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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.

King & Hutchings, Ealing.

THE QUESTORS THEATRE
MATTOCK LANE, EALING, W.5



presents

“Poor Man’s Miracle”

by

MARIAN HEMAR

PROGRAMME PRICE 6d.

First produced at the Questors Theatre on Saturday, May 5th, 1951

To Little Theatre Guild delegates and visitors attending the British Drama League's Theatre Week, may I, on behalf of the Committee of Management and all "Questors" express a hearty welcome to Ealing, and, more particularly, of course, to the Questors Theatre—we all sincerely trust that your visit will be an enjoyable and memorable one, and that you will find something of interest in our production—a première so far as this country is concerned—of "Poor Man's Miracle" which you are to see this evening.

The Questors is proud of its tradition in presenting new and little known plays, believing that one of the most important, if not quite the most important, functions of the Little Theatre movement is to provide a platform for new playwrights to try out their first steps in practical theatre conditions, and with a critical audience.

New plays given their first performance here recently have included "The Tinsel of Athens," "Paradise Street," and of course the Guild's prize-winning play from last season's Competition, "Prophecy to the Wind"—"Paradise Street" incidentally, has since been adapted for the radio and broadcast on the Third Programme.

We particularly invite your outspoken criticism upon all aspects of the current production, the critical approach being an integral feature of Questors policy, and, in fact, open discussions between audience and members taking active part, are held after each production so that our visitors may rest assured that the production team is reconciled to the slings and arrows of (often) outrageous fortune!

Many of you, particularly those attached to other Little Theatres, may be interested in our organisation and premises; if you are, please don't hesitate to ask for a Committee member who will be only too pleased to explain any points of interest or to accompany you around the various sections of the theatre.

To conclude, may I hope that you will enjoy your evening's travel with us on "The Quest" and that you will take away pleasant recollections of your visit to The Questors, during the Festival of Britain Year, 1951.

Yours very sincerely,

ERNEST IVES.

Chairman, Committee of Management.

"POOR MAN'S MIRACLE"

Marian Hemar, the author of "Poor Man's Miracle," is a native of Lwow, and he had already a number of successes to his credit in the theatre in Warsaw before the war. Not only is he a writer of plays, but also of satirical revue sketches and songs: indeed he has been described as the "A.P.H." of Poland.

"Poor Man's Miracle" was written in the summer of 1939 and was immediately accepted for production by the National Theatre, Warsaw. The play was to have been produced in October of that year, and rehearsals were about to begin when war broke out.

The author, who was a well-known anti-Nazi writer, left Warsaw and escaped across Europe, losing on the way a suitcase containing all his manuscripts, including his only copy of the play. After arriving in Rumania, he managed to convey a message to a friend asking him to find a copy and smuggle it to him. He learned, however, that all copies of the play, with indeed the entire library of the Union of Playwrights, had been destroyed by fire when the National Theatre was burned out during the siege of Warsaw.

It seemed then that the play was irrevocably lost, but sometime later his friend sent a message to say that he had found a copy in the possession of one of the actors who had been cast in it. It was being re-typed and he would send it. Shortly after that a young man who had escaped from Poland to join the anti-Nazi forces, called on the author and delivered a copy of the precious manuscript, which he had succeeded in smuggling out of Poland.

The play was translated into English, being published here in 1943. It was an exceptional success when a radio version was broadcast by the B.B.C., being repeated on three occasions.

A much abbreviated version was produced at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, in December, 1943, but this is the first production of the play in the original uncut version, and The Questors are proud to present such an important première.

"POOR MAN'S MIRACLE"

by

MARIAN HEMAR

Characters in order of appearance :

