

#### A NOTE ON THE AUTHOR AND THE PLAY

Jean-Baptiste Poquelin, better known to the world by his pseudonym, Molière, was born in Paris on January 15th, 1622, the son of a prosperous upholsterer who later became attached to the court of Louis XIV and took charge of the royal furnishings. Little is known of his early years except that he was a gifted mimic, a frequent theatregoer, and a student of law. But by the time he was 21, he had started his theatrical career with the *Illustre Théâtre*, throwing away all chances of following his father's footsteps. For at that time the stage was taboo; an actor was automatically excommunicated, and his body could not be buried in consecrated ground. By 1658 Molière had become the official "court jester," and a favourite of the king, who gave his permission for the *Illustre* company to share the Petit-Bourbon Theatre with the resident Italian company. This was, in effect, the foundation stone of the still famous Comédie Française. Molière, one of the greatest actors as well as the greatest dramatist of France, died after being seized with a fit, ironically during a performance of *Le Malade Imaginaire*, on the night of 17th February, 1673. In thirty years, by his own efforts, he had raised French comedy to the stature previously belonging only to tragedy.

The distressing story of the five-year ban on *Tartuffe*, which was first presented to the king on 12th May, 1664, and was suppressed from public performance until 1669, is well known. Nor is it hard to understand the attitude of contemporary pietists, of whom Molière wrote, in his preface to the published play: "Following their laudable custom they have covered their interests with the cause of God." But, along with many of his other works, *Tartuffe* was destined to enjoy immortal fame as a great comedy. Several attempts have been made to translate this masterpiece into English; notably by Messrs. Baker and Miller in 1739, and more recently by the Earl of Longford and the free adaptation of Miles Malleston. This latter, which we are to see tonight, was first produced in London at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, where it was performed by the Bristol Old Vic Company in 1950. Like all "free adaptations" it has little more than a surface resemblance to the original. But, as J. C. Trewin observed, "the spirit is here, if not always the letter." Certainly it is free from the starch so often found in earlier translations of Molière's plays.

It will interest our members to know that this production of the Questors is to be taken to the Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, where three performances are to be given during the week-end of July 4th and 5th. The Crescent Theatre Company will be paying a return visit with one of their productions some time next year.

B. H.

#### OUR NEXT PRODUCTION

The final production of our current season will consist of six performances of a lively comedy, entitled "Storm in a Paint-pot," by Margaret Gibbs. This play will be given by the Student Group, opening on Saturday, July 18th, and the box-office will be open at the usual times from Wednesday, July 8th.

#### A WORD TO OUR GUESTS TONIGHT

We extend a hearty welcome to all our members' friends, many of whom we know visit our productions quite regularly; but some of whom we feel may care to know more about our work, with a view to becoming members themselves. Leaflets giving details of membership are always available at the rear of the theatre, and a member of the Committee of Management is on duty to offer any help and advice that may be required. Please do not hesitate to ask him, or any other member, if you have any questions about the Questors and their aims.

#### "AFTER THE SHOW" PARTY

It is customary for us to have an informal party on the discussion night at the end of the run of each play. If you would care to come along, please mention it to the Chief Steward during the interval or after the show to-night. He will take your name and give you all the particulars.

**The discussion of "Tartuffe" will take place in the theatre on Wednesday, June 24th, at 7.30 p.m. All members and friends are invited.**

King & Hutchings Ltd., 57, The Mall, Ealing



THE QUESTORS  
THEATRE

presents

# Tartuffe

by

JEAN-BAPTISTE MOLIERE

(in a free adaptation by Miles Malleston)

MATTOCK LANE, EALING, W.5

JUNE 13th to 23rd, 1953

PROGRAMME PRICE SIXPENCE

SEASON 1952-53

SIXTH PRODUCTION

# Tartuffe

by

Jean-Baptiste Moliere

Freely adapted by Miles Malleson

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Cast:

Mme. Pernelle, <i>Orgon's mother</i> ... ..	ROSEMARY PURKIS
Orgon, <i>a rich merchant</i> ... ..	CLIFFORD WEBB
Elmire, <i>Orgon's second wife</i> ... ..	DIANA BENN
Damis } <i>Orgon's children by his</i> ... ..	ROBERT JONES
Mariane } <i>first wife</i> ... ..	JOYCE HORNETT
Valère, <i> betrothed to Mariane</i> ... ..	GERALD RAWLING
Cléante, <i>Elmire's brother</i> ... ..	HARRY IVES
Tartuffe ... ..	FRANK WHITE
Dorine, <i>Mariane's maid</i> ... ..	GAY RORKE
Loyale, <i>a bailiff</i> ... ..	DAVID LORRAINE
An Officer ... ..	ROY AMBROSE
Flipote, <i>Mme. Pernelle's maid</i> ... ..	BETTY WALKER
Footmen ... ..	{ ANTHONY HOLLOWAY THOMAS POND

★

*The play produced by* - BARBARA HUTCHINS

*Set designed by* - - - CARLISLE CHANG

*Costumes designed by* - - - JOYCE HORNETT

and made in The Questors Wardrobe.

The music specially composed and recorded by the producer at Fenton House, Hampstead, by courtesy of the National Trust.

The action of the play takes place in the first-floor salon of M. Orgon's house in Paris. The year is 1663, during the reign of Louis XIV.

THERE WILL BE ONE INTERVAL OF FIFTEEN MINUTES

*The producer would like to place on record her indebtedness to a non-member, Miss Dorothy Fairlie, for her advice and help, particularly in relation to period movement.*



STAGE MANAGER ... ..	GORDON McWILLIAM
Assistant Stage Managers ... ..	THOMAS POND, MARGARET LLOYD
Wardrobe Mistress ... ..	THERESA HEFFERNAN
Lighting ... ..	GERALD ISENTHAL, DENNIS FISHER
Properties ... ..	ANN McWILLIAM, JUNE DAVIES
Sound ... ..	GILLIAN ANDREWS
Set constructed by ... ..	CHARLES BREES
Set painted by ... ..	ANN WILKIE
Production Secretary ... ..	DOROTHY BARNETT



THEATRE MANAGER ... ..	RENA RICE
House Manager ... ..	ARCHIE COWAN
Box Office (EAL. 5184) ... ..	ISOBEL ARNOLD, KATHERINE WARRICK and MARGARET ELLIS
Press Representative ... ..	BASIL HULL

MEMBERS ARE RESPECTFULLY REMINDED THAT SMOKING IS NOT PERMITTED IN THE THEATRE WHILE THE PLAY IS IN PROGRESS.