



RAINMAKERS Vol. 1.
1976 and 1977

Book I Sept 76 - July 78

The

Rainmakers

International

Folk Dance

Group.

WANTED - DANCERS

I have recently moved to Letchworth, Herts., and am hoping to start an international folk dancing club somewhere in the Stevenage, Hitchin, Letchworth area. I would be pleased to hear from other interested dancers in the area.

"The Rainmakers" when we started the groups on 10th Sept, the drought was still with us. We decided to learn "Mayim Mayim" an Israeli water dance and to end every dance evening with it. The first evening was fine when we started but after dancing "Mayim" when we left we found the heavens had opened. When the same thing happened the next week after another completely dry week we began to wonder and a third "shower" convinced us so when we chose our name it had to be —

"The Rainmakers"

Folk dance club may be launched

A GROUP of North Herts people are starting a new international folk dancing club, the first of its kind in the area.

Mrs. Jill Bransby, of Baldock Road, Letchworth, has just moved to the area from Cambridge and has discovered several people in Letchworth and Stevenage interested in this kind of dancing.

Said Mrs. Bransby: "I did a lot of dancing in Cambridge and since I have come to Letchworth I have found four other people who would like to form a club."

The club's first meeting will be on Friday, September 10, in the Catholic Church Hall in Albert Street, Stevenage.

She said: "I think there is sufficient support for a club in the area."

"A wide variety of European dances from countries such as Rumania, Germany, Hungary, Portugal, Greece, Yugoslavia and Sweden will be taught in a way which will allow everyone to join in straight away."

Further details about the club can be obtained from Mrs. Bransby, phone Letchworth 4843.

The Beginning

Friday

10th Sept 76

NEW GROUP STARTING

On Friday, 10th September, from 8 to 10 p.m., a new group for general international dancing will be starting at The Catholic Church Hall, Albert Street, Stevenage, Herts. We hope to meet every Friday. Further details from Mrs. Jill Bransby, 59 Baldock Road, Letchworth, Herts. Tel: Letchworth 4843.

STEVENAGE GROUP

A new group started in early September for general international dancing at Stevenage, Herts. They have had sufficient support to form a club, now called "The Rainmakers". They meet on Fridays at 8 p.m. at the Catholic Church Hall, Albert Street, Stevenage. The Secretary is Mrs. R. Bowtell, 9 Beech Drive, Stevenage, Herts. (Tel: Stevenage 2871) and they would be delighted to see new faces at the club.

DANCING GROUP IN THE SWING

GETTING into the swing of things is an international folk dancing group in Stevenage.

They had their first meeting last week and 22 people turned up.

Organising the new club is 60-year-old Mrs Jill Bransby who recently moved into a house in Baldock Road, Letchworth.

She has been interested in dances from other countries for several years and

once took a course in the subject in Canada.

Mrs Bransby wants people of all ages to join the group which meets at the Catholic Church Hall in Albert Street on Fridays at 8 pm.

If anyone wants more details they can contact her on Letchworth 4843.

Early Days!!!

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Learning "Karapyet" (several versions)

Our "dance signature" Mayim - Mayim

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Progress

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The Hatmakers Dance
(do we stamp first or clap?)
Neopolitan Tarantella



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VISIT OF CAMBRIDGE GROUP

Dear Lily,

Let me congratulate yet another new group. It wears still baby booties, but My Goodness, it "walks" already, despite not being one year old yet! RAINMAKERS, you are a super group. I was astonished to see in what short a time you could achieve such a lot, and such fine standard too. When my group, the Cambridge University International Group, were invited to spend an evening with you we all enjoyed ourselves very much. Your members are lovely people whom it was very nice to meet; and all ages too. Well Done, to bring along the youngsters, and it was interesting to see some "old timers" from the SIFD emerge from their hidings and helping to get RAINMAKERS going.

It is not easy to start a new group, but to persevere is well worth the while and to see the setbacks, shortage of people, disappointments, turn into the success one worked for. All of us who know Jill Bransby and who now know the RAINMAKERS wish them every success, happiness, and loads of good dancers and enjoyable dancing for evermore.

KATHI TRIBE,
198 Gilbert Road,
Cambridge



Dance from Somogy-Hungary

The Cambridge Group visited us on 12th Nov 1976. They danced for and with us, and taught us some new dances. Though we are a very new group we were able to teach them a new dance in return. It was a most enjoyable evening and we hope it won't be long before we are dancing together again.

Dance from ~~Kalcsa~~ Somogy (taught by Cambridge Group)

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Kreutz Koenig



note audience appreciation!!!



G
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at the Christmas Party

Nigono Shel Yossi

ISRAELI



HITCHIN
GATHERING
1977

March 12th



THE ENGLISH FOLK DANCE AND SONG SOCIETY
THE STAPLERS COUNTRY DANCE CLUB, HITCHIN

Welcome to our 19th Hitchin Gathering, in the Silver Jubilee Year of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's glorious reign.

Having spent many weeks drilling our Stapler squaddies we shall do our best to mark this historic event in folk style today.

This promises to be a gala year for folk dancers and singers and the Gathering should get us in North Herts. off to a royal start. We are really very lucky because that's what folk dancing is all about - it is a celebration in all its many forms, whether it be traditional country dancing, the ritual Morris, international dancing or a real 'knees up' Barn Dance. Nor must we forget the great tradition of English Folk Song which so frequently recorded many other great events in our colourful history.

It is with very great pleasure that we once again welcome our 'Master of the Gathering's Musik', Roger Nicholls and the Orange and Blue Band. Roger and the Band have recently completed another record to add to their already considerable achievements in the folk world and we eagerly await its release. Roger's painstaking and melodious arrangements of country dance music for our performers will undoubtedly make their feet fly and delight your ears this afternoon. With gratitude we acknowledge the huge contribution that Roger and the Band make to the Gathering.

Our gratitude goes also to our many guests who are here to sing and dance for us this year - giving freely of their time (how many hours rehearsal their bare six minutes performance entails none but other performers may guess), their expenses (costumes and gallons - both for cars and morris men - to itemise but two) and their enthusiasm (boundless). We hope that the enormous pleasure they will undoubtedly give to everyone will be reflected to give them likewise a very happy and enjoyable afternoon. Our very grateful thanks go also to our many friends behind the scenes: and mine go especially to the army of Staplers, without whose help and tremendous co-operation none of today's celebrations would have been possible.

Staplers meet at BANCROFT HALL, in Bancroft Gardens, Hitchin every Monday, 8.00 p.m. - 10.00 p.m. We always need new members - we'd love to see you.

Staplers is a registered club of The E.F.D.S.S., Cecil Sharp Hse. 2 Regents Park Road, London N.W.1.

1977

THE NINETEENTH HITCHIN GATHERINGTHE ORANGE AND BLUE BAND - LEADER: ROGER NICHOLLSM.C. - BRIAN LIMBRICK

OVERTURE by the Orange and Blue Band

STAPLERS
Salute the Jubilee Grenadiers March
Queens Jig
Bolero Circle

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD
~~Round the Capitals~~ Flowers of Edinburgh
Long live London
Red House of Cardiff

OFFLEY MORRIS Cuckoo's Nest)
Lads-a-Bunchum) Sherborne

ROUEN BOUFFERS
The Birthday Party Speed the Plough
Chelsea Reach
Gathering Peascods

THE RAINMAKERS Hava Nagila - Israel

NORTH HERTS. REEL CLUB Hooper's Jig
The Silver City Strathspey
Montgomery's Rant

BERNARD CHALK

STANDON Arnolds Circle
The Dutch Set Lisbeth's Double Five
Baltish Turn
Three Ladies Yard

CHILDREN'S DANCING For all children and mum. and dad.

