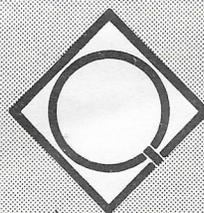


**Focus
on
Students**



QUESTOPICS

**Office
Change-
over**
see page 3

QUESTORS THEATRE · MATTOCK LANE · W. 5

EALing 0011

JULY 1966

STUDENTS' MOON SHOT

'Ring Round the Moon' was the first of Anouilh's play to be presented successfully on the London stage. It was produced at the Globe Theatre in 1950 by Peter Brook who attributed much of its success to Christopher Fry's unique ability to capture the original charm of the French and translate it into English.

Originally entitled 'L'Invitation au Chateau', it was written in the tradition of the comedia dell'arte, a style not as familiar to the English audience as to the French, and with its translation into English came the problem of deciding what sort of play it really was. Fry discarded the suggestion of comedy, farce, or even ballet, and dreamt up the sub-title 'A charade with music'.

With this in mind, the audience is

transported at will into a delightful fairy story world where animated characters dance and play among the ferns and twinkling lights of a winter garden.

The young actors who are themselves delighted with the play, bring to the production a joyful animation which will in turn delight the audience, while the setting, by Sheila Sorley, and costumes designed by Jacci Learner, harmonise to conjure up visions of pre-First World War French chateau society at its most delightfully decadent.

There is no message, no teaching and no moralising; it is, to quote *The Times*: "An exhilarating little fairy tale full of laughing grace, with its sentiment cleverly masked by cool, brittle, elegant mockery".

Michael Hoddell

whose production of 'Ring Round the Moon' represents the culmination of two years intensive study by the Cast, has been working with the Questors Student Group since 1960. At Mattock Lane he derives most satisfaction from "working with people whose enthusiasm is equal to one's own".

"Approaching forty" Michael left the Fleet Air Arm in 1947 and after a spell with ENSA and then of stage management at Watford Rep. spent a year at the Central School of Speech and Drama. He later taught speech and drama in various schools. Having completed a British Drama League Course for Producers, he was co-founder of an amateur group called London Little Theatre where he produced and acted for three years. He was then appointed Producer at Goldsmith College (where he met his wife) and later Head of the Drama Department of a Comprehensive School.

He lives at Bourne End with his wife



and three small children. He is a very familiar figure on British Railways' Western Region, for in addition to travelling to Ealing three or four times per week, he commutes each day to Paddington en route for one of the North London suburbs where he is now deputy head of a comprehensive school.

Diary . . .

JULY 23·24·26·27·29·30 at 7.45
RING ROUND THE MOON
by Jean Anouilh

Directed by Michael Hoddell, designed by Sheila Sorley
A Student Group Production. Members' free seats available; guest tickets 6/6, 4/6.

Sunday 10 at 7.30

ACTIVE MEMBERS' MEETING
Regular quarterly event for active members.

Saturday 16 at 7.30

Questors Music Club; Bernard Shaw Room
DON KINCAID
Folk singer and guitarist.
Music Club members 4/-, all others 6/-.
(see p. 2)

Wednesday 20 at 7.30

NEW MEMBERS' MEETING
Joined Questors recently? Then make this a date.

Monday 25 at 7.30

Producers' Shop Window, Stanislavsky Room.
Tickets free (from the Administrator) to Active Members only. (see p. 3)

Thursday 28 at 7.45

ROYAL COURTESY
One-night stand by actors from the Royal Court theatre studio.
All seats 3/-. (see p. 4)

Sunday 31 at 7.30

Ealing Film Society
THE SHEEP HAS FIVE LEGS
(see p. 3)

The Students

One of the Pillars of Questors, Michael Hoddell will be known only by name to most of our members. The inclusion of his photograph in *Questopics* now that we are using a new printing process, will enable you to put a face to him in future. All this emphasis on Students will also we hope assist in convincing you that the work to which Michael Hoddell devotes so much of his spare time is worthy of your support at least to the extent of attending one of the performances of 'Ring Round the Moon'.

