

COMING EVENTS AT THE QUESTORS

Sunday, November 9th, at 6.30 p.m. for 7.15 p.m.

ACTIVE MEMBERS' MEETING. For details, please see announcements on page 7 of this programme. Refreshments will be available from 6.30 p.m. onwards.

Monday, November 24th, at 7.30 p.m.

CLUB NIGHT. A Mock Trial will be held. Fuller details will be issued in a separate leaflet.

December 6th.

First night of ANNUAL DRAMA FESTIVAL.

QUESTORS' CHRISTMAS CARDS

Here is the solution of one of the inevitable problems at Christmas time. Send your friends the Season's Greetings by means of one of the specially designed Questors' cards that will shortly be available. Watch out for further details as to prices and method of ordering.

THE QUESTORS THEATRE MATTOCK LANE, EALING

SEASON 1947—48

SECOND PRODUCTION



present

"MR. BOLFRY"

By

JAMES BRIDIE

NOVEMBER 1947

PROGRAMME

SIXPENCE

ON GOOD MANNERS IN THE THEATRE

If you are reading these words comfortably settled in your seat waiting for the lights to go down, be of good cheer for it is plain that, without prompting, you know instinctively that late arrival is one of the cardinal faults of theatre-goers in this country. If, on the other hand, you have slipped in at the last moment—or even later—and now in the first interval are hastily trying to find out who is in the cast, an unobtrusive blush allied to a firm resolution to do better next time would not come amiss. For it is plain that Questors have been getting into bad habits of late. At the discussion on "The Discovery" it was even suggested that producers should recognise that the first few minutes of any play are liable to be spoilt by late arrivals and should ensure that their players talk down any resultant noise from the auditorium. That this awful suggestion could even be made shows how far we have fallen from the high standard that has been The Questors' legitimate pride on both sides of the curtain. The play is always ready to start at the advertised time, and we hope that any of our members who may have a disturbed conscience in regard to this particular of their theatrical etiquette will in future remember their obligations to their fellow members of the Club and the guests whom they have brought along by making prompt attendance a point of honour.

The old habit of plunging the auditorium into the deepest gloom after each interval, with its resultant discomfort for any who had been caught unawares, was also the subject of some criticism. Both the aesthetic and practical advantages of a slower return to the proper mood for watching a play were stressed. It will be noticed that this suggestion has borne early fruit—the stage staff have promptly connected the house lights to a dimmer. Our members will be grateful to them for this regard to the comfort and convenience of the audience.

THE AGE-OLD CRY

The Questors are never satisfied. Why should they be? Their aim is perfection even though they know they can never attain it, but that's no reason why they shouldn't keep on trying.

Well, what is it this time? This time it's the "backroom boys." The stage management staff can never have too many pairs of hands for the incessant work of scenery construction and all its associated tasks. The quality of the craftsmanship of the devoted few is admired by all and it gets well-deserved tributes. But what would encourage them more than kind words is an influx of new talent. None need be shy of their lack of skill—the labourer will be as welcome as the craftsman. This is a chance to do a practical job of work to help The Questors. Any officer of the Club will introduce you to one of the trio who form the Stage Management Committee.

"Mr. BOLFRY"

PRODUCER'S NOTE

The dramatic writings of James Bridie, pen name of Dr. H. Mavor, are too well known to need elaboration here—his latest success, "Dr. Angelus," is now being played in the West End. Bridie is first and foremost a dramatist with a very real sense of the theatre; he considers that a play should be left to the audience to finish and, to quote his own words, "a play should be enjoyed, not judged."

We have, therefore, endeavoured to present "Mr. Bolfry" as a perfectly straight-forward play in a perfectly straight-forward manner. The interpretations of the characters are entirely the actors' own and the object has been to blend and balance the various characterisations into a harmonious whole. Our audiences will doubtless let us know if our efforts have been justified!

CANCELLATION OF THE QUESTORS' DANCE

The Spring Dance at the Abbey Hotel was such a success that everyone was looking forward to the next such occasion. Arrangements were in hand for a further dance in January. But the Abbey Hotel is a long distance from the centre of Ealing, and we could not expect the evening to be a success unless people could get transport there and back. The abolition of the basic petrol ration has removed that essential facility, and the Committee have decided, with great reluctance, that the dance must be cancelled or, rather, postponed, until circumstances are more favourable.