MCULTON MORRIS Staunton Wake
Pytchley Gates

ST. ALBANS ABBEY Simple Gifts)
St. George's Day) arr. Pat Shaw

HODDESDON CROWNSMEN Rapper Sword Dance

PURLEIGH
Lucky LeviTHE RAINMAKERS
STAPLERS

THAXTED MORRIS

WATFORD

KEN O'KINES

THE RAINMAKERS
LUTON
A Bunch of Five

CHILDREN'S DANCING

TOM CRONIN

CONTRA

MASED MORRIS

FINE COMPANIONS

STAPLERS - Finale with Circassian Circle, in which everyone is invited to join.

Light refreshments are available in the gymnasium (off the side corridor).

Our thanks to the 9th Hitchin Girl Guides who are in charge.

There is also an English Folk Dance and Song Society Sales Desk in the Bar.

Reel of Balleymore
Fair Quaker of Deal
Levi Jackson's Rag
Lucky Seven

Csarda Myjava - Czechoslovakia

Shepherds Holiday
Around Hitchin
Sweet Kate
When Laura SmilesRoom for the Cuckoo - Bucknall
Dearest Dicky - FieldtownMr. Beveridge's Maggot
The Boatman
The Round

Folk Songs

Kreuz Koenig - Germany

Hazel's Jig
The Odd Couple
Rose of Tankerton

For all children and mum. and dad.

Clog Dancing

Och Aye, Claudius!

Black Joke - Adderbury
Constant Billy - Adderbury
Bonny Green GartersArkansas Traveller
Comical Fellow
The Quaker's Wife

T H E G A T H E R I N G D A N C E S

TONIGHT +++ HERE ++ TONIGHT

M.C. BERNARD CHALK with BRIAN HAMILTON'S BAND
POPULAR DANCE IN THE MAIN HALL

OR

M.C. TONY COMPTON with THE CHILTERN RAMBLERS
STRICTLY PLAYFORD STYLE in the small hall

SONGS BY THE ALBERT STREET SINGERS

EACH DANCE (We regret NOT both this year) - £1.20
£1.00 with E.F.D.S.S. membership card
REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED

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THE CHILDREN'S GATHERING

Saturday, March 19th at 2.00 p.m.

THE HOWARD BAND - SONGS BY DAVE TOTTERDELL

THE TOWN HALL Children 30p. Adults 20p.

Children must be accompanied by a dancing adult

Light Refreshments included

School parties by invitation

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THE STAPLERS SILVER JUBILEE BARN DANCE

Saturday, June 18th HITCHIN TOWN HALL at 7.30 p.m.

M.C. BRIAN LIMBRICK with BRIAN HAMILTON'S BAND

Great Entertainment ... Great Dancing

Hitchin Gathering. March 12th 1977.

The first really public performance of dances by The Rainmakers was at Hitchin Gathering. Note the specially made colourful costumes.



Hava Nagila - Israel.
Three dancers only!

Diana Steer

Nick Hann

Jill Bransby.

Csardas Myjava - Czech.



Jill and Nick

Kreuz Koenig - Germany.



Sue

Roy

Gordon

Joyce.

Tuesday, March 22nd 1977.

A large number of members attended a meeting of the Anglo-American Association, at their invitation, in March. Many of us expected to dance American Square Dances there but on arrival we found we were expected to entertain a rather elderly group of ^{English} people for most of the evening. However, with Jill's enthusiastic encouragement some of them were soon joining us in the less vigorous dances. It proved to be a jolly evening.

In appreciation an A.A.F.A. member gave us a pair of lederhosen which completed a set of costumes for Kreutz Koening.

April 29th INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE run by the Rainmakers Club at the Catholic Church Hall, Albert Street, Stevenage. 7.30 to 11.15 p.m. Dancing to "The Rangers". Tickets (including refreshments) 50p from Roy Bowtell, 9 Beech Drive, Stevenage, Herts. (Tel: 2871).

Our Jubilee Dance + Andrea
Decorations by Eileen and her Brownies.
We made about £15

Note: The tickets cost 50p - for a dance!

Hitchin Jubilee Celebrations.
June 18th 1977.

Rehearsal!



The Ox Dance
Performance!



Oxdansen



Girls Dance from Kalosca. (Hungary)



The Gota - Portugal.



Dancing by Rainmakers. Costumes by Bedford College (I.F.D.S. Club)



Saturday, July 2nd. A Day of Dance.

Rainmakers joined the Roundabouts, Hitchin Stappers, Welwyn Folk Dancers and Stevenage Rapper Sword Dancers on a dancing tour to raise funds for the E.F.S.D.S. It was hot!



SUMMER came with a vengeance on Saturday... and Shephall people weren't complaining, for it came just in time for their annual fete on Shephall Green.

School — when the central ring was empty there were plenty of stalls and sideshows to visit.

Hundreds turned out to watch the festivities, which included the Stevenage Pipe Band and a folk dancing troupe, the Stevenage and Welwyn Roundabouts (pictured above). **Stevenage**

Fete organiser Alan Richardson was well pleased. "We're always keen to have this fete, because it helps to foster a village atmosphere in Shephall Green," he said. But judging from all the happy faces, that atmosphere doesn't need much fostering!

Traditional Maypole dancing was performed by the children of Fairlands Junior

upkeep of St. Mary's Church. Shephall's vicar, the Rev. Nick Bury, opened the fete.

Dancing display

The Rainmakers perform a Greek dance at the fete at Shephall Green on Saturday. Their display was one of a number by traditional dance groups at the event. Another picture, Page 8.

JUMBLE SALE
CHURCH HALL
ALBERT STREET
 Friday, July 15th
 7.30 pm. Admission 5p.

Now we need funds.

Profit £34

July 2nd 1977



Day of Dance.
Stevenage

Black Jake

Lordship Farm School Fête. July 9th



Mayim Mayim.



Hava
Nagila



Practising the Gota at the Club.

Comet August 11th
1977

Rainmakers make things shine!

A FUNNY thing happened when a group of folk dance enthusiasts got together for the first time.

The first dance they learned was an Israeli one meant to bring on rain—and that was the night last year's drought broke.

So what else could they call themselves but the Rainmakers International Folk Dancing Club?

During the year they have added to their repertoire dances from Austria, Yugoslavia, Hungary and other countries, and are just beginning to get a wardrobe together.

And they have shown off their talents at various fetes, functions and the local Day of Dance.

The Rainmakers have about 25 regular members—ranging in age from 11 to the mid-50s—but more are needed.

Their new season starts on September 9 and anyone interested in joining should go along to the Catholic Church hall in Albert Street, Stevenage, on a Friday at 8 pm or phone the group's teacher Mrs Jill Bransby on Letchworth 4843.

"RAINMAKERS" Club for International Folk Dancing start again after the summer break on 9th September and will meet every Friday at 8 p.m. at the Catholic Church Hall, Albert Street, Stevenage, Herts. The Club had a very successful first year and learned many varied dances and were able to perform some of them in costume at various clubs, fetes, etc. They also joined Rapper Sword, English Country and Clog Groups for a combined Day of Dance in the Welwyn & Stevenage area.

They have their own band (violin, accordion, recorder, guitar and banjo) which is still in its infancy but has managed to play some recognisable tunes to dance to. To raise funds they held a Dance and a Jumble Sale and now have about £70 to their credit. The next move will be to affiliate to the S.I.F.D.

The Group wish to thank everyone for their support, especially the Cambridge Group.

National dancing

FANCY a dance?

