

COMING EVENTS

SATURDAY, APRIL 23rd

QUESTORS' DANCE at the ABBEY HOTEL, Park Royal.
Tickets are now available for the second of the season's dances, and you are invited to make early application to Mrs. Coates, 2, Ealing Court Mansions, St. Mary's Road, W.5. (Ealing 2767), or to Tom Franklin, 1, Chester Court, Monk's Drive, W.3 (Acorn 5265). Tickets will cost 5s. (exclusive).

TUESDAY, APRIL 26th, at 7.30 p.m.

Meeting of the Play Reading Circle in the Annexe.

SUNDAY, MAY 1st, at 3 p.m.

Visit of Miss MARGARET RAWLINGS and Mr. JOHN LAURIE.
As there will be no further notice of this important occasion, you are invited to note the date carefully.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11th, at 7.30 p.m.

Club Night—details to be announced.

SATURDAY, MAY 21st

Opening Night of Sixth Production of the 1948-49 Season:—

“THE BEAUX STRATAGEM,” by Farquhar.

Production by Abraham Asseo.

WHIST DRIVES

You are asked to note that, owing to insufficient support, we were obliged with regret, to cancel the Whist Drive arranged for March 16th. It is hoped to arrange a similar function on a date to be announced in April; tickets sold for the March event will be usable on that occasion.

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“Times,” 57, The Mall, Ealing.

THE QUESTORS THEATRE MATTOCK LANE, EALING

SEASON 1948—49

FIFTH PRODUCTION



present

“PROPHESY TO THE WIND”

by

NORMAN NICHOLSON

APRIL, 1949

PROGRAMME

SIXPENCE

HARD LABOUR

Every member of The Questors who in recent years has found him or herself apologising to friends who have come along to see a performance because of the state of the footpath leading to the theatre, will be glad to learn that there is now good prospect of its being relaid. First impressions are often decisive, and no one can pretend that the first impression gained by a visitor to The Questors from the unkempt state of the path is likely to be favourable. Ever since it was damaged during the War, the path has been an eyesore and the source of many a muttered imprecation. Now we hope to get it put right, and it is a job we mean to tackle ourselves under the general direction of the versatile jacks-of-all-trades who make up the Stage Staff.

It is one of the characteristics of a membership theatre such as ours that on an occasion like this we appeal to our own members to come along and take their coats off to do a job for the improvement of their own theatre. Not all can give regular help with productions, but on a special occasion like this we hope to see a full turn-out of the able-bodied males. The Questors are a hospitable organisation, and one of the chief signs of hospitality is concern for the comfort of visitors. This is an essential job for the comfort of visitors to the theatre. All who are willing to lend a hand should let the General Manager have their names.

The plan is to do the work in two stages. During the Easter week-end the existing path will be broken up and the new path prepared for laying. On the following Saturday morning, April 23rd, the actual laying of the new concrete will take place. Those who cannot help with their labour may at least be able to contribute by the loan of crowbars, pickaxes, sledge-hammers, shovels or wheelbarrows. Offers of any such implements will be most gratefully received by the General Manager—their return after use will be a point of honour.

“PROPHECY TO THE WIND”

Note by the Author.

“Prophecy to the Wind” is set in the remote future, many centuries after our present civilisation has collapsed, when Europe is nothing but a rubble of ruins. Very few descendants of the people of our time still remain on the continents, but in the islands and archipelagoes on the fringe of the Arctic Sea, in Iceland and the Faroes there survives a Northern race who escaped the catastrophe which destroyed the rest of the world. They are now beginning to move south, and in the north-west of England, where the play is set, they have established a number of dale communities where they rear sheep in the fells and mine and smelt a little iron ore in the lowlands. Some of these Northmen are not much better than pirates, seeking wealth and power; but the wisest men among them realise that in their quiet way of life, in spite of its harshness and privation, there is a dignity and a purpose which was lacking in the old civilisations on the ruins of which they live.

Then, to one of these communities, comes a man of our own day, blown there in a sort of time-explosion. He is a young scientist, and, as he moves about among the ruins he suddenly realises that with his skill it would be possible to rebuild the world from which he comes. It is the conflict between his point of view and that of the Northmen that makes the play.

This is not intended as a forecast, but rather as a statement in its simplest terms of one of the main problems which Man will have to face. The potential powers of destruction are now so immense, so efficient, that many people feel that only by reducing our level of technological organisation can we hope to survive complete annihilation. Yet the scientist does not want primarily to destroy life, nor even to control it . . . he wants primarily to *know* about it. However dangerous science may seem to be, without this basic curiosity about the natural world, this boyish desire to find out how things work, any civilisation, though it may be safe as a rock, would be half-dead in the spirit. The problem for Man is to avoid firing himself from his own gun.

