

questopics

QUESTORS THEATRE MATTOCK LANE W5 5BQ 567 0011 Box Office 567 5184

No.70 JULY 1972

JULY STUDENT GROUP PRODUCTION

The House of Bernarda Alba

by F. Lorca

with short version of

A Resounding Tinkle

by N. F. SIMPSON

The unusual composition of this year's second year Student Group (7 women and 1 man), has caused more complications than previously in trying to find a suitable full length play for their final production. It is always a problem to find a play that will suit the students' capabilities and one that will cast satisfactorily within the group, giving equal opportunities (as far as is possible) to each member. But *seven* women!

We are resolving the problem by presenting as our main production *The House of Barnarda Alba* by Federico Garcia Lorca,



CAROLINE FINCH



ROSEMARY PARRY-JONES & MAUREEN CONNEW

and following it with an 'after-piece', *A Resounding Tinkle* by N. F. Simpson.

Lorca's play, 'a drama about women in the villages of Spain', is a powerful study of a household ruled by a bigoted and tyrannical mother. The whole action takes place inside the house of Bernarda Alba, where her five daughters – ranging in age from 20 to 39 – are fighting to free themselves from the rigid discipline, the stifling sterile atmosphere in which they are forced to exist. The results are explosive and tragic. It is a play of frustrated passion, of rigid social conventions; of tradition and pride. Bernarda's household is one of women without men: 'in all such matters even blood is forgotten';

a household where outward show and an appearance of decency is paramount even though 'you rot inside'.

A Resounding Tinkle is a small, absurd joke. Set in the apparent reality of the living room of a suburban home, it is not long before we discover certain peculiarities of the couple who live there. This is the one-act version of Simpson's longer play, and in it he satirizes deftly and with an unusual comic style, the inanities and absurdities of a certain type of existence.

The members of this year's student group are – Clare Patrick, Irene Macdonald, Janice Stanley, Maureen Connew, Rosemary Parry Jones and Caroline Finch, and Peter Harborne.

Twenty-five Years of Students

The first Questors Student Group was formed in 1946, finishing a year's work with a production in January 1947. In the following autumn a more comprehensive one year's course was inaugurated under the auspices of the Middlesex County Council Education Committee. Three years later the course was extended to two years, as it is now. 1971/72 is the 25th year of our Student Group.

During this time some 500 would-be actors have passed through the Student Group. Of course, not all completed the course: some fell by the wayside for one reason or another; some were inevitably eliminated by the selection process for membership of the Second Year Group.

What has happened to the 500?

Although it is no part of the aim of the Student Group to train actors for the professional stage, nevertheless, quite a sprinkling have, in fact, 'gone professional', usually progressing to one or other of the professional Drama Schools after a year or two at The Questors. Some of



FIRST STUDENT GROUP PRODUCTION, JANUARY, 1947
THE CRADLE SONG

these have made their mark and others doubtless will.

Some ex-students have moved away and work with drama groups in other parts of the country. Others have been unable to reconcile the demands of work in an amateur theatre with career or domestic life, though many of these continue as members of The Questors.

Of those who have stayed to work with The Questors, a glance through the programmes of the past season reveals that over the year no fewer than 29 parts in the major productions, including many leading roles, were played by ex-members of the Student Group. What *would* we do without them?



10th Anniversary Production
July 1957
THE FAR OFF HILLS

RE-UNION PARTY

To mark the 25th year, a Reunion Party of past (and present Students will be held at the theatre after the last performance on

22nd July

of 'The House of Barnarda Alba' and 'A Resounding Tinkle'. Tickets, price 30p each, *must be obtained beforehand* from Frances Ommaney, The Questors Theatre. It is hoped that as many of the 500 as can, will come and will also book to see the performance on that evening.

Please pass the word on to any ex-student with whom you may be in touch.

THE SEAGULL TOPS THE POLL

By a majority of 28 votes, *The Seagull* was voted the best production of the last year according to the 'Membership Survey', next came *The Italian Girl* and *Hamlet* (equal second), then *The Happy Haven*, *Ding Dong* and *A Delicate Balance*, only a difference of 13 votes covering all five productions. The rest of the productions met with varying success, down to the two productions which received only 7 votes each out of the 1212 which were cast by the members who returned their forms.

The information which is collected from these bi-annual questionnaires is of significance in the planning and policy making of the Questors in many different fields. By discovering which production was best enjoyed, we can only provide an ego booster for the people involved in that production, but from the other questions much more valuable information can be obtained. Unfortunately, this year only 18% of the membership returned their forms (two years ago it was

20%), and as a self selecting sample with particular bias towards the active members the conclusions drawn can only reflect some of the attitude of the membership as a whole.

