Programme Notes for After Miss Julie

The Set

We’re in the large kitchen of the big house. There’s an old-fashioned coat-hanging system on the left hand wall, with a coat and an old fashioned fly swatter hanging from the pegs and a light fixed to the wall above them. Further back, set into an alcove in the wall, is a large kitchen range with a shelf filled with sundries above it. At the other end of the wall, back left, there’s a table, with papers on it and a green table- lamp. A chair is set in front of the table. There’s a wicker waste paper basket as part of the office area. On the wall facing us, close to the table is an old fashioned telephone, mounted on the wall. Further to the right is a wall-mounted cupboard with a wooden door and next to it a couple of shelves with plates and bowls upright upon them. Further along the wall is a long glazed window, the glass of which is sometimes opaque and sometimes clear. It’s three panes high and six panes long. Beyond this is a door set into the corner, a wall light above it and with another door just glimpsed beyond it. This door leads to the corridor which can be seen through the window. Above the window is a shelf with willow-pattern serving plates set upright upon it and immediately under the window is a wooden counter with wooden doors to the cupboards beneath. Various items sit on the counter, including a cheese dish and a pair of old-fashioned kitchen scales. The right hand wall has two windows, fitted with shutters and beneath this a Belfast sink and taps with counters and open shelves in units on either side of the sink. An enamel jug sits on one counter and an ancient coffee mill on the other, while the shelves beneath house aluminium saucepans in various sizes. On the floor at the right, close to the audience is a sack from which potatoes spill. Centre stage is a huge kitchen table with benches, one in front, one behind and wooden kitchen chairs one at either end. A pair of black shoes sits on the front bench.

The Characters

Lisa Dwyer Hogg plays Miss Julie. She has a slender figure and is in her early twenties, with dark wavy hair, caught behind in a post-war style. Julie has an attractive face with high cheek bones, well-marked eyebrows a small nose and shapely mouth, with scarlet lipstick. She first appears in a 40s style dress, orange print with white. It’s figure-hugging and the neck plunges low under a decorative collar. The dress is bias-cut and calf length; slightly longer at the back than the front. With this dress she wears black shoes with an ankle strap and very high heels and carries a white clutch bag. Later she appears in a blue and white patterned dress of chiffon. It has a frilled collar around the neck and with it she wears white court shoes. Julie has a restless, striding walk.

Christine, the maid, is played by Pauline Hutton. Pauline has dark hair, plaited and twisted around her head. She has high cheek-bones, dark eyes and an oval face with an elegant nose and full lips. She is of medium build and we first see her wrapped in a capacious white apron over a black dress. The dress hangs loose and shapeless when she removes the apron. With it she wears flat, sensible brown shoes with an ankle strap. Later she appears in a dark dressing gown over a white nightdress and later still she turns up in a maroon dress with a black jacket over it and carrying a brown post-war period handbag. Christine is probably in her early thirties.

John is the third character in the play. His part is taken by Ciaran McMeniman. Ciaran is slightly overweight and probably in his early forties. His dark hair is brushed back from his broad forehead and he has deep set eyes, a square chin, broad nose and thin lips. He wears formal clothes, a dark jacket, paler waistcoat over a white shirt, dark tie and dark trousers. This is apparently his uniform. Later he wears a dark, badly fitting suit with a lighter tie. He is a bulky figure.