

A NOTE ON "LARRY"

Happy As Larry was first heard in September 1947, when it was presented by Mr. E. Martin Browne's Pilgrim Players at the Mercury Theatre, in a production by Denis Carey. After a long and notably successful run at that tiny theatre it was transferred, in December the same year, to the Criterion Theatre, where it was presented in a slightly different, and longer, version. Mr. MacDonagh had made a very significant contribution to the work of "The Poets' Theatre Guild," whose avowed object was "to bring poetry back to its place in the theatre." His success may perhaps be accounted for by the simple fact that his play sings with delight, as all genuine poetry must, and also holds an audience in a dramatic spell, as all real plays must: these twin necessities of the poetic drama are too seldom realized by that modern cult of writers striving to establish themselves in this very specialized field of dramatic literature.

Despite the simplicity of the plot, there are some few words and phrases that may confound an English audience. The title of the play, for instance, is a common expression meaning, in effect, "happy as a sand-boy," which, in turn, signifies a state of exultation, such as may be attained by imbibing a "Ball of Malt" (a glass of whiskey), followed by "Lunatic Soup" (a strong drink mixture, mainly cider), then, perhaps, a "Johnny Jump-up" (another potent cider). This, we imagine, would render us "half-jarred" (or half drunk), and we would start talking "guff" (senseless, possibly malevolent, talk). It is well to remember that a "Red Biddy" is not to be taken lightly, being an almost lethal dose of cheap red wine, mixed with a generous amount of methylated spirits; and we must not forget that St. Patrick's Day is a day of mourning among the drinking classes, as all the public bars are closed all day: hence "as dry as St. Patrick's Day," when it is impossible even to get a "plain" (or a single X porter, at about eightpence a pint!).

B.H.

OUR NEXT PRODUCTION

The next production of the season will be a revival of a once famous and popular comedy by the celebrated Mrs. Centlivre. The play is *A Bold Stroke For A Wife*, and it was first acted at the famous theatre in Lincoln's Inn Fields in February, 1718. So far as we can discover, our production will be the first in London for about 100 years. Opening night: Saturday, June 12th.

THE SPRING DANCE

There is to be an informal Club Dance at the Park Hotel, Hanwell, on Friday, May 21st, from 8 p.m. till midnight. Dancing to the popular "Fireflies" band. We specially recommend these dances to our new members, as they afford an excellent opportunity of meeting others in the Club. Tickets, price 4s. each may be obtained from Mr. Francis W. Smith, 5, Oaklands Court, Argyle Road, Ealing, W.13 (Telephone: PERivale 5035).

BUILDING FUND PERFORMANCE

If you have enjoyed the plays this evening why not make a note to enjoy them a second time, and bring a friend with you? By coming again on the Building Fund Night, on Wednesday, May 12th, you can also help us towards the building of our new theatre.

The lecture announced for May 14th
has been cancelled.

"AFTER-THE-SHOW" PARTY

It is customary for us to have an informal party on the discussion night after each play. If you would care to come along, please see the Chief Steward before you leave to-night. He will take your name and give you details.

The discussion of "Happy As Larry" will take place in the theatre on Thursday, May 13th, at 7.30 p.m. All members and friends welcome.



THE QUESTORS

present

HAPPY AS LARRY

by

DONAGH MACDONAGH

which will be preceded by

THE SECONDARY WIFE

by

DOROTHY FISK

AT THE QUESTORS THEATRE

MATTOCK LANE, EALING, W.5

MAY 1ST TO 12TH 1954

FIFTH PRODUCTION
TWENTY-FIFTH SEASON
1953-54

PROGRAMME
SIXPENCE

THE SECONDARY WIFE

by

DOROTHY FISK

Cast :—

Yellow Jasmin Flower	...	...	...	...	JOYCE HORNETT
Painted Butterfly	...	...	...	...	GAY RORKE
Chiang Kung	...	...	...	...	JAMES DRINKWATER
Hsiung Fu Chu	...	...	...	...	GEOFFREY FORD
Property Men	...	...	...	...	VINCENT McQUEEN MICHAEL GREEN

The play produced by DOROTHY FAIRLIE
The set designed by NORMAN BRANSON

HAPPY AS LARRY

by

DONAGH MACDONAGH

Cast :—

Larry	...	...	...	...	JOHN MURRAY SCOTT
The Widow	...	...	...	...	PATRICIA LEVENTON
The Doctor	...	...	...	...	NED GETTINGS
Seamus	...	...	...	...	EDMUND SCRIVENER and COLIN KENNY
Mrs. Larry	...	...	...	...	THERESA HEFFERNAN
The Gravedigger	...	...	...	...	WILFRID SHARP
First Tailor	...	...	...	...	JAMES DRINKWATER
Second Tailor	...	...	...	...	MICHAEL EVANSON
Third Tailor	...	...	...	...	BOB EAMES
Fourth Tailor	...	...	...	...	CLENYG SQUIRE
Fifth Tailor	...	...	...	...	GEOFFREY FORD
Sixth Tailor	...	...	...	...	DAVID LORRAINE
Irish Fiddler	...	...	...	...	SIDNEY HANDEL
Neighbours	...	...	...	...	MARGARET POPHAM BETTY WHITE

Scene : A Tailors' Shop in Dublin.

The play produced by COLETTE KING
The set designed by NORMAN BRANSON

The action of each play is continuous. There will be an interval of fifteen minutes between the two productions.

During the interval you may remain in your seats and be served with tea and biscuits, or cross to the Lounge, where coffees and sandwiches may also be obtained.



The tailor's dummy kindly loaned by
Arthur Howard's of Ealing.

Stage Manager MURRAY LOWRY
Assistant Stage Managers EILEEN FISHER, PHYLLIS WALKER
BARBARA WILDE, CHLOE DAVIES

Sets constructed in The Questors workshops
under the direction of DAVID WEDMORE

Wardrobe Mistresses SALLY GREENFIELD and JANE SIMPSON
Lighting GERALD ISENTHAL, DENNIS FISHER
Properties PEGGY FANCETT



Theatre Manager RENA RICE
House Manager ARCHIE COWAN
Press Representative BASIL HULL

BOX OFFICE (6.30—7.30 p.m.) EALing 5184

MEMBERS ARE RESPECTFULLY REMINDED THAT SMOKING IS NOT PERMITTED IN THE THEATRE WHILE THE PLAY IS IN PROGRESS.