The Students' performances in 'Ring Round the Moon' represent only part of the work put in each week by the Questors' students and their teachers. This is an enormously important side of The Questors of which the general membership is not always aware. Students embark on a two year course, the entrance to which is by means of an audition and interview. There is no age limit, and the course is open to anyone who can satisfy the directors of the Course as to his or her potential. About 25 students are admitted to the first year each September. These will have been selected from upwards of 60 applicants.

During the first year the Students spend 1½ hours per week on voice production with Derek Harmer Morris; one hour on movement (Ludmila Mlada) and 2½ hours per week on acting, directed by Alfred Emmet. Discussion and interchange of ideas are encouraged to stimulate the Students' interest in drama generally.

Only 12 of the first year's students are selected to go forward for the demanding second year of the course. This top-flight dozen continue with training in the basic skills of the actor, but now add 5½ hours per week on acting with Michael Hoddell from which emerge actual productions of three one-act plays every February and a major full length play in July such as the forthcoming production of 'Ring Round the Moon'.

Apart from helping students to develop their own personalities and teaching them the essential techniques of the actor, the Student Group acts as a 'seed bed' for future acting members. In the New Plays Festival last month for example, probably not many members realized that among the cast lists



was an impressive number of quite recently graduated students - John Turner, Wendy Stone, Michael Langridge, Carol Allen, Monyene Kane among them. What is probably even less well known is the fact that actors and actresses who have been part of The Questors scene for more years than they care to remember first joined The Questors as students - Sylvia Estop, Dorothy Barber, Edward Pitt, Ruth Tremayne Smith, Tony Barber, Jo Irvin, Helen Blatch, Sandra Healey to name but a few.

Folk Song Evening

Questor-member Don Kincaid, who is giving the recital on 16th July which winds up the Music Club season, trained at Trinity College of Music. As well as singing, playing the guitar and the flute, he is a composer of songs and of chamber and orchestral music. He also teaches the guitar.

He has appeared in cabaret abroad, on TV in Denmark and Germany, on both TV channels in this country and has been heard in a BBC radio programme. Nearer home - right here in fact - he has played in each of the Late Night Revues during the three most recent New Plays Festivals.

He met his wife, then a student of

What better way could there be of ending the 1965/66 Questors' season than by supporting the Students in their first main venture in the theatre - and also enjoying what promises to be a most delightful evening's entertainment?

Incidentally, any member - old or young - interested in training for acting membership, should note that applications are now being received for membership of the 1966/67 Student Group. Application forms from the Administrator.

American Drama, while he was taking part, with Elliott Carter, in the Seminar in American Studies at Salzburg a few years ago. They now have two small children and Don says his next musical venture may be the design of a mini-guitar!

At this recital he will be singing mostly American folk songs, plus a few of English and of French origin.

NEW FACE

Recently in these columns we announced the departure of Jane Kinsey from the office staff. We are now happy to report that her place has been filled by Valerie McGregor who, together with her husband, has been a member since last year.

Welcome Teresa

On 18th July, 1966, to The Questors Ltd., a successor to Clyde, Teresa Collard..... and if that seems strangely like a birth notice, well... when we asked our new Administrator to supply us with some information about herself she replied, "I can't write about myself ... I could manage an epitaph, but that's not what you want".



Of course, if preferred, it could be put another way

By Good Fortune
Out of Worcester

for Teresa Collard comes to us fresh from managing the Swan Theatre in Worcester and her experience at that theatre, in so many ways comparable to our own, should stand her in good stead for the tasks which face her at Ealing.

Married and with a daughter about to

Shakespeare to Saunders

Looking forward to the Autumn season, members of The Questors can lick their lips in anticipation of a varied and tempting theatrical banquet.

First, a witty appetiser in the form of George Farquhar's 'The Beaux Stratagem' (September), a classic comedy of the late Restoration period, which many members will probably remember best from its brilliant revival by John Clements and Kay Hammond some years back.