If it's anything from a polka to a Highland reel then you'll probably find it at the hall of Stevenage College on Friday (October 14) at an event organised by Stevenage International Club.

The dance features local international folk dancing group, the Rainmakers, who appear in international costume.

It is the International Club's first event of the season.

Saturday, September 17th. 1977.

Roy and Joyce danced at Bedford P.E. College with Margery Latham's demonstration team from the S.I.F.D.

This was part of the 'Day of Dance', organised by the Eastern Region Dance Liaison Group. Roy and Joyce had a very enjoyable session and apparently managed to dance some 'unknown' dances with great aplomb! Our thanks to the "Barbarian Couple".

On Thursday, 22nd September, a few of us joined the Staplers to entertain Polish people at the Sue Ryder home at Stagenhoe.

The programme was mainly English Country Dancing and Morris. Jill, Sue, Roy and Gordon danced Kreuz Koenig. Later, after some English Country Dancing, Sue and Roy performed Karapyet. Roy and Gordon entertained everyone again with the Ox Dance.

Finally Gordon and Jill tried to convince all the Polish people that they knew the Krakowiak.



'Krakowiak'. Gordon + Jill ^{at} Stagenhoe.





'Neapolitan Tarantella.'
At Staplers' Anniversary Dance.



'Mayim Mayim.'

Saturday, October 1st.

For the first time a group of the Rainmakers dancers performed to the music of their own band. Hazel Glass, Tony Glenn, Clive Cumbrell, Ces Mills and Jill Bransky with violin, guitars, accordion and castanets played the Neapolitan Tarantella and Mayim Mayim in lively fashion for a demonstration of International Folk Dancing at the Hitchin 'Staplers' Anniversary Dance.

Friday, October 14th.

The Rainmakers went to Stevenage College Hall instead of their usual venue in Albert Street to join with the Stevenage International Club in an evening of folk dancing. Though it was the first time the International Club had held such an evening, many of their members were pleased to join in with the Rainmakers.

Bedwell Community Centre.

On Saturday, 29th October the Rainmakers joined with the Roundabouts Playford Group and the Albert Street Singers to give an evening of entertainment to some old people at their Halloween Party at Bedwell Community Centre, Stevenage.

During the evening Rainmakers danced some of their usual repertoire, judged a witch's hat contest and managed to get some of the old folks doing a gentle dance called Setnja. We especially enjoyed seeing the Roundabouts in their beautiful seventeenth century costumes which were home-made. The Albert Street Singers were in good voice. It is nice for the groups to work together in this way.



Joining in 'Setnja'.

At Bedwell.



'Setnja'



'Dargason' . Roundabouts Playford Group.

Visit of Marjorie Latham - December 9th.

Marjorie Latham, a teacher from the headquarters of the International Folk Dance Society, came to Stevenage on December 9th. This gave the Rainmakers the opportunity of learning some new dances.

The dances she taught were:—

Fjallnas Polska. Sweden.
Trekantspolskan Polska. Sweden.
Landler. Austria.

Anglo-American Christmas Party. December 13th.

The members of the Anglo-American Club invited the Rainmakers to their Christmas Party on December 13th. It was a very friendly, enjoyable evening. The Club members enthusiastically joined in dancing the gentler dances of the Rainmakers' repertoire. During the evening everyone joined in the choruses of the Albert Street Singers.

Rainmakers' Christmas Party.

December 16th 1977.

Our second Christmas as an International Folk Dancing Club was celebrated on December 16th.

Christine Heskins and her helpers had decorated the hall in suitable festive style, members came along with all manner of goodies to eat and drink, so we were all set for an evening of dancing our favourite dances.

During the interval we endeavoured to solve an ingenious crossword puzzle devised by Jill. As all the answers were words connected with dances we perform weekly it made us realise how ignorant we still are of the names of steps and dances we perform. All around were cries of "How do you spell —?" Sheila and Sue were much applauded joint winners.

Highlights of the evening were clog dancing by Ann and Janet Cropton and an impromptu visit by the Stevenage Rapper Sword Dancers.

1978

Jan 8th 1978. Roy, Warren, Audrey & Jill visited the monthly International Dance at Cecil Sharpe House. This was Warren & Audrey's 1st visit & they were surprised by how many dances they knew. We hope that more Rainmakers may be able to come in the future to the monthly dance.

Jumble Sale. Jan 20th. We raised about £27 at the sale - Thank you to everyone who helped - A good effort. This will swell the funds which have been very low since the purchase of a microphone & amplifier in Nov. for Rainmakers use.

On Sunday Jan 29th Rainmakers turned up in force to dance at Sunions Green Community Centre for the VITAL club for handicapped people. We also asked the Roundabouts Playford Team, Anne & Janet (cloggers), Mike Brath & William & some Scottish Dancers - (singers)

Isobel & partner from the Caledonian Soc. & 2 couples from the N. Herts Reel Club. Unfortunately we largely outnumbered our audience because the ambulance driver was sick & unable to

bring the people in wheelchairs. However we all had a good afternoon & enjoyed watching ~~at~~ the other groups. We were also able to practice our 'Israeli Suite' without any disasters.



Gota.

On Tues 14th January a group of Rainmakers went to Misden Old Peoples Home in Hitchin to entertain the 'old folks' for an hour. Gordon joined us, + he + Roy did their 'party - piece' 'Ox-dance' which meant that Gordon could only hobble for the rest of the evening due to Roy's enthusiasm in the 1st figure!

We danced a varied + lively programme which included 'Krakowiak' + 'Fyathas Polska'. ~~which~~ We were complimented on our 'natural' dancing! The audience enjoyed it all very much + asked us to come again very soon.



Karapyet.



Debka Druz.



Roundabouts Playford Group.

1978
On Saturday 18th February, 2 groups of Rainmakers, went up to Cambridge to watch the Cambridge Group's 'Hungarian Evening' at the Camb. Tec. College Theatre. 7 of us went to the matinee & 5 to the evening performance. The Cambridge group had put an enormous amount of time & effort into making costumes (hours of embroidery for the kalosca costumes.) It was an ambitious production - Rainmakers all felt that we would prefer to stick to Jumble Sales as our main way of earning money!!

1978.
On Friday 24th February we held our (2nd) dance from 8pm - 11pm. in Albert Street. The decorations, made by Christine, were very effective, the wearing of costumes made everyone look very festive & the refreshments were lovely. Our own band, now named 'CLOUD BURST', played quite a lot of the music & when they had a rest, we danced to tapes. We were entertained by the Stevenage Rapper Group & by Anne & Janet again who did another proficient clog dance for us. George organised a raffle again. Altogether we made about £15 & had a lovely evening as well. Thanks to everyone for all their help!

Practising for the Hitchin Gathering Feb. 17th.



THE ISRAELI SUITE :

Hora Agadati
Chikessia KJula
Erev Bah.
Hava Nagila
Mayim Mayim

Staplers plan 20th dance-in

LOCAL country dance groups are set for a particularly hectic day on Saturday, March 4, when they will make their way to Hitchin Town Hall to take part in the Hitchin Gathering.

The Morris dancing will be provided by the local Offley team and, newcomers to the gathering, the Staplers' own Morris Men. The Staplers will, as usual, provide the opening item of the afternoon and a display as part of the programme.

The gathering will be compared by Brian Limbrick and the music will be provided by the popular Orange and Blue Band.

There will be dances in the Town Hall and adjoining gymnasium during the evening.

Clubs taking part will come

Saturday, March 4th 1978.

Hitchin Gathering.

