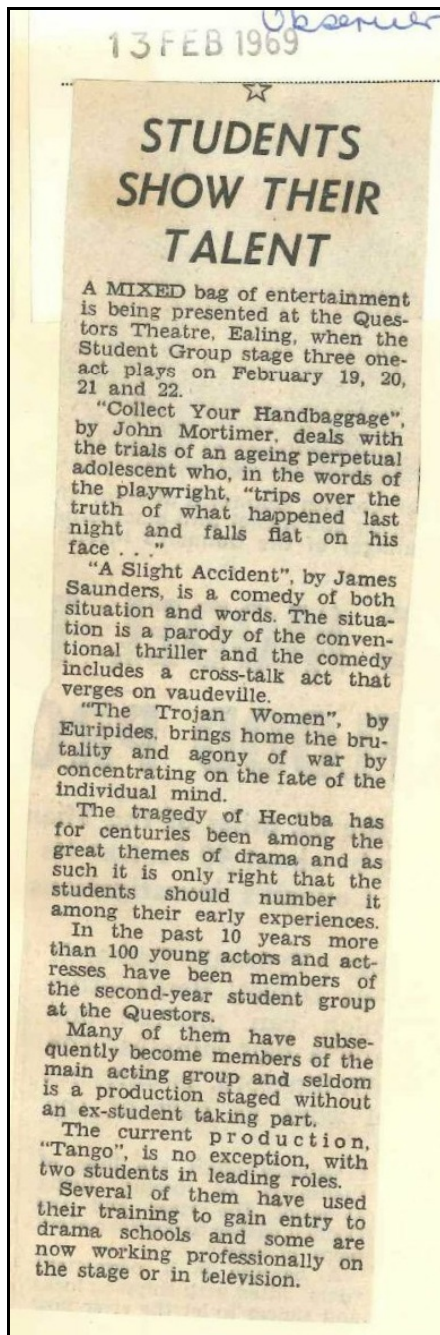


QUESTORS STUDENT GROUP 22
THREE ONE ACT PLAYS
February 1969

Press transcripts.

West London Observer
13 February 1969

**STUDENTS
SHOW THEIR
TALENT**



A MIXED bag of entertainment is being presented at the Questors Theatre, Ealing, when the Student Group stage three one-act plays on February 19, 20, 21 and 22.

"Collect Your Handbaggage", by John Mortimer, deals with the trials of an ageing perpetual adolescent who, in the words of the playwright, "trips over the truth of what happened last night and falls flat on his face . . ."

"A Slight Accident", by James Saunders, is a comedy of both situation and words. The situation is a parody of the conventional thriller and the comedy includes a cross-talk act that verges on vaudeville.

"The Trojan Women", by Euripides, brings home the brutality and agony of war by concentrating on the fate of the individual mind.

The tragedy of Hecuba has for centuries been among the great themes of drama and as such it is only right that the students should number it among their early experiences.

In the past 10 years more than 100 young actors and actresses have been members of the second-year student group at the Questors.

Many of them have subsequently become members of the main acting group and seldom is a production staged without an ex-student taking part.

The current production, "Tango", is no exception, with two students in leading roles. Several of them have used their training to gain entry to drama schools and some are now working professionally on the stage or in television.

Acton Gazette
13 February 1969

Student theatre

For four days from February 19 the Questors Student Group present three plays each evening which should provide varied and fascinating entertainment.

The three plays, which begin at 7.45 at the theatre in Mattock Lane, Ealing, are "Collect Your Handbaggage" by John Mortimore, "A Slight Accident" by James Saunders and "The Trojan Women" by Euripides.

In the last ten years over 100 young actors and actresses have in turn been members of the Questors Second Year Student Group.

Many of them are now in the main acting group, and a small number have gained entry to drama school and are now working professionally on the stage or television.

Tickets for their latest production can be obtained from the theatre.

