

RING ROUND
THE MOON
2002

RICHMOND DRAMA AWARDS

Production with fascinating use of the space

TEDDINGTON THEATRE CLUB chose for its first use of the Hampton Hill Playhouse's facility to stage plays in the round, or in its case the square, *Ring Round the Moon* by Jean Anouilh, in an English adaptation by Christopher Fry.

In all Anouilh's plays there is an element of pessimism, whether they be of his rose or his black period; he is always juxtaposing power and wealth with poverty and purity.

Mair Graham's direction of this piece brought out all the elements of Anouilh's philosophy.

She was assisted in her interpretation by an extremely intelligent and able cast. Not only did they give excellent readings of all the characters, but they also adapted themselves to the new and untried surroundings of the converted auditorium.

The modest set, representing the winter-garden of Mme Desmortes's chateau, was extremely realistic and the sightlines of the new space were excellent. Costumes, lighting and incidental music contributed to creating the atmosphere of pre-war France.

The whole cast was very well chosen and ideally suited to the characters they were playing.

Colin Greenhalgh and Carol Fuller, as Mme's butler and maid were natural and extremely amusing.

Cynthia Carss gave a stunning performance as Mme Desmortes, dominating the stage from her wheelchair.

In the dual roles of Hugo and Frederic was George Richmond-Scott whose performance was a veritable *tour de force*. Within seconds he was able to transform himself from one twin to the other, not only vocally, but what is more, physically.

The role of Dianna, who appears very dominant, but is shown to be very vulnerable, was well portrayed by Natasha Kavanagh.

Michael J Smith was excellent as her father, Messerschmann.

Angela Francis, in her first major role, gave a good performance as the charming Isabelle. Her mother was played by Heather Hodgson, who brought great poise and panache to her role.

Those in the lesser roles were also very well portrayed. It is pleasing that TTC are planning to use the new arrangement of the auditorium for the next production and it is hoped for many more in the future. **George Hillier**

Teddington Theatre Club gala



TEDDINGTON Theatre Club started its career in 1927 and so this year are celebrating 75 years of existence.

The group has celebrated with a gala performance of their latest production of Jean Anouilh's play *Ring Around the Moon* and there

a many more social events to come.

It was very much a family affair when many members from earlier years were invited back to renew old associations and friendships after so many years.

Members travelled long

distances to be part of the celebrations.

The earliest member present, Chloe Crabbe, travelled from Crowborough and Philip Cook, who performed in the group's 1958 production of *Ring Around the Moon*, came from Manchester.