

THE QUESTORS THEATRE
MATTOCK LANE, EALING



present

“HEARTBREAK
HOUSE”

by BERNARD SHAW

NOVEMBER 1945

PROGRAMME

- -

THREEPENCE

“ HEARTBREAK HOUSE ”.

The Questors have already presented two plays by Tchegov about the decline of the dilettante landed aristocracy. Astrov's forests and Lubov's cherry orchard disappeared with the old regime, never to return. Though more pungent in his satire, Shaw gives us a firmer hope. Youth turns through heartbreak from "romance, sentiment and snobbery," from the riches with which she dreams to buy a soul, and stands erect in the moment of peril to bear forward the torch received from Captain Experience.

Though written for an earlier war, Shaw's message is apt to-day. Our business as Englishmen is still, and always will be, navigation.

DISCUSSION.

There will be a discussion on this production in this Theatre on Tuesday, 20th November, at 7.30 p.m.

Refreshments will be served and all members of the audience are cordially invited to come along and give their views and hear the views of others.

Written criticisms are also welcomed and will be read anonymously at the discussion.

CHARACTERS IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE:

Ellie Dunn	...	...	...	...	DIANA RUTLAND
Nurse Guinness	...	...	...	...	RENA RICE
Captain Shotover	...	...	...	...	TOM W. FRANKLIN
Lady Utterword	...	...	...	...	ELIZABETH DIXON
Hesione Hushabye	...	...	...	...	GWENDOLEN THOMAS
Mazzini Dunn	...	...	...	...	ALAN BENNETT
Boss Mangan	...	...	...	...	FRANK WHITE
Hector Hushabye	...	...	...	...	FRANCIS W. SMITH
Randall Utterword	...	...	...	...	ALBERT HOOPER
William	...	...	...	...	JOHN MACGREGOR

The play produced by ERIC VOCE.

Associate Producer: MARION VOCE.

The action of the play takes place at the Shotover's country house in Sussex, on an evening in the late summer of 1916.

THE SCENES ARE:

ACTS I and II: The "Poop."

ACT III: The Garden.

Settings designed and painted by HONOR O'NIANS.

Stage Manager: GEORGE MOONEY.

Lighting Manager: MICHAEL KELLY.

Wardrobe Mistress: DIANA KELLY.

Properties: ISOBEL BENNS, MARGARET JONES.

There will be an interval of 5 minutes between Acts I and II, and of 10 minutes between Acts II and III.

Tea will be served in the second interval.

"THE TIME HAS COME, THE WALRUS SAID . . ."

You may have noticed that both our Programmes and our Announcement Leaflets have been getting more chatty lately. We are hoping that these tentative shoots will eventually blossom forth as a regular, full-blown Bulletin of news, views and information on Stage matters in general and The Questors in particular, which will be circulated to all members.

What do you think of the idea?

Please let us know; and if you have any ideas as to what should appear in the Bulletin, or better still, can produce a suitable contribution . . . shoot!

How did you like the little Gossip Column about the players in the "Heartbreak House" leaflet?

Would you like to hear the full history of The Questors from the Stone Age till now in a series of snappy instalments?

Oh . . . That "Deliberate Mistake" . . . We're afraid it was deliberately left out of the "Heartbreak House" announcement, but then it wasn't a card this time, was it? . . . Double-crossed you, eh?

Incidentally, there were two in the "But Now I am Returned" cards. A lot of you spotted the "Sundays" with an "s," but have a good look at the quotation, too.

MORE FOR YOUR MONEY

Now that our Acting Membership is growing, we are trying hard to step up the frequency of shows, where possible casting the next show independently of the current one. As you know, "Invitation to a Voyage" opens on January 5th, and further productions are planned for February, April and June, with the Drama Festival in July. The plays are not yet definitely chosen, but we'll let you know as soon as they are.

NEXT PRODUCTION:

“INVITATION TO A VOYAGE”.

By JEAN-JACQUES BERNARD.

Opening Night: SATURDAY, JAN. 5th, 1946.

This will be our second production of a Bernard play. The first, “Martine,” was produced in August of last year, when the flying-bomb raids were at their height, and consequently audiences were small. For many of our members, therefore, this is likely to be their first introduction to Jean-Jacques Bernard, whose plays have seldom been performed in this country.

It is part of Bernard’s art that he takes the very simplest of stories—indeed hardly a “story” at all—and so illuminates it by his sensitive understanding of the workings of the human heart, of its half-conscious aspirations which so often can never be realised, that the result is a glowing, moving revelation of the human spirit.

The “story” of “Invitation to a Voyage” is simply told and, when told, tells nothing. A very ordinary business friend has stayed for a few months with a happily married young girl and her husband. After he has left, she learns by chance that he has gone to the Argentine, associated in her mind with all the romance of the unknown. From this moment she sees the absent man with different eyes; he becomes a romantic figure around whom she weaves her dreams, until she believes herself to be in love with him, and even he in love with her. He comes back; she meets him again and finds the prosaic, dull individual he had in fact always been. That is all. But in Bernard’s telling it becomes symbolic of all our vague longings and unrealised dreams; it becomes a haunting, delicate, beautiful study of a woman who dreamed well but not wisely.

NON-ACTING MEMBERSHIP
OF
THE QUESTORS

—costs only 10s. for any period of twelve months and is the best ten shillingworth in the entertainment world.

You'll see and hear good shows in The Questors' comfortable little theatre every few weeks.

No queueing, no travelling to town, no further expense.

Ask a programme seller or steward for further particulars.

If you are already a member, show this programme to your friends and tell them what a good thing you've struck.

STUDENT GROUP

We hope to start, early in the New Year, a Student Group of Members, with a regular course of training in acting; those interested should apply to:

The General Manager,

The Questors Theatre, Ealing, W.5.

Telephone: Ealing 5184.