

# THE STUDIO

QUESTORS THEATRE MATTOCK LANE LONDON W5 5BQ 01 567 0011

Thursday 15th and Saturday 17th January at 7.45 p.m.

## THE FALL AND CONVERSION OF MARY, NIECE OF ABRAHAM THE HERMIT

by Roswitha

Abraham	...	MICHAEL LOUGHNAN
Ephraim	...	ROGER DE TONEY
Mary	...	VAL FITZPATRICK
Friend	...	CHRISTOPHER H LEE
Host	...	GRAHAM WILLIAMS

Director:	RICHARD HALBERSTADT
Stage Manager:	FRANCES O'NEIL

INTERVAL

## THE WEDDING DAY

by Mrs Elizabeth Inchbald

Lord Rakeland	...	LAWRENCE LANGRIDGE
Mr Contest	...	JULIAN COOKE
Sir Adam Contest	...	REGINALD PURKIS
Lady Contest	...	CHRISTINE GODMAN
Hannah	...	CERI LEWIS
Mr Milden	...	MATTHEW MERCER
Lady Autumn	...	PETRONELLA CARISS
Mrs Hanniford	...	PAULINE COLLINS

ACT I

INTERVAL

ACT II

Director:	SUE SOLOMON
Stage Manager:	JEAN FORD
Dance arranged by:	JULIAN COOKE

Having run away from home at the age of eighteen, within six weeks Mrs Inchbald met and married the actor Joseph Inchbald. Her varied life included several happy weeks eating turnips in a field outside Brighton after a period in France. Her stage triumphs, marred only by a persistent stammer, included Cordelia. THE WEDDING DAY was an "after piece" written as light relief to follow a tragedy.



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Friday 16th and Sunday 18th January at 7.45 p.m.

## THE GAOL GATE

by Lady Gregory

Mary Cahel	...	DOROTHY WOOD
Mary Cushin	...	ROSEMARY PARRY JONES
The Gatekeeper	....	GRAHAM WILLIAMS

Director: TONY HILL  
Stage Manager: JILL HUMPHREY  
Clarinet played by JULIA COOKE

## INTERVAL

## TRIFLES

Susan Glaspell

George Henderson, County Attorney	DAVID FLETCHER
Henry Peters, Sheriff ...	PETER CARISS
Lewis Hale, a neighbouring farmer	TOM JENNINGS
Mrs Peters ...	LYN LANGRIDGE
Mrs Hale ...	FRANCES MARTIN

Director: WENDY NELSON  
Stage Manager: JILL HEAVER  
Assistant Stage Manager: JOHN WEXLER

## INTERVAL

## SILENCE

by Nathalie Sarraute

Translated by Maria Jolas

Cast in order of speaking:

TIM DEHN, RUTH LISTER, HENRY MURRAY, ALISON POLLARD,  
PAUL COLLINS, DOROTHY BARBER, SPENCER BUTLER.

Director: ROBERTA BUTLER  
Stage Manager: SUE KENDRICK



# THE STUDIO

QUESTORS THEATRE MATTOCK LANE LONDON W5 5BQ 01 567 0011

## WOMEN'S WRITES

January 15th and 17th at 7.45 p.m.

"The Fall and Conversion of Mary,  
Niece of Abraham the Hermit"

by Roswitha

"The Wedding Day"

by Mrs. Elizabeth Inchbald

January 16th and 18th at 7.45 p.m.

"The Gaol Gate"

by Lady Gregory

"Trifles"

by Susan Glaspell

"Silence"

by Nathalie Sarraute

Translated by Maria Jolas

Producer: WENDY NELSON

Designer: DAPHNE MARLER-WILBOURN

Stage Director: SUE KENDRICK

Lights: LES SMITH

Sound: IAN HOWLETT

Assisted by: ANN HOWLETT

The programme has been selected with a view towards indicating a variety of work by women of different nationalities and eras. This imposed the limitation of short works, but in spite of their brevity, these plays amply display the wide range of themes and styles which have engaged women playwrights since the Middle Ages.



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ROSWITHA (German, 10th Century). The first woman playwright in history was a Benedictine Abbess in Gandersheim. Although her plays were modelled on the pagan playwright, Seneca, they dealt with Christian themes. Written in Latin, the plays of Roswitha were translated into English in 1923 by Professor Tillyard. Roswitha's play, *RAMNUTIUS*, was produced in London in 1914 by Dame Ellen Terry's daughter, Edith Craig, but *ABRAHAM* is generally considered the author's best drama.

MRS ELIZABETH INCHBALD (1753-1821, English). Actress, playwright, and novelist, she has also been called the first woman critic because she edited and criticised a vast amount of drama by other dramatists. *THE WEDDING DAY* (1794) was first seen at Drury Lane that year, and became immensely popular not only in England but in America. Author of over twenty plays, her best are her full length works, *I'LL TELL YOU WHAT* (1785), *SUCH THINGS ARE* (1788), *ANIMAL MAGNETISM* (1788), and *WIVES AS THEY WERE AND MAIDS AS THEY ARE* (1797). Her criticisms on the English Theatre run to over 37 volumes.

LADY GREGORY (1852-1932, Irish). With W.B. Yeats, she founded the Abbey Theatre, and collaborated with him on *THE POT OF BROTH* (1902), and *CATHLEEN NI HOULIHAN* (1902), and she said that he taught her her craft. Of her own numerous plays, the best are her one-act comedies of peasant life such as *SPREADING THE NEWS* (1904), *HYACINTH HALVEY* (1906), *THE RISING OF THE MOON* (1908), and *THE GAOL GATE* (1906), which remains peculiarly relevant today. She also translated and adapted the works of Moliere for the Irish Theatre.

SUSAN GLASPELL (1882-1948, American). Playwright and novelist, she and her husband founded the Provincetown Playhouse in New York which discovered and nurtured Eugene O'Neill. She was the second woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for Drama for her play about Emily Dickinson *ALISON'S HOUSE* (1930), seen in London in 1932. In this play she refined her favourite technique of the absent central character which she initiated with *TRIFLES* (1906). The latter being a classic of the American Drama. She is author of seven one-act plays, including the popular *SUPPRESSED DESIRES* (1914), and four other full length plays including *THE VERGE* (1921), and *INHERITORS* (1921).

NATHALIE SARRAUTE was born in Russia but came to France at the age of two. She was educated in France and England and is licensed to practise law. She is best known as a novelist. Her novel *THE GOLDEN FRUITS* won the International Publishers prize.

MARIA JOLAS has translated many of Nathalie Sarraute's works into English and is a close friend of the author. *SILENCE* was first produced in France in 1967.