A member of the audience at the Hitchin Gathering said he received a "cultural shock" when the Rainmakers leapt onto the dance floor with their Israeli Suite. This performance was a complete contrast to the gentler English dances and elegant Playford that had gone before. Almost every member of the Rainmakers regular dancing class took part this year and the audience obviously appreciated the style and energy of their dancing - the dancers were obviously enjoying themselves too.

The costumes were in varied earth colours, which is traditional for Israeli dancing. These were loaned to the Rainmakers by Bedford College Folk Club.

The whole afternoon was extremely enjoyable but it must be said that the Rainmakers item was one of the highlights.



THE ENGLISH FOLK DANCE AND SONG SOCIETY
THE STAPLERS COUNTRY DANCE CLUB, HITCHIN

Today Staplers welcome you to the twentieth Hitchin Gathering. Each year we ask ourselves what we may do to vary the Gathering and each year, taking into consideration the limits of our accommodation, we decide there is no other broad format which would give an opportunity to so many enthusiasts to display their talents and interests to the general public. There are many excellent dances, workshops and festivals at which dancers and singers may improve their art or enjoy the company of like-minded enthusiasts but few opportunities for individual clubs - the backbone of the English Folk Dance and Song Society, which is the heart of all our national folk activity - to display their expertise.

We are disappointed this year not to have been able to include displays by some other teams who have danced for us at previous Gatherings. Of course, we could double the length of the programme but we fear for the dreadful ache which must attack our audience, especially those who find it difficult to see anything other than the tops of bobbing heads. Fortunately, even for these people - and they do have our utmost concern - there is the marvellous music of the Orange and Blue Band which ensures that the afternoon, however limited visually, must succeed as an audible feast and foot-tapping experience second to none, since Roger Nicholls' arrangements of the afternoon's music are, we believe, unrivalled anywhere.

To all those whom we could not invite into our programme this year may we say that we do hope to have you with us at future Gatherings; to all our performers - thank you for your support over many years and for the splendid entertainment we know you are going to give us; and to our audience - thank you for your interest and appreciation, even amidst your discomfort. Let us assure you that, when they build the second Albert Hall in Hitchin, you will all receive complimentary tickets for the steepest-tiered, best upholstered seats in the house!

Meanwhile, should you wish to restore your circulation why not come along to Staplers any Monday evening at BANCROFT HALL, in Bancroft Gardens, Hitchin from 8.00 p.m. until 10.00 p.m. We always need new members - we'd love to see you.

THE TWENTIETH HITCHIN GATHERING

THE ORANGE AND BLUE BAND - LEADER: ROGER NICHOLLS

M.C. - BRIAN LIMBRICK

OVERTURE The Orange and Blue Band
STAPLERS Swedish Masquerade
HEMEL HEMPSTEAD The Matelot
"A Nautical Occasion" Dover Pier
Sackett's Harbour
STAPLERS' MORRIS MEN Shooting from Hinton
Getting up Stairs - Headington
ROUNDBOUTERS Nottingham Swing
"The Sunday School Party" Parson's Farewell
Fain I would
Pat-a-cake Polka
ST. ALBANS' ABBEY Mary's Moment
The Happy Pair
Verulam Round
ALBERT STREET Sing-a-long
NORTH HERTS. REEL CLUB Muirland Willy
Mairi's Fancy
Round Reel of Eight
DOUBLE DUTCH Clog dancing from
Durham and Westmerland
OFFLEY MORRIS MEN Cuckoo's Nest
How do you do, Sir) Sherborne
DANCING FOR ALL

FINE COMPANIONS

HODDESDON CROWNSMEN

CONTRA
"On Ilkley Moor"

CHILDREN'S DANCING

KEN O'KINES

RAINMAKERS
"An Israeli Suite"

BLASSED MORRIS

WATFORD
"A Playford Suite"

STAPLERS
"Staplers at the Seaside"

Light refreshments are available in the gymnasium (off the side corridor)

Our thanks to the 9th Hitchin Girl Guides who are in charge.

There is also an English Folk Dance and Song Society Sales Desk in the Bar.

Cornish Eight
Rose of Rochester
Dorset Four Hand Reel

The Rapper Sword Dance

Three Meet
Yorkshire Square Eight
Kendal Ghyll
Turn Off Six
Buttered Peas
Brass Muts

For all children and mum and dad

Folk Songs

Jockey to the Fair
Beaux of London City
Bonny Green Garters

Adson's Saraband
My Lady Winwood's Maggot
Dick's Maggot

THE GATHERING DANCES

TONIGHT +++ HERE +++ TONIGHT

M.C. BERNARD CHALK with BRIAN HAMILTON'S BAND
POPULAR DANCE IN THE MAIN HALL

OR

M.C. TONY COMPTON with THE CHILTERN RAMBLERS
STRICTLY PLAYFORD STYLE in the small hall
SONGS BY ALBERT STREET
CLOG DANCING by DOUBLE DUTCH

EACH DANCE - £1.30
£1.00 with EFDSS membership card

REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED ... LICENCED BAR

*** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** ***

THE CHILDREN'S GATHERING

Saturday, March 18th at 2.15 p.m.

THE ORANGE AND BLUE

THE TOWN HALL Children 30p. Adults 30p.

Children must be accompanied by a dancing adult

Light Refreshments included

School Parties by invitation

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STAPLERS' FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday May 6th - Mervyn Clayton with The Barnacles
at Stotfold Memorial Hall

Saturday October 7th - Staplers' Anniversary Dance
Brian Hamilton's Band and Brian Limbrick
Town Hall, Hitchin

Saturday December 2nd - Ian Holland with Kenton Ramblers
Letchworth Free Church Hall



The Rainmakers at Hitchin Gathering 1978.



On Monday, May 1st, a few of the Rainmakers entertained the Staplers at a family dance at Lilley Village Hall.

Warren, Laura, Roy and Jill danced Kreuz Koenig (yet again). Roy and Gordon danced the Oxdance, practically everybody else from Rainmakers, danced Neapolitan, Taranitella, to the loud music of 'Cloudburst'.

Friday, May 12th. Jumble Sale.

Our favourite source of club funds - the Jumble Sale - was productive once more.

A profit of about £28 has enabled us to buy a cassette tape recorder for the Rainmakers' class.

JUMBLE SALE
Friday, 12th May
7.15 pm
CHURCH HALL
Albert Street
STEVENAGE

Friday, June 2nd was the evening when a group of dancers from the Fine Companions Club, Bedford, came to dance with us in Stevenage.

The programme of English and International dances proved to be ideal for the hot, thundery weather and everyone joined in all the dances with great enthusiasm. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

On Saturday, May 20th, ten Rainmakers danced at Martins Wood Infants' School Fête in the afternoon.

We managed to dance:-

Hoi Harmonica

Zamer Attic

Dance from Kalosca

Gota

Durham Waltz by Janet (Clog Dance)

Israeli Suite

We were kindly given cups of tea and a generous donation of £5 to club funds.

Saturday, June 10th was very busy for the Rainmakers as they energetically danced in two places.

First they danced at St. Mary's Dance and Craft Show at Baldock.

We very well performed (says Jill!)

Hoi Harmonica

Kreuz König

Girls' Dance from Kaloska

Gota

Israeli Suite

Some leaps were higher than usual when a small dog followed the girls around whilst they were dancing and nipped their ankles and Margery's skirt.

We then went on to St. Nicholas' School Fête in Stevenage. The storm clouds were gathering as the team approached the gate. On hearing their name, "The Rainmakers" announced, a small boy quite reasonably cried "Don't let them in!"

We performed the same programme as at Baldock but with two "joining in" dances, Little Joseph and Tzadik Katamar as well. The dances were well received and very colourful. A lady was overheard remarking that the costumes looked so authentic that we must have sent

away, abroad, for the materials.
(Sherrys, 60p a yard!)
Thanks to those who danced.

