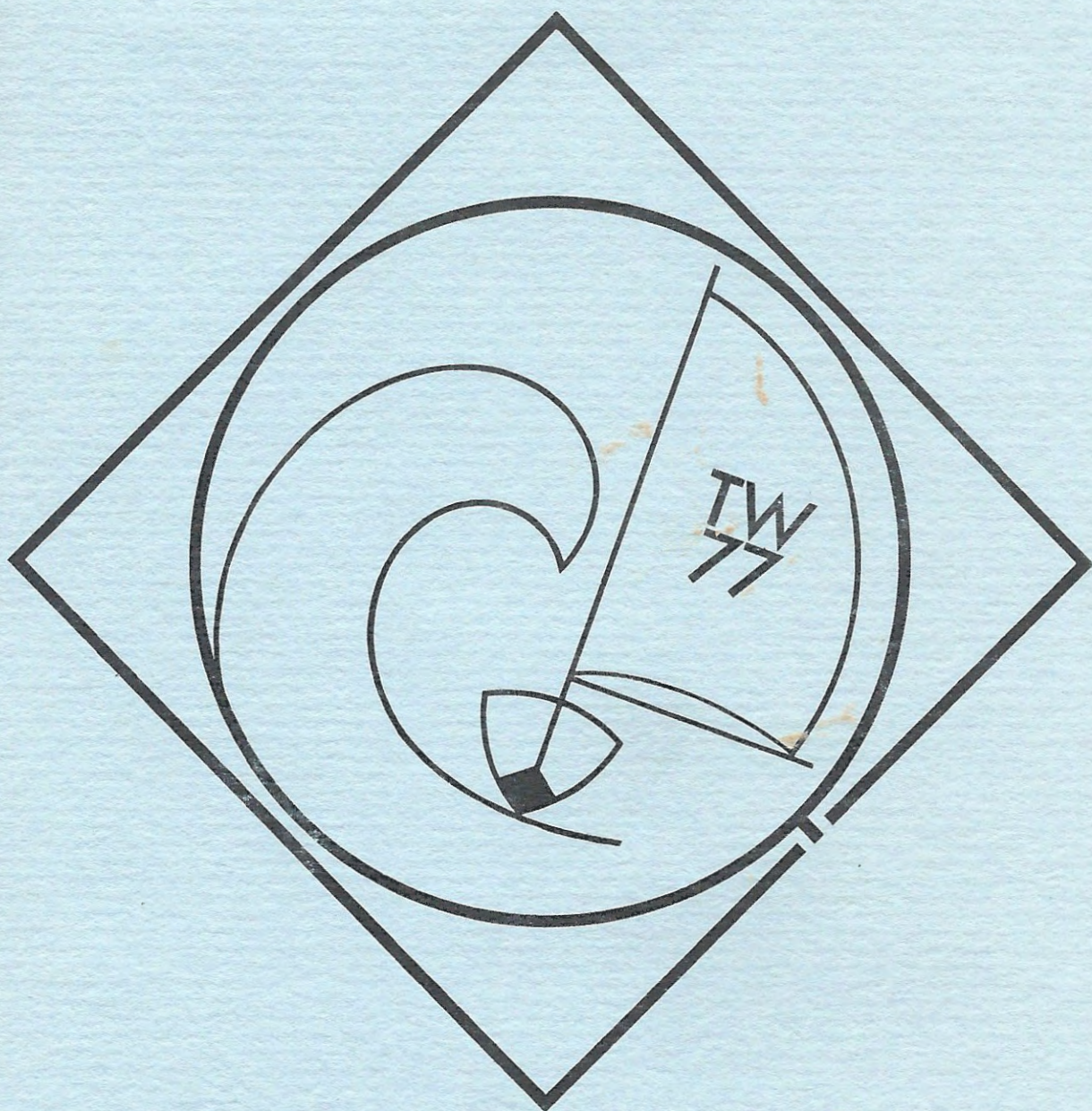


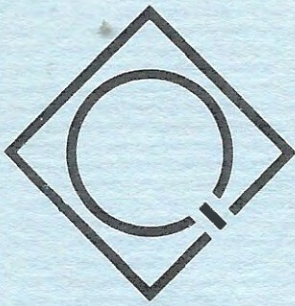
Sept 1977



SMALL CRAFT WARNINGS

by **TENNESSEE WILLIAMS**

 **THE QUESTORS THEATRE COMPANY**



The Questors Theatre Company

First Performance Saturday 10th September 1977

SMALL CRAFT WARNINGS

by Tennessee Williams

CAST

in order of appearance

Monk	—	JOHN ROBB
Violet	—	DOROTHY BOYD TAYLOR
Doc	—	WILFRID SHARP
Bill McCorkle	—	JOHN KEARNS
Leona Dawson	—	CAROLINE McDONOUGH
Steve	—	TOM JENNINGS
Quentin	—	NORMAN WILKINSON
Bobby	—	GRAHAM WILLIAMS
Tony, the Cop	—	TONY WILD

Director — Ed Pitt

Set Design: John Bush

Lighting Design: Les Smith

Act 1

A bar along the Southern California Coast

Act 2

An hour or two later

THERE WILL BE AN INTERVAL OF 15 MINUTES

<i>Stage Manager</i>	MICHAEL OWENS
<i>Deputy Stage Manager</i>	LESLEY MONTGOMERY
<i>Assistant Stage Managers</i>	ANNA PRZYLECKA ANN SHERIDAN FRANCESCA VANELLI
<i>Lighting Assistants</i>	PHILIPPA FORSTER RICHARD TURNER
<i>Sound</i>	BRIAN McLOUGHLIN
<i>Sound Assistant</i>	ANN WILLIAMS
<i>Costumes</i>	LINDSAY UDELL
<i>Props</i>	JOAN CURRY IRIS PHELPS

".....The point is that I already knew that writing was my life, and its failure would be my death....."