Then, in October, a dish concocted by James Saunders, who needs no introduction to Ealing audiences - 'A Scent of Flowers'. This play, performed in the West End about 18 months ago,

go up to University, Teresa shares our beliefs in the contribution a theatre such as ours should make. Particularly interested in bringing young people into the theatre, she herself has been deeply absorbed in it and its ancillary arts since childhood. She trained initially as a singer, only later studying for the stage at R.A.D.A. She has had considerable stage-management and production experience and for a brief spell was a TV floor manager ("one might as well work in a factory!") How then did she come to be an Administrator? Let her speak for herself

"I enjoyed acting, but my talent was mediocre, I enjoyed stage-management but it wasn't completely satisfying. As a producer I had ability but women producers are far from popular. My real talent was probably organisation. Therefore it was high time I turned my attention to managing my own theatre.. or the next best thing, one belonging to someone else".

So welcome, Teresa, to the 'next best thing'. We look forward to your joining us.

Five-Legged Comedy

Rounding off their season with a furious burst of French comedy, the Film Society is presenting on 31st July, 'The Sheep has Five Legs', directed by Henri Verneuil and first released in 1954.

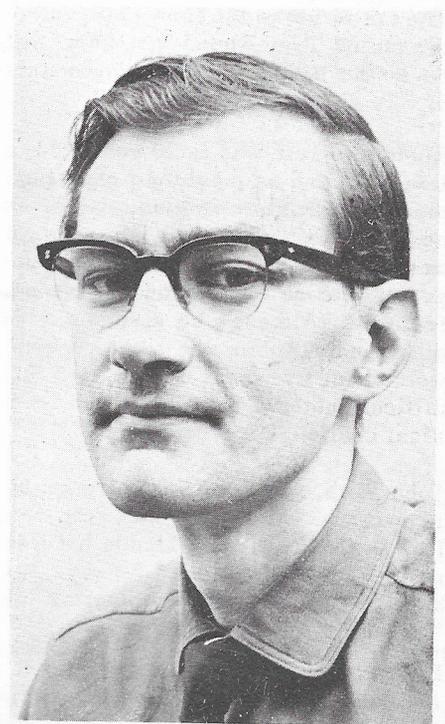
Details of membership of the Film Society are always available from the Administrator, and next season's programme will be announced later in the summer.

brought renewed praise from the critics for the author's handling of dialogue and his sensitive creation of a sympathetic ambience.

Solid fare in November - Shakespeare's 'Macbeth', which is sure to attract big audiences, and finally in December a tangy savoury - John Osborne's 'Look Back in Anger', which heralded the 'era of the angries' at the Royal Court in 1956.

Booking for 'The Beaux Stratagem' will begin with the next issue of *Questopics* which will reach you at the end of August. To all our readers we wish happy holidays and - *bon appetit!*

Farewell Clyde



FAREWELL TO CLYDE, SUE - AND CATS

After what will have been nearly 18 months in the Administrator's 'hot seat', at his own request Clyde Jones will be leaving us at the end of July. At the present time he has no firm plans for the future, other than a wish to remain in London, and to work in the field of entertainment. At the same time we shall, of course, lose his wife, Sue, who has been looking after the Box Office since last August, and their two cats - one black, one white - which have also become part of the Mattock Lane scenery.

SHOP WINDOW

Active members of The Questors are invited to attend the next Producers' Shop Window, on Monday 25th July - tickets are available free from the Administrator.

The goods to be displayed in this 'window' are: -

'The Respectable Prostitute' by Jean Paul Sartre, produced by Kenneth Ives.
'The House of Bernarda Alba', by Federico Garcia Lorca, produced by Gerald Petch, in a shortened version.
'The Tinker's Wedding', by J. M. Synge, produced by Barbara Kalavir.

ARTISTS IN GLASS and PAINT

Royal Courtesy

The exhibition in the Shaw Room during the run of 'Ring Round the Moon' will be in the hands of two young artists of very different technique.

