

QUESTORS' CALENDAR.

SEASON 1949-50

July 8th—17th Seventh production. Season 1949 - 1950

Miss Elizabeth Bennet.

September 23rd Season 1950 - 1951. First production. *Tinsel of Athens.* New play by Lydia Ragosin.

October 23rd 1st Annual General Meeting of the Questors Ltd.

November 11th *The Winter's Tale* by William Shakespeare.

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THE QUESTORS.



PRESENT

“Miss Elizabeth Bennet”

BY

A. A. Milne

Adapted from “Pride and Prejudice,” by JANE AUSTEN

SEASON 1949—50

SEVENTH PRODUCTION

PRICE 6d.

THE QUESTORS STUDENT GROUP

Director of Studies

ALFRED EMMET

Assisted by
MARIEL DEXTER

ANNY BOALTH
(Movement)

MOLLIE COLDICOTT
(Speech)

FRANCIS W. SMITH
(make-up)

Sponsored by the Middlesex County Council Education Committee.

WHY a STUDENT GROUP? Because if the amateur theatre is to be more than a mere social pastime, those who seek to practise it must train themselves and develop their talent. Because if we are to give you, our audiences, better shows (and our aim must always be to improve our standards), we must train our actors and actresses of to-morrow. Because any actor knows that the more accomplished he is, the more truthfully he can play, the greater the joy and satisfaction he gets from his work.

HOW does it work? The Course has hitherto been of one year's duration, beginning in September. The students attend three classes a week: a movement class under Miss Anny Boalth, a speech class under Miss Mollie Coldicott (who has recently taken over this side of the Group's work from Miss Pauline Lion), and an acting class with Mrs. Mariel Dexter or Mr. Alfred Emmet. The Students whose performance you are witnessing to-day are approaching the end of their first year's course.

Rehearsals for this production, under Mrs. Dexter's direction, have been in addition to the classwork, the continuance of which has necessarily limited to some extent the rehearsal time available. The reason for this is to keep clear that the purpose of the Course is not

simply this show, to which therefore everything would be sacrificed. The show is but an incident, albeit an important one, in the Student's artistic development.

WHAT of the future? The County Council have sanctioned the extension of the Course to two years. The majority of these students will therefore have the opportunity of continuing their work in the Group for another year. At the same time a new Group will be formed to start a two years' course from next September. Particulars of this Group may be obtained from the General Manager, The Questors Theatre, Mattock Lane, Ealing, W.5, or from one of the programme sellers this evening.

PRODUCER'S NOTES

Mr. Milne's dramatisation of this well-loved novel is less familiar than other versions, notably that by Miss Jerome. Stressing as it does, Elizabeth's and Darcy's love story, it retains, to my mind, much of the charm and wit of the novel, whilst the skill with which he has interpolated dialogue of his own convincingly bridges the gaps of omitted narrative.

The reasons for its unfamiliarity are firstly, as he states in his foreword, that Miss Jerome's version went into production as his was being written.

The other, and possibly more cogent one, is that it is devised in so many scenes as to make it a very ambitious production for a "Little Theatre."

If we have succeeded in overcoming this difficulty it is largely owing to the enthusiastic co-operation of the scene designer and those who built the set. And as for the play, I feel that the hard work and keenness of the students, and the skill and charm of the adaptation, have justified us in making the choice.

M. D.

“MISS ELIZABETH BENNET”

BY

A. A. MILNE

Characters in order of appearance :

