



THE PROVOK'D WIFE
Sir John Vanbrugh



THE QUESTORS THEATRE COMPANY

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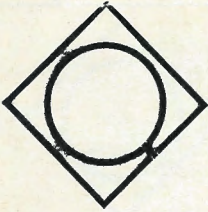
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NEW PLAYS FESTIVAL

June/July 1972

June 10, 11, 16, 17 at 7.45 p.m. in the Theatre

CANDLELIGHT AND BABYLON

by Don Roberts

June 23, 24, 28, 29, July 1 at 7.45 p.m.

in the Theatre

TIME, LIFE, SEX AND YOU KNOW WHAT

by James Hepburn and

THE TIME-KEEPER by Tony Gariff

Members free seats available. Guests 50p & 35p

June 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, 30 at 7.45 p.m.

in the Stanislavsky Room

HANS KOHLHAAS by James Saunders

Members free seats available. Guests 35p.

Guests' Season Tickets (i.e. all three productions) 110p & 85p

July 15th, 16th, 18th, 19th, 21st & 22nd at 7.45 p.m.

STUDENT PRODUCTION

THE HOUSE OF BERNARDA ALBA

by F. Lorca

and

A RESOUNDING TINKLE

by N. F. Simpson

Members free seats available. Guests 35p.

For The Questors Theatre :

Administrator	Gordon Caleb
House Manager	Denys Nelson
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Stage Director	Tom Pritchard

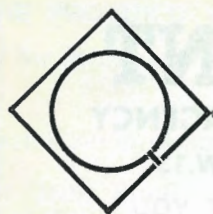
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THE QUESTORS THEATRE

FIRST PERFORMANCE

Saturday, 6th May, 1972

This production owes its inspiration to Peter Brook's exhilarating experiment with "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre several years ago.

In that memorable production, Shakespeare's well-known play was stripped of all its usual lush trappings and set in a totally foreign milieu. Yet the effect of this, on me at any rate, was that I felt I had really **heard** the text for the first time. It was as if the unfamiliar circumstances in which they were required to speak Shakespeare's lines had forced actors into using their imaginations to a degree that illumined the text in the most vivid and dramatic way. It is in a spirit of homage, therefore, that I sought to apply the same basic principle to "The Provok'd Wife".

Reading the play, one is immediately struck by the echoes and overtones from other plays and other periods—in particular the present day. Was Vanbrugh consciously or unconsciously modelling Heart-free and Bellinda on Beatrice and Benedick? The resemblance, however slight, is there. And surely Lady Brute and Sir John provided George Farquhar with his models for Mrs. Sullen and her husband in "The Beaux Stratagem".

Exploring the fabric further once comes upon threads which seem familiar for another reason. Here is the permissive society, there the decline in churchgoing and religion generally: even a gleam or two of Women's Lib. is to be detected. All tenuous enough, it must be admitted, but sufficiently intriguing to encourage me to strip the play down to the bare text. To place it in a vacuum, as it were, through which to examine it freshly and in isolation from all its natural associations.

What seems to have happened is that a period play with modern overtones has emerged as a modern play with period undertones. There is no particular locale other than where the text informs us on the subject; there is no attempt at updating the script (except than the elimination of a reference to the King of France). All the characters have valid relationships with each other which make interesting scrutiny. It is on these relationships that the emphasis is placed, everything else is secondary.

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THE PROVOK'D WIFE

by Sir John Vanbrugh

Cast in order of appearance

Sir John Brute BRIAN LOONEY
Lady Brute JUDITH WARBURTON
Bellinda, Sir John's Niece BOYD TAYLOR
Lady Fancyfull KAY ELDRIDGE
Mademoiselle, her companion LYN LANGRIDGE
Heartfree IAN CLARKE
Constant TOM BALLANTYNE
Lord Rake DONALD MACKAY
Colonel Bully PAUL LEWIS
Constable BILL WALL
Justice PHILIP WRIGHT
Razor, Sir John's valet JOHN WHIBLEY
Other parts played by CAROLYN HAYFIELD
ELIZABETH HARDAKER
DAVID MORRIS

There will be an interval of 15 minutes (A warning bell will be rung 3 minutes before the play recommences).

Directed by BARBARA HUTCHINS and ROBERTA HORNSTEIN

The Scene changes devised by SPENCER BUTLER

And executed by VAL CAREN, TONY HILL, JOHN SLAVIN

Costumes designed by SPENCER BUTLER

Sound track devised by ANNE COLLIS

Assisted by GORDON CALEB, LYN LANGRIDGE
and JOHN WHIBLEY

Songs composed by ANNE COLLIS

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EXHIBITION

During the run of THE PROVOK'D WIFE there will be an exhibition in the Foyer by a group of Ealing Artists organised by the Festival Committee of the Ealing Arts Council, as part of the Festivals of London, 1972.

Sandwiches and coffee are available in the Foyer before performances and refreshments including ice cream will be served during the intervals.

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

A discussion is held after each production by The Questors to which all members of the audience are invited. The discussion on THE PROVOK'D WIFE will be held on Monday 15th May, in the Shaw Room.

**LONDON
THEATRE
GUIDE**

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