Robin Caulkett, who is 20 years old, a Londoner, and an inhabitant of Ealing, produces sculpture in glass, trying as he says to "emphasise the natural aesthetic value of the material, together with an expression of personal feelings". Although he also works in other media, Robin, who took up glass-work about five years ago, prefers this difficult material because of the technical challenge it presents.

John Firth, who contributes the paintings to the exhibition, was born on a loch in the Scottish Highlands but grew up in England "in spite" he says, "of a 'good' education terminating at Trinity College, Cambridge".

He has slept in caves overlooking the African Sand Sea, in the caves at Nerja Granada, on the field of Waterloo and on Ealing Common. He admits to having

exhibited at the Royal Scottish Academy and many other exhibitions including eight one-man shows, and has just returned to London as a lecturer at Ealing School of Art.

John explains that he hates 'Art' because he loves life, and that he considers banality to be the bugbear of us all today. It is only by the synthesis which art makes that the analysis of materialism can be put to human benefit, he explains.

Incidentally John Firth directed his own play 'Automan' at the Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh, last summer.

PLAYS AND PRODUCTION COMMITTEE
Following the annual review of the Plays and Production Committee, whose function is primarily the selection of plays, producers and designers, Alan Clarke has been appointed a member in place of John Boud who retires by rotation. The other members are Alfred Emmet (Chairman), Joyce Nixon and Martin Bowley.

The visit by members of the Royal Court theatre studio on Thursday 28th July might most properly be sub-titled "Actors at Work". Of all the classes given to actors, those in Comedy are the most entertaining, and for this evening's show Keith Johnstone, Associate Director of the Royal Court will set exercises for four actors in a completely unscripted programme. Everything depends on the skill and enthusiasm of the actors and the evening will be a unique and unrepeatable event.

Of a similar programme given during a lunch time, to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the English Stage Company, Jonathan Millar said that it was "one of the nicest lunch hours I have ever spent". The Group have given many performances at the Royal Court and in various parts of the country.

Keith Johnstone himself is a director and a playwright, who has taught comic improvisation for several years.

At a flat rate of three bob a time, this sounds like a real bargain in spontaneous humour.

To: BOX OFFICE MANAGER, QUESTORS THEATRE,
MATTOCK LANE, W.5.

EALING 5184

Attraction	Date	Altern. Date	Members' Tickets	Price	Guest Tickets	Price	Total Cash
RING ROUND THE MOON						6/6 4/6	
DON KINCAID	16 JUL		*	4/-		6/-	
ROYAL COURTESY	28 JUL			3/-		3/-	

* Music Club Members

I enclose cash/cheque/P.O./M.O. value £
and stamped addressed envelope for the despatch of the above tickets.

Name

Address

Telephone No. Membership No.

Other members' seats are booked for: Music Club No.

Name: No.

BOX OFFICE 18 - 30 JULY
BOX OFFICE OPEN: 6.45 - 8.45 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE: It is regretted that tickets which have been paid for cannot be exchanged for another performance. Tickets will, however, be accepted for resale and money refunded if sold.

MEMBERSHIP CARD must be produced before tickets are issued.

MEMBERS' FREE SEATS are not transferable.

TICKETS BOOKED BY TELEPHONE must be collected within 48 hours or by 7.30 p.m. on the night of the performance (whichever is the earlier), otherwise they may be sold.

ALL SEATS ARE BOOKABLE at 6/6 and 4/6.

BLOCK BOOKINGS of 10 or more tickets for any one performance may be made at a reduction of 6d per ticket. Not applicable to special children's matinees.

POSTAL BOOKINGS are dealt with before box Office opens.

ON NIGHTS WHEN THERE IS A PERFORMANCE, please do not call the Box Office by 'phone or in person for Advance Bookings until after 7.45.

For the best seats BOOK IN COMFORT - BOOK BY POST (do remember to enclose a stamped addressed envelope).

Members who have booked seats and later decide not to use them are requested to inform the Box Office as soon as possible or other people may be turned away resulting in a loss to the theatre and disappointment to others.