

THE QUESTORS THEATRE

— MATTOCK LANE, W.5 —

PRESENTS

“The Merchant of Yonkers”

PROGRAMME PRICE 6d.

Produced at the Questors Theatre on Saturday, March 10th, 1951

The Questors

TO MEMBERS

You will be interested to know that the number of members has now passed 1,100 and is still rising, but slowly — too slowly compared with the effort made last year. A new membership drive is starting and once again members are being asked to obtain just **one** member during this season. Of course if you can get more, do so, but all you are asked, is to make a real effort for **one** new member. It is not a great deal to ask and you can imagine the result if all members were to respond to this appeal. The Questors contribution to the Festival of Britain is to raise the standard of our work and keep it high. An essential part of this effort is the solid support of a large and increasing membership. You can help with very little effort and if all members do so, a great piece of work for the Questors Theatre will be achieved. You will be reminded of this, from time to time, when you see the question — **HAVE YOU GOT YOUR NEW MEMBER YET?**

TO VISITORS

You may have read or glanced at the above and wondered what the Questors is all about, if this is your first visit to the Theatre. Do not hesitate to ask. A member of the Committee of Management is in attendance at the back of the Theatre each night during this run and will be very pleased to answer any questions. A form of Application for Membership is available and leaflets explaining in detail the aims and objects of the Questors Theatre.

WHY NOT FIND OUT ABOUT THE QUESTORS TO-DAY?

“The Merchant of Yonkers”

PRODUCER'S NOTE

Ever since he captivated the British public with his novel “THE BRIDGE OF SAN LUIS REY,” Thornton Wilder has been accepted as one of the leading authors of our time. Among his works for the theatre are two which London playgoers will remember with interest and pleasure: “THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH” and “OUR TOWN.” In them, Wilder not only gives us the American scene, touched with his own inimitable imagination, but paints with ready wit and kindly satire, the homely frailties of our human race. His technique is unusual, in that he makes no pretence of treating the audience as surreptitious onlookers whose presence is unsuspected by the players on the stage; instead he takes everybody freely into his confidence, and even stops the show to give the actors a chance to explain what is going on or even to discuss their personal philosophies and problems with their friends on the other side of the footlights.

In “THE MERCHANT OF YONKERS” which has not yet to the best of our belief been shown professionally in this country, all these great qualities of Wilder's genius are mingled, while to them is added an abundance of good, healthy fun; the coffee is served with gingerbread from which no jot of gilt has been removed.

There is nothing new in the story. It is the old-world tale of the apprentices who went to town and found their manhood there, of the grasping employer who met his match, of young lovers reconciled in the home of a queer old lady, and of all the barbers and waiters, the cooks and the cabmen who make this life of ours so richly worth the living.

JUDITH CLARET RECITAL & PUPPET SHOW

As the result of this function the Building Fund has benefitted to the extent of £21-7-6. We are greatly indebted to Miss Claret and her Pupils for this Contribution towards our new Theatre.

D. J. S.

"The Merchant of Yonkers"

by

THORNTON WILDER

CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Horace Vandergelder	...	...	...	FRANK WHITE
Ambrose Kemper	...	...	...	DENIS ROBINSON
Joe Scanlon, a barber	...	...	...	... LISTER BECK
Gertrude, Vandergelder's Housekeeper	...	...	...	EILEEN RICHNELL
Cornelius Hackl	...	...	...	EDWARD SCRIVENER
Ermengarde	...	...	...	JOYCE HORNETT
Melchior Stack	...	...	...	RICHARD TOPPS
Mrs. Levi	...	...	...	BARBARA HUTCHINS
Barnaby Tucker	...	...	...	BILL BEESLEY
Mrs. Molloy	...	...	...	THERESA HEFFERNAN
Minnie Fay	...	...	...	DOREEN COATES
Rudolph	} Waiters	...	...	... LISTER BECK
August		...	...	... LEON HANICK
A Cabman	...	...	...	... HARRY IVES
Miss Van Huysen	...	...	...	ELIZABETH ODDIE
Cook	...	...	...	ROSEMARY PURKIS
Producer	...	...	...	ERIC VOCE
Decor	...	...	...	BERYL ANTHONY

ACT 1 A room over Vandergelder's Store, Yonkers.

INTERVAL OF FIVE MINUTES

ACT 2 Mrs. Molloy's Hat Store, New York City.

INTERVAL OF FIFTEEN MINUTES

ACT 3 The Harmonia Gardens Restaurant.

INTERVAL OF FIVE MINUTES

ACT 4 Miss Van Huysen's House.

Sets constructed by the Questors Stage Staff.

Costumes made in Questors Wardrobe under the direction of Elizabeth Wellman.

Properties by Winifred Ridout.

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.

Stage Manager ... STELLA BIRKETT

Assistant Stage Managers ... DEIDRE WEAVING
... SYLVIA HICKS

Production Secretary ... DOROTHY BARNETT

House Manager ... ARCHIE COWAN

Box Office (Ealing 5184) ... Mr. PRATT

A discussion of this play will be held in the Theatre on Wednesday, March 21st, at 7.30 p.m. All members and friends invited.

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

Season 1950-51

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, April 25th, 1951

Club Night. "Development of English Comedy." Talk with illustrations by Wilfrid Sharp, B.A.

Saturday, May 5th, 1951

5th Production. "Poor Man's Miracle" by Marian Hemar.
Producer: Alfred Emmet.

Saturday, May 19th, 1951

Little Theatre Guild of Great Britain Conference at Questors Theatre.

Monday, May 28th, 1951

Active Members' Meeting.

Wednesday, June 6th, 1951

Club Night. Play Reading of a new play.

Saturday, June 16th, 1951

6th Production. "The Philanderer," by Bernard Shaw.
Producer: Barbara Hutchins.

Saturday, July 14th, 1951

7th Production. By the Second Year Student Group.
Producer: Dorothy Dickenson.

Our next production will be the English première of "POOR MAN'S MIRACLE," by Marian Hemar. The British Drama League's London Theatre Week opens on Saturday, 12th May, with a Civic Reception by the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House. During the week the delegates visit a number of London Theatres and The Questors have the signal honour of being the only amateur theatre included in the official programme. On the 14th and 15th May some 400 visitors from all parts of the country and from overseas will visit the Theatre for two special performances. At the end of the same week we have the privilege of playing to the Little Theatre Guild of Great Britain, whose conference will be held in the Theatre, the delegates attending the show on the Saturday evening, 19th May.

There is a certain amount of advertisement space for sale in this Programme and in the Theatre Magazine "Forestage"

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 General 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.