

## A DOLL'S HOUSE.

"And so we live on Blackheath, in the charmingest of dolls' houses, delightfully furnished . . . and we have all we want, and more. . . . And if you would like to know in confidence, as perhaps you may, what is my opinion of my husband, my opinion is that I almost love him!"

"And if you would like to know in confidence, as perhaps you may," said her husband, "my opinion of my wife, my opinion is——" But Bella started up and put a hand upon his lips.

"Stop, sir. No, John dear! Seriously! Please not yet awhile! I want to be something so much worthier than the doll in the doll's house."

"My darling, are you not?"

"Not half, not a quarter so much worthier as I hope you may one day find me! Try me through some reverse, John—try me through some trial—and tell them after *that* what you think of me."

"I will, my Life," said John. "I promise it. And you have such a cheerful spirit!" he added fondly. "You are like a bright light in the house."

"Am I truly, John?"

"Are you truly? Yes, indeed. Only much more and much better."

"Do you know, John dear," said Bella, taking him by a button of his coat, "that I sometimes at odd moments—— Don't laugh, John, please."

Nothing should induce John to do it when she asked him not to do it.

"——That I sometimes think, John, I feel a little serious."

"Why serious, my life, then? When serious?"

"When I laugh, I think," said Bella, laughing as she laid her head upon his shoulder, "you wouldn't believe, sir, that I feel serious now? But I do." And she laughed again, and something glistened in her eyes.

OUR MUTUAL FRIEND.

Fifteen years after Dickens had written these words Ibsen gave us "A Doll's House"—a play which was to become world famous. Bella Rokesmith is but a pale foreshadowing of Nora with her deep emotional problem, nor is it conceivable that John could ever sink to the depth touched by Torvald Helmer, but there are details—the hand upon the lips, and even the coat buttons—which make it conceivable that Ibsen's inspiration may have been awakened by Dickens's novel—an interesting link between his land and ours.

Quite apart from the merit of its fine dramatic construction and the fullness of its characterisation, "A Doll's House" is of unique importance in the history of drama. It marked a clean break from the sentimental comedies and pretentious tragedies which had for many years filled the theatres, and gave us the first ordinary human problem to be presented in realistic terms upon the stage. At the turn of the century, Nora's solution set the tongues of Europe wagging in controversy—so much so, indeed, that Ibsen, against his better judgment, was forced to give a "happy ending" to the German translation. Even to-day the play has surprising aptness, for the conflict of a woman's duties toward her home and toward herself is quite as real now, if not more so, than in staid Victoria's days.

THE QUESTORS THEATRE  
MATTOCK LANE, EALING



present

## "A DOLL'S HOUSE"

BY

HENRIK IBSEN

MAY, 1945

PROGRAMME

THREEPENCE

# "A DOLL'S HOUSE"

This production is based upon the translation by William Archer.

## *Characters in order of their appearance :*

Ellen	...	...	...	...	BETTY SHEPHERD
Nora Helmer	...	...	...	...	MARY CHANTER
A Porter	...	...	...	...	ROBERT BIGG
Torvald Helmer	...	...	...	...	TOM W. FRANKLIN
Dr. Rank	...	...	...	...	FRANCIS W. SMITH
Christina Linde	...	...	...	...	BETTY GREENFIELD
Nils Krogstad	...	...	...	...	ALBERT HOOPER
Ivar Helmer	...	...	...	...	CHARLES SMITH
Ingrid Helmer	...	...	...	...	PAMELA MARSHALL
Emmy Helmer	...	...	...	...	TESSA WOOD
Anna	...	...	...	...	ISOBEL BENNS

The action of the play takes place in Torvald Helmer's Flat in Christiana

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ACT I. Christmas Eve, 1879.

ACT II. Afternoon of next day.

ACT III. The following evening.

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The Play Produced by ERIC VOCE.

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REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED IN THE INTERVALS

## The Settings Designed by HONOR O'NIANS.

Stage Managers	-	-	-	-	HERBERT R. LUCAS FRANK WHITE
Properties Manager	-	-	-	-	DIANA RUTLAND
Wardrobe Mistress	-	-	-	-	DIANA KELLY

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Furniture kindly loaned by EALING STUDIOS

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*There will be a discussion of this production at the Theatre on Monday,  
May 14th, at 7.30 p.m.*

*Refreshments will be served, and all members of the audience are most cordially invited to attend and give us their views and hear the views of others. Written criticisms are welcomed, and will be read anonymously at the discussion*

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ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE QUESTORS?

IF SO, WILL YOU HELP US BY TRYING TO GET ANOTHER FRIEND TO JOIN US?

IF NOT.....WELL, WHY NOT?

A SUBSCRIPTION OF 10/- PER ANNUM ENTITLES YOU TO A FREE SEAT FOR EVERY PRODUCTION WE DO FOR A YEAR.

ASK A PROGRAMME SELLER TO GIVE YOU FULL PARTICULARS.