

THE QUESTORS THEATRE
MATTOCK LANE, EALING, W.5



presents

King & Hutchings, Ealing.

“ A S M O D É E ”

BY

FRANÇOIS MAURIAC

PROGRAMME PRICE 6d.

First produced at the Questors Theatre on Saturday, Sept. 22nd, 1951

A REMINDER

This is a reminder to all of you who are fancy needleworkers, toymakers and the like. The Questors Bazaar is being held on Saturday, November 24th at the Y.W.C.A., Uxbridge Road. A lot more help is still required. Particularly do we want original goods to stock the stalls. Start making your attractive specialities now. The theatre will supply the materials or defray the cost. All that we want is your skill. If you have not already done so drop a line to Miss Hardwick at the theatre saying the type of work you are prepared to do. Time is short, big things are looming on the horizon, do not delay.

Have you done with your newspaper? Do you just throw it in the dustbin, or leave it on a park seat?

Bring it to the Questors Theatre; or we will collect bundles of it from you with pleasure. Just ring the theatre or drop us a post card.

A newspaper of substance weighs about an ounce, we have 1,000 members, each buying a paper a day for say 300 days a year, that is, 300,000 ounces or just over 8 tons. We are offered £20 a ton or £160 a year. This is Big Money and we want it for the Building Fund. But—a word of warning—clean folded newsprint only—no glossy magazines or cardboard.

We ask you to fold the paper—a normal newspaper like the "Financial Times" should be folded only once and the "Daily Mirror," which is half the size, should be laid flat without folding. This makes it much easier to judge the weight of the bale and saves some wretched volunteer from having to unpack your bale and repack it to these dimensions.

When you have taken all this trouble, could you drop it in at the Theatre, where it is being stored in the coke store (there being no coke). If you cannot drop it in like this we will try and arrange to pick it up, but we cannot always guarantee to do this at exactly the time you ask us to; you see we have to bully someone into getting out a highly polished vehicle and driving us around for miles to various places: and sometimes there is no well-meaning member to detail off for this duty.

Further, we ask you to bring your evening paper with you when you come to the theatre and to drop it into the box provided.

In this way, so we are assured by the enterprising contractor who suggested this idea to us, we shall make hundreds of pounds in a very short space of time. We hope so, too.

NOTE ON THE PLAY

François Mauriac, who was born in 1885, is probably better known for his novels than for his plays.

"Asmodée" was first produced by the Comédie Française in 1937 and was then added to the permanent repertoire of the Company. The English translation, by Basil Bartlett, was first produced at the Gate Theatre in 1939 by Norman Marshall and was one of the Gate's biggest successes.

Raymond Mortimer in "The New Statesman" described it as one of the four or five best plays seen in England since the War. Here is an extract from the review in "The Times" . . .

"The Play is without preachment but has an extraordinary refinement of observation which is in itself a lesson in compassion for suffering humanity.

M. Mauriac's art is intellectual, accurate and precise, exempt from all woolliness of mind, but its observation is, nevertheless, visionary, discerning always the cause beneath the effect; the innermost spring of emotion under the recorded fact. The result is a completely new experience of the theatre, held firmly within the traditional form. . . . It is a rare and deeply satisfying experience—brief, economical, unsparring and complete."

The play was transferred to Wyndham's Theatre. This is what Norman Marshall in his book "The Other Theatre" writes of the opening there:

"The first night there was the most unpleasant experience I have ever had in the theatre. It was the beginning of the London season: there had been no first night of importance for some weeks, and the audience consisted mainly of the worst sort of first-nighter who regards a first night purely as a social function. Few of the more intelligent first-nighters were present as most of them had seen the play during its run at the Gate. A certain section of the audience, fairly evenly distributed over all parts of the house, behaved with incredible stupidity, tittering, sniggering, whispering and guffawing throughout the evening. Next day the critics, almost without exception, commented acidly on the behaviour of the audience, one critic describing them as 'A collection of mental degenerates.'"

Despite this unfortunate experience, the play was warmly praised by the majority of the critics and ran for eight weeks.

