

The Questors Student Group  
TRIPLE BILL  
February 1968

Press transcripts

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The Middlesex County Times  
16 February 1968

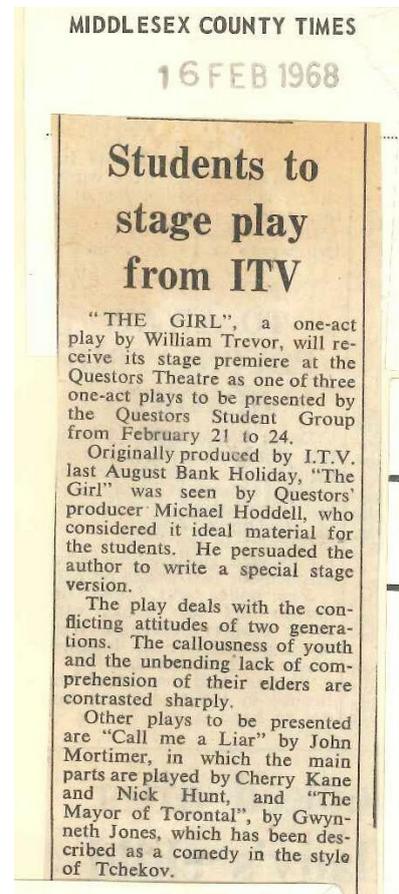
**Students to  
stage play  
from ITV**

"**THE GIRL**", a one-act play by William Trevor, will receive its stage premiere at the Questors Theatre as one of three one-act plays to be presented by the Questors Student Group from February 21 to 24.

Originally produced by I.T.V. last August Bank Holiday, "The Girl" was seen by Questors' producer Michael Hoddell, who considered it ideal material for the students. He persuaded the author to write a special stage version.

The play deals with the conflicting attitudes of two generations. The callousness of youth and the unbending lack of comprehension of their elders are contrasted sharply.

Other plays to be presented are "**Call me a Liar**" by John Mortimer, in which the main parts are played by Cherry Kane and Nick Hunt, and "**The Mayor of Torontal**", by Gwynneth Jones, which has been described as a comedy in the style of Tchekov.



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The Middlesex County Times  
1 March 1968

**STUDENT ACTORS  
DESERVE A CLAP**

THE QUESTORS Theatre Student Group is to be congratulated not only on its performance, but on its choice of the three one act plays presented at the group at the theatre last week.

The play provided a wide choice of characters, all within the capabilities of the students.

"Call Me a Liar" was perhaps the most disappointing. Originally written for television,

it called for a snappy pace. I felt the players took the script a little too slow and easy.

The acting did not come up to the standard shown in the following two plays, with the exception of **Martin Rutherford**, who gave a telling character study of a businessman who has not spoken to his wife for years although they live in the same house. Gwynneth Jones' "The Mayor of Toronto" was an excellent piece of work. Richard Halberstadt as the tubby, bumbling Mayor, established himself as an up and coming comic actor and Martin Rutherford's talent was again evident.

Avril Lotting, who made a brief appearance in "Call me a Liar", was well cast as Zucka Szabadka, a dizzy and amorous wife.

"The Girl", by William Trevor, a slightly black comedy, showing the unexpected results 17 years after one 'debauched night in the life of an otherwise respectable suburban husband, was skilfully directed by Michael Hoddel, and there were fine performances from a versatile cast.

## THE STAGE

### Questors triple-bill

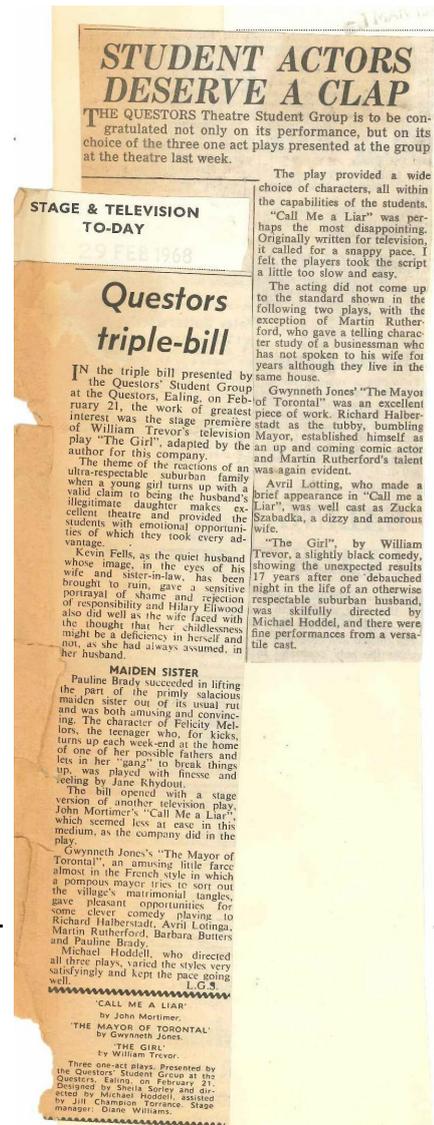
IN the triple bill presented by the Questors' Student Group at the Questors, Ealing, on February 21, the work of greatest interest was the stage premiere of William Trevor's television play "The Girl", adapted by the author for this company.

The theme of the reactions of an ultra-respectable suburban family when a young girl turns up with a valid claim to being the husband's illegitimate daughter makes excellent theatre and provided the students with emotional opportunities of which they took every advantage.

Kevin Fells, as the quiet husband whose image, in the eyes of his wife and sister-in-law, has been brought to ruin, gave a sensitive portrayal of shame and rejection of responsibility and Hilary Ellwood also did well as the wife faced with the thought that her childlessness might be a deficiency in herself and not, as she had always assumed, in her husband.

### MAIDEN SISTER

Pauline Brady succeeded in lifting the part of the primly salacious maiden sister out of its usual rut and was both amusing and convincing. The character of Felicity Mellors, the teenager who, for kicks, turns up each week-end at the home of one of



her possible fathers and lets in her "gang" to break things up, was played with finesse and feeling by Jane Rhydout.

The bill opened with a stage version of another television play, John Mortimer's "Call Me a Liar", which seemed less at ease in this medium, as the company did in the play.

Gwynneth Jones's "The Mayor of Torontal", an amusing little farce almost in the French style in which a pompous mayor tries to sort out the village's matrimonial tangles, gave pleasant opportunities for some clever comedy playing to Richard Halberstadt, Avril Lotinga, Martin Rutherford, Barbara Butters and Pauline Brady.

Michael Hoddell, who directed all three plays, varied the styles very satisfyingly and kept the pace going well.

L.G.S.

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