

A NOTE ON THE PLAY.

Henrik Ibsen (1828-1906) was, beyond question, one of the greatest and most influential of modern dramatists. Over a period of some 40 years he produced a large number of dramatic works, ranging from historical romance to bitter satire. It was during the last twenty years of a long life that Ibsen turned his attention to the problems of man's relationship to society, which forms the general theme of twelve magnificent plays; of these "A DOLL'S HOUSE" was one of the earliest.

"ET DUKKEHJEM," as it is called in the original, was first produced in Copenhagen on December 21st, 1879. Performances followed swiftly in Sweden, Norway, and Germany respectively, and in the United States and England several years later. The subject of the play, which is a plea for individuality in women, raised a tremendous amount of discussion throughout Europe, and indeed over the whole of the civilised world. By the year 1900 "A DOLL'S HOUSE" had been performed in ten European languages besides the Norwegian, and since that date it has appeared in at least as many more.

In England the first appearance of "Nora" was in a strange adaptation of Ibsen's play presented in 1884, under the name of "BREAKING A BUTTERFLY." The part was, however, really created for the English-speaking world by Miss Janet Achurch at the Novelty Theatre, London, in June, 1889. Immediately after a short season, Janet Achurch and Charles Charrington sailed for Australia, and subsequently acted the play many times in this country, and also in New Zealand, India and Egypt.

Whatever may be the attractions of the other members of the cast, there is no question about the place of "Nora Helmer" on the modern stage. Probably no other role has been interpreted by so many of the greatest nineteenth century actresses, including Madame Modjeska, Rejane, Duse, Sorma, and Rambo-Conrad.

It is perhaps interesting to recall that the close of the play proved distasteful to the German public as a whole that, after the initial performances in Munich, Ibsen was compelled, greatly against his will, to write an alternative ending.

"A DOLL'S HOUSE" is not perhaps the greatest of Ibsen's plays, but it has become probably the best-known and most imitated. From time to time innumerable parodies, adaptations, and continuations have appeared in various languages. That alone is a tribute to a work which, despite the passage of nearly seventy years, and the changed social order of to-day, retains its dramatic power and interest for the modern audience.

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY UNION



THE TIN ALLEY PLAYERS

present

"A DOLL'S HOUSE"

by

HENRIK IBSEN

at the

UNION THEATRE

on

SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 1945

MONDAY, JUNE 25, 1945

PROGRAMME - - 6d.

Proceeds to Union Appeal Fund.

THE TIN ALLEY PLAYERS

present

'A DOLL'S HOUSE'

A Play in Three Acts

by

HENRIK IBSEN

Cast in order of appearance:

Nora Helmer	JOYCE TURNER
Ellen	JOAN BROWN
Torvald Helmer	ELDEN de STEIGER
Mrs. Linden	DOROTHY RATCLIFFE
Nils Krogsted	HUGH D. NEVILLE
Doctor Rank	COLLINS HILTON
Solvei	} (The Helmers' Children) (By courtesy of Miss Jennie Brennan)	} FRANCES SIMMONS
Emmy		
Anna	RUTH SUGDEN

The play produced by
PEGGY TELLICK

SCENE

The scene throughout is the living room of the Helmers' Flat in Christiania, Norway.

The period of the Play is 1879.

Act I: Christmas Eve.

Act II: Christmas Day.

Act III: The following night.

Stage Direction - DESMOND CONNOR

Costumes and Stage Decoration
DOROTHEA DIXON

Business Manager - MAURICE BELZ

Secretary - - - - - RUBY MAY

and the

Technicians of the Union Theatre Guild

The Tin Alley Players wish to express their very sincere thanks to Meadmore Galleries, 163 Exhibition Street, Melbourne, and Mrs. J. L. Vizard, for the loan of furniture, also to Miss Ruth Sugden for the loan of the period frock worn by Miss Turner in Act II.