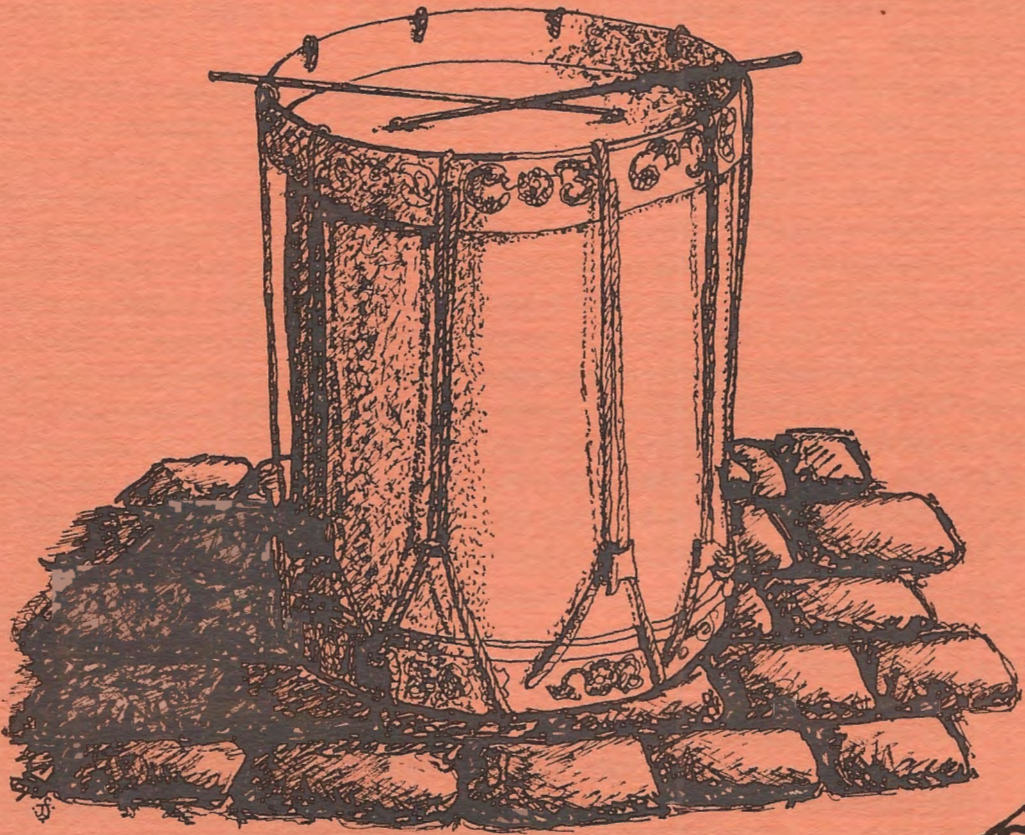


Farquhar.

# THE RECRUITING OFFICER.



*The Questors Theatre Company.*





# THE RECRUIT

by George

*First Performance:* SATURDAY, 10th MAY, 1975

George Farquhar's play was first performed at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane on 8th April 1706. It is a play that marks a movement away from the crueller, heartless world of true Restoration comedy for there is a mellower, more tolerant attitude throughout it. The characters care for each other. Sylvia and her father enjoying a friendship based on mutual trust, her provision for Plume's bastard, Bullock's concern for his sister, Plume and Ballance's respect for each other, are all examples of a kinder feeling pervading the atmosphere.

Basing his play on his own experiences recruiting in Shrewsbury in Autumn 1704 Farquhar was able to move his action into the country. His portraits from real life of all levels of country society are sympathetically drawn and allow us to see the impact of the eruption of the military into the rural setting. The methods used to recruit at that time were, to say the least, dubious and the play shows us some of this. However, Farquhar does not press the moral issue being more concerned to amuse the audience. Nevertheless we cannot entirely avoid the sharp questions that some of the situations present. It is apposite to note that Brecht adapted the play as 'Pauken und Trumpeten' and set it in the War of American Independence as a means of showing his own indignation at class exploitation. In the successful National Theatre production of 1963 William Gaskill did more than touch his cap in the direction of Brecht and certainly there is a temptation to stress a class theme in the way the play is directed. I hope that this production has resisted that temptation and presented as balanced and truthful a picture as Farquhar tried to do of his 'friends around the Wrekin' without adopting a moral posture.