Bearing in mind all the limitations that apply, the bare facts are as follows. There was a poor response from the under 20's age group (only 4% compared with 9% two years ago) – the vast majority of our membership (over 50%) live in the Ealing area but even so 70% travel to the Theatre by car (there has been a steady 2% increase every two years in this figure), however, a further 20% came on foot. There has been a big drop (from 68% to 55%) in the number of people who book by post, please remember it helps us and you to be able to book well in advance, by post, so we do not have to turn away people who have left booking to the last minute.

Your comments were most interesting and comprehensive and it is impossible to answer

them all in the space available, however, all complaints (and there were one or two) will be passed to the appropriate people and I hope we will be able to provide even better service and entertainment in the future. We are providing a programme of workshop productions next season, you will probably know by now we have a new bar and we do have more plans for the future.

Finally, on the vital question (13) you voted as follows, very satisfied—25%, fairly satisfied—54%, not very satisfied—15%, not at all satisfied—2%, no opinion—4%, if this is a true reflection I hope it indicates we are on the right lines. My thanks to all of you who returned your survey forms.

Roger de Toney,
Secretary

THOUGHT FOR FOOD

'Where can we eat in Ealing after the show?'

'Well, there's the... er.... um.... I don't really know'.

Anyone who has had anything like the above exchange after a Questors production will agree that the choice is pretty limited. Up to now, at any rate.

For a long time now we have felt that people would welcome a chance to get a good, cheap, interesting meal after the show, particularly at weekends.

Now we have the Foyer and its facilities we are able to provide our own 'Bistro'. We have some very good cooks among our members!

The idea has been enthusiastically received at Mattock Lane and already rumours about voluptuous serving wenches and galloping gourmets are rife.

Continued

special attraction

JUDI DENCH

and

MICHAEL WILLIAMS

in

MAN-TRAP

A lighthearted look at the war between man and woman through the ages.

TICKETS, Members & Guests: 75p and 50p

See insert for further information and booking form.

6th August at 7.45 p.m.

Don't forget

ACTIVE MEMBERS MEETING

Sunday, 9th July
at 7.45 p.m.

in the SHAW ROOM

Continued from Page 3

As a trial, the Bistro will be run on the last two nights of the Student Group Production (21 & 22 July).

If it is a success it will become a regular feast. As for what you will get—soup starts, followed by goulash or chicken supreme, and then pud. Regrettably wine is not included in the price of 50p but you are free to order drinks of your choice from the new foyer bar, which means that non-members of the Grapevine will be able to enjoy a drink with their meal.

The Bistro is open in the foyer from 10.30 p.m. until midnight.

FESTIVALS OF LONDON
1972

EXHIBITION

of works by

Ealing Artists

C. BROWNING
M. BYWATER
J. HODGES
H. KARSKA
M. COCKBURN
B. TATE
J. TATE
T. W. WARD
L. WOOLLASTON

in the Foyer

JULY 15—22

• DANCE • DANCE • DANCE •

JULY 29th
8 P.M. TO MIDNIGHT

'Fairly Formal'

A SUMMER DANCE

Dress up and dance to

JOHN ROLFE & HIS MUSIC

Buffet ~ Cabaret ~ Black tie

TICKETS £1.50 — *Booking form enclosed*

• DANCE • DANCE • DANCE •

Diary . . .

Saturday, July 1st at 2.30 p.m. to
Sunday, July 2nd at 4.30 p.m.

Conference of
THE LITTLE THEATRE GUILD
OF GREAT BRITAIN
at The Questors.

July 5th in the Stanislavsky Room
at 7.45 p.m.

STUDENTS AT WORK
Members and Guests 20p

July 9th Noon to 3 p.m. in the
Courtyard

FLEA MARKET

July 9th in the Shaw Room at
7.45 p.m.

ACTIVE MEMBERS MEETING

July 12th in the Shaw Room at
7.45 p.m.

NEW MEMBERS MEETING

July 14th in the Stanislavsky Room
at 8.00 p.m.

JUNIOR DRAMA WORKSHOP
EVENING

Members and Guests 15p

July 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22 at 7.45p.m.
The Questors Student Group
presents

THE HOUSE OF BERNARDA
ALBA

by F. Lorca
with

A RESOUNDING TINKLE

by N. F. Simpson

Members free. Guests 35p

July 23rd in the Stanislavsky Room
at 7.45 p.m.

PRODUCERS' SHOP WINDOW

Tickets 20p available on the
evening of the performance

July 29th— 8 p.m. to Midnight
FAIRLY FORMAL

(see this page)

August 6th at 7.45 p.m.
SPECIAL ATTRACTION

JUDI DENCH and
MICHAEL WILLIAMS in

MAN-TRAP

Tickets—Members & Guests—
75p & 50p

NEXT SEASON—
FIRST PRODUCTION

September 9,10,12,13,15,16

A DAY IN THE DEATH
OF JOE EGG

by Peter Nichols

Booking opens early August