



MONTREAL REPERTORY THEATRE

MRT

presents

DARK EYES

A COMEDY IN TWO ACTS

by ELENA MIRAMOVA

in collaboration with EUGENIE LEONTOVICH

directed by MILDRED MITCHELL

84th MAJOR PRODUCTION

DECEMBER 4-11

1943

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DARK EYES

by ELENA MIRAMOVA

in collaboration with EUGENIE LEONTOVITCH

Directed by MILDRED MITCHELL

Assistant Director NEIL LITTLE

Cast . . .

LARRY FIELD	Richard Spohr	PRINCE NIKOLAI TORADGE . .	Adolph Mueller
WILLOUGHBY	Victor Philips	NATASHA RAPAKOVICH	Joy Lafleur
GRANDMOTHER FIELD	Stella Sprowell	TONIA KARPOVA	Rosanna Seaborn
PEARL	Germaine Bernier	OLGA SHMLEVSKAYA	Nina Arbouzoff
HELEN FIELD	Betty Treglown	JOHN FIELD	John Primm

The entire action of the play takes place in the Field's family home on Long Island.

Time — The present

ACT I Scene 1 — The Living Room. Late afternoon.

Scene 2 — The same. After dinner the following evening.

ACT II Scene 1 — A bedroom. Later that evening.

Scene 2 — The same. The next morning.

Settings designed by Alison Reid and executed in the MRT studio.

Secretary to the Director — Norma Springford.

The furniture used in our set is from Fraser Brothers Limited, and includes a bow front period chest, a rare Hebblewhite sofa and three mahogany tables on loan from the British Government under Lend Lease Agreement.

Coiffures by Francis, Holt Renfrew & Company Limited.

Light Reading . . .

THE gay absurdities of "Dark Eyes" make one think of Jacques Deval's "Tovarich", which also has unmalicious fun with some stranded Russians. But these admirable people can laugh at themselves too. Chekhov, for instance, in "The Wedding" and "The Jubilee" and Gogol in his lively farce, "The Inspector General", which MRT played several seasons ago, show that Russians can be just as

amusing at home as they are abroad.

The subject need not always be Russian, either. Evreinov, for one, chooses the ancient Harlequinade for his delicate spoofing.

You are welcome to read these and many more in the Theatre Library. If you would like to borrow them, a dollar membership fee entitles you to take out plays, biographies and theatre books that are not classed as reference works.


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Backstage Notes . . .

RICHARD SPOHR, ("Larry Field"), is a versatile and experienced newcomer to MRT. His talent for entertainment includes the ability to play and sing, an ability recently exercised for the benefit of the Canadian Legion Troop show, as well as dramatic ability. Mr. Spohr's acting has been both on radio programmes, an interesting series of which he recently completed for CBC in a Summer Drama Series in Winnipeg, and in stage roles, one of the most demanding of which was the part of "General Wolfe" which he played at Hart House in Toronto.

VICTOR PHILLIPS, ("Willoughby"), appeared as Joseph in MRT's production of "Watch on the Rhine" last winter. He is one of the leading players of the Negro Theatre Guild, in whose production of "Green Pastures" he played the part of "Gabriel".

STELLA SPROWELL, ("Grandmother Field"), plays a triple role at MRT. She has appeared in a number of studio plays, most recent of which were "Twelfth Night" and "Hello Out There", as well as major productions; she is in charge of Properties, and she assists in make-up for MRT's Tin Hats. In addition to her work at MRT she has frequently acted with other groups in Montreal.

GERMAINE BERNIER, ("Pearl"), is a member of the Negro Theatre Guild, and appeared in their production of "Green Pastures".

BETTY TREGLOWN, ("Helen Field"), was a member of the School of the Theatre and she has played in MRT studio productions. This is her

first appearance in an MRT major, although she has had considerable experience for several seasons acting with the Brae Manor players at Knowlton.

ADOLPH MUELLER, ("Niko"), another member of the cast with musical and singing ability, is appearing for the first time at MRT. A Czechoslovakian who came to Canada via London three years ago, Mr. Mueller was a member of the Czech Culture Club in England, where he played a number of roles.

JOY LAFLEUR, ("Natasha"), is an MRT favourite who has appeared in a variety of studio and major productions. Most recently seen in "Here Today", her past appearances included "The Circle", "Distaff Side", "Private Lives" and "Petticoat Fever". Mrs. Lafleur appeared professionally in Montreal when "The Pursuit of Happiness" starring Francis Lederer, played at His Majesty's Theatre.

ROSANNA SEABORN, ("Tonia"), who played with MRT several years ago in "The Cat and the Cherub", is a professional actress with considerable experience both in England and the United States. After studying at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, she acted with the Festival Repertory Theatre in Cambridge and the Westminster Theatre in London. Her work in the United States included the role of "Lucy" in "Ladies in Retirement", when it was on tour with Flora Robson, and the leading role of "Flossie" in "Song of Sorrow" in New York.

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NINA ARBOUZOFF, ("Olga"), Russian by birth but Canadian by upbringing, has appeared with various groups in Montreal, although the majority of her public appearances have been musical rather than theatrical. This is her first role at MRT.

JOHN PRIMM, ("John Field"), has progressed rapidly at M.R.T. from School of the Theatre productions in the studio to the leading part in this season's opening play, that of Lew in "Men in Shadow". He was Bolingbroke in "Richard II" and Hugh in "Church Street", both Studio productions of last season. His early experience was with the South Western Y.M.C.A., with whom he played in "The Lake". He appeared with the Trinity Players in "Ladies in Retirement", and last summer he acted with the Brae Manor Players at Knowlton.

NEIL LITTLE, (Assistant Director to Mildred Mitchell), for ten years directed the Geneva English Drama Society in Geneva, where under his direction such enterprising and ambitious productions as "The Eve of St. Mark", "See Naples and Die", "The Ascent of G-6", "Murder in the Cathedral", and Shaw's "Geneva" were presented.

ALISON REID, (Designer of the sets for "Dark Eyes"), last year designed the set for "Nine Pine Street", her first work on an MRT major. She is in charge of Maintenance for the MRT Tin Hats.

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Production Director	LOUIS MULLIGAN
Stage Manager	WILLIAM DUNK
Electrical Equipment	WILLIAM SPRINGFORD
Wardrobe Mistress	BETTY JACQUES
Properties	STELLA SPROWELL
Make-up	ROSEMARY BAUER
House Manager	LILLIAN ROWLAND
Head Usher	ELSIE COMPTON

Staff — MRT Tin Hats

Managing Director	GEOFFREY MERRILL
Staging Director	KEITH HANDYSIDE
Musical Director	FRED GROSS
Financial Director	FRANK KAVANAGH
Dancing Instructress	NORMA DARLING
Production Manager	JEAN McDONALD
Stage Manager	KENNETH DUNN
Wardrobe Mistress	PEGGY MERRILL
Maintenance	ALISON REID
Treasurer	TESLA SMYTH
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