"ASMODÉE"

By

FRANÇOIS MAURIAC

Cast :

| | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------------|
| EMMANUELLE | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | GAY RORKE |
| MADemoISELLE | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | JOYCE COLWILL |
| JEAN | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | MICHAEL DAVIS |
| ANNE | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | CATHERINE SCRIVENER |
| BLAISE LABEL | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | REGINALD HAMLYN |
| MARCELLE DE BARTHAS | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | OLIVE CASTLE |
| JACQUES | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | EDMUND SCRIVENER |
| HENRI | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | LESLIE TIDD |
| HARRY FANNING | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | JOHN VERNON |
| THE CURE | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | FRANCIS W. SMITH |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|------------------|
| Producer | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | IRIS COE |
| Associate Producer | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | ALFRED EMMET |
| Decor | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | MARJORIE GOLDSBY |

SCENE. The living room of Madame de Bartha's home in the South of France.

ACT 1. A Summer's morning.

ACT 2. Evening—Three days later.

ACT 3. The next morning.

INTERVAL

ACT 4. An afternoon—Two months later.

ACT 5. Evening—Three days later.

Sets constructed by The Questors Stage Staff
Costumes by The Questors Wardrobe under the direction of Hilda Collins
Properties by Coya Bisgood and Betty Hanss
Lighting by Gerry Isenthal
Sound Effects and Music by Albert Gibbs
Refreshments by Mrs. Sawkins and Staff
Stewarding by Bill Collins and Staff
Programmes by Vi Musk and Staff
Flowers by Meyers Ltd.

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|------------------------------|
| Stage Manager | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | MEYRICK OSBORN |
| Assistant Stage Managers | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | { LESLIE TIDD PAULA GREEN |
| Production Secretary | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | DOROTHY BARNETT |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--------------|
| Theatre Manager | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | RENA RICE |
| House Manager | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | ARCHIE COWAN |
| Box Office (Ealing 5184) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | C. H. PRATT |

You are cordially invited to attend a discussion of this play which will be held in the theatre on Wednesday, 3rd October, at 7.30 p.m.

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

SEASON 1951-1952
PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

- November 10th—21st, 1951.**
2nd Production. "Two Gentlemen of Verona," by William Shakespear.
Producer: Peter Curtis.
- Saturday, 24th November.**
Questors Bazaar in aid of the Theatre Building Fund at the Y.W.C.A.,
51 Uxbridge Road, Ealing, W.5.
- Friday, 14th December.**
Grand Dance at the "Feathers" Ballroom, Ealing Broadway, W.5,
in aid of the Theatre Building Fund.
- January 5th—16th, 1952.**
3rd Production. "The Hopeful Travellers," by André Obey and
G. M. Martens. Producer: Alfred Emmet.
- February 2nd, 1952.**
One Act Plays by The Student Group.
- March 1st—12th, 1952.**
4th Production. An original play by Alexander Mikellatos. Producer:
Barbara Hutchins.
- April 26th—May 7th, 1952.**
5th Production. "You Can't Take It With You," by Kaufmann and
Hart. Producer: Wilfrid Sharp.
- June 14th—25th, 1952.**
6th Production. An original play to be announced later.
- July 19th—30th, 1952.**
7th Production. Student Group Production.
- September 20th—October 1st, 1952.**
8th Production. "Right You Are If You Think So," by Luigi
Pirandello.

THEATRE NOTES

A member of the Committee of Management will be on duty each night throughout the run of this production and will be pleased to give any information with regard to the Questors. Forms of application for membership and full details of same may be obtained on request.

There is a certain amount of advertisement space for sale both in the programme and in The Questors Magazine, "Forestage," for the remainder of this season and for next season, commencing in September. For full details with regard to rates, etc., please apply to The Editor, Peter Curtis, The Questors Ltd., Mattock Lane, W.5, or personally to the Theatre Manager.

As the Theatre is let occasionally to other organisations, and in order to avoid confusion, it is to be noted that all plays presented by The Questors in The Questors Theatre have the following wording on all publicity copy and programmes, etc.: "The Questors presents . . ."

S. BURGIS PARISH

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

*House, Land & Estate Agent
Incorporated Surveyor*

**61, GREENFORD AVENUE,
HANWELL, W.7.**

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GIFT TOKENS

Theatre Membership Tokens are on sale in the theatre and may be obtained from the Theatre Manager for 15/-. This token can be exchanged for a membership card entitling the owner to membership of the Questors Theatre for twelve months, commencing from the date of issue.