

COMING EVENTS

November 19th, at 7.30 p.m. in the Annexe.

Inaugural Meeting of The Questors' PLAY-READING CIRCLE.
There will be a short play-reading followed by a discussion on future arrangements.

November 25th, from 7.30 to Midnight.

QUESTORS' DANCE at the ABBEY HOTEL, PARK ROYAL.
Dance Music by Stan Rendaly and his Band.

Tickets (price 5/- exclusive) are now available. Early application to Mrs. Coates is advised.

November 29th, at 7.30 p.m., CLUB NIGHT.

A film evening is being arranged. The principal film will be STEINBECK'S "THE GRAPES OF WRATH."

November 30th to December 3rd, at 7.30 p.m.

The Questors present for four nights only: JOHN WRIGHT'S MARIONETTES in a repertoire, comprising: "Briar Rose" (the story of the Sleeping Beauty) and "Maria Marten," or "Murder in the Red Barn," together with a supporting programme of divertissements.

Proceeds from these performances, after deducting expenses, will be devoted to the Building Fund. Seats will be at one price only—2/6.

December 20th, at 7.30 p.m., CLUB NIGHT.

This will be a Club Night with a difference. At 8.30 p.m. will be held the Draw for the prizes in the QUESTORS' CHRISTMAS DRAW, which is being organised by Mr. H. Marcus in aid of the Building Fund.

January 8th. Opening Night of—"THE QUESTORS' REVUE."

February 26th. Opening Night of the Fourth Production of the 1948-49 season—BERNARD SHAW'S "CANDIDA."

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THE QUESTORS THEATRE MATTOCK LANE, EALING

SEASON 1948—49

SECOND PRODUCTION



present an entirely original play

"THE TUSCAN ARTIST"

by

ONE OF OUR OWN MEMBERS

MICHAEL E. KELLY

— NOVEMBER 1948 —

ADVERTISING AGENTS FOR THIS PROGRAMME: KEY PUBLICITY, 51, THE MALL, W. 5

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PROGRAMME

SIXPENCE

TOWARDS A NEW THEATRE.

Approval, in principle, of The Questors' application under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, to develop the site in Mattock Lane has now been received from the Borough Council, acting as agents for the Middlesex County Council. All members of the Club will welcome this news; it marks another milestone along the road towards our own theatre built to our own design. Its special significance is that it removes the fears which had been expressed that authority would not sanction and approve our ambition to erect a new theatre on the present site. The attitude of the public authorities in thus recognising the value to the community of a theatre such as ours is an encouraging sign for the future.

A word about the plans for the new theatre. Much time remains for discussion and adjustment of the plans, but members who are interested will find displayed on the wall of the theatre copies of the plans which formed the basis of the recent application to the Middlesex County Council. They are the work of Mr. Hal Morris, who is a member of the R.I.B.A. and the Architectural Association; he is also one of our own members, and the Club is much indebted to him on this score. If any member has ideas or suggestions to make about the plans, any member of the Committee will be happy to make a note of them and to ensure that they are discussed at the proper time.

What of the future? Lest anyone should expect to find active brick-laying in progress in a few weeks, it should be explained that there is no immediate question of re-building. Quite apart from the fact that there are higher priorities to be satisfied in the way of schools and housing just now, The Questors are not ready to go ahead. The first target is the acquisition of the site with the present buildings—a task likely to occupy all our energies for as far ahead as it is practicable and reasonable to look. The sanction to develop which has been granted will help greatly towards the achievement of this goal.

It is impossible to forecast the exact course of the negotiations which lie ahead of the Club Executive. All that can be said with certainty is that their hands will be greatly strengthened as the total of the Building Fund rises towards its target of £2,500. Every member has been sent a statement of the objects and purposes of the Building Fund Appeal; the Committee rely on the support of members for all the functions which will be organised during the course of the season.

"THE TUSCAN ARTIST"

The Author introduces his Play.

A generation ago a play concerned with the public abjuration and disgrace of Galileo Galilei would have seemed of historical interest only; the prohibition of scientific theories on dogmatic grounds had vanished apparently for good from the civilised world, the last trace of such intolerance lingered, along with the family blood-feud, as a comic feature of American backwoods life.

But in our time ancient universities have been purged and purged again on ideological grounds; text-books have been publicly burned; and over half Europe it would to-day be suicidal for a university biologist to publish work on genetics which did not conform to official dogma. And it would not be difficult to find professors in this country who would defend, or at any rate, would refuse to condemn unequivocally, such frustration of science.

As far as possible the play follows the record, allowing for inevitable dramatic compression and transposition. All the operative incidents are based on recorded events, and the persons named all took some actual part in those events. Throughout I have taken the view that dramatic necessity cannot justify falsifying history, a principle which might well be debated at the discussion.

M. E. K.

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“ THE TUSCAN ARTIST ”

by

MICHAEL E. KELLY

Characters in order of appearance :

