

Adelaide University Theatre Guild

*The Lady from
Alfaqueque*

By S. and J. Alvarey Quintero

English version

by Helen and Harley Granville-Barker

Tuesday & Wednesday, Aug. 12-13

THE AUTHORS AND THE PLAY

Of the modern Spanish playwrights, Gregorio Martinez-Sierra and the Quintero brothers are probably the best known to English-speaking theatres. Their works are excellent examples of well-written comedies, depicting Spanish life—especially country life—with extreme simplicity, poetry, and charm. Moreover, the available English versions by Harley Granville-Barker (England's most notable producer of modern times and an admirable playwright) and his wife amply permit of their keen enjoyment and appreciation.

Serafin and Joaquin Alvarez Quintero are natives of Seville. Serafin was born in 1871, Joaquin in 1873. They provide an interesting example of combined and successful fraternal effort in drama writing. They have always collaborated in their work—their emblem being the two-masted ship. Their first play was produced in 1888; and such has been their productivity, that well over one hundred and fifty plays, long and short, stand to their credit.

“The Lady from Alfaceque” (*La Consulesa*), written in 1914 and styled as a comedy in two acts, is an excellent example of the Quinteros at their best; and is, with “A Hundred Years Old,” perhaps the best-known of their plays. It tells of a good-natured Andalusian lady whose heart, though she has lived in Madrid these twenty years, remains in the little town of Alfaceque—that small corner of the earth where she was born. Around her affections and loyalties for her home town and her susceptibility for all that comes from it is spun the light web of a simple story, now sentimental, now humorous, in its twists and turns. Simple, yes. But as the translators write of the Quinteros' work: “Nothing that the Quinteros may have to say will be pretentiously thrust on us. We may think, mistakenly, that they have nothing to say. But if we will surrender our minds to the simple story and let our imagination absorb the very homely picture, we shall find life interpreted there.”

The scene is laid in the sitting room of the flat of Pasqual and Fernandita in the Salamanca quarter of Madrid.

ACT I—An evening in early autumn.

ACT II—One morning about three weeks later.

There will be an interval between the two Acts.

The Play is produced under the direction of MR. CLIVE CAREY

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Don Pasqual	FRANK JOHNSTON
Rosita	VIVIENNE OLDFIELD
Alberta	MARJORIE GEE
Realito	SYDNEY DOWNIE
Dona Fernandita	ELISABETH CAMPBELL
Blanca	STELLA SOBELS
Noblejas	RONALD CORNEY
Nicolas	EDGAR WISE
Adoracion	FLORENCE BROWN
Felice Rivas	LYELL JONAS
Paloma	ROSEMARY STRETTON

Setting and lighting arranged by	EUGENE THOMAS
Scenery decoration by	ALLAN SIERP
Costuming arranged by	BARBARA HOWARD
Mechanician	HERBERT KOLLOSCH
Make-up section under	ATHALIE GRAY

UNIVERSITY THEATRE GUILD

Committee :

President: Mr. Clive Carey

Professor E. Harold Davies	Dr. Charles Fenner
Professor J. Innes Stewart	Miss Barbara Howard
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Mr. J. Cornell	Dr. Eugene McLaughlin
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Guild activities include study groups in Play Reading, Acting, Stage Decoration, Ballet and Make-up. The development of the work of this theatre will depend upon an increase in membership and active workers. Subscription 10/- per year; undergraduates 5/-. Anyone interested in membership or active work in this small theatre movement is invited to apply to the Honorary Secretary, Miss Rita Watson, care of the University (or private phone: F 3488).

PROCEEDS OF PROGRAMME IN AID OF PATRIOTIC FUNDS

Forthcoming Guild Productions:

August 26: The Ballet Group will present Mr. Joseph Siebert's Ballet, "LIFE OF CHOPIN."

Early September: The Old English Moral Play, "EVERYMAN."