

**Off Centre Theatre**  
forthcoming productions

**NEW YEAR PANTOMIME 1999**

## *Sleeping Beauty*

Friday January 1st : 7.30

Saturday January 2nd : 2.30 & 7.30

Sunday January 3rd : 2.00 & 6.00

Monday January 4th : 7.30

Tuesday January 5th : 7.30

Friday January 8th : 7.30

Saturday January 9th : 2.30 & 7.30

**SPRING 1999**

## *Uncle Vanya*

by Anton Chekhov

Dates to be announced - see local press for details

**Off Centre Theatre**  
presents

## *Thursday's Ladies*

by

**Loleh Bellon**



at

**Haberdashers' Monmouth School for Girls**

**7.30 pm Thursday, Friday and Saturday  
October 15th, 16th and 17th**



**Cast in order of appearance :**

**Sonia : Ann Hartland**  
**Victor : Geoffrey Manning**  
**Marie : Anne Gibbons - Jones**  
**Helene : Dy Evans**  
**Jean : Cedric Gibbons**

Thursday Afternoons - Paris - Winter 1975

SCENE 1 : Sonia's Apartment

# Interval #

SCENE 2 : The same, some weeks later

# Interval #

SCENE 3 : One week later still.

**The Crew :**

**Director / Continuity : Jim Newcomb**

**Set : Andrew Lightly**

**Stage Mangement : Marcia Cook & Gillian Vandervelden**

**Lighting & Sound : Mark Finlayson**

**Publicity : Cedric Gibbons**

**Printing : Brian Phillips**

**Front of House : Jackie Kydd & Friends**

With Thanks to :  
Haberdashers' Monmouth  
School for Girls  
Monmouth Cycle Centre  
Brian Williams, Jeweller  
Others who have helped  
in any way.



Every Thursday, three sixty-year-old ladies, Sonia, Helene and Marie, meet in Sonia's run-down Parisian apartment for tea in a long standing ritual where they chat, upbraid and reminisce. Sonia, of Russian origin, is a spendthrift, twice divorced, still a child with a zest for life, and blindly devoted to her wastrel son Victor, a vintage car fanatic. Helene is a wealthy spinster, childless, loveless, frigid, devoted to her brother, and obsessed with fear and death; Marie, the wisest and most fulfilled of the three, who embarked on a medical career but also married and had two daughters, has never come to terms with widowhood.

The action takes place on three Thursdays in the Winter of 1975 where the loves, jealousies and fears of these early childhood friends are revealed in a series of touching sequences alternating between the present and past fifty-five years. The link between them is strengthened in the person of Jean, Helene's brother, whom Marie married and with whom Sonia flirted and who appears in their enacted memories.

Unravalled before us are three individual lives made touchingly coherent. The pleasure lies in the gradual, delicate, overlapping of incident and conversation through which this prickly, frank and very female friendship takes place. Humour is mixed with sadness, hopes for the future tainted by feelings and thoughts from the past. At all times tender and thoughtful.

Throughout the play the characters are seen at different times in their lives. From the exuberance of eight year olds at play, through teenage flirtations, war time anxieties and into their middle years and the onset of old age. Such changes, at the request of the author, are portrayed entirely through the dialogue and actions of the players.

We hope that you will enjoy our interpretation of those wishes



A 1920's Amilcar - As spirited as a thoroughbred horse and with almost as animate a personality, the little French car thoroughly captivated that segment of the public that wanted vivid performance in a small package!