

THE QUESTORS PRESENT
A FESTIVAL OF NEW PLAYS

16th to 30th JUNE 1962

COMPLETE SOUVENIR PROGRAMME
PRICE 1/-

THE QUESTORS THEATRE
MATTOCK LANE • EALING

Saturday, 16th June; Thursday, 21st June;

Sunday, 24th June; Friday, 29th June

IN THE THEATRE

THE CHILDREN OF SATURN

by LYDIA RAGOSIN

Cast

Father Gapon...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	BERNARD McLAUGHLIN
Rutenberg	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	MARTIN McDONALD
Azeff, chief of the Battle Organisation of the Socialist Revolutionary Party	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	ANTHONY BOSWORTH
Lev Tchertkov, head of the Battle Organisation in Tarnov	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	ALAN CHAMBERS
Vladimir ("Volodya") Barteniev	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	MARTIN BOWLEY
General Barteniev, his father	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	THOMAS MERCER
Xenia, his sister	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	ELAINE McCANN
Prince Feodor ("Fedya") Kalinovsky, her fiancé	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	MYLES McDOWELL
Matvei, a manservant	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	DAVID LORRAINE
Yuri	} young revolutionaries	...	...	...	...	...	...	ANTHONY HOLLOWAY
Igor		...	...	...	...	...	...	MICK LANGRIDGE
Anyuta, a servant	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	CAROL ADAMS
Ogarev	} of the Secret Police	...	...	...	...	...	...	ANTHONY HARRISON
Pankratiev		...	...	...	...	...	...	JOHN TURNER
An officer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	DAVID KING
Soldiers, workmen and women	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	BRIAN HORRY, WYLIE LONGMORE, JOHN TURNER, JEANNETTE AMBROSE, AWEN GRIFFITHS, GILLIAN PADFIELD, MARGARET PARRY, SANDRA TURNER

ACT I - St. Petersburg. 1905

INTERVAL

ACT II - Some months later. Tarnov; Ozerky; Bieloreychio.

The play produced by KENNETH CONINGTON

Stage Manager - DAVID INNES, assisted by ALAN BENNETT

Wardrobe - JOAN PYLE, assisted by MARJORIE GOLSBY

Some properties loaned by L. Bryant, The Mall, Ealing

The year 1905 was the year of abortive revolution in Russia which led directly to the October Revolution of 1917. The play attempts to illustrate the reason why the latter revolution became so tragically inevitable. How it could certainly have been prevented if only the spirit of liberalism and the reasonable demands of the people had been accepted and acknowledged by the Autocracy.

The characters of the Socialist priest Gapon, Rutenberg and Azeff are historical. The events of 'Bloody Sunday' and the execution of Gapon are taken from documentary accounts of what actually happened.

L.R.

Sunday, 17th June

IN THE BERNARD SHAW ROOM

DANNIE ABSE and BERNARD KOPS

WILL READ FROM THEIR OWN POEMS.

DANNIE ABSE, whose latest book "Poems, Golders Green" is the Poetry Book Society's current choice, has recently been reading his poems in company with such artists as Laurie Lee, Christopher Logue and Spike Milligan in places as far apart as the Belgrade Theatre, Coventry and the Royal Festival Hall; Cheltenham, and Hampstead. Earlier publications include three books of poems, including "Tenants of the House" and two novels, "Ash on a Young Man's Sleeve" and "Some Corner of an English Field".

BERNARD KOPS is, like Dannie Abse, poet, playwright and novelist. His plays "The Hamlet of Stepney Green" and "The Dream of Peter Mann" have both been published by Penguin Books; his published novels are "Awake for Mourning" and "Motorbike", which was published last month. Published books of poems are "Poems and Songs" and "An Anemone for Antigone".

SPECIAL FESTIVAL ARRANGEMENTS

Each evening after the performance there will be a short informal discussion on the play over coffee in the Bernard Shaw Room, to which all members of the audience are cordially invited. Each discussion will be led by a well-known producer, playwright or critic, and whenever possible the author and producer of the evening's play will be present.

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The Shaw Room is open as a Festival Club Room each evening of the Festival from 6.30 p.m. Coffee and light refreshments may be obtained.

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Coffee is served in the Shaw Room in the Intervals.

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The Grapevine Bar is open (members of the Grapevine Club only) from 6.45 to 10.30 p.m. (11 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays).

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The audience is reminded that smoking is not permitted in the Auditorium.

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The Box Office is open from 6.30 p.m. to 8 p.m. EALing 5184.

