

THORNBURY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

presents

THE INSECT PLAY

All seats are unreserved

CAST (in order of appearance)

A TRAMP			Alan Green
A LEPIDOPTERIST			Phillip Harris
CLYTIE		{	Jane Norman
OTTO		{	Anthony Hook
FELIX	Butterflies	{	Kim Pottter
IRIS		{	Ann Jones
VICTOR		{	Colin Swingler
A CHRYSALIS			Antony Johnson
Mr. BEETLE			Brent Thomas
Mrs. BEETLE			Sue James
A PARASITE			Anthony Hook
JCHNEUMON FLY			Stephen Jenkins
LARVA, his daughter			Mary Bennett
Mr. CRICKET			Christopher Fill
Mrs. CRICKET			Sally Bateman
THE BLIND TIMEKEEPER ANT			Trevor Forster
THE CHIEF ENGINEER ANT			...Brent Thomas
THE SECOND ENGINEER ANT			Chris Hill
AN INVENTOR ANT			Stephen Jenkins
A MESSENGER ANT			William Harding
A SIGNAL OFFICER ANT			Michael Hurst
A JOURNALIST ANT			Katharine St. John-Brooks
A PHILANTHROPIST ANT			Sue James
WORKERS and SOLDIER ANTS			Tim Cole; Brian Gerrish
			Richard Haste; Tim Johnson;
			Kim Potter; Cohn Swingler.
MOTHS, and SCHOOLCHILDREN			Jacqueline Cross
			Jacqueline Marshall
			Barbara Petch
SNAILS			Joy Pardington, Penny Rushton
A WOODCUTTER			John Dyer
A WOMAN			Sally King

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Directed by Mr. V. J. W. CASEY

BACKSTAGE

<i>Stage Manager</i>	Miss M. McDowall
<i>Assisted by</i>	Gordon Andrews
<i>Scenery</i>	Mr. C. A. Jaques
	Mr. K. P. Jenkins
<i>Wardrobe</i>	Miss E. Cohley
<i>Lighting</i>	Steve Heaven
<i>Make-up</i>	Miss R. Bintcliffe
<i>Business Manager</i>	Mr. P. Vittle
<i>Sound</i>	Mike Grundy

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The producer and members of the cast would also like to thank everyone else who has contributed towards the production in any way.

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SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

PROLOGUE:	In the Woods.
ACT I	: The Butterflies.
ACT II	: Creepers and Crawlers
ACT III	: The Ants.
EPILOGUE	: Death and Life.

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There will be two intervals: the first of ten minutes after Act I, and the second of twenty minutes after Act II.

THE PLAY

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The Czechoslovakian playwright Karei Capek collaborated with his brother Josef, a Cubist painter and also an author in his own right, to produce *The Insect Play*. The play was given its first English performance on 5th May, 1923.

In the play, the Tramp, an old campaigner from the First World War, has three visions of the life of the insects. In each vision the insects behave more or less like human beings – some are in love, some irresponsible, some acquisitive, some selfish. The Tramp interprets their actions and dismisses each class of insects for their failure to improve on the follies and the evils of Mankind. His search for an Utopian civilisation seems at an end when he comes upon the ordered society of the ant-hill. but he is soon disillusioned by the way the capitalist ants ruthlessly exploit the proletariat, and his disillusionment is complete when he sees the Ants squabbling over rival territorial claims and rushing into war as a solution to their problems. In the Epilogue we see the embittered Tramp failing to discover any meaning in life or any hope of concord between insects or men.

The authors lived to see some of their fears of war and tyranny come true. Karel died on Christmas Day, 1938, just before Hitler invaded Czechoslovakia, and Josef was sent to the concentration camp at Belsen, where he died in 1945.

– V.C.