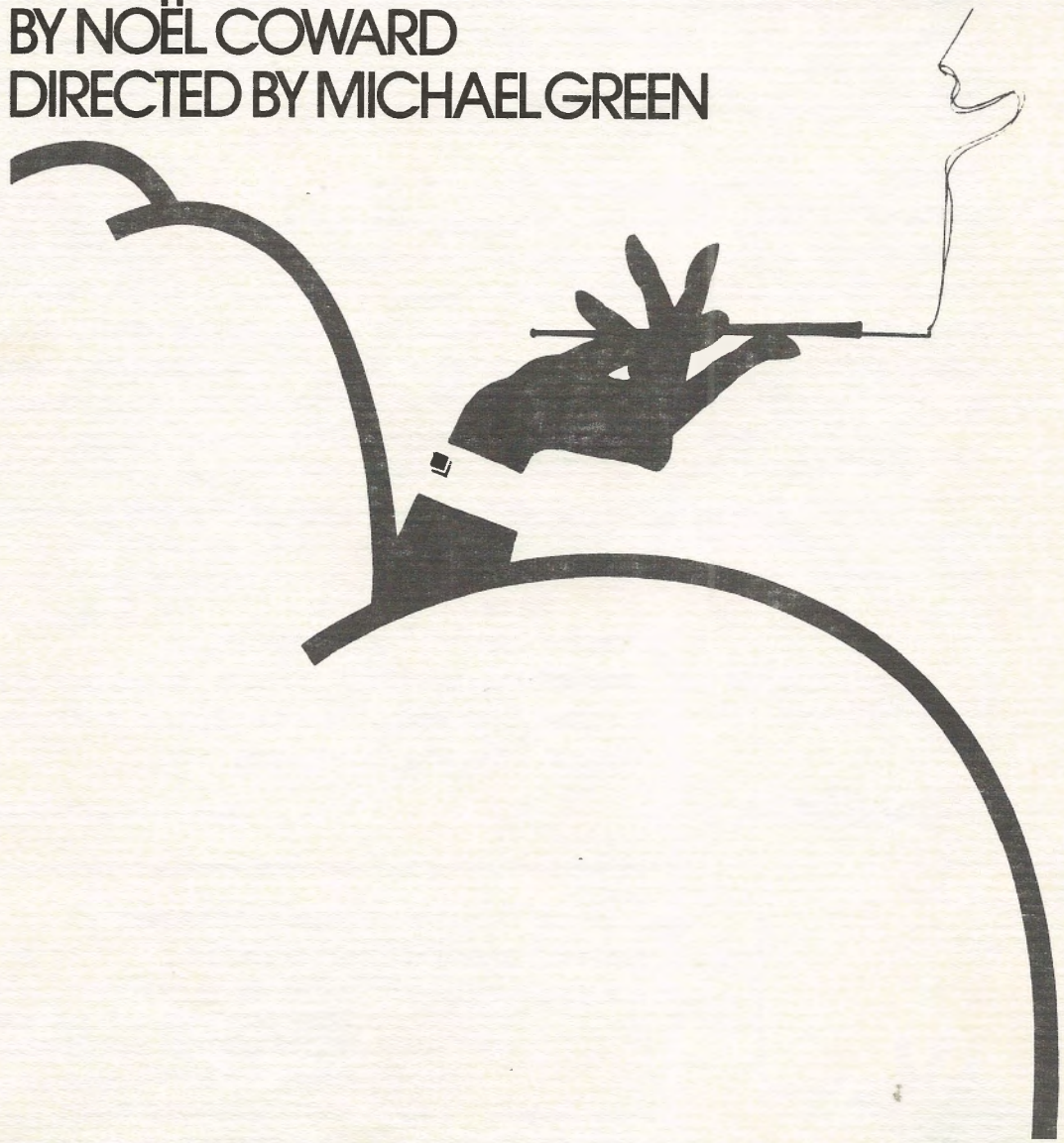


Oct
75

PRESENT LAUGHTER

BY NOËL COWARD
DIRECTED BY MICHAEL GREEN



 THE QUESTORS THEATRE CO.

PRESENT

CAST in order of appearance —

Daphne Stillington	GLYNIS CARTER
Miss Erikson	CARLA FIELD
Fred	JOHN FRANCIS
Monica Reed	SYLVIA ESTOP
Garry Essendine	DAVID GOWER
Liz Essendine	JILLYANN HEALY
Roland Maule	PETER FANNING
Henry Lyppiatt	EDWARD PITT
Morris Dixon	JOHN WILBOURN
Joanna Lyppiatt	ROBERTA BUTLER
Lady Saltburn	DORINNE INGRAM

The action of the play takes place in Garry Essendine's studio in London.