Saturday, July 2nd. 1978

The Rainmakers were invited to join the Stevenage Roundabouts and a group of English Folk Dancers from Welwyn Garden City, on their annual Day of Dance in aid of the English Folk Song and Dance Society.

Nearly every member of the Rainmakers' regular Friday class thoroughly enjoyed joining in a rather exhausting tour.

We danced in Stevenage New Town Centre, the Oval shopping centre, outside the Lytton Arms at Knebworth, back to Stevenage and finally in the beautiful park of Vanstone Garden Centre at Codicote. It is said that our colourful costumes (and also we hope, our dancing) contributed much to the day. About £78 was collected.

Groups of Rainmakers danced:—

Fjallanas Polska

Meitschi Putzdi

Hoi Harmonica

Israeli Suite

Girls' Dance from Kaloska.

The Willwood Clog Dancers, who are also now Rainmakers, gave splendid performances at every stop.



The Rainmakers dancing the Girls' Dance from Kalosca, outside Woolworths, Stevenage on July 2nd 1978. This was part of our display during the Roundabouts Day of Dance when money was collected for the F.F.D.S.S.

Sue Peg (?) Sheila Janet Laura Audrey
Margery Betty Jan (who went to Australia)
Christine Joyce Isabel Jill

Our "Polish" striped skirt material cost us
60p a yard.

**THE 172nd MEETING
OF
THE MORRIS RING**
(Hosts: The Offley Morris Men)



23rd - 25th JUNE, 1978

WHERE TO SEE THE MORRIS MEN

Saturday, 24th of June, 1978

The men will dance at the following places at the times shown

ASHWELL		
ASHWELL MUSEUM	12.30 p.m.	
ASTON		
PIG & WHISTLE	1.15 p.m.	
BALDOCK		
WHITE LION	2.40 p.m.	
HARPENDEN		
WHITE LION	11.00 a.m.	
HITCHIN*		
GARDEN OF REST	10.00 a.m.	
WESTMILL COMMUNITY CENTRE	2.45 p.m.	
MASSED SHOW		
MARKET PLACE	3.45 p.m.	
KIMPTON		
THE BOOT	12 noon	
LETCHWORTH		
NEW SHOPPING PRECINCT	10.00 a.m.	
LUTON		
ST. GEORGE'S SQUARE	10.00 a.m.	
PRESTON		
RED LION	1.00 p.m.	
ROYSTON		
HIGH STREET (North)	11.15 a.m.	
STEVENAGE (Old Town)		
HIGH STREET	2.35 p.m.	
WELWYN (Old Town)		
WHITE HORSE	12.00 noon	
WHITWELL		
EAGLE & CHILD	11.00 a.m.	

* There will be a **MASSED SHOW** of Dancing by all teams attending the meeting in Hitchin at 3.45 p.m. in the Old Market Place (at the intersection of Bucklersbury, Sun Street and the High Street).

There will be three dance tours operating during the day. Their Routes will be as follows:-

TOUR A	<i>Dancing Times</i>
Letchworth	10.00 a.m.
Royston	11.15 a.m.
Ashwell	1.15 p.m.
Baldock	2.40 p.m.
Hitchin	3.45 p.m.
TOUR B	
Hitchin	10.00 a.m.
Whitwell	11.00 a.m.
Old Welwyn	12 noon
Aston	1.15 p.m.
Old Stevenage	2.35 p.m.
Hitchin	3.45 p.m.
TOUR C	
Luton	10.00 a.m.
Harpenden	11.00 a.m.
Kimpton	12 noon
Preston	1.00 p.m.
Hitchin (Westmill)	2.45 p.m.
Hitchin	3.45 p.m.

HOW TO RECOGNISE THE CLUBS

Dress Notes:- Most Clubs wear a Tabard (Sleeveless Jacket) or a Baldrick (crossed braids) or Sash (single cross-belt over one shoulder, or around the waist) in colours of their choice.

Clubs with White Trousers, White Shirts and Baldricks

BRACKLEY MORRIS MEN

Baldricks of any two colours of the dancers' choice, Black top hats, Red leather bell pads.

CARLTON MORRIS MEN

Green, Orange and Black Baldricks, Panama Hats and Red Handkerchiefs.

CHALICE MORRIS MEN

Red Baldricks with Black and Green bell pads.

UTTOXETER HEART OF OAK MORRIS MEN

Blue and Black Baldricks with yellow zig-zag, Straw Hats

Clubs with Breeches and Baldricks

KINNERTON MORRIS MEN

Yellow and Red Baldricks with yellow cummerbunds, Straw Hats.

OFFLEY MORRIS MEN

Blue and Black Baldricks, Straw Hats, Blue and Black bell pads.

Clubs with Breeches and Tabards

ADLINGTON MORRIS MEN

Green Tabards, Straw Hats, Orange and Red bell pads.

MEN OF WIGHT

Blue Tabards, Black Top Hats.

Clubs with Breeches and Sash

HORWICH PRIZE MEDAL MORRIS MEN

Red Velvet Caps, Gold Cross Sash, Gold Waist Sash, Red Velvet Breeches, Black Clogs.

STEVENAGE SWORD

Green Sash worn around the waist, Black Breeches (for Rapper) or Green Tat-Suits (for Long-Sword).

THE
Romanian
STATE
Rhapsody
Orchestra
and CIOCIRLIA DANCERS

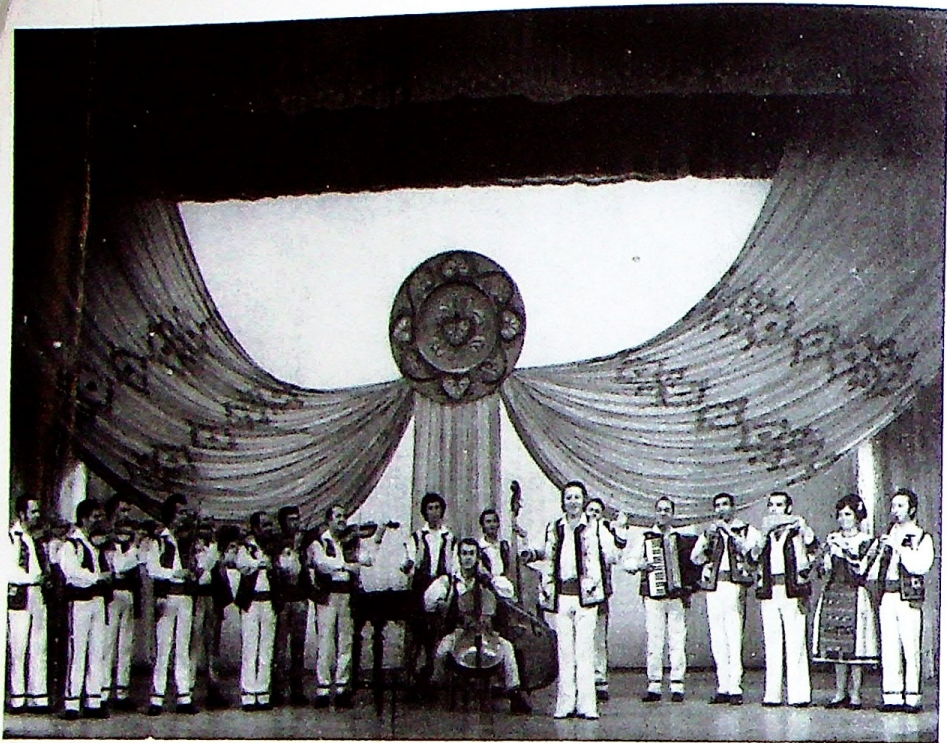


Tuesday, July 4th.

