

BLECHINGLEY AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

H O M E & B E A U T Y

A Farce by Somerset Maugham

Produced by Peggy Wheeldon

THURSDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

NOVEMBER 9th, 10th, 11th

THE VILLAGE HALL

at 8 p.m.

**TICKETS : 7s.6d., 5s.0d., 3s.6d. from Taylor and Bristow or
Members of the Society**

A donation from the proceeds will be given to a Charity

**BLECHINGLEY AMATEUR
DRAMATIC SOCIETY**

presents

**HOME
AND BEAUTY**

by **SOMERSET MAUGHAM**

A Farce in Three Acts

Produced by

PEGGY WHEELDON

November 1967. Programme 6d.

**BLECHINGLEY
AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY**

FOUNDED 1963

Affiliated to the British Drama League

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★ ★

*Items of furniture kindly loaned by Oliver H. D. Mathews
Antiques, Blechingley*

★ ★

**A donation from the proceeds of this Play will be made to
" Shelter "**

Home & Beauty

A FARCE IN THREE ACTS BY
SOMERSET MAUGHAM

Characters in order of appearance

Victoria (a dear little thing) **Jean Risbridger**
Miss Dennis (a manicurist) **Kay Wilson**
Mrs. Shuttleworth (Victoria's mother) **Doreen Reekie**
Leicester Paton (a wangler) **Barry Farley**
Major Frederick Lowndes, D.S.O. (a hero) **Peter Benson**
Major William Cardew, D.S.O. (another hero) **Nicholas Palmer**
Nannie (the nurse) **Ruth Shearing**
Mrs. Pogson (a cook) **Mary Wilson**
A. B. Raham (a solicitor) **Stanley Hurrell**
Miss Montmorency (a maiden lady) **Marian Wilson**
Clarence (an errand boy) **Ian Shearing**

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

*The action of the Play passes in Victoria's house at
Westminster, London, during 1919*

ACT I

Victoria's bedroom, afternoon

ACT II

The drawing-room, the following morning

ACT III

The kitchen, noon the next day

★ ★

**Coffee Tickets, price 6d., are available from the Programme
Sellers before the Play begins**

Producer boldly needs dramatic challenge

Thanks to producer Peggy Wheeldon recorded on the back of the ticket order form is insufficient for me after last Thursday's first night of Blechingley Amateur Dramatic Society's production of Somerset Maughan's "Home and Beauty" at Blechingley Village Hall.

Peggy Wheeldon, the ticket order form told me, "has prepared 'Home and Beauty' with the same thoroughness as she gives any job which she is always so willing to undertake on behalf of the society." This is patently true.

I must record my own tribute to her qualities. The performance throughout showed a solid understanding of the theatrical possibilities of a well-written farce and a sympathy for character seldom realised in amateur productions.

To bring together a chain of players with no evidence of a weak link is no mean achievement, especially when the material is as demanding as a well-known farce.

Although "Home and Beauty" has 11 characters, it is not a play of any great physical impact, so that individual performances have to be that much more lively.

Blechingley Amateur Dramatic Society, however, rose to the occasion. Each performance was admirable and the slight isolation of characters inevitably born of a farce's artificiality was maintained in a surprisingly professional manner.

The three central characters, Victoria, Major Lowndes and

Major Cardew, were faultlessly supported by the other players who, although lesser characters, stood out strongly.

Victoria, played by Jean Risbridger was described in the programme as "a dear little thing." This description paints a neat picture of a demure humour. Jean Risbridger responded with a personality on the lines of an immature Eartha Kitt with a good deal more humour. Jean Risbridge deserves full marks for an extremely polished portrait and the only flaw was that she could have been faster on her cues.

The two husbands, played by Peter Benson and Nicholas Palmer, were both polished and clever performances by actors who balanced perfectly with just the right amount of friction.

Altogether, Blechingley Amateur Dramatic Society produced a crisp, worth-while evening's entertainment with an audience of 114 on the first night.

"Home and Beauty" is certainly an encouraging success. Founded in 1963, this society have again fulfilled their early promise with another excellent production and can look forward now to other plays without fear of any limitations.

A.B.