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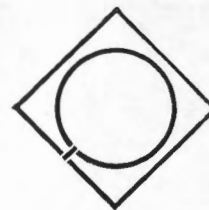
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THE QUESTORS THEATRE

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by John Webster

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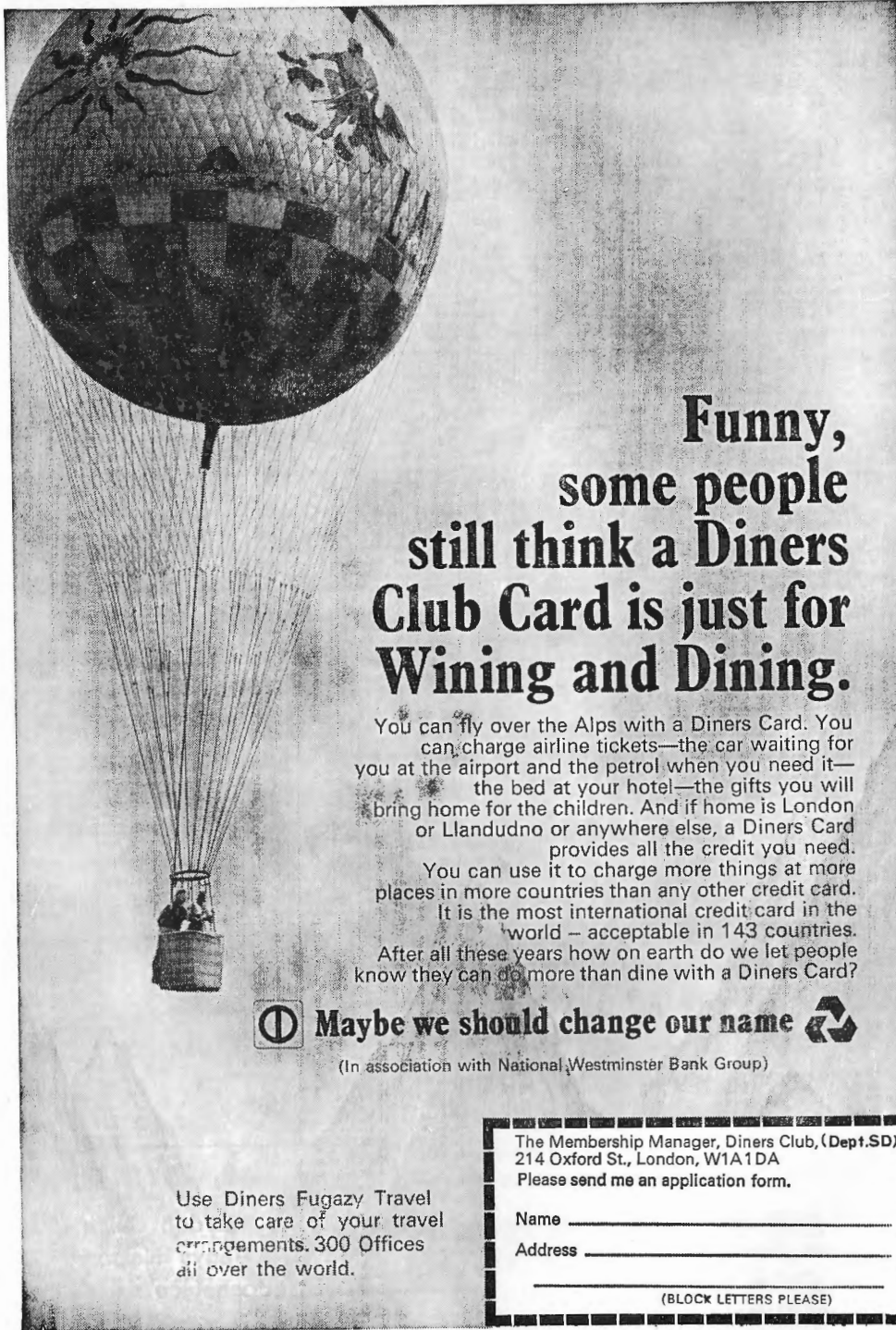
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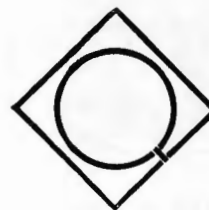
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THE QUESTORS THEATRE

FIRST PERFORMANCE

Saturday, 30th January, 1971

As flies to wanton boys, are we to the gods,
They kill us for their Sport .

