



LONDON & MIDDLESEX DIVISION  
Preliminary Festival

(Division "D" of the Eastern Area)

PROGRAMME . . . . . Price Twopence

THE CONWAY HALL  
RED LION SQUARE, HOLBORN, W.C.1.

FEBRUARY 11th, 1933

Adjudicator : MAXWELL WRAY, Esq.

# THE FESTIVAL EXPLAINED

THIS performance is one of a series constituting the preliminary heats of a national competition organised under the auspices of the British Drama League and styled the National Festival of Community Drama.

The word "Festival" is used in preference to competition to indicate that the primary aims are the encouragement of dramatic art throughout the country and, in particular, the growth of amateur acting as a community art. These aims naturally imply a seeking after higher standards of acting and the recognition of one-act play Festivals as the best means to this end. Such Festivals bring amateur societies and individual actors into contact with each other and allow them to compare their ability in the light of comments made publicly by professional adjudicators appointed by the central committee. These adjudicators use marks, and the competitive method generally, as an understandable index of comparison.

Tonight the Adjudicator will be watching the performance of four out of 53 teams (a record entry) which have entered the London and Middlesex Division of the Eastern Area of the Festival. He will comment upon these performances and afterwards send each team a written criticism. Before the end of February he will name four teams which he considers to be the best and these will appear before a different adjudicator on March 1st at King George's Hall (this will be the London Divisional Final) when one of them will be chosen to represent the Division in the Eastern Area Final to be held at the Scala Theatre on April 10th.

The winners of the Divisional Final will also win the Cédric Hardwicke Trophy, at present held by the Holywell Players.

The organisation of the Divisional Festivals is in the hands of a voluntary committee, very largely recruited from societies who regularly enter teams. All receipts, over and above those required for the payment of theatre hiring fees, adjudicator's fees, author's royalties, advertising and incidental expenses, are passed on to the Area Treasurer at the end of the Festival and his surplus is finally conceded to the National Committee to build up a reserve fund.

This is the seventh annual Festival and it is therefore possible to gauge the effect it has had upon the amateur acting of the country. It is freely recognised that the standard steadily improves year by year in the Festival itself, while the lessons learned from the Festival Adjudicators, who are always men and women of exceptional dramatic knowledge and ability, are known to have been accepted and applied to the full-length productions of most competing societies.

In addition, the Festival has been responsible for a growing friendship between societies hitherto unknown to each other, and to the establishment of a kind of amateur "freemasonry" which bodes well for the development of the community spirit. But the popularity of this annual event is most clearly shown by the following figures. In 1926 only six teams competed. Last year that number had risen to six hundred and fifteen. This year another large increase is likely to be recorded.

That the National Festival has taken an important place in the social life of the country cannot be denied. But its influence can be much greater if many of those societies and individuals who are as yet dubious as to the value of the annual effort involved, would follow the example of the pioneering societies and make their Festival entry a regular item of their season's programme.

G. E. MIDDLEDITCH.

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## LONDON & MIDDLESEX DIVISIONAL COMMITTEE

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# The Old Brondesburians

## "SHANGHAI"

By William Stuckes

Mrs. Patch ... .. MOLLY G. PIKE  
Flora (employed by Mrs. Patch) ... DOROTHY GILL  
Bert ... .. FREDERICK MARTIN  
Joe Patch (Mrs. Patch's son) ... LESLIE BRIGGS

Scene : A cheap eating house

Producer : G. E. MOORE

Stage Manager : F. MARTIN



# The Questors

## "THE FAR-AWAY PRINCESS"

By Hermann Sudermann

Rosa (a waitress) ... .. MILDRED HACKETT  
Frau Lindemann ... .. AGNES COPNALL  
Fritz Strubel (a student) ... .. JOHN RUCK  
Frau von Halldorf ... .. MARGERY STRETTON  
Liddy (her daughter) ... .. MARJORIE SEAGER  
Milly " ... .. MARGOT BRETT  
A Lackey ... .. CYRIL THOMAS  
Baroness von Brook ... .. BARBARA SHARP  
The Princess von Geldern ... GWENDOLEN THOMAS

The action passes at an inn situated above a watering-place in Central Germany

Producer : ALFRED EMMET

PRODUCER'S NOTE.—Stage properties are one of the many conventions upon which the theatre is built. The audience is asked to accept the convention of no properties, because it is felt their absence greatly assists the interpretation of the theme of this play and the expression on the stage of its atmosphere

*Curtain Settings by Cape of Chiswick.*

# London Student Players

## "TWO GENTLEMEN OF SOHO"

By A. P. Herbert

The Duchess of Canterbury ... .. URSULA EASON  
Lady Lætitia (her daughter) BEATRICE MENGES  
Hubert (her dancing partner) ROGER LARZAR  
Lord Withers ... .. FRANCELLE  
Topsy ... .. PHYLLIS ROBERTS  
Sneak (a private detective) ... WILLIAM GILLCHRIST  
Plum (a public detective) ... .. DUNCAN BUTT  
Waiter ... .. GEOFFREY ROBERTS

Scene : A Night Club in Soho

Producer : W. G. BENNETT

*Curtain Settings by Cape of Chiswick.*

*Adjudicator's Criticism : Maxwell Wray, Esq.*