

THE QUESTORS PRESENT  
THE THIRD PRODUCTION  
OF THEIR THIRTY-FIRST  
SEASON - - 1959-60

*THE  
BIRTHDAY PARTY*

By HAROLD PINTER

AT THE QUESTORS THEATRE  
MATTOCK LANE, EALING, W.5  
DECEMBER 5th - 16th - 1959  
PROGRAMME - PRICE 6d.

# THE BIRTHDAY PARTY

A NEW PLAY

by

HAROLD PINTER

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## Characters

Meg ... ..	JO ARUNDEL
Petey ... ..	NED GETHINGS
Stanley ... ..	PETER WHELAN
Lulu ... ..	ANN SYMONS
Goldberg ... ..	CYRIL SPENCER
McCann ... ..	BERNARD McLAUGHLIN

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Production ... MICHAEL ALMAZ

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The scene is the living room of a house in a seaside town.

Act I. A morning in Summer.

Act II. The evening of the same day.

Act III. The next morning.

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Smoking is not permitted in the Auditorium at any time. Will members wishing to smoke in the intervals kindly use the Bernard Shaw Room.

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BOX OFFICE (6.30-8.00 p.m.) ... .. EAL 5184

There will be two intervals during which light refreshments will be served in the Bernard Shaw Room.

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Kindly note that the price of a cup of coffee is 7d. and of a cup of tea 4d. It will assist service if you have your money ready.

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The Grapevine bar is open during this production.

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If you have enjoyed the play this evening why not come again on Wednesday, December 16th, and bring a friend? On this night any member may buy two seats for the price of one, but members' free seats, as such, are not available.

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The DISCUSSION on this production will take place on FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18th, at 7.30 p.m., in the Bernard Shaw Room.

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Settings designed by GEORGE BENN and painted by JEAN MANSFIELD.  
Costumes designed by HELEN BLATCH and made in The Questors Wardrobe.

Stage Manager	... ..	SYLVIA LANGDON-DOWN
Deputy Stage Manager	... ..	...TONY BARTLETT
assisted by	... ..	... DOUGLAS ARUNDEL, JAGGI CHAWLA, JOHN DEUTSCH, MARGARET MCKENZIE, PHYLLIS CRADDOCK and LYNN CROSBY
Sets constructed by	... ..	IAN JONES and FRED MYNARD
Wardrobe Mistress...	... ..	... HILDA COLLINS
assisted by	... ..	... JOYCE PERCY
Property Mistress	... ..	... JILL HEADY
assisted by	... ..	JUDY HARRISON and GERALDINE HARPER
Lighting	... ..	... ANDY ANDERSON
assisted by	... ..	... TONY SHIPLEY
Sound	... ..	... NORMAN GRANGER
Production Secretary	... ..	... JOSE ROBERTS
House Manager	... ..	... BILL COLLINS
Theatre Manager	... ..	...RENA RICE

## A NOTE ON THE PLAY

When asked what "The Birthday Party" was about, Harold Pinter answered: "Two men trying to kidnap a third." Mr. Pinter was quite correct in referring us to the *action* of his play, for is not a play basically action and as such stands or falls?

The *avant-garde* dramatists, as they are called (I wonder for how much longer), are most certainly aware of this. They are drunk with Theatre and their use of its conventions is quite uninhibited. Unfortunately, audiences are still very inhibited and too many people tend to treat *avant-garde* plays as bad dadaistic jokes. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

What, then, is the *meaning* of this action called "The Birthday Party"? And should we be looking for some hidden meaning in it? A play may be puzzling but it should never be a riddle. Apart from thrilling and amusing us, *avant-garde* dramatists suggest that the world is not what it seems to be and invite us to open our eyes and have a good look around. In order to achieve this they use shock tactics. To resent that is to reject one of the theatre's most legitimate, yet rarely used, arms.

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The furniture used in this production is supplied by  
THE OLD TIMES FURNISHING CO. and SANDERS OF EALING

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The photographs in the theatre are by  
MICHAEL ELTON, 14, Hill Street, Richmond (RIC 2588)

## THE CHRISTMAS STALL

Have you visited the Christmas Stall in the Shaw Room?

Open 6.45 p.m. and in the intervals.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, GIFTS, DECORATIONS, etc.

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## NOTICE

On and after January, 1959, annual subscriptions are:

Joint Club membership ... ..	£2 10 0
Club membership ... ..	£1 10 0
Junior membership ... ..	15 0
Country Associate membership ...	10 0

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