—King Lear IV, iii.

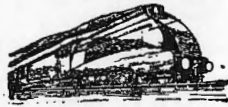
When Laius succeeded his father Labdacus as King of Thebes, he married Jocasta. It was prophesied by an oracle that the son of such a union would kill his father and marry his mother, so Laius spurned Jocasta and she, in revenge, made him drunk and they conceived a son. Laius took the child from Jocasta at birth and exposed the infant on the slopes of Mount Cithaeron, piercing its feet with a nail and tying them together.

But a shepherd found the child and carried it to the King of Corinth, Polybus, whose marriage was childless. He and his Queen, Merope, adopted the child and called it Oedipus because of its foot-wounds. As a young man Oedipus heard the prophecy of the oracle, and to spare his supposed mother and father he left Corinth and took the road to Thebes. On the journey, at a crossroads, he met an old man in a chariot. They quarrelled and Oedipus killed him. It was Laius. When Oedipus reached Thebes, the city was in thrall to the Sphynx, a creature with a woman's head, the body of a lion, and the wings of a bird, who guarded the approach to the city. Every traveller had to answer the riddle of the Sphynx and none had succeeded. The bones of the dead lay everywhere around Oedipus as the riddle was pronounced. "What has four legs in the morning, two legs in the afternoon and three legs in the evening; and is weakest when it has the most?" Oedipus delivered the answer: "Man; who crawls on all fours as a baby, walks upright in the prime of life, and uses astick in his old age". Defeated, the Sphynx leapt from her rock and fell into the sea.

The people of Thebes rejoiced, feted Oedipus, and, because their King had recently been murdered by an unknown person, he married their Queen. It was Jocasta.

A plaque then descended upon Thebes. Creon, Jocasta's brother, was sent to the oracle to discover what the Thebans must do to avert their destruction.

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OEDIPUS

by Seneca, adapted by Ted Hughes

Oedipus, King of Thebes MICHAEL LANGRIDGE
Jocasta, his wife COLUMBA HOBAN
Creon, her brother MARTIN BOWLEY
Tiresias, a blind seer DAVID LORRAINE
Manto, his daughter FFRANGCON WHELAN
Messenger from Corinth JOHN ROBB
Phorbas, a shepherd KEVIN FELLS
Slave MICHAEL NOAKES
Chorus of the people of Thebes ROGER DE TONEY,
KEVIN FELLS, ROBERTA HORNSTEIN, RICHARD LEWIS,
ESTELLE LONGMORE, FRANCES MARTIN, CAROL METCALFE,
BETTY OGDEN, GILL REDHEAD, JOHN ROBB, JOHN WILSON
Sacrificial Animals JOHN WILSON, TIM HAKINS

Scene : THEBES: before the Palace

There will be no interval

Directed by David Gower

Designed by Norman Barwick

Movement by Bernard Fallon

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Make-up JULIE CRUTTENDEN

Sandwiches and coffee are available in the Bernard Shaw Room before performances. Please note that for this production there will be no interval.

Members of the audience are requested to refrain from smoking in the Auditorium.

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SHAW ROOM EXHIBITION

During the run of OEDIPUS there will be an exhibition of paintings by DAVID BANKS in the Bernard Shaw Room.

THE QUESTORS FILM SOCIETY — 1970/71 SEASON

The films will be shown in the Shaw Room on the following SUNDAY evenings at 7.45 p.m.

28th February, 1971 THE WORLD OF APU
4th April, 1971 PERSONA
2nd May, 1971 A NOUS LA LIBERTE
23rd May, 1971 THE INVISIBLE MAN

Plus Short Films

Full Membership 35/- (Full programme)
Associate Membership 15/- (Any three films)
Members Guest Tickets 5/- (per performance)

Further information from The Secretary, Questors Film Society.

A discussion is held after each production by The Questors to which all members of the audience are invited. The discussion on OEDIPUS will be held on Monday 8th February, in the Shaw Room.



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