

The Questors Theatre, Ealing

Mr JOHN HORWOOD
has the pleasure of directing

The Questors 54th Student Group

in a performance of

TRELAWNY OF THE "WELLS"

an original comediatta in four acts by

Arthur Wing Pinero

Played for the first time at the Court Theatre, London, on 20th January 1898

This production first played at the Questors Theatre, Ealing on the evening of 14th July 2001

THE PERSONS OF THE PLAY

Members of the Sadlers Wells Theatre Company

James Telfer...Mr. EVAN RULE	Mrs. Telfer (Miss Violet Sylvester)...Miss. DONNA FREEMAN
Augustus Colpoys...Mr. BARRY RAWKINS	Ferdinand Gadd...Mr. JASON ETHERINGTON
Tom Wrench...Mr. TONY MARSHALL	Avonia Bunn...Miss DEBBIE ARNSBY
Rose Trelawny...Miss ANNA MARIA OLEKSAK	
Imogen Parott (now of the Royal Olympic Theatre)...Miss AMANI AL-AIDROOS	

Members of the Pantheon Theatre Company

Miss O'Dwyer...Miss STEPHANIE WILLIAMS	Hall Keeper...Miss TSVETY VOYNOVA
Miss Brewster...Miss ANNE DEVLIN	Mr Denzil...Mr. JOHN MOONEY

Non-theatrical Folk

Vice-Chancellor Sir William Gower, Knt....Mr. ALEXANDER YOUNG
Miss Trafalgar Gower (Sir William's Sister)...Miss THEODORA ATHANASIADU
Arthur Gower (Sir William's Grandson)...Mr. THOMAS BUTLER
Clara De Foenix (Sir William's Grand-daughter)...Miss TSVETY VOYNOVA
Captain de Foenix (Clara's Husband)...Mr. JOHN MOONEY
Mrs Mossop (A Theatrical Landlady)...Miss JULIET VAUGHAN TURNER
Mrs Ablett (A Greengrocer)...Miss ANNE DEVLIN
Sarah (Maid at Brydon Crescent)...Miss TSVETY VOYNOVA
Charlotte Gibbons (Maid at Cavendish Square)...Miss STEPHANIE WILLIAMS

A SYNOPSIS OF THE ACTS

ACT I

Mr and Mrs Telfer's Lodgings at No.2, Brydon Crescent, Clerkenwell. Lunchtime. May.

ACT II

At Sir William Gower's, Cavendish Square. A June evening.

An interval of fifteen minutes

ACT III

Again at Brydon Crescent on an upper floor. A December morning.

ACT IV

On the stage of the Pantheon Theatre a few mornings later.

"Period - Somewhere in the early sixties."

TRELAWNY OF THE "WELLS"

BEHIND THE SCENES

The ingenious Settings have been conceived by Mr JOHN WIBBERLEY.
Elaborate Illuminations have been devised by Mr CHARLES LUCAS, with assistance in realisation from Mr DAMIEN LAZELL, installation by Messrs CHRISTOPHER TOMLIN & CHRISTOPHER NEWALL and operation by Mrs SALLY SCHRIRE. Sound Effects are by Mr JOEL SCHRIRE with Miss SUSAN CROWSON and operated by Mr MICHAEL BULMER.
The sumptuous costumes have been compiled by Master of the Wardrobe, Mr THOMAS BUTLER, with sewing by the Misses NICHOLA THOMAS, CORRINE GENTLE, SARA GALTON & CLAIRE O'CONNOR. Wigs, Whiskers and Cosmetic Transformations are by the Misses CHARLOTTE CAISLEY, PATRICIA SANDERSON, LIZZIE SHARPLES & JULIA SEZER.
The Stage Management, under the strict supervision of Mrs SYLVIA WALL, is by her able Deputy, Miss ELIZABETH PRIOR, assisted by Messrs TERONE McCALLA, STEPHEN SPYERS-ASHBY, DAVID MOSBY, ANDREW WELDING and CHRISTOPHER IFOULD and the Misses JACQUELINE DUKE and "KITTY" ADAMSON.
Piano playing is by Mr OLIVER JACKSON with advice on the Musical Score by Mr TIMOTHY GODFREY.
"Ever of Thee" (written by Foley Hall) is sung by Miss VICTORIA BUTLER
Chief Carpenter Mr PETER COLLINS has brilliantly coordinated the Construction and Assembly of the Scenery with the Messrs RICHARD WILLIAMS, MARK AYRES, ROGER BRACE, COLIN HORNE, EVAN RULE, BARRY JONES, HORWOOD & WIBBERLEY.
Decorative effects are by Mr PHILIP PINKHAM. Properties have been supplied by Mrs BRIDGETT STREVEENS, Mrs JENNIFER RICHARDSON and Mr ALEC ATCHISON.
The Company wishes to extend its thanks to Mr BRIN PARSONAGE, Mrs JENNY YATES, Miss CHRISTINE SYDENHAM and Messrs MARKS & SPENCER plc.
Vocal Tuition is by Miss ANNE WALSH, Movement Tuition is by Mr JOHN WILSON and all is run in association with KINGSTON COLLEGE under the esteemed Director of Studies, Mr DAVID EMMETT.

Some notes on the production

Arthur Wing Pinero was born in Islington in 1855 into a family of Portuguese-Jewish descent. He followed his father into a solicitor's office, obtaining relief from his studies with much amateur acting and eventually escaping to obtain employment as an actor at the Theatre Royal, Edinburgh on 22nd June 1874.
He was an actor for ten years. Valuable experience in provincial companies led to a lengthy engagement at The Lyceum with Irving in 1876 and with the Bancrofts at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket in 1881. He decided to give up acting in favour of full time writing after an "ineffective" portrayal of Sir Anthony Absolute in the Bancrofts' production of *The Rivals*.
The following year he wrote *The Magistrate* to widespread acclaim both at home and abroad.
For the next forty years he established a reputation as the leading playwright of the late Victorian age.
His Court Theatre farces, *The Schoolmistress* (1886), *Dandy Dick* (1887) and *The Cabinet Minister* (1890) saw its author in prosperity. Social dramas began with *The Profligate* (1889) and in 1893 *The Second Mrs Tanqueray* appeared at the St James's and, with the assistance of Mrs Patrick Campbell, startled the town. It was a serious English play with an idea - and it made money.
Trelawny of the 'Wells' enjoyed 135 performances from January 1898.
The Gay Lord Quex (1899), a brilliant piece of theatricalism, contained a third act which is perhaps the author's masterpiece of contrivance. With the turn of the century began a long succession of serious plays.
He was knighted in 1909 with his reputation at its zenith. Thereafter his hold on the public slipped and an attempt to renew it in *A Cold June* (1932), two years before his death, was a sad failure.
Pinero's happiest inspiration, *Trelawny of the 'Wells'*, recalls the theatrical world of the early sixties the Sadler's Wells (his local playhouse as a child in Islington) after the departure of Phelps and The Prince of Wales at the time of the playwright Tom Robertson (whose triumphs he witnessed as a boy). Written at the peak of his success and constantly revived, it displays the author's magnificent powers in telling a story for the stage.

Forthcoming Production at The Questors Theatre

The Snow Queen in The Playhouse 8 December - 5 January

The Questors Theatre, Mattock Lane, London W15