1957/1958 SEASON
THE OLD VIC COMPANY

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM
William Shakespeare
THE OLD VIC

1836 Foundation stone laid.
1838 Opened as the Royal Coburg, with "Told By Battle", a melodrama.
1838 Name changed to Royal Victoria Theatre in honour of the Duchess to the throne.
1897 Takes over by Emma Cons, a social worker, and reopened as "The Royal Victoria Coffee House, Rock", offering cheap entertainment and no intoxicating drinks.
1898 The theatre bought by public subscription on behalf of the people of London.
1899 Lilian Baylis, niece of Emma Cons, joined her as manager of the theatre.
1901 Emma Cons died and Lilian Baylis assumed sole control of the Old Vic.
1904 First season of Shakespeare's plays. Between this date and 1923 the Old Vic became the first theatre in the world to present the complete cycle of Shakespeare's plays.
1920 Lilian Baylis invited the Royal Society to present the plays and founded the Sadler's Wells Ballet company (now the Royal Ballet).
1922 Sadler's Wells Theatre completed and opened with "Faust in Night" under the management of Lilian Baylis, to become eventually the home of opera and ballet having extended 1931.
1927 Lilian Baylis died.
1944 Spring. The Company made its regular house at the New Theatre.
1945 The Old Vic re-opened in public.
1946 The first of the plays to be seen within the Old Vic. Shakespeare's The Winter's Tale. This play is now in the third season.

THE ARTS COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN presents

THE OLD VIC COMPANY in

THE PLAYS OF

SHAKESPEARE

Director:

M. BENJAMIN

Administrative Director:

ALFRED FRANCIS

THE DIRECTORS OF OLD VIC TRUST LIMITED

Chairman: Sir BRONSON ALGER

LADY VIOLET BONHAM CARTER, CBE, O.B.E., T.D.

OLIVER POOLE, CBE, O.B.E., C.B.E.

SIR WILFRID EADY, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., C.B.E.

HARRY HAMMERSMITH, Esq.

VISCOUNT MOUNTBATTEN, O.B.E.

THE OLD VIC THEATRE

Waterloo Road, S.E.1

CHAIRMAN OF THE ROYAL VICTORIA HALL

THE VISCOUNT ESSEX, O.B.E.

Clerk to the Governors and Licensees . . . GEORGE CHAMBERLAIN

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VISCOUNT MOUNTBATTEN, O.B.E.
A Midsummer Night’s Dream
by WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Cast in order of speaking:

Theseus, Duke of Athens ............ JACK GWILIM
Hippolyta, Queen of the Amazons, betrothed to Theseus ............ MARGARET COURTENAY
Philostrate, master of the revels to Theseus, ............ HAROLD INNOCENT
Egrem, father to Hermia .................. DAVID WALLER
Hermia, daughter to Egesias, in love with Lysander ............ ROSEMARY WEBSTER
Demetrius, in love with Hermia .................. JOHN HUMPHRY
Lysander .................. RICHARD GALE
Helena, in love with Demetrius .................. CORAL BROWNE
Quince, carpenter .................. PAUL DANEMAN
Bottom, a weaver .................. FRANKIE HOWARD
Flute, a bellows maker .................. RONALD FRASER
Snout, a tailor .................. DANIEL THORNDIKE
Snug, a joiner .................. DEREK FRANCES
Attendants on Theseus and Hippolyta ............ JAMES CULLIFORD

ADO RENNE BILL, BARBARA LEIGH-HUNT, HELEN INGHAM, MICHAEL CULVER

Puck, or Robin Goodfellow ............ KEITH TAYLOR
First Fairy .................. JUDI DENCH
Oberon, King of the fairies .................. DERICK GODFREY
Titania, Queen of the fairies .................. JOYCE REDMAN
Second Fairy .................. JULIET COOKE
Peaseblossom .................. BRIDGET WOOD
Cobweb .................. GILLIAN BOWSORTH
Moth .................. STELLA ORTON
Mustardseed .................. VALERIE GIBSON

Other fairies attending on their King and Queen ............ JEAN ATKINSON, NANCY KWAN

Produced by MICHAEL BENTHALL
Decor and costumes by JAMES BAILEY
Music composed by MENDELSSOHN, arranged by GORDON JACOB

Scene: Athens, and a wood near it
There will be two intervals of ten minutes

Orchestra under the direction of FREDERICK MARSHALL

First performance of this production at the Old Vic Theatre on 23rd December 1957

