



THE  
QUESTORS  
THEATRE  
COMPANY  
PRESENTS  
ANTONY  
AND  
CLEOPATRA  
BY  
WILLIAM  
SHAKESPEARE

o ANTO



## THE QUESTORS THEATRE COMPANY

First performance 4th November 1978

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At the time of Julius Caesar the Roman Empire spanned virtually the whole of the then known world. Caesar himself, after the defeat of his biggest rival Pompey the Great, was made absolute and perpetual dictator of Rome, in effect Master of the World.

In 44 B.C. he was murdered at the foot of Pompey's statue by a group of conspirators led by Brutus and Cassius. The people of Rome, fired by the oratory of the popular Mark Antony, drove the murderers from the city. Caesar's dictatorship was replaced by the Triumvirate, a three-man committee consisting of Octavius Caesar, the dead man's great nephew and adopted son and heir (who was destined to become the great Augustus Caesar), Lepidus, a wealthy patrician, and Mark Antony, reputedly the greatest soldier in Rome.

At the battle of Philippi, Antony and Octavius Caesar crushed the army of Brutus and Cassius, neither of whom survived.

Thereafter the Triumvirate divided the Empire into three parts. Octavius ruled the West, including Italy; Antony, the East; Lepidus, Africa.

While Antony was on a campaign in Parthia, he summoned before him Cleopatra, Tributary Queen of Egypt, having some reason to believe that she had tacitly supported the murder of Caesar. Cleopatra, who had become Caesar's mistress after his conquest of Egypt and who was the mother of his son Caesarion, came to meet Antony to refute the charge. The two met by barge on the River Cydnus and instantly fell passionately in love. Antony went to Egypt with Cleopatra, leaving his wife Fulvia deserted in Rome.

He lived openly in great splendour with the Queen, by whom he had several children, ignoring all messages from his wife and his two partners in the Triumvirate to return to Rome.

As Shakespeare's play begins, both Fulvia and Lucius, Antony's brother, have made war against Octavius Caesar, serious trouble is brewing in Asia, and, most dangerous of all, Sextus Pompeius, the banished son of Pompey the Great, is fomenting political trouble and threatening the whole structure of the Empire. Fresh and urgent messages arrive from Rome.

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# ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

## CAST

Cleopatra, Queen of Egypt	.....	Ffrangcon Whelan	
Antony	.....	David Pearson	
Octavius Cæsar	} Triumvirs	Norman Wilkinson	
Lepidus		.....	Wilfrid Sharp
Sextus Pompeius, Son of Pompey the Great		.....	Nevile Cruttenden
Domitius Enobarbus	} Friends to Antony and officers in his army	John Hines	
Eros		.....	Ian Pinkerton
Scarus		.....	Peter Cariss
Canidius		.....	Tom Pritchard
Philo		.....	David Gower
Dercetus		.....	Peter MacNamara
Octavia, Sister to Cæsar	.....	Cilla Bazley	
Agrippa	} Friends to Cæsar and officers in his army	Robin Duval	
Maecenas		.....	Robin Ingram
Dolabella		.....	David Fletcher
Thidias		.....	Roger Douglas
Proculeius		.....	Anthony Barber
Taurus		.....	Richard Johnson
Charmian	} Attendants on Cleopatra	Christine Curran	
Iras		.....	Frances Donaghy
Alexas		.....	Lennox Thomas
Mardian		.....	Ned Gethings
Diomedes		.....	Richard Lewis
Seleucus		.....	Derek Chandler
Menas	} Followers of Sextus Pompeius	Peter MacNamara	
Varrius		.....	Bill Wall
A Soldier, veteran of many of Antony's campaigns	.....	Derek Chandler	
A Clown	.....	Wilfrid Sharp	
A Soothsayer	.....	Derek Chandler	
A Schoolmaster	.....	Bill Wall	
A Centurion	.....	Leigh Scheindlinger	
Attendants, messengers, soldiers	.....	Patrice Bacon,	
		Lance Devereux, Richard Johnson, Pat Larkin, Tony Plumridge, Leigh Scheindlinger, Peter Stanford, Bill Wall.	

Directed by Barbara Hutchins

Sets designed by Nigel Cowell

Costumes designed by Nigel Cowell and Lindsay Udell

Sound score compiled by Don Kincaid

The action takes place in Egypt, Italy and Greece.