| | | |
|--|--|-------------------|
| ELISABETH, widow of George Majewska | - - - | BETTY OGDEN |
| ANNA | } her daughters | - - - |
| TERESA | | |
| | - - - | PAMELA MANSON |
| | - - - | THERESA HEFFERNAN |
| JOSEPH BYLEYAK, an electrician, Teresa's husband | - | JOHN CLEMOW |
| DR. CZULC | - - - - - | JOHN HOWARD |
| A NEIGHBOUR | - - - - - | RUBY FEAST |
| THE CARETAKER | - - - - - | MADGE DOLMAN |
| MICHAEL GROMADZKI, a cobbler, Anna's husband | - | WILFRED MORTON |
| | - - - - - | NED GETTINGS |
| POLICEMEN | - - - - - | HARRY IVES |
| THE MAGISTRATE | - - - - - | WILFRID SHARP |
| THE VERGER | - - - - - | DAVID PRYCE |
| THE MAGISTRATE'S SECRETARY | - - - - - | PATRICK BRAIN |
| THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE | - - - - - | ALBERT HOOPER |
| THE RECTOR, FATHER DOBRANIECKI | - - - - - | FRANCIS W. SMITH |
| A PARLOURMAID | - - - - - | ROSE ANNE NEAVE |
| THE WARDER | - - - - - | HARRY IVES |
| THE PRESIDENT OF THE COURT | - - - - - | STANLEY BURGESS |
| THE PROSECUTOR | - - - - - | HENRY HEILPERN |
| THE COUNSEL FOR THE DEFENCE | - - - - - | CYRIL BOX |
| THE PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY | - - - - - | WILFRID SHARP |
| THE CLERK OF THE COURT | - - - - - | PATRICK BRAIN |
| AN USHER | - - - - - | LESLIE TIDD |
| NEIGHBOURS | LESLIE TIDD, JUNE DAVIES, JOYCE HORNETT ROSE ANNE NEAVE, PEGGY POPE, ANGELA SINGLETON, STANLEY BURGESS | |

The play produced by ALFRED EMMET

Associate Producer: IRIS COE

Décor: ERNEST IVES

The action of the play takes place in Warsaw.

- Scene 1. A tenement house. Elisabeth Majewska's basement apartment. An afternoon in Spring.
- Scene 2. The office of the Investigating Magistrate. A fortnight later.
- Scene 3. The private apartment of the Minister of Justice. A week or two later.

INTERVAL OF FIFTEEN MINUTES

- Scene 4. The visiting room at the remand prison. The next day.
- Scene 5. The Court.

Sets constructed by The Questors Stage Staff
 Costumes made in The Questors Wardrobe under the direction of Madge Ives
 Properties by Coya Bisgood, June Davies and Joyce Hornett
 Lighting by Gerry Isenthal
 Sound Effects and Music by Eric Kirby assisted by Roy Matthews
 Furniture by the Old Times Furnishing Co.
 Refreshments by Mrs. Sawkins and Staff
 Stewarding by Bill Collins and Staff
 Programmes by Vi Musk and Staff

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|--|
| Stage Manager | - - - - - | MEYRICK OSBORNE |
| Assistant Stage Managers | - - - - - | } JOAN SAWKINS NANCY LAMBOURN MOREFFYD WALTERS |
| Assistant to Producer | - - - - - | |
| 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 Monday, 21st May, 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

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

Monday, May 7th, 1951.

Theatre Party to "Man and Superman." New Theatre, 7.15 p.m.

Saturday, May 19th, and Sunday, May 20th, 1951.

Little Theatre Guild of Great Britain Conference at Questors Theatre.

Monday, May 28th, 1951.

Active Members' Meeting.

Saturday, June 2nd, 1951.

Garden Party in aid of the Building Fund.

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.

Tuesday, July 3rd, 1951.

Club Night. Programme by the First Year Student Group.

Saturday, July 14th, 1951.

7th Production. By the Second Year Student Group. "The Women Have Their Way," by J. and S. Quintero. Producer: Dorothy Dickinson.

ON KEEPING GOING

"A blue and pink façade hides behind a host of jobs for the boys (and girls) of The Questors, a genuine Edwardian drama being played out with one. Time.

The plain unvarnished truth of it is, we want money. And who doesn't? But we want it for the elementary purpose of keeping going. The Questors hold this theatre on a lease. But there is no security beyond the termination of the lease. And in the meantime the theatre may come on the market for sale. If that happens and we cannot buy, it is likely that we shall be out on our necks when the lease expires in a few years, if not before.

Our latest money raiser is a Garden Party on June 2nd, a Saturday. Make a note of the date. If you cannot materially contribute before then by offers of help or by a donation to the Building Fund, come along with your friends and enjoy yourselves in a good cause.

Among the attractions will be some novel sideshows, a dancing display and the Ebor Marionette Theatre. We are again asking for the co-operation of the membership in distributing tickets which will be sent out next week."

NOTE TO ALL MEMBERS.

Have you got your new member yet?

TOTAL TO DATE 1120

FORESTAGE

A copy of the Questors Magazine, "Forestage," is sent free to each one of our members, but it is felt that some of the large number of friends of members who visit the theatre for our plays might be interested in seeing a copy. Consequently the magazine will be on sale throughout the time of each production and copies may be obtained from the programme sellers and stewards—Price 6d. each.

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 , , ,"