"MR. BOLFRY"

by

JAMES BRIDIE

Characters (in order of their appearance):—

Cully	...	...	...	...	...	BARRIE PITT
Cohen	...	...	...	...	...	DENIS NICHOLLS
Jean	...	...	...	...	...	PAMELA RICHARDS
Mr. McCrimmon	...	...	...	...	...	PHILIP ALLEN
Mrs. McCrimmon	...	...	...	...	...	RUBY FEAST
Morag	...	...	...	...	...	DOREEN COATES
Mr. Bolfry	...	...	...	...	...	TOM W. FRANKLIN

The Play produced by PHYLLIS PITT, assisted by ERIC VOCE.

The Set designed by NORMAN BRANSON.

STAGE MANAGEMENT.

Stage Manager: Mike Golding assisted by Denis Robinson,
Peter Ellis and Albert Gibbs.

Costumes: Joan Pyle and the Wardrobe Staff.

Lighting: Gerry Isenthal and Carl Johnson.

Properties: Jane Campbell and Doris Fishel.

Sound: Barbara M. Hutchins.

House Manager: Archie Cowan.

Set constructed by Denis Robinson and the Stage Staff.

Queen Anne chairs kindly lent for this production by
Messrs. Eldred Sayers & Sons., Ltd.

The Interval Music will include selections from
Grieg and Mendelssohn.

The action of the play takes place throughout in the Free Kirk
Manse at Larach, in the West Highlands of Scotland.

SCENE I. Sunday afternoon.

At the end of the scene the curtain is lowered to denote the
passage of six hours.

SCENE II. Midnight.

Interval of 12 minutes.

SCENE III. An hour later.

Interval of 5 minutes.

SCENE IV. The following morning.

Refreshments will be served to members of the audience in their
seats by the stewards in the First Interval. You are asked to note
that refreshments will **not** be served at the counter at the back
of the theatre.

*In the interests of both players and audience, you are requested to
restrict smoking in the theatre while the play is in progress.*

DISCUSSION.

There will be a discussion on this production in the theatre on
Monday, November 10th, at 7.30 p.m. All members of the audience
are invited to be present. Written signed criticisms will be
welcomed. Refreshments will be served as usual.

“ PRODUCTION DRIVE ”

This is the title of a new leaflet that has been prepared to assist the Club in the membership drive that has been initiated in recent weeks. Copies are available for any member to give to friends who may wish to know more about The Questors before making up their minds about joining us.

The leaflet gives all the more important facts about the Club's organisation and policy and, if used energetically by members, will do much to stimulate the campaign to get those extra 200 members. Encouraging results are already appearing—there was a net increase in membership in September of 29 and, when the October figures are known, it may be hoped that they will be better yet. But that is no ground for relaxing efforts.

The new application form for membership includes a form of banker's order for the use of those who prefer to avoid the minor annoyance of the annual renewal of subscriptions. It is hoped that a great many members will avail themselves of this facility. Existing members will be invited to complete such a form as their subscriptions fall due.

STAGE DESIGN COMPETITION

The Committee have decided that the success of last year's competition in connection with “ The Seagull ” justifies the organisation of a similar competition this season. Members of the Club will, accordingly, be invited to submit designs for the settings required for “ The Apple Cart. ” The general lines of the competition will be the same, and it is hoped to get one of the other member-theatres of The Little Theatre Guild to conduct the adjudication.

Fuller details may be had on application to the General Manager. Intending competitors will be asked to signify their intention of entering not later than December 31st, and to submit their entry by the end of January.

MEETING OF ACTIVE MEMBERS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9th, at 7.15 p.m.

On the Sunday evening following the last performance of “ Mr. Bolfry, ” a meeting of the “ Active ” Members of the Club will be held.

A word of explanation as to the nature and purposes of such meetings may be in place. As was made clear in the course of the General Meeting of members on September 3rd, there is scope in an organisation such as ours for two kinds of general meeting: the one ranging over broad issues of policy with which every member of The Questors has a legitimate concern; the other dealing with more restricted issues of a domestic character which are necessarily the prime concern of those whose circumstances and inclinations allow them to be “ active ” in some particular sphere of the Club's life. The meeting on November 9th will be of the second type; among the subjects likely to be discussed are: the procedure for casting and the value of casting meetings; producers' reports; meals at rehearsals, etc.

No member of the Club need feel debarred from attending the meeting. On the contrary, this may be a means for some to get acquainted with the mechanics of The Questors' organisation and to meet those who by their untiring, but often unseen, efforts contribute so much to the pleasure and enjoyment of productions. It may even lead them to offer their services in some useful field of service—we hope it will.

Light refreshments will be served in the theatre for all who can come from 6.30 p.m. onwards after the photographs of “ Mr. Bolfry ” have been taken. The business part of the meeting will start about 7.15 p.m.