

THE QUESTORS

Present

GOING-GOING

Saturday, 29th September, 1962

being the final performance in the

Old

Questors Theatre

before it is demolished to make way for the

NEW

Arranged by

WILFRID SHARP

1933-1962

PART ONE

DIVERS PERSONS

- 1 Eric Kirby and Wilfrid Sharp
- 2 Laurence Nixon
- 3 Denis Comper
- 4 Joan McQueen
- 5 *Put Me in the Picture* by Vincent McQueen, with Alan Drake,
Dorothy Boyd-Taylor and Sylvia Estop.
- 6 Winifred Copperwheat (Accompanist Elsa Hayes)
- 7 *A Ceres of Disappointments* by Vincent McQueen. . . Joan Pyle
- 8 Harry Locke.

INTERVAL

Comper Wilfrid Sharp
Accompanists Eric Kirby, Barbara Hutchins

PART TWO

In which we meet many old friends, including.

Jo Arundel
Diana Benn
Dorothy Boyd-Taylor
Doreen Coates
Elizabeth Dixon
Theresa Heffernan
Barbara Hutchins
Pam Richards
Betty Walker

Arthur Boyd-Taylor
Ken Conington
Alfred Emmet
Michael Green
Albert Hooper
John Howard
Paul Imbusch
Lawrence Irvin
Vincent McQueen
Raymond Moss
John Murray Scott
Ted Scrivener
Wilfrid Sharp
Philip Wright

The Students.

The Young Questors.

<i>Stage Managers:</i>	George Benn Ruth Howard Peter Talbot
<i>Lighting:</i>	Gerry Isenthal
<i>House Manager:</i>	George Stubbs
<i>Theatre Manager:</i>	Rena Rice

On 14th October 1933, in what was originally the Roman Catholic Church of Saints Joseph and Peter, but then known as Mattock Hall, the District Headquarters of the Boys Scouts Association, The Questors Theatre was officially opened. The first production, the English premiere of *Dragons' Teeth* by Shirland Quin, opened on 8th December 1933, and ran until 9th December (1933).

The walls of the theatre at that time were of bare, stained match-boarding. The audience sat on hard, wooden chairs, many of which rocked unevenly on the rough wooden floor, or on folding park seats hired for the occasion. In wet weather duckboards had to be laid on the muddy path, inadequately lit by a couple of feeble gas lamps.

From 1933 to 1962 The Questors have produced within these walls 166 long plays (including 4 Revues) and 174 short plays. Of these, 38 and 43 respectively have been first productions in this country, most of them new plays being presented for the first time anywhere. The first was a premiere, and the last was also a premiere, Lydia Ragosin's *The Children of Saturn*.

Hundreds of actors have played on these boards. Nearly 300 students have nervously tried out their first improvisations on this stage. Hundreds of others have worked behind the scenes, or served on the front of house staff. The work of every one of them has made its impact, however small, on the life of our theatre. Perhaps something of them all is present with us here tonight, perhaps their aura remains in this theatre where they have worked, where they have suffered, perhaps the agonies of first night nerves or the frustrations and disappointments inseparable from any creative work, but where they have also found joy and laughter and friendship.

That theatre has now served its turn and is to be replaced. That is no matter for regret, least of all by those whose work is embedded in the old building, for it is precisely the work of these many hundreds of members in the past that has led to this re-birth. So we wave a cheerful greeting to them all as we pass on.

The new theatre is the inheritance of the young in heart.

