

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

Mr. Robertson Davies, author, critic, playwright, and editor of the Peterborough Examiner (Ontario) has a very considerable record of achievement in the world of letters and the theatre. He was educated in Ontario and at Oxford, after which he served an apprenticeship with the Old Vic, both as actor and writer. He had two volumes—*Shakespeare for Young Players* and *Shakespeare's Boy Actors*—published before the war, and in the years since 1947 he has had published several further works, including two volumes of *The Table Talk of Samuel Marchbanks*; a three-act play called *Fortune My Foe*, which has been successfully televised in Canada; *Eros At Breakfast and Other Plays*, a collection of five one-act pieces; *Tempest Tost*, a novel; and further plays, such as *A Masque of Aesop*; *King Phaenix*, a delightful fantasy about Old King Cole which has been played in Canada; and *At My Heart's Core*, which has been performed over a hundred times in Canada.

*A Jig for the Gipsy* was heard on the B.B.C. Welsh Region in 1952, when it was broadcast under its original title, *Benoni*. At the time when it was decided to include it in our Silver Jubilee season there had been no previous stage production, and the Questors hoped to give the world première performance; an honour which has since gone to the Crest Theatre, Toronto, where the play was produced on September 14th—a mere eleven days before our first night. The author and his wife, having attended the Toronto première, flew from Montreal on B.O.A.C. Monarch service on September 22nd in order to be present at our opening performance. It must be a rare experience for any author to witness two completely different treatments of his play within so short a space of time. In extending a warm welcome to Mr. Davies and his wife, we take this opportunity of saying how much we hope their journey will be made worthwhile by their visit to the first night of our Silver Jubilee season of new plays.

B. H.

#### OUR NEXT PRODUCTION

The second production of the Silver Jubilee programme is to be the world première of *Better A Dead Hero . . . ?* by Ray Rigby. Set against the sordid, yet colourful, background of war-time Cairo, city of bars and night clubs, soldiers on leave and cabaret girls, this play depicts the gripping story of a soldier and cabaret girl whose love is swamped amid the grim realities of war, and the search after the conflict for that love which once flourished. First performance: Saturday, November 13th; Box Office opens November 3rd.

#### THE NEW THEATRE FUND PERFORMANCE

If you have enjoyed the performance this evening why not make a point of visiting it a second time, bringing a friend with you to share your enjoyment? Provided you have already seen the show once, you can obtain **two tickets for the price of one on the New Theatre Fund Night** during the Silver Jubilee season. This means you can enjoy the play again, give a friend the same pleasure, and help towards the building of the new theatre—all at the same time, and for the outlay of the cost of one seat only. Come again on the New Theatre Fund Night, Wednesday, October 6th.

#### SPRING FAIR MEETING

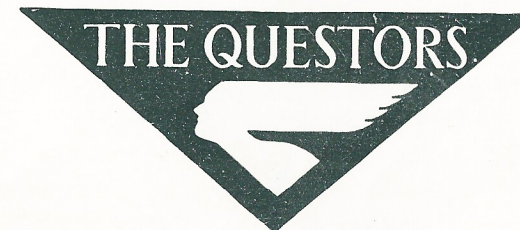
A meeting is being held in the Theatre at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday, September 30th, to inaugurate a Spring Fair Working Party. Barbara Hutchins will take the chair.

All those members who have already signified their intention to help with this function are specially asked to attend; and any others who can assist, or who may have helpful suggestions, or who would like a directive for work they could do at home, will be very welcome.

#### "AFTER-THE-SHOW" PARTY

It is customary for us to have an informal party on the discussion night after each play. If you would care to come along, please see the Chief Steward before you leave to-night. He will take your name and give you details.

The discussion of "*A Jig For The Gipsy*" will take place in the theatre on **Thursday, October 7th, at 7.30 p.m.** All members and friends welcome.



present

## A SILVER JUBILEE SEASON OF NEW PLAYS

*The European première of*

## A JIG FOR THE GIPSY

by

ROBERTSON DAVIES

AT THE QUESTORS THEATRE  
MATTOCK LANE, EALING, W. 5  
SEPTEMBER 25TH TO OCTOBER 6TH

FIRST PRODUCTION  
SILVER JUBILEE SEASON  
1954-55

PROGRAMME  
SIXPENCE



# A JIG FOR THE GIPSY

BY

ROBERTSON DAVIES



*Cast in the order of their appearance:—*

Jack the Skinner ... ..	DOUGLAS THOMAS
Bronwen Roberts ... ..	CARROLL DODGSON
Benoni Richards ... ..	RUBY FEAST
Sir John Jebson ... ..	FRANCIS W. SMITH
Edward Vaughan ... ..	DENIS COMPER
Richard Roberts, <i>Bronwen's Father</i> ... ..	JOHN HOWARD
Mr. Pugh, <i>photographer</i> ... ..	REGINALD HAMLYN
The Rev. Arthur Creighton-Evans ... ..	PAUL IMBUSCH
Jesse Fewtrell ... ..	ROBERT JONES
Davy John Thomas, <i>the Mayor</i> ... ..	NED GETTINGS
Gwalchmai Price ... ..	DAVID LORRAINE
Conjuror Jones ... ..	HARRY IVES

The play produced by ... .. STEPHEN JOSEPH

The set designed by ... .. JANE KINGSHILL

The scene is laid in the garden of Benoni Richard's cottage, near Caerhowell, in the border country of North Wales.

Time: 1885

ACT ONE: Friday afternoon in early autumn.

INTERVAL OF FIVE MINUTES

ACT TWO: Afternoon four days later.

INTERVAL OF FIFTEEN MINUTES

ACT THREE: Sunset, three days later.

*During the second interval you may remain in your seats and be served with tea and biscuits, or cross to the Lounge, where coffee and light snacks may also be obtained.*



We are indebted to the United Dairies for the loan of the yoke and buckets.

Stage Manager ... .. IRIS COE

Assistant Stage Manager ... .. VERA ROBINSON  
assisted by BETTY WHITE

Sets constructed in The Questors workshops  
under the direction of DENIS ROBINSON

Wardrobe Mistresses ... .. HILDA COLLINS and JANE SIMPSON

Lighting ... .. GERALD ISENTHAL, DENNIS FISHER

Sound ... .. GILLIAN ANDREWS, SYLVIA FAUST

Accordion ... .. JOAN WOODHOUSE

Properties ... .. KATHLEEN HARRINGTON, COYA BISGOOD

Production Secretary ... .. MADELINE FORESTER



Theatre Manager ... .. RENA RICE

House Manager ... .. ARCHIE COWAN

Press Representative ... .. BASIL HULL

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BOX OFFICE (6.30—7.30 p.m.) ... .. EALING 5184

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