



NIGHTMARE ABBEY

# QUEEN ELIZABETH'S DRAMATIC SOCIETY

presents on 6th, 7th and 8th March, 1958

## NIGHTMARE ABBEY

*A Frolic by*

THOMAS LOVE PEACOCK

Dramatised by

ANTHONY SHARP

### CHARACTERS

|   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| CHRISTOPHER GLOWRY, master of NIGHTMARE ABBEY | P. E. Hemmings          |
| SCYTHROP, his son, a sensitive spirit         | ... .. M. A. Spence     |
| RAVEN, his butler                             | ... .. J. H. C. Edwards |
| CROW, his steward                             | ... .. J. G. N. Blaxall |
| Mr. TOOBAD, a pessimist                       | ... .. A. Hutt          |
| Mr. FLOSKY, a transcendental philosopher      | ... .. T. E. Carroll    |
| The Hon. Mr. LISTLESS                         | ... .. B. S. Smith      |
| Mr. HILARY, an optimist                       | ... .. R. D. Sinclair   |
| Miss MARIONETTA O'CARROLL                     | ... .. G. H. Smith      |
| STELLA, a stranger                            | ... .. D. M. Cowie      |
| FATOUT, valet to Listless                     | ... .. C. J. Akhurst    |

The Play produced by Mr. J. COVINGTON

The action takes place at Nightmare Abbey, a venerable family mansion in a highly picturesque state of semi-dilapidation, set in the fen country of Lincolnshire. The time is July 1818.

### ACT I

- Scene 1 The Library.  
Scene 2 The same, some days later.  
Scene 3 The same, a week later.

### ACT II

- Prelude A Summerhouse.  
Scene 1 A room in Scythrop's apartments.  
Scene 2 The same, a few hours later.  
Scene 3 The same, the following Thursday evening.

"NIGHTMARE ABBEY" was written by Peacock in 1818 to serve two purposes.

The first was to satirise the prevailing affection of melancholy and gloom, particularly in association with the "Terror" novels of the time. The second was to introduce into the novel caricatures of some of the contemporary poets who were all capable of different "romantic" extravagances and eccentricities. Coleridge, the endless talker and transcendental philosopher (Flosky) and Byron (not included in Anthony Sharp's adaptation) were both ridiculed. The most devastating burlesque, however, was of Peacock's great friend, Shelley, whose amorous entanglements and earnest desire to put right all the evils of mankind are presented in the character of Scythrop. We need not, however, take Scythrop as too faithfully representing Shelley. The poet had too much sense of humour; for he laughed at the novel and remained good friends with Peacock. Moreover, Anthony Sharp has been very free in adapting the novel to obtain situations for his frolic.

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|                                |     |     |     |     |     |   |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Stage Manager                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Mr. E. J. Crofts                                  |
| Assistant Stage Manager        | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | R. G. Walker                                      |
| Business Manager               | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Mr. S. E. Alford                                  |
|                                |     |     |     |     |     | assisted by C. S. Aubury and P. C. Sansom         |
| Costume Supervision            | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Mr. L. E. Whiteley                                |
| Make-up                        | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Mr. R. M. Wingfield and Mrs. Ambidge              |
|                                |     |     |     |     |     | assisted by S. C. Charkham and R. C. Harrison     |
| The set constructed by         | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | B. R. Salter, R. D. Cairns, C. W. Austin          |
|                                |     |     |     |     |     | H. M. Gunston, I. W. Hanson                       |
|                                |     |     |     |     |     | and painted by Mr. H. Purchas and R. J. O'Connell |
|                                |     |     |     |     |     | assisted by J. M. Bisby and K. J. Stafford        |
| Lighting and Sound Technicians | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | H. W. Grimwade, J. G. Ransome, M. J. Chadwick     |
| Prompters                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | A. H. Stones, P. C. Aston                         |
|                                |     |     |     |     |     | A. L. G. Vincent, D. E. Guy                       |
| Secretary                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | R. D. Sinclair                                    |
| Stewards                       | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | The Prefects                                      |

The Programme design is the work of A. H. Stones

The music is composed by Peter Jones and recorded by a section of the School Orchestra. The song at the end of Act I has been set to music by Mr. C. Whittington.

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*Our thanks are due to North Mimms Dramatic Society for some help with the scenery.*

# PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS

|      |                                  |                     |
|------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1930 | The Government Inspector         | Nicolai Gogol       |
| 1931 | Abraham Lincoln                  | John Drinkwater     |
| 1932 | Two Gentlemen of Soho            | A. P. Herbert       |
|      | In the Zone                      | Eugene O'Neill      |
|      | Act 5, A Midsummer Night's Dream | William Shakespeare |
| 1933 | Captain Brassbound's Conversion  | G. Bernard Shaw     |
| 1934 | Arms and the Man                 | G. Bernard Shaw     |
| 1935 | Richard of Bordeaux              | Gordon Daviot       |
| 1936 | Macbeth                          | William Shakespeare |
| 1937 | The Importance of Being Earnest  | Oscar Wilde         |
| 1938 | The Dover Road                   | A. A. Milne         |
| 1939 | Twelfth Night                    | William Shakespeare |
| 1947 | The Devil's Disciple             | G. Bernard Shaw     |
| 1948 | Doctor Knock                     | Jules Romains       |
| 1949 | Coriolanus                       | William Shakespeare |
| 1950 | The Rivals                       | R. B. Sheridan      |
| 1951 | Pygmalion                        | G. Bernard Shaw     |
| 1952 | The Would-be Gentleman           | Moliere             |
| 1953 | Henry the Fourth (Part 1)        | William Shakespeare |
| 1954 | Mr. Bolfray                      | James Bridie        |
| 1955 | The Critic                       | R. B. Sheridan      |
| 1956 | The Firstborn                    | Christopher Fry     |
| 1957 | Androcles and the Lion           | G. Bernard Shaw     |