

Scanned Programme Notes : Measure for Measure
December 1972



It is sometime in the 1920's, and a small European state is caught up in the rigours of inter-war depression. The streets are haunted by groups of de-mobilised troops: 'peace on earth' is only a synonym for unemployment to them. Disease, drunkenness and disorder flourish, and faced with the necessity of enforcing firm discipline, the Duke abdicates his authority to Angelo, who, to the dismay of such hardened practitioners as Pompey and Mistress Overdone, enforces his own particular brand of prohibition ...

Written after the theatres re-opened subsequent to the plague of 1603, it was first performed in the year 1604 as witness the Revels Accounts which list a production of 'Mesur for Mesur' by Shaxberd in the Whitehall banqueting house on St. Stephen's Night. This places the play between Othello and King Lear which may be relevant to it being classified as a 'dark comedy'; that is, a happy ending but brought about by a series of events of dubious moral standing and ethical content.

References topical to Shakespeare's audiences do occur quite frequently, and although these allusions are likely to be lost on present day theatre-goers, there is much which is still very relevant to-day. The interaction and conflict between authority and power, duty and honour are themes that only change with human nature.

THERE WILL BE ONE INTERVAL OF TEN MINUTES

NO SMOKING IN THE AUDITORIUM PLEASE

CAST LIST

Duke

Angelo

Escalus

Lucio

1st Gentleman

Abhorson

2nd Gentleman

Barnardine

Pompey

Claudio

Provost

Friar Peter

Elbow

Froth

Varrius

Isabella

Marianna

Mistress Overdone

Julietta

Francisca

Mike Pursell

Andrew Gould

Nick Pease

Ian Noble

John Ironmonger

Laurence George

Tim Sluckin

Stuart Pearson

John Haseier

Peter Rushton

Charles Barnecut

John Shaw

Ron Ringer

Sue Burgess

Frances Macdonald

Sue Compston

Faye Harding

Nettye Lamkay

Stage Management

Martin Hughes

Gerald Mullord

Technical Director

Technical Assistants

Bob Sharpe

Richard Atkinson

Alan Green

Costume Mistress

Assisted by

Judith Fabian

Anne Matthews

Make-up Supervisor

Make-up Assistants

Cyndy Manton

Rosaleen Keane

Diane Holmes

Valerie Hurst

House Management

Gail-Nina Anderson

Director

Director's Assistant

Tony Ireland

Julie Brown