"Work!!— the loveliest of all four-letter words, surpassing even the importance of love, most times."

".....loneliness that follows me like a shadow, a very ponderous shadow too heavy to drag after me all of my days and nights."

".....I talk very honestly about my goal in writing, what I want to do, that goal is just somehow to capture the constantly evanescent quality of existence....."

"I could, at this point, assume some sort of heroic posture but it would only be for self-satisfaction of a kind I despise, attributable to self-pity, a quality I find particularly abhorrent. My attitude toward myself has never been one of pity, thank God. I've got, to quote Leona Dawson in *Small Craft Warnings*, this terrible pride in my nature: if a person, whether a lovesick beautician like Leona or not, has pride in his nature, he is not about to indulge in the demeaning exercise of self-pity."

Tennessee Williams: Memoirs

Small Craft Warnings was written by Tennessee Williams immediately following the period in his life which he describes in his memoirs as his Deathtime, a period during which excessive use of drugs and alcohol almost overwhelmed him.

The play concerns the bleak world of Williams' experience during this period and is about human failure, loneliness, violence, homosexuality, priopism and the menace posed by advancing age. It is also about compassion and the need for communication and understanding between people of differing inclinations and desires, and the resulting frustration and despair that follows when this need is neither understood nor recognised. The play contains many of what Williams refers to as his 'one liners'. These are often witty but are skilfully used to 'highlight' the frustration and despair of his characters; for in spite of Williams' condition at the time of writing the play, his sense of humour never failed him.

Williams has often been criticized for his over-stimulated writing, but however sensational or violent, his work remains keenly observed, poetic, sensitive and truthful.

Is this Williams' finest play? Perhaps not — you will judge for yourself this evening. However, it is the play through which Williams re-emerged as a working playwright and with which he regained his sanity.

ED PITT

THOMAS LANIER (Tennessee) WILLIAMS was born on March 26, 1911 in Columbus, Mississippi to a travelling shoe salesman father and a mother who was the daughter of an Episcopalian clergyman. He earned his first fee for writing in reply to the question 'Can a good wife be a good sport?'

In 1929 he entered the University of Missouri where he won prizes for writing but was removed by his father in 1932 to supplement the family income by working as a warehouseman. For two years he worked by day and wrote by night until this resulted in a nervous collapse and a period in hospital. Whilst recuperating at his grandparents' home in Memphis he wrote his first play: *Cairo! Shanghai! Bombay!*

His university classmates gave him the nickname of 'Tennessee' because of the accent he picked up at his grandparents' home and in 1939 the first work was published under this name.

Four one-act plays under the title *American Blues* in 1939 won him a \$100 prize in a play contest and aroused the interest of a New York agent, Audrey Wood. She asked to represent him and helped to get him a Rockefeller grant of \$1000 for playwrighting, enabling him to complete *Battle of Angels* which re-emerged on Broadway sixteen years later as *Orpheus Descending*.

During World War II Williams worked for Metro-Goldwyn Mayer as a writer, but was unhappy with his assignments. The motion-picture executives rejected an original film script of his which he converted in 1944 into *The Glass Menagerie*. This play marked William's first major success and established him as an important American dramatist.

A Streetcar Named Desire (1947), *The Rose Tattoo* (1951), *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (1955) and *Sweet Bird of Youth* (1955) all consolidated his status and earned him many awards including three New York Drama Critics Circle Awards and two Pulitzer Prizes. The most recent production of a Williams play in the West End was at the Phoenix Theatre where *The Red Devil Battery Sign* starred Keith Baxter and Estelle Kohler.

NEXT PRODUCTION

ABSURD PERSON SINGULAR

by Alan Ayckbourn

Wild comedy — pathos — black comedy — hysteria. These are the ingredients of this piece directed by Ron Bloomfield which should result in a most enjoyable evening. Alan Ayckbourn has again delivered the goods which we have come to expect from him after *Relatively Speaking* and *Time and Time Again*.

October 1-8 at 7.45 p.m.

Members FREE Guests: £1.25, £1.00 and 75p

COMING SOON

October 29

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE by William Shakespeare

November 26

HOME by David Storey

December 31 — *Christmas Production*

TOAD OF TOAD HALL

IN THE STUDIO: **Saturday 17 September**

On the last night of *Small Craft Warnings* at 11p.m. in the Stanislavsky Room an original late-night show.....

SCUM ON THE MILKSHAKE

A comedy on black ice

FREE to Members and Guests

EXHIBITION

During the run of *Small Craft Warnings* there will be an exhibition in the Foyer of the work of SHIRA GORDON.
