

THE AUTHOR

Alexander Reid, now in his fortieth year, made his first entrance into the unpredictable and irresistible world of theatre in 1946, when his first play, *Worlds Without End*, which had been turned down by a London literary agent as being unplayable on the stage, was accepted for production by Wilson Barrett, who presented it at the Edinburgh Lyceum for one week, during which it drew almost £1,000 at the Box Office: there is no need here to comment upon the gulf between the agent of letters and the man of theatre which these facts so clearly illustrate.

In a recent essay on the Scottish theatre, Ivor Brown has said that Alexander Reid is "likely to become one of the most important of the arriving Scottish dramatists." It may be assumed that this "arriving" refers to his arrival in England: in Scotland the past tense would be more appropriate; for there have been professional productions, by the Glasgow Citizens Theatre, of the author's *The Lass with the Muckle Mou*, *The World's Wonder*, and an adaptation of Priestley's *When we are Married*; while last November a successful production of his latest work, *Diana*, was given its première by the Citizens at Ayr.

The World's Wonder and *The Lass with the Muckle Mou* are the only two plays which the author has so far translated (as he insists) into English; and the latter piece has been played professionally in Ayr, Glasgow, Perth, Edinburgh and St. Andrews—also by amateur companies as far North as the Orkneys and as far South as the Scottish border. It has also been broadcast in the Saturday Night Theatre series, and in Australia, as well as being televised from London; has recently been accepted for next year's Pitlochry Festival; has been a subject of interest to a French film company; and also of a probable Danish translation. It has, in fact, been the most popular play, although the author's own favourite is *The World's Wonder*. "I got more fun out of writing *The World's Wonder* than out of anything else I've written to date," says Mr. Reid.

He has had short stories and poems published in several leading magazines, including "The Listener," "Chambers's Journal," "Truth," "John o' London's," "The Spectator," "The Daily Express," "The Daily Mail," "The Glasgow Herald," "Scotland's Magazine" and so forth. But his wish is really to write only two things: plays and verse; preferably combining the two into poetic plays.

The Questors feel honoured at having this opportunity of giving the English première of this work, and thus introducing one of the major contemporary Scottish dramatists to our members.

B. H.

OUR NEXT PRODUCTION

The next production in the Silver Jubilee programme will be a special programme of One-act Plays, including two world premières and two plays by world famous dramatists. The premières will be *The Swan* by Ned Gethings and *The Affected Young Ladies* by Janet Dunbar—both authors being members of the Questors—and the other works will be Jean Cocteau's *Antigone* and Bernard Shaw's *Overruled*.

This is a diverse programme, of comedy, tragedy, poetry; classical and modern drama. There will certainly be something to suit every possible shade of taste, and we look forward to the wholehearted support of all our members for this extra-programme presentation, which opens on **Saturday, February 5th**.

THE FIRST LOUNGE LECTURE

The first of the series of lectures in the Lounge this season will be given by Mr. John Allen on Thursday, January 27th. His subject will be "Ancient and Greek Drama and its importance to-day." Admission free to all members; starting time 7.30 p.m. prompt.

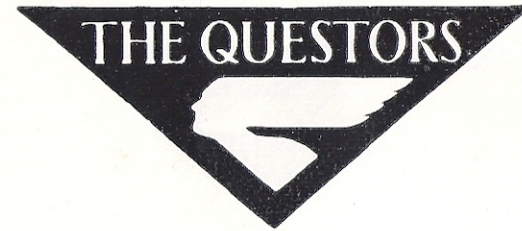
THE NEW THEATRE FUND PERFORMANCE

If you have enjoyed the performance this evening why not come again and bring a friend with you? Provided you have already seen the show once, you can obtain two tickets for the price of one for the New Theatre Fund Night during the Silver Jubilee Season. This is one for yourself; one for your friend. This means you can enjoy the play again, give your 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. New Theatre Fund Night for *The World's Wonder* is Wednesday, January 19th.

