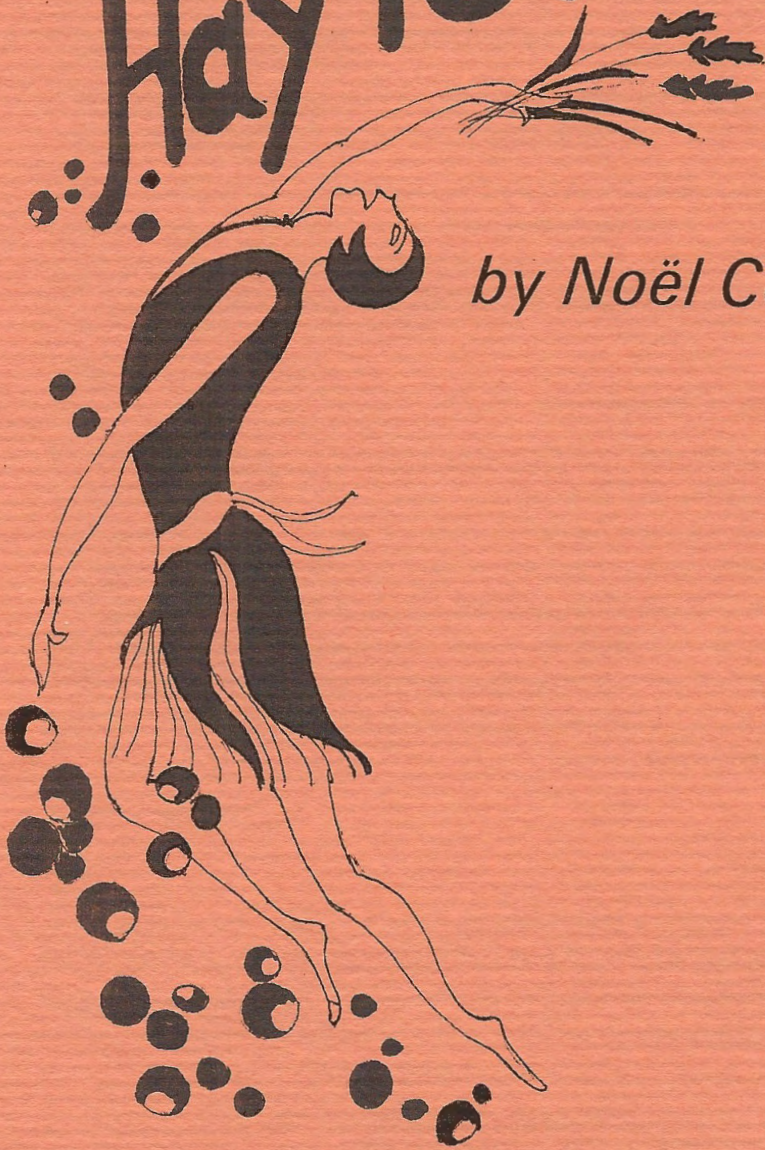
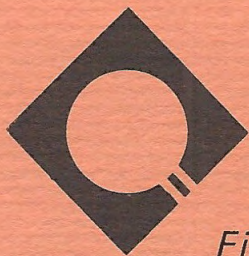


# Hay Fever

*by Noël Coward*



THE QUESTORS THEATRE COMPANY



# THE QUESTORS THEATRE COMPANY

*First performance Saturday, 6th May, 1978*

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About the play:

## **Noël Coward** *Play Parade* Volume 1, 1933

*Hay Fever* .....is considered by many to be my best comedy.

.....is far and away one of the most difficult plays to perform that I have ever encountered.

.....is quite extraordinarily well constructed. And as I did the whole thing in three days I didn't even rewrite. I enjoyed writing it and producing it, and I have frequently enjoyed watching it.

## **James Agate**, *The Sunday Times*, 1925

There is neither health nor cleanness about any of Mr Coward's characters, who are still the same vicious babies sprawling upon the floor of their unwholesome crèche..... Mr Coward is credited with the capacity to turn out these very highly polished pieces of writing in a very short time; and if rumour and the illustrated weeklies are to be believed, he writes his plays in a flowered dressing-gown and before breakfast. But what I want to know is what kind of work he intends to do after breakfast, when he is clothed and in his right mind.

## **Noël Coward**

I was passing through a transition stage as a writer; my dialogue was becoming more natural and less elaborate, and I was beginning to concentrate more on the comedy values of situation rather than the comedy values of actual lines.

## **Mrs Pat Campbell**

The characters in Mr Coward's plays talk like typewriters.

## **Noël Coward** *Shadow Play* (one-act play), 1935

Small talk, a lot of small talk, with other thoughts going on behind.

