

THE
TAMING
OF THE SHREW

by
William Shakespeare



THE UNIVERSITY PLAYERS' CLUB

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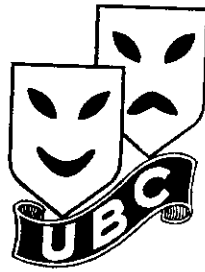
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The Players' Club

Presents



**THE
TAMING OF THE SHREW**

by William Shakespeare

Thirtieth Anniversary Performance

UNIVERSITY THEATRE
MARCH 14, 15, 16, 17, 1945

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The History of the Players' Club

The Players' Club is the oldest club at the University and has always tried to be worthy of its distinction. It has done much to bring amateur dramatics in British Columbia to its present high plane.

Just six weeks after the University came into existence, in the autumn of 1915, at the old "shacks" in Fairview, a small group of students, aided by Professor F. G. C. Wood of the English Department, undertook to form a Dramatic Society. Begun with much temerity on the part of the students, the University Players' Club, as it was then named, did not aim to prepare its members for the professional stage. It desired, rather, to encourage their appreciation of drama, and to help them to learn some of the essentials of the art of acting.

Despite this lack of professional ambition, the Club has made an appreciable contribution, not only to community drama, as in the case of the Little Theatre Movement and school plays throughout the province, but also to the legitimate stage. Many who first learned about the stage in Players' Club ranks, later as teachers aided in the production of plays in many parts of the province.

The first play, chosen and produced in February of 1916, was Jerome K. Jerome's comedy, "Fanny and the Servant Problem". Miss Jessie Todhunter (Mrs. John Taintor Foote, New York), first leading lady in this production, afterwards played in Broadway productions. In its review of this initial effort, the Vancouver Daily Province remarked,—"Rarely has as amateur performance of so much merit been given in Vancouver". Other members of that first cast at present living in Vancouver are,—Miss Grace Henderson (Mrs. T. St. E. De Wolf), Miss Mary Macdonald (Mrs. Mary Nicholson), Miss May McCrimmon (Mrs. Marshall Bolduc), Miss Bonnie Clement (Mrs. J. P. C. Southcott), Miss Stella McGuire (Mrs. Hunter Lewis), Miss Isobel Harvey, and Messrs. G. L. (Pat) Fraser, Ian A. Shaw, and George R. Annable.

The programmes of one-act plays known as The Christmas Plays presented each fall have given pleasant entertainment to many friends of the club since their inauguration in November 1916, and have also afforded the new members a chance to show their ability. The Annual Tour, begun in 1916 at the request of the late President Westbrook, brought one student activity before many parts of the province. It also resulted in the establishment of a better understanding of university aims and difficulties in the various sections visited.

Financially, too, this organization has more than justified its existence. Its records show that during the last war over \$6,000 was raised for the University Red Cross, the Western University Battalion, the Shaughnessy Military Hospital, and other war-times purposes. In addition, the Club raised \$1,500 for a University War Memorial, \$4,100 for stage equipment for the new auditorium at Point Grey, and \$200 for Green Room furnishings. The Vancouver General Hospital and the Royal Jubilee Hospital, Victoria, benefited considerably through Players' Club efforts, and all tour profits, beyond guaranteed expenses, have been turned over to local sponsors for charity and patriotic work.

In the present war, by means of special repeat performances of several productions in the January following their spring presentation, the Club has added considerably to the Red Cross contributions from the University.

Former Players' Club members have made their contribution to the radio theatre both in Vancouver and Toronto, where quite a number are now employed. In Hollywood, where Garrett Livingstone appeared in a film with Spencer Tracy, Miss Dorothy Adams and Miss Mary McLeod are busily engaged at the moment. The former, who has appeared in small roles for a number of years, has had recently, in "Laura", her most interesting part to date. Miss McLeod has just signed a new contract with Universal Pictures and has a bright future ahead of her.

As early as 1921, the late Mr. James Butterfield wrote in "The Province",—"The U.B.C. Players' Club has succeeded in the face of the greatest difficulties in bringing its annual performance to a pitch of perfection that I have never seen equalled by amateurs in a very wide experience of the drama". In maintaining this standard, great credit belongs to the directors: Mr. Wood, 1915 to 1931, with the exception of 1929 when Mrs. A. Ferguson was in charge; Mr. Sydney Risk, 1932 and 1933, as well as 1939 and 1940; Miss Dorothy Somerset, 1934 to 1938; and in recent years Mrs. Ernest Woodward, Mr. Sam Payne, Miss Lola Duncan and Mrs. Elsie Graham. Thanks are also due to Mrs. D. A. Suttie, gracious chaperone on fourteen tours.

