Programme notes Nivellis War

Set.

Before the play begins the stage is in complete darkness apart from an easel at the front left hand side, on which is a large framed poster of a man in a black top hat and dark spectacles,and the word Nivelli.

Across the front edge of the stage are bright footlights.

As the play starts we see a bare stage with a black wall towards the back in the middle of which are sliding doors which open and close during various scenes to reveal different settings, and through which characters enter and exit. Sometimes there are tables and chairs on stage, to create different rooms.

Characters and costume.

Nivelli is a man of over 50. He is of middling height and stockily built. He has a square-shaped face with strong features, grey hair,and goatee beard and moustache. He wears a black top hat, a full length black frock coat, under which is a large white collar and black cravat. He carries a silver top black cane, and wears white gloves and dark spectacles. He carries a an old brown suitcase.

Ernst is Nivelli as a boy. He is a young teenager with short brown hair and an innocent face. He is slim and agile.He wears a v-neck jumper over a grey shirt and baggy trousers which are too short for him. When he is outside he wears a coat and tight fitting hat.

Ernest's mother is slim with dark brown mid-length curly hair. She has a high forehead, high cheekbones and a wide mouth.She wears a floral red dress fitted at the waist with a full skirt which reaches to below the knee. She wears a red cardigan . When we first see her she is wearing a red coat over her dress. She wears low heeled shoes, and a red apron when she is in the kitchen.

Tante (aunt) Sophie is in her fifties. She is of mediim height and sturdily built.

She has long brown hair which she wears off her square-shaped face. She wears a mid-calf length brown dress with a sleeveless cardigan, and ankle boots with socks. When we first see her she is wearing a heavy tweed coat with deep lapels.

Mr H is of medium height and slim build. He has very short brown hair and a pointy chin. He is shabbily dressed in a short coat, and baggy trousers torn on one knee. Under the coat her wears a v-neck jumper and a red scarf.

He walks with a slight limp.

The Princess is in her thirties, of medium height and slim. She has long dark brown hair which is parted in the middle and worn in a chignon. She has a high forehead and oval face. She wears a close-fitting white satin dress with a draped neckline and beige high- heeled shoes.

Mr Dethier of medium height and has short brown hair worn off his face. He wears brown trousers, a plain shirt and waistcoat.

The stage manager, butler and one of the soldiers are played by one actor. He is tall and skinny with a long thin face. The stage manager wears a grey

overall, brown trousers and shoes and glasses. The butler wears a black tailcoat, white shirt black trousers and white gloves.

The soldiers wear khaki uniforms, cloth helmets and carry rifles.