The Romanian State Rhapsody Orchestra and Ciocirlia Dancers came to Stevenage Leisure Centre for one evening.

Quite a few of the Rainmakers and their friends were in the audience. It was a noisy, whirling exciting performance of traditional Romanian music and dancing. The cymbalom, bagpipes, taragot and panpipes besides more conventional instruments comprised the orchestra. We enjoyed the unusual sounds produced and marvelled at the skill and speed of performers.

Of course the dances from different regions of Romania interested the Rainmakers most of all. They were delightful - could we do that one? Perhaps at half speed. The costumes of the dancers were really beautiful, basically white with embroidered blouses and waistcoats and varying headwear.



Does Pip give you the pip?

by Eric Shorter

Since my last despatch about Pip Simmons and Co - filed at midnight from a rainswept courtyard at Cardiff - our oldest avant garde theatrical company has committed what many playgoers will consider to have been a further indiscretion. It has gone back to Shakespeare and toyed with *The Tempest*.

Now it is one thing to mess about with classical authors to whom the average playgoer may have paid lip service. For example, I once stumbled upon the Pip Simmons Theatre Group in the studio of the Birmingham Repertory Theatre. Or rather it threatened to stumble over me, looming about on stilts in an exciting version of a short story by Dostoevsky called *Dream Of A Ridiculous Man*. I say it was exciting because if you are sitting beneath an actor who looms up to you on stilts and seems threatening there is no chance of your dropping off to sleep.

Besides, you can usually depend on Pip Simmons's people to be caught unclothed at various stages of any show; and though I like to think after thirty years of fairly vigilant theatre-going I am above that sort of peeping tom appeal to my perhaps debased tastes there is still a fascination in seeing just how far the next improper gesture will dare go.

But being rude and offensive in the name of artistic licence is still more or less permissible when the form of the derivation changes. That is to say, translating a short story to the stage. Even with Buchner's *Woyzeck* you are on safe ground, because although that

also was a play which is still acted from time to time it isn't a play which is cherished or widely known by the majority of British playgoers.

So when Mr Simmons and his devoted company (they have been together now for ten weird years) worked up a version of that early nineteenth century epic about an anti-hero who never says boo to a goose no one booed - not even when they had to trudge round seven different rooms in a building before winding up meekly in the rain outside to watch *Woyzeck's* execution.

Mind you, I am not suggesting that everybody was happy. No one is always happy with Pip Simmons. He wouldn't want you to be. It is his aim to make you think twice about everything if not three times; though it is said that the people who go to his shows to think are not going to the theatre in the right spirit at all. They are shows to be "experienced".

Anyhow, the point is that you always come away from such experiences wondering what the point was, whether you may have missed it, wondering why everybody else was there as well and whether they are wondering in the same puzzled way. And if a company can go on doing that for ten years then it must be doing something off the beaten track.

To which the critic may be tempted to answer: that Pip Simmons's track is too well beaten and it is time he found another.

Whether he will or no, he turned up last month with *The Tempest*, or rather his idea of *The Tempest* and whereas *The Dream of the Ridiculous Man* had been at least alarming in its violent imagery and on those stilts, and *Woyzeck* had made us plod round after the action as well as out into the damp Welsh night, *The Tempest* left us sitting more or less on the floor of a wooden terrace at Hammersmith, warm and dry and safe and unmolested (though after an hour or so the absence of any chairs or conventional seating arrangements became marked).

continued overleaf

DOES PIP GIVE YOU THE PIP? — continued

the close-up into our living rooms. And now the theatre in its turn is bringing close-ups on the stage.

So there was a test on both sides of what might have been the footlights since most of us had seen or read *The Tempest* at some time and most of us had come to revere it with good reason.

Mr Simmons and Co. aren't so revered. At least not in Britain. Abroad they do better. They are especially successful, one gathers, in Holland and in France. On the Continent there is a greater tolerance of experimental theatre. Isn't that basically why Peter Brook set up in Paris to pursue investigations into the relationship between actors and spectators? Isn't that why we have had to wait nearly a decade to taste in Britain the art of another man who, like Mr Simmons, has a vision of his own which he uses to take us beyond, he hopes, the old theatrical boundaries - Robert Wilson who has brought a new dimension to the theatre with his curious, ponderous, operatic-type tableaux?

For some reason or other we have never been as hospitable towards experimental companies as other countries: and so it was perhaps not surprising if Mr Simmons and Co had a chilly welcome with *The Tempest*. Not because the show as such was bad of its kind. After all, what is its kind? There are no standards or slots by which to measure such whimsical forays round and about such a masterpiece as *The Tempest*. No, what went wrong was predictable (unlike the scenario which kept surprisingly close to the main events of the play, give or take a change of sex with Ferdinand played by a girl and the telescoping of Gonzalo and Alonso into one frail character called Gonzo). What was wrong was to be so frivolous with Shakespeare.

He has been mucked about so much in

recent years by directors who have sought to throw new light on the old master and by Charles Marowitz who has carved him up in a scholarly and often effective way that when someone like Mr Simmons who deals in sights and sounds extracts stuff to suit his company's lurid style, "the offence is rank, it smells to heaven", as Claudius might put it.

It seems glib to bring in nudity, rape, and rock music; to ignore the poetry and the graceful characters; to jump from sublimity to ridiculous or lewd gestures; to skim, in brief, (and it was mercifully brief) across the great poem with merciless and meaningless jauntiness.

But, considered without conscious reference to Shakespeare, without remembering what contempt was being implied and without the continuous and nagging temptation to keep on drawing parallels, then the show was a show, which in the immortal words of Mr Simmons himself, kept boredom at bay for an hour and a half.

"In the end", he declared last year after a European festival, "our only ambition should be to prevent people being bored for one hour". In those terms *The Tempest*, which is due to visit Edinburgh and Newcastle-on-Tyne must be rated a success - if a provocative one. After all, provocation is a time honoured principle in the world of avant-garde theatricals.

"The views contained in this four-page editorial section do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Theatre or the publishers. Any letters should be sent to the publishers, Stilwell Darby & Co. Ltd., 8 Headfort Place, London, SW1X 7 DH. Tel. 01-235 3547. The editorial is the copyright of the publishers and nothing may be printed wholly or in part without permission."

DAVID STONES presents

THE Komanian STATE Rhapsody Orchestra and CIOCIRLIA DANCERS

Conductor and Musical Director

PARASCHIV OPREA

(Laureate of the International Festival of Folk Art)

THE ORCHESTRA

Violins

Stefan Bibescu
Marin Dumitru
Ion Lazarescu
Sorin Nitu
Radu Tanase
Ion Marinache
Gheorghe Stere
Mircea Andreescu
George Raicea

Taragot

Remus Bistruta
Clarinet
Vasile Grigore
Trumpet
Constantin Gherghina
Oboe
Adriana Lazarescu

Bass

Nicolae Ion
Cello
Mircea Palade
Panpipes
Gavril Sandor
Accordion
Nicolae Craciunescu
Cymbalom
Gheorghe Raducanu

