the invaluable assistance of Gordon Casson

Designed by David Evans

The action of the play takes place in the library of Aubrey Henry Maitland Allington's house at Marlow.

Time 1922. (When the BBC began broadcasting, the USSR was set up, Bonar Law succeeded Lloyd George as PM, the Austin Seven was produced and Mussolini formed a government in Italy)

Act 1 Morning

Act 2 Three weeks later. Afternoon.

Act 3 The next day. Late afternoon

There will be an interval of 15 minutes between each Act.

Backstage

Stage Manager	Five Cram
Properties	Ann Green
Construction Manager	Andrew Lightly
Prompt	Vivienne Casson
Lighting and Sound	Mark Finlayson
Lighting & Sound assistant	Stuart McIntyre
Costumes Hire	Marigolds
Wigs and Beards	Dauphines of Bristol
Leaflet Design	Rob Spence
Tom (Tons of Money man) artwork by	Brendon Pardington
Detail artwork & painting	Andy Moran & David Evans
Selection of music from the period compiled by	Percy Childs
Other music supplied by	Julie Thomas & Bernard Lloyd
Printing	Pastorprint
Scaffolding supplied by Bond & Bond, Tool Hire Sales, Monmouth	
Bell Pull supplied by	Bee Hive
Front of House	Jackie Kyd & Team

A loud explosion takes place during the performance.

Thanks to

The Barry Island Cottage CO, Major Harding Rolls, H.M.S.G., Monmouthshire Beacon, St John Ambulance, Richard Fisher, Freemans Antiques, Jennifer Hazell, Anna Husbands, Ken Hurley, Jay Dyer, Angie Dyer, Brian Phillips, Red Cross Shop, Geoff Webb and MOS, Cath Hughes-Gardiner, Monmouthshire County Council, Anne Godfrey, Joe Treasure, Gill & Richard Evans, Brian Williams, Monmouth Cycle Centre, Keith Kissack, John Moylett, Eric & Megan Jones, Father David Smith, Terry George, Christine Smith, Ben & Carol Satterthwaite and the many local shops, Companies and individuals who have helped in any way.



The Designers notes

I have always tried to work on the principle that the Set Design should assist with the creation of period and atmosphere, and have interest for the audience, but it should not take their attention away from the actors and the story. The same is true of costume: an over-dressed production is remembered as a 'Frock Show' with the audience remembering very little of the dialogue and the plot.

Tons of Money is set in the 1920's when Victorian austerity and fashionable shared mourning with the widowed monarch, gave way to liberation and free expression. Colours became brighter and household gadgets, such as the telephone and gramophone, became commonplace. Nonetheless, as with today's aspiring home owners, the middle classes often took over Victorian Buildings, or those of a much earlier architecture, and adapted them slowly. The building boom of terraced houses did not attract everybody and upwardly mobile people were moving towards the more rural suburbs. This is where I have chosen to set the play topographically and it is up to the viewer to decide whether or not this might be the Edwardian Home Counties experimenting tentatively with Art Deko.

When I was small, elderly relatives surrounded themselves with a clutter of unrelated furniture and I have assumed that a mixture of generations has influenced this house, resulting in quite a lot of inherited pieces. The fireplace, playing a central role, is of no particular style but it has been based on the vogue for smaller grates (as a result of tighter fire regulations) with a little bit of 'foreign' influence. Marble was beginning to be expensive, so it's not in too much evidence. We have the feeling that the paintings on the walls will, in time, be replaced by the younger ones for the 1920's equivalent of 'Boots' Prints for Pleasure, but currently they would not dare to offend the dowager!



David Evans

Forthcoming Attractions

Old Time Music Hall

The Savoy Theatre
Church Street, Monmouth

Thursday July 9th, 7.30pm

One Performance only!

A charitable performance on behalf of
Monmouth Rotary Club.

*Step back in time and enjoy
a veritable extravaganza of entertainment*

Tickets from Monmouth Cycle Centre, Beaufort Arms Court

Off Centre Theatre

presents

Sleeping Beauty

A Traditional Family Pantomime

from January 1st 1999

Monmouth Operatic Society

present

The Grand Duke

by Gilbert & Sullivan

October 27th to 31st 1998

H.M.S.G.