

Bennington College Drama Department

presents

Ring Round the Moon

A charade with music

by Jean Anouilh

adapted by Christopher Fry

Friday, May 12, 1953
Saturday, May 13, 1953

9:00 p.m.
The Theatre

L'Invitation Au Chateau, as the original play was called, is one of Anouilh's Pieces Roses (as contrasted with his Pieces Noires).

"The society of the shell-pink world Anouilh dreamed of in his shell-pink plays is more neatly catalogued and even smaller than the world of the Guermantes in Proust...In each of these plays he established a world of the remote and introduced a character who brings a breath of fresh air. That outsider is invariably a young bourgeoisie.

"In Leocadia a young milliner's assistant is summoned to a chateau where an eccentric Dutchess teaches her to assume the identity of a beautiful deceased soprano...In La Reposition yet another young girl is engaged as governess in yet another chateau and asked to take part in a charade that is to begin in the middle of a large dinner party."

Wm. Marchant in THEATRE ARTS

"Unlike so many present-day playwrights who are descendants of a literary school, Anouilh is in the tradition of the commedia dell'arte. His plays are recorded improvisations...We realized that an English audience might have difficulty catching the spirit of the play; We had to find a sub-title. A comedy? A farce? A ballet? Then Fry found the answer. 'Call it a charade with music.'"

Peter Brook, in the Preface

Synopsis of Scenes

The action of the play passes in a Winter Garden in Spring.

Act One, Scene One: Morning.

Scene Two: Same evening, before Ball.

Act Two: The same evening. The Ball.

Act Three: Scene One: Later the same evening.

Scene Two: Dawn.

Cast of Characters

JOSHUA, a crumbling butler.....Robert Alvin
HUGO, a young man about town....John Bennes
FREDERIC, his brother.....John Bennes
DIANA MESSERSCHMANN, engaged to Frederic,
secretly in love with Hugo...Joyce Clark
LADY INDIA.....Parbara Pavoll
PATRICE BOIBELLES, Messerschmann's
secretive secretary.....Jackson Barry
MADAME DESMORTES, aunt to Hugo,
Frederic and Lady India.....Martha Dow
CAPULET, her faded
companion.....Susan Petrone
MESSERSCHMANN, Diana's father, a
melancholy millionaire...Leonardo Cimino
ROMAINVILLE, a patron of
the arts,Alan J. Levitt
and of
ISABELLE, a ballet dancer.....Carolyn Keese
HER MOTHER, a teacher
of pianoforte.....Herma Schiffer

--Dancers--

Thea Freidman, Deya Kent, Loretta Lang,
Catherine Orloff, Harvey Lichtenstein,
William Sherman and members of the cast.

Directed by.....Ned Donahoe
Assistant Director.....Carolyn Lissner

*Set, Costumes and Lights

designed by.....Frances Wolfson
Music by.....Elizabeth Larson
Choreography byFrances Smith
Stage Manager.....Wanda Peck
Assistant Stage Manager....Catherine Orloff
Technical Director.....William Sherman
Costume Construction.....Adolphine Rott
Production Manager.....Drue Romano

*Senior Project.

Scenery: Co-heads--Elizabeth Delatour,
Loretta Lang.

Crew--Uli Beigel, Carol Friedman,
Susan Gurion, Winifred Graham,
Lisa Landon, Margradel Lesch,
Diana Mazany.

Lights: Head--Faith Bancroft.

Crew--Lenore Janis, Renee Patenaude,
Audrey Rosenthal, Jeanne Segal,
Mary Vallas.

Costumes: Co-heads--Maryan Forbes,
Vija Peterson.

Crew--Ellen Berger, Lovelia Fried,
Joan Gale, Ellen Huddleson,
Ellen Kaplan, Linda Schandler,
Ann Shaff.

Props: Co-heads--Sheila Gallagher,
Margot Hartman.

Crew--Marjorie Fager, Lois Kaufman,
Jacqueline Klein, Clarissa Morten,
Evanne Schrieber, Barbara Schwartz.

Sound: Catherine Orloff.

Musicians: Violin--Ruth Miller
Clarinet--Frances Dugan
Cello--Neisa King
Piano--Elizabeth Larsen