PICTURES IN THE SHAW ROOM

The exhibition of pictures in the Shaw Room is by BRIAN CROUCH. Born 1929, studied at Brighton College of Art and Royal Academy Schools. Exhibited Young Contemporaries, 1953, 1954; Wildenstein & Co. ("Some Contemporary British Painters"), 1957, 1959; London Group, 1958.

All the pictures exhibited are for sale—apply to the Information Desk.

Monday, 18th June; Wednesday, 20th June; Friday, 22nd June;

Monday, 25th June; Thursday, 28th June; Saturday, 30th June

IN THE STANISLAVSKY ROOM

NEXT TIME I'LL SING TO YOU

by JAMES SAUNDERS

(after "A Hermit Disclosed", by Raleigh Trevelyan)

Cast

Meff	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	LAWRENCE IRVIN
Dust	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	LAURENCE NIXON
Dross	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	PETER WHELAN
Lizzie	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	JO ARUNDEL
The Hermit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	GEORGE RITCHIE

The play designed and directed by SHIRLEY BUTLER

Incidental music by DON KINCAID

Stage Manager - BERYL OWEN

Wardrobe - ELIZABETH HOLDEN and HILDA COLLINS

There will be one interval of 15 minutes

ALEXANDER JAMES MASON was born at Great Canfield, Essex, in 1857. In 1896 at the age of 38 he shut himself up in an isolated hut. Except for an incident in 1927 when his privacy was invaded by newspaper men on the scent of a "story" (written up in some detail in "The Daily Mail"), he remained cut off from the world, seeing no one, for nearly 50 years until he died in 1942.

FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

The programme below includes details of the leaders of the nightly discussions.

The discussions will begin about ten minutes after the conclusion of the play. You are warmly invited to stay behind after the performance and join in or, if you prefer, just to listen.

Date	Play	Leader of Discussion
Saturday, 16th June ...	"The Children of Saturn" ...	Kitty Black
Sunday, 17th June ...	Poetry Readings by Dannie Abse and Bernard Kops	
Monday, 18th June ...	"Next Time I'll Sing to You" ...	Martin Esslin
Tuesday, 19th June ...	"Gone" and "The Joker" ...	Roy Walker
Wednesday, 20th June ...	"Next Time I'll Sing to You" ...	E. Martin Browne
Thursday, 21st June ...	"The Children of Saturn" ...	George Benson
Friday, 22nd June ...	"Next Time I'll Sing to You" ...	Leo Lehman
Saturday, 23rd June ...	"Gone" and "The Joker" ...	Michael Warre
Sunday, 24th June ...	"The Children of Saturn" ...	John Allen
Monday, 25th June ...	"Next Time I'll Sing to You" ...	Clifford Williams
Tuesday, 26th June ...	"Gone" and "The Joker" ...	(to be announced)
Wednesday, 27th June ...	"Gone" and "The Joker" ...	(to be announced)
Thursday, 28th June ...	"Next Time I'll Sing to You" ...	Robert Gittings
Friday, 29th June ...	"The Children of Saturn" ...	Charles Lefeaux
Saturday, 30th June ...	"Next Time I'll Sing to You" ...	John Russell Taylor

All performances start at 7.30 p.m.

Coffee and light refreshments are obtainable in the Shaw Room from 6.45 p.m. each evening.

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Tuesday, 26th June; Wednesday, 27th June**

IN THE THEATRE

Two plays

by DANNIE ABSE

GONE

Cast

Peter	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	NED GETTINGS
Aubrey	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	BOB JONES

The scene is Peter's studio room.

INTERVAL

THE JOKER

Cast

Nat Stone	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	JOSEPH GREEN
Theo Levinson, his brother-in-law	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	JOE LEVINE
Lily Levinson	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	SHEILA SORLEY
Essie Glass	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	PIXIE LAURIE
Ken Levinson	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	GRAHAM EVANS
Dr. Silver	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	GEORGE RITCHIE

The scene is the living room of the Levinsons' house in a provincial town.

The plays produced by JEFFREY SMITH and DANNIE ABSE

Stage Manager - VICTOR MITCHELL, assisted by SHEILA STODDART

Wardrobe - JOYCE PERCY

"The Joker" is described by the author as a "sad comedy".

"Gone" simply explores a situation between two men. Perhaps it is a sad comedy, too.

But then perhaps all comedy is a mask worn by pathos. After we have finished laughing, something else remains.

THE AUTHORS

LYDIA RAGOSIN

Born in London of Russian parents. Her mother was ballerina Lydia Kyasht, her father a colonel in the Guards who himself went through the 1905 revolution in St. Petersburg. Started writing for the theatre in 1948. Her first theatre play to be produced was "The Tinsel of Athens" staged by The Questors in 1950, in which year also her first radio play was broadcast. Her second radio play was "The English Captain", shortly afterwards produced in the stage version by The Questors. Since then has had some 14 radio plays produced, by the B.B.C., Home and Overseas, in Australia, New Zealand, and U.S.A., some being also translated into Flemish and Dutch. A television version of "The Children of Saturn" has been commissioned by the B.B.C.