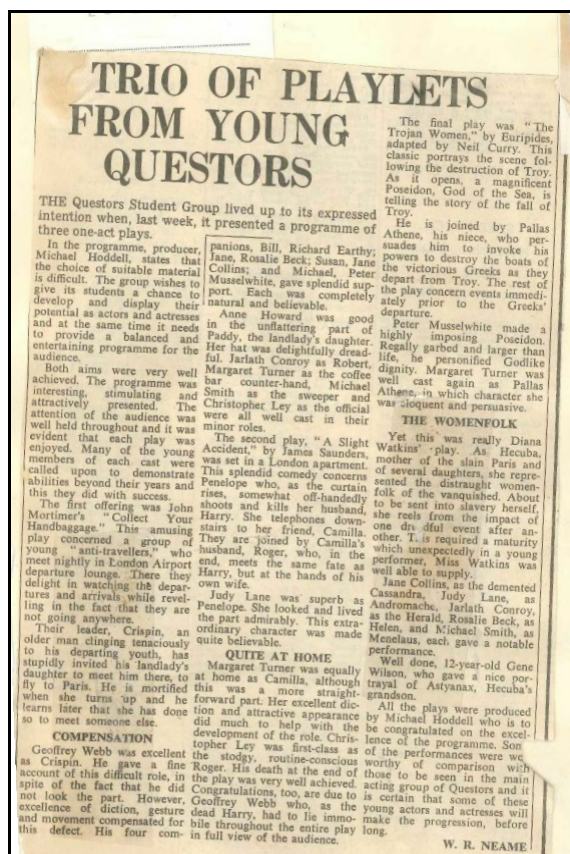
Middlesex County Times
28 February 1969

TRIO OF PLAYLETS FROM YOUNG QUESTORS

THE Questors Student Group lived up to its expressed intention when, last week, it presented a programme three one-act plays.

In the programme, producer, Michael Hoddell, states that the choice of suitable material is difficult. The group wishes to give its students a chance to develop and display their potential as actors and actresses and at the same time it needs to provide a balanced and entertaining programme for the audience.

Both aims were very well achieved. The programme was interesting, stimulating and attractively presented. The attention of the audience was well held throughout and it was evident that each play was enjoyed. Many of the young members of each cast



were called upon to demonstrate abilities beyond their years and this they did with success.

The first offering was John Mortimer's "Collect Your Handbaggage." This amusing play concerned a group of young "anti-travellers," who meet nightly in London Airport departure lounge. There they delight in watching the departures and arrivals while revelling in the fact that they are not going anywhere.

Their leader, Crispin, an older man clinging tenaciously to his departing youth, has stupidly invited his landlady's daughter to meet him there, to fly to Paris. He is mortified when she turns up and he learns later that she has done so to meet someone else.

COMPENSATION

Geoffrey Webb was excellent as Crispin. He gave a fine account of this difficult role, in spite of the fact that he did not look the part. However, excellence of diction, gesture and movement compensated for this defect. His four companions, Bill, Richard Earthy; Jane, Rosalie Beck; Susan, Jane Collins; and Michael, Peter Musselwhite, gave splendid support. Each was completely natural and believable.

Anne Howard was good in the unflattering part of Paddy, the landlady's daughter. Her hat was delightfully dreadful. Jarlath Conroy as Robert, Margaret Turner as the coffee bar counter-hand, Michael Smith as the sweeper and Christopher Ley as the official were all well cast in their minor roles.

The second play, "A Slight Accident," by James Saunders, was set in a London apartment. This splendid comedy concerns Penelope who, as the curtain rises, somewhat offhandedly shoots and kills her husband, Harry. She telephones downstairs to her friend, Camilla. They are joined by Camilla's husband, Roger, who, in the end, meets the same fate as Harry, but at the hands of his own wife.

Judy Lane was superb as Penelope. She looked and lived the part admirably. This extraordinary character was made quite believable.

QUITE AT HOME

Margaret Turner was equally at home as Camilla, although this was a more straightforward part. Her excellent diction and attractive appearance did much to help with the development of the role. Christopher Ley was first-class as the stodgy, routine-conscious Roger. His death at the end of the play was very well achieved. Congratulations, too, are due to Geoffrey Webb who, as the dead Harry, had to lie immobile throughout the entire play in full view of the audience.

The final play was "The Trojan Women," by Euripides, adapted by Neil Curry. This classic portrays the scene following the destruction of Troy. As it opens, a magnificent Poseidon, God of the Sea, is telling the story of the fall of Troy.

He is joined by Pallas Athene, his niece, who persuades him to invoke his powers to destroy the boats of the victorious Greeks as they depart from Troy. The rest of the play concern events immediately prior to the Greeks' departure.

Peter Musselwhite made a highly imposing Poseidon. Regally garbed and larger than

life, he personified Godlike dignity. Margaret Turner was well cast again as Pallas Athene, in which character she was eloquent and persuasive.

THE WOMENFOLK

Yet this was really Diana Watkins' play. As Hecuba, mother of the slain Paris and of several daughters, she represented the distraught womenfolk of the vanquished. About to be sent into slavery herself, she reels from the impact of one dreadful event after another. This required a maturity which unexpectedly in a young performer, Miss Watkins was well able to supply.

Jane Collins, as the demented Cassandra, Judy Lane, as Andromache, Jarlath Conroy, as the Herald, Rosalie Beck, as Helen, and Michael Smith, as Menelaus, each gave a notable performance.

Well done, 12-year-old Gene Wilson, who gave a nice portrayal of Astyanax, Hecuba's grandson.

All the plays were produced by Michael Hoddell who is to be congratulated on the excellence of the programme. Some of the performances were well worthy of comparison with those to be seen in the main acting group of Questors and it is certain that some of these young actors and actresses will make the progression, before long.

W. R. NEAME
