

THE AUTHOR

Richard Whitehall was born on the 5th May, 1925. During the war he served in the Royal Navy, spending part of his time on convoys to Russia. His interest in the theatre began after the war, starting with ballet and later spreading to the fantasy and enchantment of the theatre of Ustinov, Fry, Bridie and Anouilh. His first play, *A Ballad and the Moon*, was given a reading by the Questors at a Club Night in May, 1952; and he is at present working on another comedy in verse, *The Skylark Singing*. He finds that writing in verse imposes a discipline that is helpful. His only other interest beside writing and theatre is ornithology. But his main aim is to go on writing plays, and he would most like to write for a permanent group of actors on the lines of the Barrault-Renaud Company. The influence of the Birmingham Repertory Theatre and the Nottingham Playhouse (the two theatres nearest to his home, near Uttoxeter) has served to make him a confirmed "grouper."

These few facts must suffice. Richard Whitehall says that, as a playwright, he owes everything to the Questors: "They gave a reading of my very first play, *A Ballad and the Moon*, and now they are producing my first performed play, *The Night Before Spring*." He also asked that, if a programme note were to be published, we should concentrate on his past relations with the Questors: "This would, I am sure, have more interest to the audience than a potted biography of someone they don't know, and probably wouldn't like very much if they did." Whether or not this may be true, at least we hope you will enjoy his play this evening.

B. H.

OUR NEXT PRODUCTION

The final production of the current season will be Federico Garcia Lorca's outstanding play, *Blood Wedding*, which will be presented for six performances only, opening on Saturday, July 16th. Lorca's name and fame are far better known than his works in this country. His dramas have been compared with the folk dramas of Synge; and we feel sure that all our members will wish to take this opportunity of seeing one of the most powerful plays of this master dramatist. Box Office opens July 6th.

A SPECIAL WORD TO OUR GUESTS

To our guests during the run of the play we extend a warm welcome. If you feel you would like to see more of our work, may we suggest that you ask the Steward for particulars of Club membership, which costs only £1 per annum and entitles you to a free seat for every production during the year.

THE NEW THEATRE FUND PERFORMANCE

If you have enjoyed the play this evening, why not come again and bring a friend? Members may obtain two seats for the price of one on the New Theatre Fund Night during the Silver Jubilee Season: one for yourself, and one for your friend. New Theatre Fund Night for *The Night Before Spring* is Wednesday, June 22nd.

"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 "*The Night Before Spring*" will take place in the theatre on Thursday, June 23rd, at 7.30 p.m. All members and friends welcome.

THE QUESTORS



present

A SILVER JUBILEE SEASON OF NEW PLAYS

The World première of

THE NIGHT BEFORE SPRING

by

RICHARD WHITEHALL

AT THE QUESTORS THEATRE
MATTOCK LANE, EALING, W. 5
JUNE 11TH TO JUNE 22ND, 1955

SIXTH PRODUCTION
SILVER JUBILEE SEASON
1954-55

PROGRAMME
SIXPENCE

THE NIGHT BEFORE SPRING

BY

RICHARD WHITEHALL



Characters :—

Victorienne GWENDOLEN THOMAS
Mark, her husband ARTHUR WILKINSON
Paul, her son PAUL IMBUSCH
Dorothy, a lady once loved by Mark BETTY OGDEN
Verona, her daughter CATHERINE SCRIVENER
Jean-Paul Charpentier HENRY G. IRVING
Joseph, a butler FRANCIS W. SMITH

The play produced by ALFRED EMMET
Associate producer NISSAN NATIV
The set designed by JANE KINGSHILL
Costumes designed by JOSCELYNE KINGSLEY

THE QUESTORS NEW THEATRE FUND

HAVE YOU MADE YOUR DONATION ?

DONATIONS OF ANY SIZE ARE WELCOME

WAYS OF HELPING :—

- Completing a 7-year Covenant for an annual donation.
- Giving a donation.
- Making gifts in kind.
- Getting your friends to complete a 7-year Covenant or make a donation in cash or kind.
- Getting your friends to get their friends to make similar contributions.
- Promising further donations.
- Talking about the scheme.

The play is set in the drawing-room of a large country house near London.

ACT ONE

A morning early in October.

INTERVAL OF FIVE MINUTES

ACT TWO

Night. A week later.

INTERVAL OF FIFTEEN MINUTES

ACT THREE

The following morning.

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.



Stage Manager IAN JONES
Assistant Stage Manager TONY WILLIAMSON
assisted by ELLEN KNIGHT and JANE WOOF

Scenery constructed in the workshop under the direction of
PETER TALBOT

Wardrobe Mistress JANE SIMPSON
Sound JOHN VERNON
Lighting GERALD ISENTHAL
assisted by STUART SAMPSON and d'ARCY CARR
Properties NANCY NICHOLAS
assisted by BRYAN EVANS



Theatre Manager RENA RICE
House Manager ARCHIE COWAN
Press Representative BASIL HULL

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

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