

The Questors
theatre company
presents

ASHES



THE QUESTORS THEATRE COMPANY

First performance Tuesday February 14 1978

ASHES

by DAVID RUDKIN

Cast

Colin	...	...	...	...	...	JOHN KEARNS
Anne	...	...	...	...	...	LORNA DUVAL
Doctor, Surgeon, Guru	...	...	...	...	...	JOHN WILBOURN
Jennifer, Receptionist, Valerie	...	...	...	...	...	ALISON POLLARD

Directed by SUZANNE GREGERSON

Sets and Costumes designed by GEORGE BENN

Lighting by BOB ANDERSON

THERE WILL BE ONE INTERVAL

<i>Stage Managers</i>	—	ANDREW MUIR JOHN CLAYTON
<i>Assistant Stage Managers</i>	—	JENNY PULSFORD JULIE QUINN
<i>Properties</i> <i>assisted by</i>	—	JOAN CURRY LESLEY HEPPELL
<i>Construction</i>	—	ALAN HALE
<i>Lighting Assistant</i>	—	MARTIN STONER
<i>Sound</i> <i>assisted by</i>	—	MARTIN UDALL GRAHAM BARNES

As well as being presented at The Questors Theatre, three performances of this production will be given at Bradford Playhouse from February 23 to 25, 1978.

DAVID RUDKIN was born in London in 1936. His father was a Revivalist pastor in the Black Country and his mother an Irish Orthodox Protestant. Not surprisingly the language of the Bible, which he claims he knew almost backwards, has affected his style — especially in his syntax.

Until his father left the Revivalist movement in 1945 the family was forbidden to attend a cinema or theatre, though his mother and aunts managed to smuggle him into pantomimes and films in outlying areas of the Black Country. The visual impact of the films had a great affect on him.

He spent long formative holidays in Northern Ireland, with his mother's family, and in Dorset, camping in the countryside. At fourteen he became so interested in the study of music, its counterpoint, harmony and composition that the continuance of his classical education from King Edward's School, Birmingham was nearly threatened.

He succeeded in getting a place at St. Catherine's College, Oxford to read Greats after four attempts. During his four years there he acted in films and plays, produced plays, wrote and directed a film, played the piano at concerts, wrote incidental music, film and drama criticism and finally, in his last few terms, took to writing plays.

His plays include *Afore Night Comes* 1960, *Burglars* 1970, *The Filth* 1972 and *Ashes* 1973. His television plays include *Rachel's Wedding*, *Bypass* and *Pender's Fen*. He also wrote the screenplay for *Fahrenheit 451* in 1964.

Of himself Rudkin says: 'There are many contradictions in my temperament; I think the most radical is that I am half English, half Irish. The curse of belonging both here and there is that one feels a stranger both here and there. Contrary to popular superstition in this matter, the demonic-romantic-mystical element in my work springs from my Saxon side; it is the Celt in me whose head is hard.'

Forthcoming Productions

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|--------------------|---|--|
| February 27 | — | FOUR COMEDIES
Coward, Saunders, Kopit and Synge |
| March 11 | — | OH WHAT A LOVELY WAR by Theatre Workshop |
| April 8 | — | THE RIDE ACROSS LAKE CONSTANCE by Peter Handke,
translated by Michael Roloff |
| May 6 | — | HAY FEVER by Noel Coward |
| June 3 | — | ALPHABETICAL ORDER by Michael Frayn |
| June 24 | — | Molière's BOURGEOIS GENTILHOMME |
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NEXT PRODUCTION:

Oh What a Lovely War

by Theatre Workshop

One of the most powerful and theatrical pieces of the sixties, OH WHAT A LOVELY WAR has established itself as a classic and has in no way dated since it was first presented at the Theatre Royal, Stratford in 1963 by Theatre Workshop.

It provides a chronicle of the First World War, told through the songs and documents of the period, and was the result of close co-operation between writer, director and actor. The whole team participated in detailed research into the period and in the creative task of bringing their material to life in theatrical terms.

The result was an entertainment which won the acclaim of London audiences and critics and the *Grand Prix* of the *Theatre des Nations* festival in Paris in 1963.

In 1969 the film version became a popular success in its own right.

March 11 to 18 at 7.45 p.m.

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

IN THE STANISLAVSKY ROOM:

Four Comedies

A Student Group Production

Four varied twentieth-century comedies

February 27, 28; March 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 at 7.45p.m.

Members FREE, Guests 50p

THE QUESTORS FILM SOCIETY *presents*

Jacques Tati

in

Traffic

directed by Jacques Tati

In the Theatre, Friday 24 February at 7.45p.m.

Film Society Members 50p Guests 75p

Why not visit our refreshment bar during the interval?

If your preference is for something stronger, have a drink at the Foyer Bar — advance orders welcome.

Exhibition

During the run of *Ashes* there will be an exhibition of work by BIDDY YOUNGDAY in the Foyer.