Mimosa Gibson, Wood, Rosetta, Otto, Egeus and Athenians appear by arrangement with The Rural Ballet Society

Stage Director .................. ROY PARKER
Company Manager .................. ERIC MORRIS
Stage Managers .................. PETER SMITH, JOHN WAYNE
Master Carpenter .................. KENNETH BUSFIELD
Acting Chief Electrician .................. A. W. SMITH
Wardrobe Mistress ......... ANTOINETTE MARA

OLD VIC PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT
Production Manager: F. A. TROTTON
Wardrobe Manager .................. JANE HELDER
Screen Workshops .................. W. H. PARKER
Scenic Artist .................. LINDA WOODHAM
Property Workshops .................. HELEN THOMAS
Forestage property belongs to R. P. CHILCOTT & SONS; Dance Floor and Foreground painted by L. JOHNSON LTD; Statues by Frank H. LAWRENCE; Costume designs by Miss SHERMAN; Costume construction by Miss HARRISON; Makeup designed and constructed by Miss O'BRIEN; Hair by Miss SHERMAN; Props and wigs by Miss O'BRIEN; Lighting by Miss TAYLOR; Dress and lighting by Miss BLOOMGARD; makeup and sets by Miss HARRIS; sets by Messrs. BLOOMGARD & BLOOMGARD

Publicity Manager (WAT 4671) .................. PATRICK INGLIS
Publicity Secretary.................. ANNE DONN
Photographs by T. REYNAL PHOTOGRAPHY

House Manager .................. MARGARET CAMERON
Accountant .................. JARRY ATTWOOD
F. A. to Directors ............ JULIA WOODS
Box Office (WAT 7616) .................. HENRY O'CONNOR

SMOKING IS NOT PERMITTED IN THE AUDITORIUM

The management reserve the right to alter the cast, and to make any alterations in the time of performance which may be deemed necessary by illness or other unavoidable cause.

Photographs must not be taken during the performance.

First aid facilities in this theatre are provided by St. John Ambulance Brigade members who give their services voluntarily.

In accordance with the requirements of the Local Authority: 1. The public may leave at the end of the performance, as soon as has been done, and then may re-enter the Theatre at that time or open, 2. All persons, Djangles and animals must be kept entirely free from such or any other obstructions, 3. Persons shall not in any circumstances be permitted to stand or sit in the wings of the Box above the second dress, or in any of the galleries, unless permitted by the manager during the intervals, or before the production begins, it shall be strictly limited to the interval space in the dress circle, the box and the gallery.

THE BOX OFFICE IS OPEN FROM 10 A.M. TO 8 P.M.
Repertory will be resumed after the run of "A Midsummer Night's Dream". "Hamlet", with John Neville and Coral Browne, will be joined in February by "King Lear" with Paul Rogers in the title role. Paul Rogers returns to the Company after an extensive tour of Australia as Hamlet and as Lord Foppington in "The Relapse", under the management of the Elizabethan Trust.

Coral Browne will play Gertrude in "King Lear"; with Barbara Jefford as Regan and Rosemary Webster as Gerda, Paul Daneman is the Fool, Jack Gwillim, Kent; Derek Francis, Gloucester; Derek Godfrey, Edgar and John Humphrey, Edmund. Douglas Searle, who is to join the Company as Associate Director, will be responsible for the production, with Leslie Hurry as designer.

"Pericles", with John Neville, will be added to the repertory in early April, under the direction of Michael Bentall, with Desmond Healey as designer.

The Five Year Folio Plan will be completed in May with "Henry VIII"; in which Queen Katharine will be played by Edith Evans and Cardinal Wolsey by John Gielgud. The Title role will be played by Harry Andrews. London Sainbuhl is to be the designer for this play, with Michael Bentall as director.

In July, during the Brussels Exhibition, the Company will give four performances in Brussels and four in Antwerp. The repertory will include "Hamlet" and "Henry VIII".

Booking dates for all these productions will be duly notified to Old Vic Club members. See below for membership particulars.

For regular information of Old Vic productions, join the Old Vic Club. The annual subscription is £1 for an individual or on behalf of an organisation. Just send your name and address, together with £1, for the first year, to:

The Secretary, THE OLD VIC CLUB,
Old Vic Theatre, Waterloo Road, S.E.1.
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