MRS. BENNET	-	-	-	-	-	-	JOYCE COLWILL
JANE	-	-	-	-	-	-	MARGARET BARNETT
ELIZABETH	-	-	-	-	-	-	PATRICIA JONES
MARY	-	-	-	-	-	-	MAUREEN WOOD
KITTY	-	-	-	-	-	-	GAY RORKE
LYDIA	-	-	-	-	-	-	JUDITH DAVIES
MR. BENNET	-	-	-	-	-	-	MURRAY LOWRY
CAPT. WICKHAM	-	-	-	-	-	-	BILL BEESLEY
DARCY	-	-	-	-	-	-	DAVID GRAIN
BINGLEY	-	-	-	-	-	-	JOHN HOLLOWAY
MISS BINGLEY	-	-	-	-	-	-	JUNE NEAVE
MR. COLLINS	-	-	-	-	-	-	DAVID ELDRIDGE
SIR WILLIAM LUCAS	-	-	-	-	-	-	LEON HANICK
CHARLOTTE LUCAS	-	-	-	-	-	-	JENNIFER OSCARD
LADY CATHERINE DE BOURGH	-	-	-	-	-	-	JOAN BATE
FITZWILLIAM	-	-	-	-	-	-	ROY MATTHEWS
MR. GARDINER	-	-	-	-	-	-	BILL BEESLEY
MRS. GARDINER	-	-	-	-	-	-	MAUREEN WOOD

The play produced by MARIEL DEXTER

ACT 1

- Scene 1. Longbourne
- Scene 2. The first Assembly Ball
- Scene 3. Longbourne
- Scene 4. The second Assembly Ball

ACT 2

- Scene 1. Hunsford
- Scene 2. Rosings
- Scene 3. Hunsford

ACT 3

- Scene 1. Pemberley
- Scene 2. Longbourne
- Scene 3. London
- Scene 4. Longbourne

Costumes—

Designed by JOYCE HORNET. Wardrobe Mistress MAUREEN WOOD, assisted by The Questors' Wardrobe Staff. Some of the costumes by the Crescent Theatre, Birmingham.

Setting—

Constructed by the STAGE STAFF.

The Mime scenes were devised and arranged by TERESA HEFFERNAN.

Stage Manager : CYRIL STEVENS.

Assistant Stage Manager : ELISABETH WELLMAN.

Props : KATE ONLEY.

Lighting : GERRY ISENTHAL.

Music and Effects : ALBERT GIBBS and ELSA SANGER.

Production Secretary : ELISABETH WELLMAN.

House Manager : ARCHIE COWAN.

Stewards : BILL COLLINS and STAFF.

Refreshments : GERTRUDE MARCUS & STAFF. *Programmes :* VI MUSK & STAFF.

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

THINGS PAST AND TO COME

Looking back over the past year two or three things stand out of a fairly good season. Firstly, all box office records were broken by the "Othello" production last November and we embarked on a very experimental production with a kind of "arena" stage for "Christmas in the Market Place." We performed one new play "Paradise Street" by Antony Brown and our production of "The Gentle People" was honoured by being invited to the British Drama League Conference Week at Bournemouth.

The Building Fund Committee has been very active indeed culminating their efforts in the Garden Party and Bazaar held in the theatre and grounds on June 24th. The money made at this function was approximately £400.

Our membership figure has reached a new record and we have obtained 145 new members during the season.

All these facts and more will be incorporated in our Annual Report, but perhaps it is as well to realise that although we have had a fairly good season, there is no cause for complacency. If we really wish to see our new theatre project materialise in the shortest possible time all members must assist. This can be done in four ways. (1) by getting new members for the theatre; (2) by assisting actively in the running of the theatre; (3) by becoming a Questor Builder; and (4) by assisting to raise money for the Questors Building Fund.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

It has been our custom in the past years to hold the Annual General Meeting of the Questors in the month of July. Last year however we became incorporated as a Company and the Annual General Meeting this year will be the first of the Questors Ltd. The provisions of the Companies Act add so much to the work of preparing the Company's accounts that it will not be possible to hold the Annual General Meeting before the end of October. Our season ends in July with this present production and the work entailed in getting out the accounts and having them printed and sent to each member will take a considerable time.

The date is MONDAY, OCTOBER 23rd, 1950.

All members will have an Annual Report and a Financial Statement sent to them and a notice about the meeting at a time nearer the date. However, we cannot overstate the importance of all active members attending the meeting. It is here that the future policy of the theatre will be decided and the Committee of Management will be elected to carry it out. If you have ideas about the future of the Questors or criticisms as to its present policy it is essential that you should be there.

S. BURGIS PARISH

F.V.A., F.F.S.(ENG.)

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