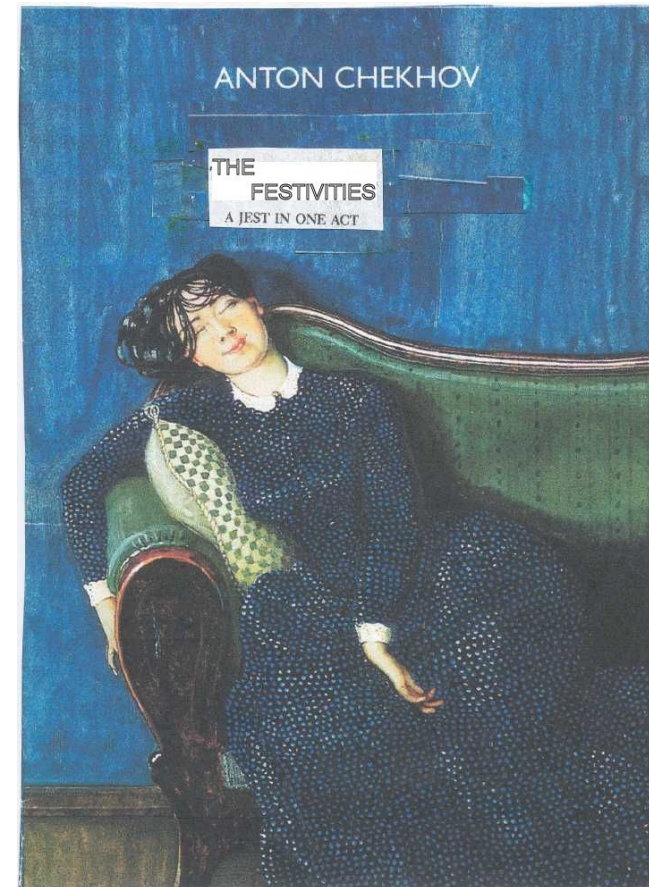


SNEEM DRAMSOC PRESENTS



(An adaptation by Sneem DramSoc)

PROGRAMME PRICE: €1.00

THE FESTIVITIES:

For this year's *Sneem International Storytelling Festival*, DramSoc presents a short comedy: THE FESTIVITIES, an adaptation of *Anton Chekhov's* comedy *The Anniversary*, itself adapted from his own short story *A Most Unfortunate Woman*. Chekhov first made his reputation in the theatre with a series of vaudevilles, offered not as art but as entertainment. These he designated as “jokes”, which he constantly disparaged despite the fact that they enabled him to study medicine and become a G.P.. *Tolstoy*, who was unimpressed by Chekhov's later dramas, laughed at these short comedies until he could laugh no more.

THE FESTIVITIES is one such vaudeville, set in a bank on the 15th. anniversary of its founding. The aged, misogynist bank clerk, Kiernan, is obliged to compile a less-than-accurate report of the bank's finances for the corrupt bank chairman, Noble, to fool the directors at the AGM. One obstacle after another contributes to the disastrous denouement as things fall apart. The characters are driven by a sense of anger and frustration at the failure of others to recognise their need of attention for whatever cause. In their anger, they lose the ability to appreciate their own best interests with disastrous consequences. Along the way, there is great fun and mimicry and gusto here, and much apparently inconsequential dialogue.

The play is set in the Chairman's private office of the Provincial Bank.

THE CAST

Andrew Noble, chairman of the Provincial Bank	Drew Borrett
Susanna Noble, his wife aged 25	Bridget O'Connor
Christopher Kiernan, the bank's aged book-keeper	Patrick Malone
Anastasia Merchant, an old woman wearing an old-fashioned cloak	Christina Foulder
A director of the bank	Brian Jones
A clerk	Molly Knightly
DIRECTOR	Patrick Malone