JAMES SAUNDERS

Born in Islington in 1925. Married, three children, lives in Ealing and teaches chemistry. In 1960 was awarded a playwriting bursary by the Arts Council. His best known play is "Alas, Poor Fred", produced in the round by Stephen Joseph's company. His first full length play, "The Ark", was produced at the Westminster Theatre in 1959 with Denholm Elliott, and subsequently in the round by Stephen Joseph. A group of three plays was produced by The Questors in the first New Plays Festival of 1960 under the title "Ends and Echoes". Of these the most successful, "Barnstable", was broadcast in the Third Programme, and produced at the Dublin Festival in 1961 and subsequently at the Comedy Theatre.

DANNIE ABSE

Born in Cardiff in 1923. Married, three children, lives in Golders Green and is a doctor by profession. An early play in verse, "Fire in Heaven", was nearly produced by The Questors towards the end of the war; subsequently published, but the publisher's stocks were destroyed in a fire. He then concentrated on writing poetry and novels, to return to playwriting in 1960 when "The House of Cowards" was produced by The Questors in the first New Plays Festival, and won the Charles Henry Foyle New Play Award. This has been recently published in the latest volume of "Plays of the Year", chosen by J. C. Trewin. A one-act play, "The Eccentric", was produced last year at the Mountview Theatre Club and the Arts Theatre. A radio adaptation of a more recent play "No Telegrams, No Thunder" was broadcast by the B.B.C. earlier this year.

THE QUESTORS FESTIVAL OF NEW PLAYS

The first Festival was held in 1960, with plays by Dannie Abse, Ned Gethings and James Saunders. The purpose of the Festival is two-fold: to give promising playwrights the opportunity of having their plays performed and, by placing them in context with each other in a Festival setting, to promote greater interest among the audience in new plays. In a modest way it can be said that both these objects are being fulfilled.

We take it as an indication that seeds are growing and bearing fruit that all three of this year's authors have had previous plays produced by The Questors, and two of them in the first New Plays Festival. Moreover all the plays have been written in some association with The Questors. We commissioned a stage version of "The Children of Saturn" after the successful radio broadcast in January. "Next Time I'll Sing to You" was also specially commissioned. "The Joker" was first submitted nearly a year ago and substantially rewritten before we gave it a rehearsed reading in March. "Gone" was specially written for us to complete the programme.

FESTIVAL STAFF

Designer (for productions in the theatre)	... ..	GEORGE BENN
Stage Director ...	JOHN DEUTSCH	Festival Secretary ... KATHERINE ELDRIDGE
Lighting Manager ...	BOB ANDERSON	Production Secretary RUTH LISTER
Sound Manager...	RICHARD COLLINS	Scenery Construction PETER TALBOT, LEON WARD, CHARLES WRIGHTON, JOHN KNIGHT
Assistant Stage Managers	ANN CONHEENEY, PAT FERRIDAY, ESTELLE HAMPTON, MARY HOLLAND, JACQUELINE LEARNER, JOSEPHINE McCANN, PAT MACNAMARA, DIANE McDOWELL ROBIN WHITEHEAD	Scene Painting ... PAMELA HILLIER
Properties ...	MARIANNE BAIRD, JILL CHAMPION, ENID PACKHAM, SYLVIA NEWBERY, IRIS PHELPS H 'A' SI HARMS	Lighting Operators... ANTHONY HOLE, JO LEVINE, NIGEL MASON-CLARK, PHYLLIS McLAUGHLIN, JOHN WOODINGTON
House Manager...	GEORGE STUBBS	Sound Operators ... JOSEPHINE PHELPS, RETA SAXTON-HOWES, EILEEN SMITH
		Theatre Manager ... RENA RICE

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, 4th July "STUDENTS AT WORK"

The First Year Student Group are seen at work at the end of their year. Directed by Alfred Emmet. Tickets, 2s. 6d. on sale at Box Office or Information Desk.

21st-28th July "LIOLA" by Luigi Pirandello.

Thursday, 26th July Visit to evening performance of "Uncle Vanya" at Chichester Festival Theatre.

Saturday, 18th August Visit to matinee performance of "The Broken Heart" at Chichester Festival Theatre.

IF YOU ARE A GUEST AT TONIGHT'S PERFORMANCE . . .

ask at the Information Desk for particulars of membership, and see ALL The Questors productions.