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“ PROPHECY TO THE WIND ”

A PLAY IN A PROLOGUE AND FOUR SCENES.

BY

NORMAN NICHOLSON

Characters in order of Appearance :

JOHN, a stranger	ROY AMBROSE
FREYA, Hallbjorn's daughter	PEGGY POPE
ULF, Hallbjorn's brother, a shepherd ...	FRANCIS W. SMITH
BESSIE, Freya's maid, an islander ...	PEGGY MARSHALL
HALLBJORN, an old man	ERIC VOCE
VIKAR, his kinsman	HENRY HEILPERN
DICK, a charcoal burner, an islander ...	ALAN FULLER

TIME: The Future

SCENE: Hallbjorn Hill on the north-west coast of England

The Play produced by :

BARBARA HUTCHINS

Décor by : ERNEST IVES

Set constructed by the Stage Staff

STAGE MANAGEMENT:

Stage Manager : JOAN SAWKINS

Lighting : GERRY ISENTHAL, L. HUMPHRIES and D. FISHER

Properties : GORDON MACWILLIAM

Wardrobe : The Wardrobe Staff

Records used in this and recent productions have been kindly loaned by Columbia.

There will be an interval of 15 minutes after Scene 2, during which refreshments will be served, and a shorter interval after Scene 3.

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, April 13th, 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.

THE MAGAZINE.

There has been so much by way of inspired anticipation of The Questors' Magazine that it is difficult to realise that its first issue is almost upon us. However, that is the case. The announcement leaflet for "The Beaux Stratagem" will be combined with the first issue of the magazine.

In format there will be no great change, since we shall only be adding four pages to the present eight-page leaflet. We shall not even introduce right away the specially designed cover that will obviously be necessary. But we shall have achieved the essential object of establishing a medium by which the membership at large can be kept in regular touch with all the many and increasing activities of The Questors. That is the purpose we shall set out to serve. With the expanding membership of the Club no one who must pay heed to the prior claims of domestic and other ties can keep up to date with everything that happens at the Theatre. Each new activity contributes to the life and influence of the Club, and yet each can command the attention of only a few of the total membership. The magazine will, we trust, serve to knit us closer together and to make plain the relationship of all these activities to our main object and purpose.

The Editorial team will include John Hitches and Roy Ambrose (Assistant General Editors), Jean McConnell (Features Editor), Christina McDougall (Club Reporter), with Jean Norris, Basil Hull and Eric Batson acting as Press correspondents. The Club is indebted to them all for volunteering their services.

In addition to reports of Club activities we shall also include in the magazine articles on matters of current theatrical interest, written both by members and non-members. The Features Editor will be glad to hear from any member who would be prepared to contribute on any subject of his or her choice, provided only that it is related in some degree to the general objects of the Club. The Editors do not lay claim to any monopoly of literary talent or journalistic experience, and they will be counting on members to put forward constructively critical suggestions for the improvement of the magazine in subsequent issues. To all such they will listen respectfully and sympathetically. The great thing will be to get the venture started; we can build on that. We shall therefore regard the first two issues as largely experimental, with the intention of using the experience so gained in preparing plans for the 1949-50 Season.

R. F. W.

INCIDENTAL NOTES.

Questors will have noted with interest that Michael Kelly's excursion into broadcasting with "Error in the Universe," has been rapidly followed with a commissioned programme in the series "New Horizons." This series, which is under the general direction of so eminent an authority as Sir Henry Dale, is being produced by Nesta Paine. The third programme in the series was entitled "Swifter than Thought," and dealt with the history of calculating machines; it was given on March 22nd in the Light Programme; the script was by Michael Kelly. We congratulate him on the skilful combination of instruction and entertainment in his treatment of a difficult subject.

* * * *

The Building Fund Committee are now actively preparing for their next big effort which will take the form of a Derby Draw. Books of tickets will be circulated privately to members, and we are hoping on this occasion to achieve an even better result than in the Christmas Draw. This is a chance for all our members to contribute towards the Building Fund by getting their friends and relations to join in.

* * * *

Our members are invited to note the date of the next Dance at the Abbey Hotel, Park Royal. This will be held on April 23rd, which is a Saturday. The arrangements will follow the lines of the previous successful evenings at the Abbey Hotel, and early application to Mrs. Coates for tickets is advised—the number issued will be strictly limited to the capacity of the floor. This is another chance to help the Building Fund.

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