TIME — 1939

Scene 1 — Morning

Scene 2 — Evening. Three days later

INTERVAL OF 15 MINUTES

Scene 3 — The next morning

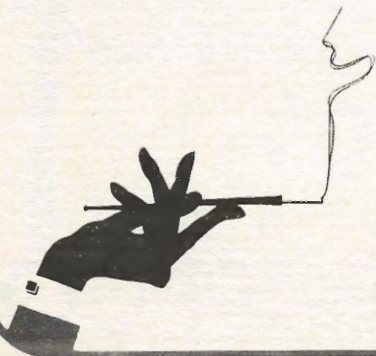
Scene 4 — Evening. A week later

Directed by MICHAEL GREEN

Designed by BETH CROWLEY

<i>Stage Manager</i> ...	CRUSTY BREADMORE
<i>Deputy Stage Manager</i> ...	NORAH WADE
<i>Assistant Stage Managers</i>	BRONWYN BECKFORD ROGER HARRIS · TIM HAYWARD GEOFF MOORE · JAN MORGAN SUSAN SHEAHAN
<i>Lighting Designer</i> ...	RICHARD BROADHURST
<i>Assisted by</i> ...	MALLE BUTLER & JULIAN HOOPER

Portrait of Garry Essendine by ADRIENNE TALBOT.



LAUGHTER

NOËL COWARD

PRESENT LAUGHTER was written by Noel Coward *for* himself and largely *about* himself, which probably accounts for its success. No one could mistake the central character of the harassed famous actor Garry Essendine, for anyone other than Coward, himself the centre of a brilliant theatrical circle with a fringe of hangers-on.

Because Coward poured so much of himself into the play we are fortunate that it was written at the height of his powers in 1943. Had it been written ten years later it might have lacked something, for Coward never completely came to terms with the post-war world. His hero, Garry Essendine, found even the 'wireless' vulgar. No wonder his creator did not entirely fit in with a world dominated increasingly by the television and cheap music. The play was written in the middle of the war in 1943, but obviously harks back to the halcyon days before the war when famous actors such as Coward and Ivor Novello made the Ivy Restaurant the headquarters of a gay, sparkling theatrical set. One feels Coward is putting into *Present Laughter* all his reaction to the dreariness of war. The result is witty, frothy, and immensely theatrical, for this is essentially a play about the Theatre in which Coward achieves the almost impossible feat of making his characters both realistic and larger-than-life at the same time.

The first performance was at the Haymarket Theatre, in 1947, but I have set this production in 1939, surely the year Coward was looking back to when he wrote it.

MICHAEL GREEN

Sound	...	JOHN STOTHART
Costumes	...	MARY COMMON
Wardrobe	...	LINDSAY UDELL
Properties	...	MOREEN PRITCHARD KATH HARRINGTON
Production Assistant	...	RITA FENOUGHTY
Construction	...	RICHARD LEWIS
Assisted by	...	JOHN HAZEL & DAVID GILBERT

Abstracts by THERESA BELL.



EXHIBITION: During the run of *Present Laughter* there will be an exhibition in the Foyer of paintings by Wyn Allen.

REFRESHMENTS: Sandwiches and coffee are available in the Foyer before performances, and refreshments will be served during the interval.

FOYER BAR: The Foyer Bar is open on performance evenings from 7.00 p.m. to 7.45 p.m. and during the interval. It operates on a theatre licence and anyone attending a performance may use it, including guests. No bar membership is involved. Interval drinks may be ordered at the bar before the performance commences. The Grapevine Club continues as a private bar.

DISCUSSION: A discussion is held after each production by The Questors to which all members are invited. The discussion on *Present Laughter* will be held after the performance on Saturday October 11th, in the Foyer.

PLEASE DO NOT SMOKE IN THE AUDITORIUM.

PLEASE DO NOT TAKE DRINKS INTO THE AUDITORIUM.

The Questors is a Club Theatre

Only members may book tickets, and membership cards **MUST** be produced at the box-office. Full details on membership are available from the Administrator, on request.

For The Questors Theatre:

ARTISTIC DIRECTORATE

Director of Productions...	...	...	...	...	...	...	NEVILLE CRUTTENDEN
Head of Design	...	...	...	...	...	...	BRIAN RICH
Plays Adviser	...	...	...	...	...	...	DAVID GOWER
Studio Theatre Director	...	...	...	...	...	...	SPENCER BUTLER
Productions Manager	...	...	...	...	...	...	ROBERT PORTEOUS
Stage Director	...	...	...	...	...	...	ADRIENNE TALBOT

ADMINISTRATION

Administrator	...	...	...	...	...	...	GORDON CALEB
House Manager	...	...	...	...	...	...	STAN EAMER
Box Office Manager	...	...	...	...	...	...	WIN WRIGHT

The Questors wish to thank OXLEY DEVELOPMENTS for their generous help with the new Stage Lighting System.

Next Production

November 1-15

CORIOLANUS

by William Shakespeare

Members : FREE

Guests : 50p & 80p

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