The production has drawn upon tradition by inserting songs into the text—a device which Farquhar encouraged for he wrote two himself and there are records of extra songs being used in a performance as early as 1710.

*Stage Manager*—JULIAN PORTMAN

*Deputy Stage Manager*—SUE TILSEY

*Assistant Stage Managers*—THERESA BELL, CAROLYN BROOKE, LESLEY CUTCLIFFEE, ROD DORGAN, PETER GRIFFITHS, TINA HARRIS, MARGARET HOOPER, DENIS HOWELL, JAN MORGAN, FRANCES O'NEIL, JIM PENALIGGON

*Properties*—DIANA WARNER

*Assisted by*—EVELYN GONTY

Costumes made in The Questors Wardrobe  
Uniforms by STEPHEN KEITH

Assistant to the Director—R



# ING OFFICER.

Farquhar

## *Cast in order of appearance*

Sergeant Kite ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	MICHAEL GREEN
Appletree ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	ROGER DE TONEY
Pearmain ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	MIKE MORIARTY
Captain Plume ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	VINCENT McQUEEN
Worthy ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	MICHAEL LOUGHNAN
Melinda ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	ANNA BROWN
Sylvia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	RUTH LISTER
Lucy... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	JANE DEWEY
Justice Ballance ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	JOHN KEARNS
Rose... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	JUDY STEWARD
Bullock ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	RICHARD LEWIS
Captain Brazen... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	GEOFFREY TODD
Butcher ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	RICHARD HALBERSTADT
Constable ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	TOM PRITCHARD
Poacher ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	ROGER DE TONEY
Poacher's wife ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	LIZ CHISHOLM
Collier ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	PETER MACNAMARA
Collier's wife ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	MARGARET HALBERSTADT
Justice Scruple ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	DAVID LORRAINE
Singer ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	LIZ CHISHOLM

The play is set in Shrewsbury in 1704

*There will be an interval of 15 minutes*

Directed by . . . . . ALAN CHAMBERS  
 Set designed by . . . . . JOHN STACEY  
 Costumes designed by . . . . . MIRANDA MELVILLE

Music and additional lyrics written and  
 adapted by . . . . . ERIC KIRBY  
 Played by . . . . . ZOE DONLON

*Construction*—GARETH REES

*Assisted by*—JOHN HAZEL, ERNIE SIDLEY, PETER WALTON

*Lighting designed by*—IAN HOWLETT, RICHARD JOHNSON

*Assisted by*—JULIAN HOOPER, MARTIN UDALL

*Sound*—FRANK WOOD

*Assisted by*—DAVID DAWSON

the direction of BARBARA HUTCHINS

Wigs by JEAN BAKER

MARY PARRY JONES



**EXHIBITION:** During the run of *The Recruiting Officer* there will be an exhibition in the Foyer of paintings by the Ealing Arts Club.

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**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 *The Recruiting Officer* will be held after the performance on Saturday May 17th, 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.

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**For The Questors Theatre:**

**ARTISTIC DIRECTORATE**

Director of Productions...	...	...	...	...	...	...	NEVILLE CRUTTENDEN
Head of Design	...	...	...	...	...	...	MARY ANDERSON
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

**Next Production**                      **JUNE 20 to JULY 5**                      **NEW PLAYS FESTIVAL**

June 20, 23, 26, 29: July 2, 5 — **THE ISLAND** by James Saunders

June 21, 24, 27, 30: July 3 — **FUNLAND** by Dannie Abse

June 22, 25, 28: July 1, 4 — **CIRCUSES** by James Hepburn

**Members FREE**

**Guests 80p & 50p (Season £1.65 & £1.05)**