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# HAY FEVER

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## Cast

### THE FAMILY

Judith Bliss . . . .	JO ARUNDEL
David Bliss . . . .	VINCENT McQUEEN
Sorel Bliss . . . .	LORNA DUVAL
Simon Bliss . . . .	PETER FIELD
Clara . . . .	RUTH LISTER

### THE GUESTS

Myra Arundel . . . .	SONIA KLAUBER
Richard Greatham . . . .	MICHAEL HOWARD
Jackie Coryton . . . .	ALISON POLLARD
Sandy Tyrell . . . .	BRIAN TAYLOR

Directed by Tony Hill

Designed by Brian Rich, assisted by Joy Corbett

Music played by Michael Carver

<i>Stage Manager</i>	Lesley Montgomery
<i>Deputy Stage Managers</i>	Jenny Parkin Pete Walters
<i>Lighting assisted by</i>	Ian Howlett Martin Udall
<i>Sound assisted by</i>	Geoff Powell Jan Tribe
<i>Properties</i>	Joan Curry, Bob Ricket
<i>Wardrobe assisted by</i>	Grace Lacaille Anna Piat, Kate Jones
<i>Construction assisted by</i>	Mike Garcia Barbara Morrison, Paul Swift
<i>Assistant Stage Managers</i>	Alec Atchison, Julie Bond, Alwyn Parsons, Terry Parsons, Annie Williams

Moroccan tables designed by Mike Garcia

Food by Safeway Food Stores Ltd.

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The Blisses' house at Cookham

Act I Saturday afternoon

*INTERVAL OF FIFTEEN MINUTES*

Act II Saturday evening

*INTERVAL OF FIFTEEN MINUTES*

Act III Sunday morning

## About the author:

playwright, short-story writer, novelist, autobiographer, parodist, actor, director, songwriter, singer, film actor, The Master.

- Noël Coward** I was born in Teddington, a suburb of London, through which the Thames flowed serenely, without paying the faintest attention.
- Hermione Gingold** My mother said if you ever bring that naughty boy here again, I'll turn him out.
- Noël Coward** When I was young, I was always in Southwark Cathedral or somewhere, hooting away 'O for the Wings of a Dove' and was always furious, after finishing an anthem absolutely beautifully, to find everybody in the church crouched on their knees in prayer and not applauding me.
- Ginette Spanier** Noël Coward was the Beatles of our day.
- Sybil Thorndike** Oh, what an actor! Noël's Lewis Dodd (*The Constant Nymph*) was beautiful. It was perfection.
- Noël Coward** *A Room with a View*..... comes in very handy if I'm doing any cabaret performances, because, you know, it's now so well known that as I start the first bars, people applaud – and that gets me through to the end – if I'm quick.
- Noël Coward** The fascination about play writing is that it has got to be written to play for two and a half hours, so you've got to start practising economy from the first page. The secret of play-writing is economy.
- Noël Coward** The real secret is concentration. I've always been a hundred per cent concentrated on what I was doing at that moment, and that's terribly important.
- Elaine Stritch** .....the truth is that he is an extremely impatient man, and rather stubborn. He likes to have his way professionally, and generally gets it.
- Cicely Courtneidge** .....I'm a great admirer of Noël's, I have tremendous admiration for him. I think he's the cleverest man of our generation – a wonderful man, with great humour, but he's cruel..... He's cruel as hell..... when he was cruel to me I couldn't be funny on the stage any more.

**Edith Evans**            Nothing will make me work for him again.

**Hermione Gingold**    He was a very naughty child but he grew up to be a very nice, charming and good man.

- 1899    Born Teddington, Middlesex.  
1907    First public appearance on stage.  
1924    *The Vortex*  
1925    *Fallen Angels*  
          *Hay Fever*  
1927    *Home Chat*  
1928    *This Year of Grace!*  
1929    *Bitter-Sweet*  
1930    *Private Lives*  
1931    *Cavalcade*  
1932    *Design for Living*  
1939    *Present Laughter*  
1941    *Blithe Spirit*  
1945    *Brief Encounter*  
1951    *Relative Values*  
1956    *Nude with Violin*  
1958    *Look after Lulu*  
1960    *Waiting in the Wings*  
1961    *Sail Away*  
1966    *Suite in Three Keys*  
1970    Knighthood announced in the New Year's Honours List.  
1976    Died.

**Edith Evans**            All the same, I enjoyed *Hay Fever* enormously (as Judith Bliss at the National Theatre, directed by Coward).  
I felt it had been written now..... he is one of the greatest contributors to the theatrical scene, because his music is good and delicious, and his plays are witty and varied, and they still go on – and don't date, they're playing them all over the place.

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## Late Night Theatre

If you've been tickled by this touch of *Hay Fever*, why not come and see

# Coward's Corner

a selection of Coward's words and music, well-known and not so well-known, presented by

*THE TOWER THEATRE*

in the Theatre after the show on

Friday, 12th May at 11.00

Saturday, 13th May at 11.00

Members and Guests: 50p

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## Coming in the Studio

# A Mad World, My Masters

by

Barrie Keefe

25th – 28th May

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## Coming in the Theatre

# Alphabetical Order

by

Michael Frayn

3rd – 10th June

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