

A.C.T. Thurs. 29 May 52

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SECOND THRESHOLD

By PHILIP BARRY with revisions by ROBERT E. SHERWOOD

Directed for MRT by Roeberta Beatty and Barry Morse

Produced under the Supervision of Doreen Lewis with Setting by Hans Berends

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THE CAST

TOBY WELLS	Charles Miller
MALLOY	Edward Wilson
MIRANDA BOLTON	Mary Douglas
JOSIAH BOLTON	Barry Morse
THANKFUL MATHER	Helen Pfeiffer
JOCK BOLTON	Talbot Johnson

SCENE SYNOPSIS

The action of the play takes place in the library of Josiah Bolton's house on West Tenth Street, New York, in the course of 24 hours, late last July.

ACT I

Scene 1. Friday Night
Scene 2. Saturday noon

ACT II

Scene 1. Saturday evening
Scene 2. Later that night

(Continued from page 7)

with Joy Lafleur and Eileen Clifford and drew plaudits from all the critics for her finely developed characterization of the scheming Mrs. Masham. In the seasons which followed Mrs. Douglas was seen as the mother in *All My Sons*, one of the ladies in *The Old Ladies*, as Maggie in *What Every Woman Knows* and as the ill fated heiress in *The Heiress*.

Mrs. Douglas has also been active in the films having appeared in both National Film Board and Associated Screen News productions. In radio Mrs. Douglas has appeared in a number of productions under the direction of Rupert Caplan as well as on a commercial day time radio serial as a sustaining character.

Her appearance in *Second Threshold* marks a welcome return to the MRT stage in a role which she herself has been personally enthusiastic about from the moment she first read the play.

CHARLES MILLER (*Toby Wells*): Last appeared with MRT in *The Silver Whistle* and prior to that has appeared in *Goodbye, My Fancy* and *There Shall Be No Night*. Perhaps one of his most outstanding characterizations was that of Robert Browning in MRT's memorable production of *The Barretts Of Wimpole Street* opposite Miss Eleanor Stuart. A production, which incidentally was also directed by Miss Beatty. Mr. Miller is also actively engaged in Canadian radio.

HELEN PFEIFFER (*Thankful Mather*): Is making her first appearance at MRT in *Second Threshold* but is already well known to Montreal audiences through her appearances with other groups in the city, particularly for her appearances with Trinity Players where she was first seen in *Quiet Week End*. Her last appearance at Trinity was in *Pink String and Sealing*

Wax. During the summer Miss Pfeiffer has also done a considerable amount of work at Brae Manor.

TALBOT JOHNSON (*Jock Bolton*): No newcomer to the stage at MRT, Talbot Johnson combines acting with a number of other activities which include journalism and creative writing. His past appearances at MRT have been in *The Madwoman of Chaillot* and *The Heiress*, appearing with Miss Douglas in the latter production.

EDWARD WILSON (*Malloy*): One of Montreal's most lovable character actors returns to the stage at MRT after many years of working not only with MRT, but several other groups throughout the city. Mr. Wilson (who incidentally is a particularly good chess player when he finds time from his many theatrical activities which include directing as well as acting) has appeared with all the best known groups in the city including Trinity, Sun Life Players as well as MRT.

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ABOUT THE CAST

BARRY MORSE (*Josiah Bolton*): Came to Montreal in May 1951 from England where he has been active for many years in theatre, films and radio. His theatrical appearances have included many with some of the biggest names on the contemporary English stage.

Tracing Mr. Morse's career is no easy matter as he has appeared in so many productions, space does not permit a complete listing. However, to mention a few, he has appeared with Leonide Massine and Baronova in the highly successful dramatization of the best selling novel *A Bullet In The Ballet* when it was presented at the Phoenix theatre in 1946. In 1947 he did a considerable amount of work in British films and was seen in this country in *This Man Is Mine* with Glynis Johns and *Daughter of Darkness* with Anne Crawford. In 1948 he appeared at the Garrick theatre in another highly successful English play *Written For A Lady* with Margaretta Scott and in 1949 he took over the management of a touring company presenting *The Voice of The Turtle* which he also directed and starred in opposite Nova Pilbeam.

In 1950 he was back in England at the Duchess theatre playing with Kathleen Harrison in *Flowers For The Living* and the following year, as an experiment, he went on tour again in the two character play *The Fourposter* again with Nova Pilbeam. This latter play has been running almost a year to capacity houses in New York starring Jessica Tandy and Hume Cronyn.

In May of this same year he came to Montreal and opened in the first production of that season's series of plays produced on the Mountain at the Mountain Playhouse, which

was, as all Montreal theatre goers well remember, Noel Coward's *Present Laughter*. Mr. Morse's appearance in this production was so successful that he was asked to return in the two one act plays of Terence Rattigan, *The Browning Version* and *Harlequinade* in which he played opposite Mildred Mitchell.

While he has been in Montreal Mr. Morse has also done an extensive amount of radio work with Rupert Caplan and the Ford Theatre of the air on the C.B.C. network. At present, along with all his other activities Mr. Morse is teaching acting at the Institute of Radio and Television in Montreal. His appearance in *Second Threshold* marks his first appearance with *MRT*.

MARY DOUGLAS (*Miranda Bolton*): A graduate of the Royal Academy of Dramatic art, the largest part of her career has been devoted to the Canadian theatre. Before coming to Montreal Mrs. Douglas was one of the leading ladies with the Ottawa Drama League where she appeared in, among many other productions, this group's presentations of *The Petrified Forest* and *Pride and Prejudice*.

Shortly after arriving in Montreal Mrs. Douglas joined the *MRT* where she has enjoyed a number of personal triumphs in the leading roles of many of *MRT's* most outstanding productions. Among these were her performances in *Hotel Universe* (another, earlier, Philip Barry play) which was followed by her appearance in *Viceroy Sarah*. In this production Mrs. Douglas shared starring honors
(Continued on page 10)



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