

#### PRODUCER'S NOTE

Molière, one of the greatest French comic playwrights, if not *the* greatest, has for generations been the subject of discussion among critics and scholars, not as a writer or a poet or the creator of a tradition of acting, but rather as a man of morals and ideas, as though his calling were that of a teacher—and this is perhaps a measure of his achievement.

There is little doubt that his great and everlasting merit lies in the fact that whereas drama before him was confined to vulgar farce, with stock characters and situations, he created what is now known all the world over as comedy, raising contrived and artificial plays to the level of true art. More than this : he set standards which served as a yardstick for comedy and comic acting throughout the world.

He was a man of the theatre ; not only a writer, but a very good actor too, and it is not surprising that his plays have survived to this very day, although often (and justifiably) modernized in their idiom—as in the case of "The Miser." They are about human failings, give a commentary of life, still valid to-day, and the comic spirit which abounds is as potent as ever.

Molière at all times had the audience's enjoyment very much at heart, but the laughter he wants to incite is never bitter or condescending, nor does he lack understanding or compassion for the human weaknesses his characters portray. His plays disturb by their very humanity.

We have chosen the famous adaptation by Miles Malleson since it skilfully weaves old into new, and we hope that in giving the play its original frame, the proscenium of the Palais-Royal, we shall arouse your imagination at the outset and with little effort carry you back some three hundred years.

H.U.

#### NEW THEATRE FUND PERFORMANCE

The performance on Saturday, December 7th, is in aid of the New Theatre Fund and members' free tickets are not available for this night. Members who purchase two tickets for this performance may, however, do so at half-price : so come again on the New Theatre Fund night and bring a friend.

#### OUR NEXT PRODUCTION

On January 18th, 1958, we shall present a new and delightful comedy by Alexandra Mikellatos entitled "The Long Spoon." Set in Renaissance Florence, and based upon a short anecdote by Nicolo Machiavelli, this hilarious comedy concerns the efforts of a most lovable devil—sent on a mission to earth—to achieve the damnation necessary to ensure his return to Hell to make his report. The author—herself an acting member of The Questors—has contrived a play to set us laughing from the first page until the last—and afterwards. Make a note of the performances and be sure to book your seats in good time.

#### COMING EVENTS

SATURDAY, December 21st, at 7.30 p.m. : Special Production in aid of the New Theatre Fund of "TEN NIGHTS IN A BAR-ROOM." If you remember our previous melodrama "SWEENEY TODD," you will be sure to enjoy this riotous show. Other performances will be given on Monday, December 23rd, Friday, December 27th, and Saturday, December 28th. Booking at the normal prices of 5/-, 4/- and 2/6 can be made during the run of the present show. In addition, the Box Office will be open on December 19th and 20th from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and on December 27th and 28th from 5 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. This is an extra-programme event and members free seats will NOT be available.

MONDAY, January 13th : Box Office opens for "THE LONG SPOON."

#### CHRISTMAS CARDS

Have you ordered your Christmas Cards yet ? If not, please have a look at the sample cards exhibited in the Lounge and make a selection therefrom. By arrangement with the publishers, Favil Press Ltd., profits from the sale of the cards are donated to the New Theatre Fund.

#### DISCUSSION ON "THE MISER"

The discussion on "THE MISER" will take place in the Theatre on Sunday, December 8th, at 7 p.m. All members and friends welcome. MAKE A SPECIAL NOTE OF THE DATE AND TIME : SUNDAY AT SEVEN.

King and Hutchings, Ltd.,  
57, The Mall, Ealing, W.5.

# THE QUESTORS



present

## The Miser

BY

MOLIÈRE

(adapted by MILES MALLESON)

AT THE QUESTORS THEATRE

MATTOCK LANE, EALING, W.5

NOV. 30th

DEC. 7th

THIRD PRODUCTION

TWENTY-NINTH SEASON

1957-58

PROGRAMME

SIXPENCE



# The Miser

by

MOLIÈRE

(adapted by MILES MALLESON)

## Characters in order of appearance

Valere ( <i>in love with Elise</i> ) ... ..	KENNETH CONINGTON
Elise ( <i>Harpagon's daughter</i> ) ... ..	FFRANGCON PRICE
Cleante ( <i>Harpagon's son</i> ) ... ..	BRYAN EVANS
Harpagon ( <i>the Miser</i> ) ... ..	PAUL IMBUSCH
La Fleche ( <i>Cleante's servant</i> ) ... ..	NED GETHINGS
Master Simon ( <i>a moneylender</i> ) ... ..	LAURENCE NIXON
Frosine ( <i>a scheming woman</i> ) ... ..	BETTY OGDEN
Jacques ( <i>Harpagon's servant</i> ) ... ..	DAVID LORRAINE
1st Servant ... ..	GLENDON JONES
2nd Servant... ..	JUNE DAVIES
Mariane ( <i>in love with Cleante</i> ) ... ..	UNA CHAPMAN
Justice of the Peace ... ..	PATRICK BACON
Clerk to the Justice ... ..	DEREK CUSDIN
Seigneur Anselm ... ..	HENRY IRVING

The play is produced by HARVEY UNNA.

The setting has been designed by BILLEE LAURENCE and built in the theatre's workshop under the direction of IAN JONES, who was assisted by PETER JENKINS.

The costumes have been designed by JOYCE HAWKINS and made in the theatre's wardrobe under the direction of HILDA COLLINS and EILEEN WOODER.

The music is by LULLY, CIMAROSA and TARTINI.

The action of the play passes during one day in the house of Monsieur Harpagon in Paris, in the year 1668.

## ACT I

SCENE 1. A room in Harpagon's house. Morning.

SCENE 2. The same. A little later.

## ACT II

SCENE 1. The same. Afternoon.

SCENE 2. The same. Early evening.

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There will be one interval of fifteen minutes at the end of Act I when you may remain in your seats and be served with tea and biscuits at a fixed charge of 6d. or cross to the Lounge where coffee and light refreshments may also be obtained.

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Stage Manager ... .. JOHN COATES  
assisted by DOROTHY BOYD-TAYLOR, JOYCE BUTCHER,  
GLENDON JONES, DIANA LINDLE and BARBARA TURPIN

Properties ... .. DAPHNE WILLIAMS

Lighting ... .. COLIN JAMES

Sound ... .. ROY MONTGOMERY  
assisted by ... .. PETER JENKINS

Production Secretary ... .. JUNE DAVIES

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Theatre Manager ... .. RENA RICE

House Manager ... .. ARCHIE COWAN

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BOX OFFICE (6.30-8.00 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.