The Minack Theatre Porthcurno

The Questors, London present

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS

by William Shakespeare THE QUESTORS THEATRE, London, was founded in 1929 and has been established at its present home in Ealing, in West London, since 1933. The original theatre was a converted chapel shared with the local Boy Scouts and equipped at a cost of about £75. This building continued in use until 1963, when it was demolished to make way for a new theatre. The new building is an adaptable theatre, with facilities for apron, arena and proscenium staging, and together with its ancillary buildings cost £90,000. It was opened in April 1964 and has attracted interest from theatre people all over the world. The Questors company is entirely amateur, and presents some fourteen plays each year at the theatre. In addition there are occasional performances by visiting professional companies.

Current annual subscription is £2. 10. 0 but full-time students and those under 18 years of age may obtain membership for £1. 0. 0 per year. Associate Membership (for those living outside a radius of 25 miles of the theatre) is available at 10/- per year. All members, other than Associate Members, are entitled to an average of 10 free seats per year to Questors productions.



THE QUESTORS

FIRST PERFORMANCE MONDAY, 18th AUGUST, 1969

at The Minack Theatre, Porthcurno

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS

by
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

For The Questors Ltd.:

Tour Manager	GERRY BLAKE
House Manager	DENYS NELSON
Publicity Manager	MARIE CRARE

Critical Comments:

"as yet farce and romance were not one 'form' but two separate stools and between them in *The Comedy of Errors* he fell to the ground"

Arthur Quiller Couch New Cambridge Edition, 1922

"a play in which the general temper of life is 'crude, coarse and brutal' "

H. B. Charlton, Shakespeare Company, 1943

"What have sometimes been regarded as disparate elements, romance and farce, or tragic envelope and central comic action, unite most harmoniously in the final effect."

R. A. Foakes, Editor of The Arden Edition, 1962.

"a crazy though magical Ephesus where men may re-find their brothers and find themselves and women may re-find their husbands and learn about themselves. The city and people of Ephesus may be highly improbable, but they are infinitely desirable, a triumph of imagination over life."

Clifford Williams in the preface to his 1962 R.S.C. production.

Ephesus has been known since the time of Heroclitus as a place of witchcraft and sorcery. There are references to witchcraft in the Bible in Acts XIX and St. Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians. We have taken some licence with the cult of Diana which was worshipped at Ephesus and hope that our costumes will pay homage to the disorder that drives the play while mirroring the final harmony.

The first recorded performance of *The Comedy of Errors* was in Grays Inn on December 28th, 1594. The play was preceded by a rowdy brawl which drove away the ambassador to the Inner Temple. At a mock trial afterwards the House Manager was acquitted and the petitioners for his arrest were commanded to the Tower!

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS

Cast in order of appearance:

Solinus, Duke of Ephesus	RICHARD HALBERSTADT
Egeon, A Merchant of Syra	cuse MICHAEL SMITH
Jailer	SEBASTIAN VERGHESE
First Merchant	CHARLES JOEKES
Antipholus of Syracuse	TONY WORTH
Dromio of Syracuse	JOHN TURNER
Dromio of Ephesus	HOWARD BENBROOK
Adriana, wife to Antipholus	of Ephesus MAVIS SAGE
Luciana, her Sister	SYLVIA ESTOP
Antipholus of Ephesus	PETER ANDERSON
Angelo, the Goldsmith	DAVID PEARSON
Balthasar	RICHARD HALBERSTADT
Nell	GILLIAN REDHEAD
Second Merchant	RICHARD PAINES
Officer	SEBASTIAN VERGHESE
Courtesan	ELIZABETH STORER
Dr. Pinch	CHARLES JOEKES
Abbess	DIANA BENN
Attendants Pl	ETER WALL, GARETH REES, RICHARD BENN, CHRISTOPHER BENN, SUE BLENKINSOP

The play is set in Ephesus

There will be one interval of 15 minutes

Directed by ALAN CHAMBERS
Sets and Costumes designed by NORMAN BARWICK
Costumes made in The Questors Wardrobe
Music composed by DON KINCAID

For 'The Comedy of Errors'

Stage Manager	LIZ McCROSSAN
Deputy Stage Manager	TONY RICHARDS
Wardrobe Mistress	JACKIE LEARNER
Assisted by	VAL HILL, HILDA COLLINS
Properties	CAROLINE FINCH, MOIRA DALY
Construction	GARETH REES
Lighting	FRANK WOOD
Assisted by	MALLE BUTLER
Sound	ROGER DRIVER
Assistants in all departments	GARETH REES, PETER WALL, FRED DOWSE, JOAN EGMORE, SUE BECKSFORD

The Questors wish to acknowledge the help and assistance received from local organisations in connection with this production.

Members of the audience are respectfully requested not to leave litter at the theatre or to walk on the stage area at any time.

All photographic rights are retained by the owners of The Minack Theatre.

The taking of flash-light photographs during the performance is strictly forbidden.

Next week at The Minack:

The Cambridge University Players present TROILUS AND CRESSIDA by William Shakespeare

NEXT SEASON

The Questors Theatre,

at

Mattock Lane,

THE QUESTORS

Ealing, London, W.5

September 13th-20th

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS

by William Shakespeare

September 22nd-27th

INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR THEATRE

WEEK

A Company from Italy on 22nd & 25th Sept. A Company from France on 23rd & 26th

A Company from Czechoslovakia on 24th & 27th

October 11th-18th

WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF

by Edward Albee

October 16th, 17th & 18th

POLKA CHILDREN'S THEATRE

November 8th-19th

PEER GYNT by Henrik Ibsen

The Questors is a Theatre Club, therefore only members may purchase tickets —but it's easy to join. For further details of membership and the future programme please write or call:

The Administrator, The Questors Theatre, Mattock Lane, Ealing, London, W.5.

Tel: 01-567 0011