THE DANCERS

Petre Plesoianu
Ion Stanislav
Ion Petcu
Petre Mandoiu

Constantin Dolcu
Dumitru Lobda
Cornelia Apolzan
Georgeta Ciucu

Maria Cosma
Cateluta Parascan
Dana Elena Popa
Maria Vasilescu

STAGE MANAGER Mihail Petru

CHOREOGRAPHER Theodor Vasilescu
Assistant Nichita Pop

THE
Romanian
 STATE
Rhapsody
Orchestra
 and **CIOCIRLIA DANCERS**

- | | | | |
|----------------------|--|---|--|
| 1. INTRODUCING | The Rhapsody Orchestra & Ciocirlia Dancers | 9. THE DANCERS | welcome you to part two with dances from Oas |
| 2. THE ORCHESTRA | The famous Hora Staccato & Balad of Maracine | 10. THE ORCHESTRA | with a selection of old Romanian folk tunes |
| 3. THE TARAGOT | Remus Bistruta plays for you music from the Banat region | 11. THE OBOE | Madam Adriana Lazarescu plays for music from Transylvania |
| 4. FLUTES & BAGPIPES | The versatile Vasile Grigore with tunes of love and dancing | 12. THE ORCHESTRA | Selections from the First Rhapsody by George Enescu |
| 5. THE DANCERS | From Oltenia The Girls dance "The Mindrel" & The Boys "The Calusari" | 13. THE DANCERS | show how they dance in Oltenia |
| 6. THE ORCHESTRA | with a suite of melodies from Bihor in north-west Romania | 14. THE ORCHESTRA | The song of Iancu Jianu, The Outlaw |
| plus | | 15. THE PANPIPE | The haunting sounds of the fascinating instrument as played by Gavril Sandor |
| TRUMPET SOLO | The virtuoso talent of Constantin Gherghina | 16. THE ORCHESTRA | The Dance of The Glow Worms |
| 7. THE ORCHESTRA | play The Peasants Dance by Constantin Dimitrescu | 17. THE DANCERS | Transylvania style |
| 8. THE DANCERS | Dancers from Bihor bring the first part of our programme to a close | 18. THE CYMBALOM | featuring the talents of 18 years old Gheorghe Raducanu |
| | | 19. ROMANIAN FOLKLORE MUSIC & CIOCIRLIA (The Skylark) | The Ensemble |

INTERVAL

This programme is subject to alteration



1978 is a special year for Anglo-Romanian relations because President Nicolae Ceausescu will spend four days in Britain becoming the first President from an Eastern European country to make an official state visit.

To coincide with this historic occasion the Romanian authorities invited impresario David Stones to arrange concert performances for The Romanian Rhapsody Orchestra & Ciocirlia Dancers, an Ensemble that has enjoyed success in Britain on two previous tours in 1974 and 1976.

In Romania the Rhapsody Orchestra has a large following of devoted fans who regularly patronise the performances at their own theatre in Bucharest but the Orchestra is more often to be found touring abroad as worthy representatives of Romanian folklore art.

The Ciocirlia Dancers are from the countries top dance ensemble and it was this full company, albeit different personnel, who appeared on the British Royal Command Show at the London Palladium in 1967.

The programme will be under the direction of Paraschiv Oprea, Laureate of the International Festival of Folk Art, who has been described by the British press as "a sensitive and humorous conductor".

An evening with The Romanian Rhapsody Orchestra & Ciocirlia Dancers is one which we hope you will long remember.

Romanian folklore reflects the beauty and originality of the spiritual traditions associated with different genres of the many regions and these are expressed in a series of ballads, cradle songs, love songs, wedding songs and an endless number of folk dances of great style and rhythm.

By cultivating their folklore values The Rhapsody Orchestra and Ciocirlia Ensemble are keeping alive the Romanian character which goes back many centuries.

Among the fascinating instruments featured by The Orchestra perhaps the most popular in Britain is the panpipe. This is one of the oldest musical instruments in the world and in Romania it can be traced back as far as 1512.

However, in the second half of the 19th century the panpipe began to disappear and it was not until 1949 when Fanica Luca, one of Romanias most gifted exponents of the instrument, was appointed Professor of Music at the Folklore Institute that interest in the panpipe was revived resulting in a number of now famous young players becoming well known in many parts of the world. Among them Gheorghe Zamfir, Damian Luca, Nicolae Pirvu and Radu Simion.

Another ancient Romanian instrument is the bagpipe, usually associated in Britain with Scotland, and this will be featured along with Shepherds flutes, the long pipe which has a plug and five finger holes, and the more popular shorter version which has one plug and six finger holes. The cymbalom, a string instrument played with felt beaters, and the taragot, a kind of straight wooden saxophone join the more authentic violins, oboe, accordian, bass and cello to make up The Romanian Rhapsody Orchestra.

The colourful costumes worn by The Ciocirlia Dancers are from the various regions depicted in the particular dance.

Closer encounters

by Eric Shorter

PATRICK STEWART is playing *Shylock* in a shed in Warwickshire as if to prove what he meant in a recent interview with John Higgins in *The Times* when he spoke of the main revelations for him as an actor coming from the cinema or from small theatres.

The Other Place, where he plays *Shylock*, is a small theatre. It is a five-minute walk down the road at Stratford-on-Avon from the main auditorium. It hardly holds two hundred people. The seats are hard. The sightlines are bad. There is no bar, no cloakroom (well, there's a loo but only just). The scenic scope is minimal. And the actors have to wriggle past spectators to reach the stage unless they come in through the main door.

But in that scruffy-seeming theatre there have been played during the last few seasons more memorable productions than at the main house up the road where the tourists gather, where seats are scarce, where the seasons get longer and longer and which is called the Royal Shakespeare Theatre.

Now why should this be? Why should an experimental studio, never built as a playhouse and showing no more than marginal signs of conversion, become one of the most exciting theatres in the country to persons who care about plays and performances (as

opposed to playgoers for whom the theatre is only part of an evening out which implies comfort at all costs and the costs can be high)? At The Other Place all the seats are £1.50 (£1 for students). It is just about the best theatrical value in the land.

At this shed I saw one of the finest revivals of *Uncle Vanya* since the Olivier version at Chichester in 1962.

Nicol Williamson directed it. I sat next to the samovar. I felt like turning on the tap for his tea. I was in the front row. There are only two rows. It is easy to be nearer the actors at the Other Place.

And that is what Mr Stewart meant when he spoke about his revelations in that interview: the proximity of audience and actors creates a tension impossible to feel in a conventional or larger theatre. And actors are as much, if not more, aware of its importance to our pleasure.

We sit under their noses. There are actors who would feel nervous to be so near. When the old Pembroke Theatre in Croydon first began in the 1960s - long before the craze for theatre-in-the-round or open stages began to sweep the country - the nearness of Croydon to central London tempted many famous players to act in it. But the stage was small, so embarrassingly close, that there were actors who shirked it or refused to risk it.

Times, fashion and theatre habits have changed. Television went one step further than the cinema and brought

continued overleaf

CLOSER ENCOUNTERS — continued

It cannot of course make money doing that. But it can make excitement. It can make us realise that if acting on a big scale, the grand manner, has gone for ever, the small scale performance can be equally impressive, more detailed and delightful, because it has to be so much more honest and sincere. The actor cannot bluff. He must know what he is doing and mean it.

Mr Stewart seems to have known what he was doing from the start. Born at Mirfield in Yorkshire, he trained for the stage at Bristol Old Vic School, went into rep at Lincoln, Sheffield, Manchester, Liverpool and Bristol where he seems to have shown a taste for Pinter and Brecht and Shakespeare before joining the RSC in his middle twenties.

With it he has remained ever since. Is he the longest-serving member? He is surely among the most loyal. It took nearly ten years for him to get much in the way of leading roles. But not all actors are destined to play leads. Nor is it necessarily vital that they should.

Mr Stewart's steady work with the RSC was distinctive even in the smallest roles. He has an incisive style. He isn't full of grace or lyrical qualities but he has plenty of passion when he wants to call upon it and an arresting manner, a sardonic sense of comedy.