When Mr. Wood, because of pressure of other duties, was forced to give up the joint positions of Honorary President and Director of the Spring play, a professional director took over the Spring Production and the late Dr. F. C. Walker became the new Honorary President. For the three years before his untimely death, the club gained much from its association with him. Since then, Professor Thorleif Larsen and, later, Professor Walter Gage have filled that position, and have done much to win the gratitude of the members.

This year, the Players' Club for the first time presents a play by William Shakespeare. The club is proud to add this name to the list of the great authors whose works it has presented.

With the opening of this new era and the return of many men from overseas service, the Players' Club looks forward to increased activities, and hopes to continue worthy of the place it holds in the life of U.B.C.

31 PLACES VISITED ON PLAYERS' CLUB TOURS, 1916 - 1944

Agassiz	Nanaimo
Armstrong	Nelson
Britannia Mines	New Westminster
Chilliwack	North Vancouver
Cloverdale	Penticton
Courtenay	Port Alberni
Cranbrook	Powell River
Creston	Qualicum Beach
Duncan	Revelstoke
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of the Shrew

Shakespeare

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SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT I.

Scene 1—Street Scene in Padua.

Scene 2—*Baptista's Garden.

INTERMISSION

ACT II.

Scene 1—*Petruccio's Country House.

Scene 2—*Street Scene in Padua.

Scene 3—Before Baptista's House.

Scene 4—The Road to Padua.

Scene 5—Street Scene in Padua.

Scene 6—Lucentio's House.

GOD SAVE THE KING

* Lights lowered to indicate the passing of time.

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Previous Performances

- 1916—"Fanny and The Servant Problem". Jerome K. Jerome. Four times.
- 1917 "Merely Mary Ann". Israel Zangwill. Four times.
- 1918 "Alice Sit-by-the-Fire". Sir James M. Barrie. Four times.
- 1919 "The Importance of Being Earnest". Oscar Wilde. Three times.
- 1920 "Green Stockings". A. E. Mason. Ten times.
- 1921 "Sweet Lavender". Sir Arthur Pinero. Twelve times.
- 1922 "Mr. Pim Passes By". A. A. Milne. Seventeen times.
- 1923 "You Never Can Tell". George Bernard Shaw. Fifteen times.
- 1924 "The World and His Wife". J. Echegaray. Eighteen times.
- 1925 "You and I". Philip Barry. Twenty times.
- 1926 "Pygmalion". George Bernard Shaw. Eighteen times.
- 1927 "The Romantic Young Lady". G. Martinez Sierra. Eighteen times.
- 1928 "Polly with a Past". George Middleton and Guy Bolton. Twenty-three times.
- 1929 "Rollo's Wild Oat". Clare Kummer. Twenty times.
- 1930 "Friend Hannah". Paul Kester. Twenty-three times.
- 1931 "The Young Idea". Noel Coward. Twenty-five times.
- 1932 "Alice Sit-by-the-Fire". Sir James M. Barrie. Twenty-one times.
- 1933 "Alibi". Michael Morton. Nineteen times.
- 1934 "Caesar and Cleopatra". George Bernard Shaw. Four times.
- 1935 "Hedda Gabler". Hendrik Ibsen. Eleven times.
- 1936 "She Stoops to Conquer". Oliver Goldsmith. Seven times.
- 1937 "The Brontes". Alfred Sangster. Nine times.
- 1938 "The Playboy of the Western World". J. M. Synge. Fourteen times.
- 1939 "The Curtain Rises". Benjamin M. Kaye. Fifteen times.
- 1940 "Pride and Prejudice". Helen Jerome, from Jane Austen. Twenty-one times.
- 1941 "Candida". George Bernard Shaw. Fifteen times.
- 1942 "The Rivals". Richard Brinsley Sheridan. Ten times.
- 1943 "George and Margaret". Gerald Savory. Four times.
- 1944 "The Dover Road". A. A. Milne. Four times.

Acknowledgements

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