

Absurd  
A Person  
Singular

Alan Ayckbourn

October 1977



# The Questors Theatre Company

*First performance Saturday October 1, 1977*

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## **Absurd Person Singular**

by Alan Ayckbourn

### Cast

Jane . . . . .	LIZ CHISHOLM
Sidney . . . . .	KEVIN FELLS
Eva . . . . .	ANNIE KIMBER
Geoff . . . . .	PETER HEALY
Marion . . . . .	JILLYANN HEALY
Ronald . . . . .	MICHAEL HOWARD

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Director – RON BLOOMFIELD

Designer – DAVID WATERHOUSE  
*(assisted by members of the Crew)*

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### ACT I

Sidney and Jane's kitchen. Last Christmas

### ACT II

Geoff and Eva's kitchen. This Christmas

### ACT III

Ronald and Marion's kitchen. Next Christmas

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**THERE WILL BE TWO INTERVALS OF FIFTEEN MINUTES**

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Thanks to Martin Clarke for the cooker  
and to Roger Sturm for his assistance

Stage Manager	.....	JOY CORBETT
Deputy Stage Manager	.....	JIM JEFFERIES
Assistant Stage Managers	.....	GEOFF MOORE
	GEOFFREY BARKER · ANNIE WILLIAMS	
	ALISON LAKE · TINA HARRIS	
Properties	.....	JOAN CURRY
Assisted by	BEVERLEY MANNIN · SASHA MANNIN	
Lighting	.....	ALAN SMITH
Assisted by	.....	PETE WALTERS
Sound	.....	COLIN HORNE
Construction	.....	ANDREW MUIR
Assisted by members of the Crew		
Wardrobe	.....	GRACE LACAILLE
Assisted by	.....	MARY COMMON

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**ALAN AYCKBOURN** was born in London in 1939 and was educated at Haileybury and Imperial Service College. He worked as Stage Manager for Sir Donald Wolfit's company at Edinburgh, Worthing, Leatherhead and Oxford. Acting jobs followed and he was a founding member of the Victoria Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent.

Between 1965 and 1969 he produced radio drama from the BBC Leeds Studios and since 1969 he has been Director of Productions at the Library Theatre, Scarborough.

The majority of his plays have first been produced at Scarborough — *Absurd Person Singular* in 1972.

Other well-known successes include

*Relatively Speaking* (1968)

*How The Other Half Loves* (1969) and

*Time And Time Again* (1973)

A comedy series shortly to be seen on television is based on his *The Norman Conquests* which recently enjoyed a West End run.

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**RON BLOOMFIELD** (Director) has been a member for five years and was previously with the Ariel Theatre Group. He went to Cambridge University where he formed the Dryden Society. Until 1967 he was a hospital doctor doing mainly psychiatric work and is now a BBC TV producer of adult education programmes. His previous productions include *Occupations* by Trevor Griffiths and Anouih's *The Lark*, which was performed at Minack in 1976.

**LIZ CHISHOLM** (Jane) is a final year student teacher who is married to a Questors actor and has a non-acting cat for a pet. With The Questors for 7 years, she has been seen in *Dracula* (maid), *The Recruiting Officer* (singer) and *Circuses* among others. Her last acting role was the counsellor in Bond's *Lear* and she recently went to the U.S. with *What The Butler Saw* as a member of the stage staff.

**KEVIN FELLS** (Sidney) was previously with Tithefarm Players in Harrow and during his 10 years with us has been seen in such varied shows as *The Last Analysis* (Sigmund Freud), *Black Comedy* (colonel) and the WORLD COARSE ACTING CHAMPIONSHIPS. He worked with QUESTABOUT for some 3 years and was also a noted cook for after-show Bistros. His interests include languages, travel and circus—on which he has written a book.

**JILLYANN HEALY** (Marion) joined The Questors ten years ago and numbers among her roles Yvette in *Mother Courage*, Ann Whitehead in *Man And Superman* and Celia in *As You Like It*. She also appeared in *What The Butler Saw*, both here and in America. No relation of Peter Healy, she is married to a schoolmaster and has one son and one daughter. When not appearing on stage, Jillyann is a Senior Lecturer in Education.

**PETER HEALY** (Geoff) is yet another member of the *What The Butler Saw* company and gave his greatest performance some years ago as Sleepy in a school production of *Snow White*. Since then he has displayed rather more subtle talents in such plays as *Macbeth*, *Don Juan* and *Waiting For Godot*. A globetrotter in the course of his work for the Hyster Corporation of America, Peter is a keen rugby fan.

**MICHAEL HOWARD** (Ronald) is making his début appearance. He was previously with the Cotswold Players, who perform in a converted church at Stroud, Glos. He last played Lord Lister in *The Chiltern Hundreds*, was John Proctor in *The Crucible* and Frank Gibbons in *This Happy Breed*. An ex-naval officer, he used to enjoy sailing but now finds relaxation as a 'talking book' voice for the RNIB. A solicitor at New Scotland Yard, he is married with 2 girls and 2 boys – the elder of whom is to play Lorenzo in *The Merchant of Venice*.

**ANNIE KIMBER** (Eva) holds a degree in drama from Bristol Old Vic Theatre School and has previously worked at the Tower Theatre in Islington, where she directed Max Frisch's *Fire Raisers* and Albee's *Zoo Story*. At The Questors she played Katerina in *Love's Labours Lost*. The proud owner of two cats – 'Perkin Warbeck' and 'Torters Rider', Annie is a lecturer at the International Language Centre.

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'Mr. Ayckbourn is an unusual figure amongst modern British dramatists in that his sole aim is to make us laugh. His plays contain no messages, offer no profound vision of the universe, tell us nothing of our lives.

Instead, they are (for the most part) extremely ingenious farces based on a dazzling theatrical legerdemain.

Such plays are often under-rated in their time; but they have a habit of getting a posthumous revenge by outlasting more serious contemporary work.

Despite Mr. Ayckbourn's plays depending heavily on their Chinese-box ingenuity, they are also rooted in a fairly precise observation of the English class structure.

He displays a *forte* for sustaining ingenious situations, providing amazing comic set-pieces and pin-pointing characters through their life-style – in short a resolve to make us laugh till it genuinely hurts.'

*Extracted from an appreciation of Alan Ayckbourn by Michael Billington in 'Contemporary Dramatists' (1973).*

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## NEXT PRODUCTION

### THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

by William Shakespeare

October 29,30,31 November 2,4,5,8,11 & 12

Special schools performance: November 1,3,7,9 & 10  
all at 7.45 p.m.

Members and guests: £1.25, £1.00 & 75p

Schools performances: 55p

The first performance at The Questors for twenty-five years, it will be played uncut.

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## COMING SOON

HOME by David Storey

November 26

CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION.....

TOAD OF TOAD HALL

December 31

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## IN THE STANISLAVSKY ROOM:

October 19 to 23 at 7.45 p.m.

### INTO ANOTHER DIMENSION

Another dimension of theatre incorporating movement, sound and light.

October 21 at 11 p.m.

### MACBETH IN DIMENSION

Both FREE to Members and Guests

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## EXHIBITION

During the run of *Absurd Person Singular* there will be an exhibition in the Foyer of the work of JEANNE WALPOLE.

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