He is what is known as a useful player.

His use to the RSC has been exceptional ever since he joined it (and lest anyone should suppose that useful is a slighting reference, remember it

was Ellen Terry's description of her theatrical value at Henry Irving's Lyceum).

Eventually, though, Mr Stewart's unmistakable personality came to be more and more prominent at Stratford and at the Aldwych until he turned up as Astrov (the role Olivier played) in Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya* at The Other Place. I had always admired him as an actor but until that memorable night I could never say he moved me or made me fond of his acting. His Astrov changed all that. Intense, passionate, single-minded, he brought to Chekhov's doctor a most affecting integrity.

And now, in that same tiny theatre, he has just played Shylock in John Barton's remarkable revival of a difficult play - difficult with all its racial and anti-semitic issues, the melodramatic court scene, the switches of mood from lyrical romance to knives at the throat.

Very easy in such circumstances to overdo Shylock, to play the villain. Hard in fact to avoid a certain absurdity in exacting Shylock's vengeance. But Mr Stewart had no trouble. On the contrary, he played the part with a surprising sympathy, finding all the reasons why Shylock should reach for that knife without seeming to have gone mad - bowing and scraping his way backwards out of the auditorium with a hint that he would still get his o'wn back one day. And why not?

When an actor makes you think and feel anew about an old familiar play, you are watching a good actor.



PARASCHIV OPREA



REMUS BISTRITA



GAVRIL SANDOR



ADRIANA LAZARESCU



VASILE GRIGORE



GHEORGHE RADUCANU



CONSTANTIN GHERGHINA

Credits

Presented by: DAVID STONES

ARIA representative: DUMITRU ENE

Tour Supervisor: DAVID W. WHICKER

Booking agents: NEMS AGENCY, LONDON

This tour is presented by special arrangement with ARIA Bucharest.



DAVID STONES has been responsible for staging many performances between the West and Eastern Europe since 1965. These range from little known pop groups to international "star" names in places like Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria and Poland and State dance Ensembles and Orchestras from those countries in Britain.

Friday, July 14th.

The Rainmakers ended their second year in existence with a very happy party. One looked around and noticed the increase in membership, the variety of international costumes worn by everyone and the much wider range of favourite dances requested in a most enjoyable evening's programme.

We were all pleased to hear of Sheila's impending marriage and to give her a present of oven-to-table dishes, with our very best wishes.

"Cloudburst" played for us. A live band makes all the difference and we do appreciate their efforts.

During the interval Jill gave us a dancing quiz which was won by Warren.

1978

Monday, July 17th.

The Rainmakers did not live up to their name today, fortunately, for on a perfect, warm summer evening, the Hitchin Staplers held their Pub Evening at the Windmill, Charlton, near Hitchin. To the annoyance of some motorists, barrels were placed around the pub forecourt and dancing took place in the road. The Rainmakers were invited to do a cabaret spot, during the evening. The display team danced

Fjallanas Polska and Hoi Harmonica.

"Cloudburst" must have been exhausted as they played for a full three hours most professionally.

It was a most enjoyable evening and we were pleased to have been invited.

Continued in next volume.

CONSTITUTION

1. Name

The name of the club shall be 'The Rainmakers Internation^{al} Dance Group'.

2. Objects

The object of the club is

- (a) to meet together to learn to dance International Folk Dances for our own enjoyment and sometimes to perform them for other people's pleasure.
- (b) to study folk costumes, music and customs through the dances.
- (c) to support the work of the S.I.F.D.
- (d) to foster friendships with the other folk dance clubs in the area.

3. Membership

Membership is open to any person (of either sex) over the age of 12. If under 14, this person should be accompanied by his parents to the club or by a member responsible for him.

All people attending the classes must abide by the club rules.

4. Subscriptions

- (a) Annual subscriptions shall be 50p or £1.00 per family membership.
- (b) The subscription shall be payable on and renewable in October after the A.G.M.
- (c) A weekly subscription of 25p will be paid by annual members over 16 years of age and 10p for those members under 16 years.
- (d) A weekly subscription of 30p shall be paid by any non-member who has not paid their annual membership fee. This rule shall only apply to persons over 16 years of age.
- (e) The Committee shall have the power to waive the subscription of any person performing highly valued services to the club.

5. Management

- (a) The business of the club shall be managed by a committee, consisting of the Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and two other members who may fulfil the functions of Social Events Organiser and Publicity Officer.
- (b) The committee shall manage the affairs of the club according to the rules and shall apply the funds of the club to the objects of the club.
- (c) The committee shall hold office for one year following the A.G.M. and shall retire annually but shall be eligible for re-election.
- (d) Any vacancy occurring during the year may be filled by the committee.

5. Management (cont'd...)

- (e) The committee shall have power to co-opt two additional members if necessary

6. Committee

- (a) The committee, as provided for in Rule 5, shall have power to make such regulations, not inconsistent with the rules, as may from time to time be deemed necessary.
- (b) The committee shall meet at such time and place as they may decide, due notice having been given to each member.
- (c) Special committee meetings may be arranged by the Chairman and Secretary, or at the request of any three members of the committee, but notice of such meeting must be forwarded to each member.
- (d) Three members of Committee shall form a quorum.

7. Finance

- (a) The Hon. Treasurer shall receive all monies due to the Group, and with the approval of the committee, discharge the debts of the Group.
- (b) The funds of the Group shall be disposed of by the committee for the objects of the Group, and any surplus as determined at the A.G.M. of the members of the Group.
- (c) All cheques must be signed by the Treasurer, and counter signed by the Chairman or Secretary.

8. Ordinary Meetings

- (a) There will be a weekly meeting unless a public holiday should intervene.
- (b) There should be a member responsible for the evenings function.
- (c) Members may be able to introduce friends to meetings.
- (d) The Treasurer will collect subscriptions and if unable to attend then an appointed member will be responsible for all money collected.

9. Annual General Meeting

- (a) The Annual General Meeting shall be held in the month of October every year.
- (b) At least seven days notice shall be given to members of the date and venue of the meeting, with an agenda of the business to be transacted.
- (c) At this meeting, a report of the years proceedings by the Secretary, and a financial statement by the Treasurer up to September 9th, duly audited by an Hon. Auditor, shall be submitted.
- (d) The officers and members of Committee and auditor, who shall not be a member of the committee, shall be elected for the current year.

9. Annual General Meeting (cont'd...)

- (e) Any two members shall be at liberty to nominate a member to become an office holder or to serve on the committee, having previously received the assent of such member to accept office if elected. Such nominations to be accepted at the annual meeting.
- (f) Any matter not on the agenda but relating to the Groups affairs shall be discussed in any other business.

10. Voting

- (a) Each fully paid up member shall be entitled to one vote only by ballot.
- (b) In cases of equality of voting, the Chairman of a meeting shall have a casting vote as well as a deliberate vote.

11. Extraordinary General Meeting

- (a) An extraordinary general meeting may be convened at any time by the committees' instructions.
- (b) Only such business as stated in the notice convening the extraordinary meeting shall be discussed at that meeting.

12. Alterations and Amendments of Rules

- (a) Notice of any alteration or addition to the rules intended to be proposed by a member of the club shall be given to the Secretary in writing at least 1 month before the Annual ~~General Meeting or special meeting~~ at which the same is to be brought forward, and full particulars of any such proposed alterations or additions shall be set out in the notice convening the meeting.
- (b) All such proposed alterations or additions and any amendments to them which may be proposed, shall be put to the vote of the meeting and provided that a majority of 2/3 of those present, and entitled to vote, shall be cast in favour of any proposed alterations and amendments, then the same shall be deemed to be carried.