"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 World's Wonder*" will take place in the theatre on Thursday, January 20th, at 7.30 p.m. All members and friends welcome.



present

A SILVER JUBILEE SEASON OF NEW PLAYS

The English première of

The World's Wonder

by

ALEXANDER REID

AT THE QUESTORS THEATRE
MATTOCK LANE, EALING, W. 5
JANUARY 8TH TO 19TH, 1955

THIRD PRODUCTION

SILVER JUBILEE SEASON

1954-55

PROGRAMME

SIXPENCE

The World's Wonder

BY

ALEXANDER REID



Cast :

Michael Scott, <i>a wizard</i>	JOHN HOWARD
The False Scott, <i>an impostor</i>	CARLA CRAIK
Lazarus, <i>a young man of enquiring mind</i>	PATRICK BOWLEY
Provost, Sir Davie Peebles, <i>a rogue</i>	FRANK WHITE
His Wife, <i>a she rogue</i>	DOREEN COATES
The Laird of Clartydykes, <i>a fool</i>	HARRY IVES
Jeannie, <i>a country lassie</i>	SHIRLEY SIMMONDS
Jock, <i>a shepherd laddie</i>	PAUL IMBUSCH
The Bellman-Baillie, <i>another rogue</i>	DAVID LORRAINE
Willie, <i>a devil</i>	ROGER FLEMING
The Dancing Bear, <i>a comedian</i>	BETTY WHITE
The Priest, <i>an accomplice</i>	ROBERT JONES
The Vegetable Vendor, <i>a countrywoman</i>	RUTH TREMAYNE
The Bear-leader, <i>the bear-led</i>	ROBERT RIDLEY
An Excited Man, <i>a man excited</i>	RALPH ALDER
The Stone Man, <i>a "familiar"</i>	EDWARD PITT
The Vegetable Man, <i>another</i>	PHILIP GREEN
Summer, <i>a dancer</i>	THERESA HEFFERNAN
Captain of the Guard, <i>a pawn of Sir Davie's</i>	GERALD RAWLING
Dubbities:—	
Mrs. Maclean	SYLVIA JARVIS
Ian Maclean	STEPHEN KIRBY
Margaret Maclean	CAROLINE SMITH
Angus Macleod	RODNEY BENDIX
Jamie Mackintosh	CLIVE BOWLER
Colin Bruce	SHAUN CURRY
Jean Anderson	ANN WILKIE
John Guthrie	DENNIS ESTOP
Jane Guthrie	SYLVIA ESTOP

The play produced by PAMELA RICHARDS
The settings and costumes designed by ... ELISABETH WELLMAN

ACT ONE : The Market Square of Dubbity on a March afternoon.

INTERVAL OF FIFTEEN MINUTES

ACT TWO : A Room in the Provost's house ; an hour later.

INTERVAL OF FIVE MINUTES

ACT THREE :

Scene 1. The same as Act II ; a few minutes later.

INTERVAL OF A FEW MINUTES

Scene 2. The Deeps of the Sky ; any time.

During the first 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 Mr. A. J. Collis, 37a, Kirchen Road, W.13, for the loan of properties, to Ealing Studios for assistance in conjuring Winter, and to Geoffrey Gilbert Ltd. for the loan of Lighting Apparatus.

Stage Manager JOAN SAWKINS

Assistant Stage Managers PAT DIGBY, EILEEN FISHER
assisted by MURRAY LOWRY, KEN BAIN, PETER TALBOT,
NORA SHERIDAN, BETTY HOLMES and RUTH MILNER

Scenery constructed by the workshop staff
under the direction of DAVID WEDMORE

Wardrobe Mistress THERESA HEFFERNAN
assisted by SALLY GREENFIELD

Lighting STUART SANSOM
assisted by M. J. d'A. CARR

Sound ERIC KIRBY
assisted by MICHAEL GAMBLE

Properties DOREEN CROSBY and NANCY NICHOLAS



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.