JOHN WEDDERBURN, <i>student at Padua ; later Chief Doctor of Moravia</i>	JOHN HOWARD
NICOLO RICCARDI, <i>student at Padua ; later Censor in Rome</i>	LISTER BECK
TEDDA, <i>Galileo's Housekeeper</i>	JOAN SAWKINS
GIOVANNI MAGINI, <i>Professor at Bologna</i>	FREDERICK FRANCIS
GALILEO GALILEI	FRANK WHITE
AN INVENTOR	SHALOM RACHMAN
MELCHIOR INCHOFER, <i>student at Padua ; later Counsellor to the Holy Office</i>	ALFRED EMMET
CACCINI, <i>a Dominican Preacher</i>	PETER BOWEN-EVANS
A JESUIT PREACHER	JOHN HITCHES
TWO ACOLYTES	{ KEITH HUGHES IAN MASSIE
BONCIANI, <i>Archbishop of Pisa</i>	WILFRID SHARP
MAGDALEN, <i>Grand Duchess of Tuscany</i>	MARY DEAN
CHRISTINA, <i>Dowager Grand Duchess</i>	ELIZABETH ODDIE
COSMO, <i>Grand Duke of Tuscany</i>	PHILIP ALLEN
A SERVANT in the employ of the Tuscan <i>Ambassador</i>	DONALD MANNING
MARIA TEDALDI, <i>Galileo's neighbour</i>	EILEEN RICHNELL
A STEWARD	ROY AMBROSE
NICCOLINI, <i>Tuscan Ambassador at Rome</i>	ERIC BATSON
VINCENZIO FIORENUOLA, <i>Commissary-General of the Holy Office</i>	ALBERT HOOPER
AN INQUISITOR	JOHN HITCHES
A GUARD	DENIS ROBINSON
A FAMILIAR	WILFRID SHARP
CARLO SINCERI, <i>Procurator-Fiscal of the Holy Office</i>	BARRIE PITT
A CARDINAL	PETER BOWEN-EVANS

The Play produced by :

ERIC VOCE

assisted by the Author

The set designed by : NORMAN BRANSON

and constructed by

PETER ELLIS, DENIS ROBINSON and the Stage Staff

The action of the play is in Italy between the years 1610 and 1640. The events presented follow in chronological order, but no attempt will be made to indicate the lapse of time by definite breaks in the playing of each Act.

ACT I. PADUA, PISA and FLORENCE, 1610—1616.

Interval of 15 minutes.

ACT II. FLORENCE and ROME, 1630—1632.

Interval of 10 minutes.

ACT III. ROME and FLORENCE, 1633—1640.

STAGE MANAGEMENT :

Stage Manager : MARY DEAN

assisted by

GERRY AYLES, OLIVE COLTMAN, AUDREY HOUNSLOW, GEORGE JONES,
M. V. KRISHNASWAMY and TED ROBINSON

Lighting : GERRY ISENTHAL

Properties : PAMELA RICHARDS and PEGGY FANCETT

Sound : ALBERT GIBBS

Wardrobe : DIANA KELLY, HELEN ENTWISTLE and The Wardrobe Staff

Some costumes for this production kindly lent by J. CYRIL NAIRNE, Esq.

*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 Wednesday, November 17th, at 7.30 p.m. All members of the audience are invited to be present and to express their views. Written criticisms, which must be signed, will be welcomed. Refreshments will be served—price 6d.

“ERROR IN THE UNIVERSE.”

This was the title under which on October 16th and 31st the B.B.C. presented in the Third Programme a radio version of Michael Kelly's play, of which The Questors are proud to offer now the first stage presentation.

We re-print below part of Stephen Williams' comment on the play, which appeared in the issue of the "Radio Times" for October 8th:—

“Science means absolutely nothing to me. Whether the earth moves round the sun or the sun moves round the earth is to me a matter of complete indifference, so long as I am allowed to stay on the earth. As far as I am concerned, the earth is definitely flat, except in mountainous districts; the moon is a lantern for lovers and a target for sonneteers; and the words sunrise and sunset awake such magical associations that it is always a disagreeable shock to be told that those beautiful words have no meaning. I can therefore pay a striking compliment to Michael Kelly's play, 'Error in the Universe,' which deals with the trial of Galileo, and testify that, though the subject was of no interest to me, the sober power and penetration of the writing held me from the first word to the last.”

The following comment on the play appeared in the "New Statesman and Nation," on October 21st:—

“Mr. Michael Kelly's dramatic reconstruction of the trial of Galileo, 'Error in the Universe,' raised the old problem, what is the difference between a radio play and a feature? The only absolutely safe definitions I can think of are that a radio play is a programme in more or less dramatic form presented by the Drama Department, a feature a programme in more or less dramatic form presented by the Features Department. Mr. Kelly's programme was presented by the Drama Department and was therefore a play. Within its limits it was very good; the writing was at once lively and subtle. Mr. King Bull's production was very well done. Of a strong cast, Mr. Esmé Percy, most satisfyingly sinister as the Chief Inquisitor, seemed to me outstanding.”

THEATRE PARTIES.

The first theatre party of the season was held on October 1st, when twenty members went to the New Theatre to see the Old Vic production of "Twelfth Night." "Dr. Faustus" is the choice for the second party on November 8th. Already some forty members have asked to be included in these visits and Pamela Richards, who is responsible for their organisation, will always be glad to hear from those who would like to join future parties. Although the Old Vic productions have been selected for the first two parties, it is the intention to vary the choice as much as possible.

BRIDGE AND WHIST DRIVES.

It is thought by the Social Committee that some members would be interested in regular Bridge or Whist Drives. Arrangements can be made if there are a sufficient number of members to whom such a facility would appeal. Any member who would be interested is invited to get in touch with Pamela Richards at the theatre.

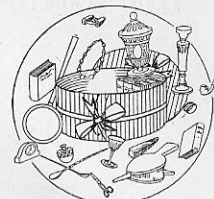
PUNCTUALITY.

Punctuality is a virtue which those who possess it not are accustomed to admire in others. The Questors have always tried to be most meticulous in starting their shows at the precise advertised time. We regret to have to record some backsliding on the part of our members. It is impossible to ring up the curtain while there is still a trickle of late-comers being shown to their seats. May we therefore ask any who have offended to take an earnest resolution to reform and so help the Club to keep up its high standard in this as in other matters.

OTHER PRODUCTIONS IN THE QUESTORS THEATRE.

Our members are reminded that the theatre is frequently let to other organisations. The Questors take no responsibility for any such productions; under the standing arrangements members are notified of all events and shows sponsored by The Questors.

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