THE PLAY WILL BE PRESENTED IN TWO PARTS  
WITH ONE INTERVAL OF FIFTEEN MINUTES

# ATRA ○

Stage Manager	.....	Joy Corbett
Deputy Stage Managers	.....	Carina Choy Warry Geoff Moore
Assistant Stage Managers		Sarah Baker, Sue Baker, Alexandra Bridcut, Sarah Diez de Artazcoz, Philippa Forster, Kevin Gill, Tim Hayward, Robin Heaver, Bob Porteous.
Construction	.....	Mike Garcia
assisted by	.....	members of the Stage Crew
Lighting	.....	Les Smith
assisted by	.....	Neil Williams Francis Stevenson
Sound	.....	Alan B. Smith
assisted by	.....	Malcolm Robertson
Properties	.....	Joan Curry Robert Ricket
Costumes made by	.....	Hilary Evans Edith Ricket Denise Gregory Vivienne Bones and members of The Questors Wardrobe Department.

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## *IS THERE NOTHING MORE TO BE SAID?*

Of course not! There is **always** something more to be said about Shakespeare's great plays. People have been saying it for centuries!

On **TUESDAY 21st NOVEMBER**

at 7.45 p.m.

**IN THE BERNARD SHAW ROOM**

there will be an opportunity to say more and hear more.

### **JOHN ALLEN**

will talk about his views of the play and of this production of it, and will lead a discussion in which all are invited to join. You must surely have something to say about it too! Or, if not, you will be interested to hear what others have to say.

JOHN ALLEN has had a distinguished and varied career in the theatre. Starting as an actor, he later directed the Glyndebourne Children's Theatre; after a spell in B.B.C. Schools Broadcasting, he became the first H.M. Inspector of Schools with national responsibility for drama. He has just retired as Principal of the Central School of Speech and Drama.

**TUESDAY 21st NOVEMBER**

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From Plutarch's *Parallel Lives of the Greeks and Romans*.

**The Life of Marcus Antonius** in the translation by  
Sir Thomas North.

Antonius..... over-simply trusted his men in all things. For he was a plain man, without subtlety, and therefore over-late found out the foul faults they committed against him..... He had a noble mind, as well to punish offenders as to reward well-doers; and yet he did exceed more in giving, than in punishing..... The last and extremest mischief of all other (to wit, the love of Cleopatra) lighted on him, who did waken and stir up many vices yet hidden in him, and were never seen to any; and if any spark of goodness or hope of rising were left him, Cleopatra quenched it straight and made it worse than before.

Cleopatra..... began to have good hope that she might more easily win Antonius. For Caesar and Pompey knew her when she was but a young thing, and knew not then what the world meant. But now she went to Antonius at the age when a woman's beauty is at the prime, and she also of best judgement.

She took..... her barge in the river of Cydnus, the poop whereof was of gold, the sails of purple, and the oars of silver, which kept stroke in rowing after the sound of the music of flutes, howboys, citherns, viols, and such other instruments as they played on the barge. And now for the person of herself: she was laid under a pavilion of cloth of gold of tissue, apparelled and attired like the goddess Venus commonly drawn in picture; and hard by her, on either hand of her, pretty fair boys apparelled as painters do set forth god Cupid, with little fans in their hands, with the which they fanned wind upon her.

Now Antonius was so ravished with the love of Cleopatra that though his wife Fulvia had great wars and much ado with Caesar for his affairs, and that the army of the Parthians (the which the king's lieutenants had given to the only leading of Labienus) was now assembled in Mesopotamia ready to invade Syria; yet, as though all this had nothing touched him, he yielded himself to go with Cleopatra into Alexandria, where he spent and lost in childish sports (as a man might say) and idle pastimes the most precious thing a man can spend, as Antiphon saith: and that is, time.

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**FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS!**

**In the Main Theatre —**

**BLOOD RELATIONS**

by Istvan Orkeny  
(author of Catsplay)

December 5th - 9th

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**In the Studio —**

**RIMERS OF ELDRITCH**

by Lanford Wilson

November 30th — December 3rd

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**At The Questors Film Society —**

11 p.m. Friday, 10th November

*Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore*

with Ellen Burstyn and Kris Kristofferson  
Directed by Martin Scorsese

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**PLAN AHEAD FOR CHRISTMAS**

Don't leave the Theatre without visiting the  
Christmas Gift Stall and Book Sale in the Foyer!

All proceeds to the Development Fund.

Gifts are still needed.

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