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The Questors Theatre

. . . (HENRY IV)

Luigi Pirandello

trans. Frederick May

John
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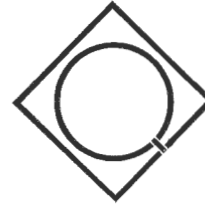
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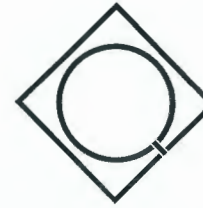
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THE QUESTORS THEATRE

FIRST PERFORMANCE

SATURDAY, 16th APRIL, 1966

..... (HENRY IV)

by Luigi Pirandello

Translated by Frederick May

Landolph	} four counsellors to (Henry IV)	} .....	..... MICHAEL LANGRIDGE
Ordulph			..... GEOFFREY BURRIDGE
Harold			..... ROGER DE TONEY
Berthold			..... MICHAEL HEALY
John, a manservant			..... DAVID LORRAINE
Marquis Charles di Nolli			..... MARTIN BOWLEY
Baron Tito Belcredi			..... IVAN PINFIELD
The Doctor			..... ANTHONY BARBER
Marchioness Matilda Spina			..... RUTH TREMAYNE-SMITH
Frida, her daughter			..... DOROTHY BOYD TAYLOR
..... (Henry IV)			..... PETER HEALY

Directed by DAVID GOWER

Designed by COLIN GREEN

Portraits by STEPHEN PACZAI

The action takes place in a villa in Italy

Act I Morning

INTERVAL of fifteen minutes

Act II Afternoon

Act III Night

Members of the audience are requested to refrain from smoking
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Deputy Stage Manager GAY TOWNLEY

Assistant Stage Managers LINDA REID, ANITA SEDDON and
NORA NELSON

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Sound MALCOLM FERGUSON

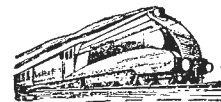
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Stage Director TONY SHIPLEY

HENRY IV (1050-1106) was elected King of the Germans in 1054, his mother being Regent. About 1070 he began to act for himself. His first task was to break the power of the nobles; but his measures provoked a rising of the Saxons. In 1075 he defeated them at Hohenburg, and then proceeded to take vengeance upon the princes, secular and ecclesiastical, who opposed him. The case of the latter gave Pope Gregory VII a pretext to interfere in the affairs of Germany. This was the beginning of the great duel between Pope and Emperor. In 1076 Henry declared the pontiff deposed. Gregory retaliated by excommunicating Henry. The king hastened to Italy to make submission at Canossa as a humble penitent, and in January 1077 the ban of excommunication was removed. Having found adherents among the Lombards, Henry renewed the conflict, but was again excommunicated. He thereupon appointed a new pope, Clement III, and in 1084 caused himself to be crowned emperor by the antipope.

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LUIGI PIRANDELLO (1867-1936)

One of the most important and widely known of modern Italian dramatists. He began his literary career by writing poems, novels, and short stories which already foreshadowed the philosophy most strongly expressed in his plays—the illusion of life, and the hopelessness of man's attempt to create a reality for himself and for others—a bitter and destructive creed which the unhappy circumstances of Pirandello's private life did nothing to ameliorate. From the drama of his characters' lives he draws conclusions vast and far-reaching in their implications, indicative of deep personal anguish and a destructive force of unbelief. There can be no truth, since truth varies with different individuals, and with each individual in different circumstances; there can be no communication with others, since words interpret what seems to be, and not what is; and in the last resort there can be no sanity, since sanity demands a stable foundation and for Pirandello there is nothing but flux and uncertainty. The influence of his works on a disillusioned post-war generation was profound, and it spread rapidly, through the productions at his own theatre in Rome, founded in 1925, and through the tours of America and Europe which he undertook with his company. The best known of his plays, in translation, are "Six Characters in Search of an Author", "Right you are, if you think so", "As You Desire Me", and what is probably his finest work, "... (Henry IV)"

A DISCUSSION is held after each production by The Questors which all members of the audience are cordially invited to attend. The discussion on "... Henry IV" will be held in the Bernard Shaw Room on MONDAY 25 APRIL at 7.30 p.m.

Sandwiches and coffee are available in the Bernard Shaw Room before performances, and refreshments will be served there during the interval.

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EXHIBITION — HAROLD ELVIN

The unique exhibition in the Bernard Shaw Room during the run of "... Henry IV" and "The Importance of Being Oscar", of decorated ceramic and glass tiles, is the work of Harold Elvin. He was trained as an architect; after a short period in architects' offices he spent five years in the film studios at Elstree, first in the Art Department and later as Floor Manager. He resigned to bicycle to Constantinople and back and then to Leningrad and back. He has by now cycled through 30 countries under conditions as extreme as icy Lapland and the heat of India, Siam and Cambodia. He has also worked as company secretary and manager, farmhand, film projectionist, ceramic artist, scene painter for the theatre, interior architect, lecturer and teacher of English abroad. During the war years he was nightwatchman in the British Embassy, Moscow, later being transferred to the films section there. He has had eight books published and has gained two literary prizes; the Atlantic Award in Literature for "A Cockney in Moscow" and the Tom Gallon Award for Fiction, for his story "God's Right Hand Upon My Shoulder". All the tiles in this exhibition are for sale. Details from the Administrator.

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Directed by Charles Crichton

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