THEATRE GLENDON

PRESENTS

THREE SISTERS

BY

ANTON CHEKHOV

March 14 - 18, 1989
THREE SISTERS  Cast List:
Natasha ...........................................Lisa Ringuette
Olga.............................................Andrea Condie
Masha..........................................Fionnuala Donaghy
Irina............................................Carrie Wake
Anfisa........................................Hylde Boyle
The Maid......................................Melani Tandon
Andrew........................................Mark Marcello
Kulygin........................................David Shantz
Vershinin.....................................Greg Freir
Tuzenbakh...................................Ara Andekian
Solyony.......................................John McCubbin.
Chebutykin....................................Lars Tilander
Ferapont......................................Lorin Ledger
Trebych.......................................Himself

Act I: Noon on a sunny spring day in the month of May. Olga, Masha and Irina are in the Prozorov drawing room. It is Irina’s name day, and one year after the death of their father.

Act II: Eight o’clock on a winter’s evening two years hence. It is Carnival Week - a time of great festivity, preceding the chastening rigours of Lent.
Intermission (15 minutes)

Act III: Autumn of the following year. An early morning fire has roused the household. In the bedroom, now shared by Olga and Irina a few makeshift beds have been set up.

Act IV: Noon time on an autumn day a year later, the day the Battery leaves the town.

N.B.: We see in the character of Solyony, reflections of his idol, Lermontov - a prominent, rebellious romanticist of early 19th century Russian literature. Lermontov, in common with the three sisters, was driven by the inaneness of his world - a world reduced to indulgence, duelling, and ultimately, to death.

PROGRAMME NOTES:

"We’re all peculiar, we’re all freaks in some degree."
Anton Chekhov, 1889

Anton Chekhov’s Three Sisters was first performed in Moscow on January 31st 1901 at the Moscow Art Theatre. This masterpiece reflects the genuine perception and insight into the human condition, so characteristic of Chekhov’s writing. Considering that he initially began writing as a means of supplementing his income as a medical student, his accomplishments and influence are all the more remarkable. Sadly Chekhov’s creative genius was curtailed at an early age, when he succumbed to tuberculosis. He died at the age of forty-four in 1904.

"Consider Three Sisters - here is a middle class milieu of school teachers and garrison officers in a dusty provincial town. But it is a middle class lost and remote from any purposeful social role, whether beneficial or pernicious. It exists in limbo."
Crankshaw, 1976.

Three Sisters is among Anton Chekhov’s last plays, followed only by The Cherry Orchard. Chekhov wrote with touching clarity about the tragic hero and the comic figure, manifested within us all. Three Sisters is an intense study of character and motivation, which in its realism, hinges on the absurd.

"What I have written is a farce."
Anton Chekhov.