

# QUESTIONS

BY JOE ORTON

◆ THE QUESTORS THEATRE COMPANY · JUNE 1979



# THE QUESTORS THEATRE COMPANY

*First performance 2nd June 1979*

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**LOOT** is the second in the series of Five English Comedies which are opening The Questors Golden Jubilee Season. It was Orton's second play to be staged and won the Evening Standard Drama Award for the best play of 1966.

"If you're absolutely practical — and I think I am — a coffin is only a box. One calls it a coffin, and once you've called it a coffin it immediately has all sorts of associations".

*Orton interview with Giles Gordon.*

Whenever one dares not to question any further, or when it does not occur to one to do so, one is dealing with taboo. The taboo represents society against the individual; and Orton's laughter was the revenge of the individual against a smothering consensus.

Miss Prism: The good ended happily, and the bad unhappily.  
That is what fiction means . . .

*Oscar Wilde, The Importance of Being Earnest.*

At Joe Orton's cremation Donald Pleasance read his own poem *Hilarium Memorium. J. O.* which began —

Some met together when he died  
Not in the name of any god  
But in his name  
Whom they lost to the coffin,  
The box that caused him endless mirth  
His lesson — which he could not read again  
Hilarity in death.

*Extracts from Prick Up Your Ears  
the biography of Joe Orton by John Lahr.*

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# LOOT

by Joe Orton

## CAST

*in order of appearance*

McLEAVY ..... JOHN ROBB  
FAY ..... GILLIAN KERSWELL  
HAL ..... GRAHAM WILLIAMS  
DENNIS ..... COLIN THOMAS  
TRUSCOTT ..... KEN RATCLIFFE  
MEADOWS ..... RICHARD LEWIS

*Directed by*  
EDWARD PITT

*Set designed by*  
BETH CROWLEY

*Costumes designed by*  
LINDSAY UDELL

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THERE WILL BE ONE INTERVAL OF FIFTEEN MINUTES

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*Stage Manager* . . . . . MARTIN UDALL  
*Deputy Stage Manager* . . . . . KAREN BECKITT  
*Assistant Stage Managers* . . . ROBERT JONES, GEOFF POWELL,  
. . . . . SOO STANLEY, PAMELA GREEN,  
. . . . . ALAN GREENBERG, ODED SHIMSHON  
*Lighting* . . . . . LES SMITH  
*Assisted by* . . . . . PHILIPPA FORSTER, ALAN B. SMITH  
*Sound* . . . . . MALCOLM ROBERTSON  
*Assisted by* . . . . . CANDY CLOTWORTHY, PHIL PAGE  
*Properties* . . . . . JOAN CURRY, BOB RICKET  
*Assisted by* . . . . . AILEEN ROGER, CARINA CHOY-WARRY  
*Construction* . . . . . JOAN HAZELL, JOHN WILCOX

The 'LOOT' printed by GEOFF POWELL and ROBERT JONES

We wish to thank Richmond Hospital for the loan of the screens and the Ealing Division of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade for the loan of the body.

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## **An Open Discussion**

on this production will be held on Tuesday 12 th June,  
at 7.45 p.m. in the Bernard Shaw Room, led by

**JOHN ELSOM**

Theatre Critic for *The Listener*

Mr. Elsom was unfortunately prevented by illness from leading the discussion on *The Entertainer*, but has kindly agreed to lead the discussion on *Loot*. In addition to a long career as a theatre critic — he was formerly theatre correspondent for Paramount Pictures and theatre critic for the *London Magazine* — John Elsom has written widely about the theatre, notably *Theatre Outside London*, *Erotic Theatre*, *Post-War British Theatre*, and, most recently, the controversial *History of the National Theatre*. He is also chairman of the Bush Theatre, Shepherds Bush.

All are invited: come to discuss or just to listen!

Note the date:

**TUESDAY, 12th JUNE**  
**at 7.45 p.m.**  
in the  
**BERNARD SHAW ROOM**

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The Theatres Act of 1968 abolished the Lord Chamberlain's right of censorship over the text of a new play. Until this time, wide powers of supervision and control over the stage in Great Britain were vested in the Lord Chamberlain.

### AUTHOR'S NOTE

*to the first edition of the play in 1967*

The Lord Chamberlain grants a licence to the play subject to the following conditions:

- (i) The corpse is inanimate and not played by an actress.
- (ii) On Page 79 the casket is wiped with a handkerchief. The Lord Chamberlain is particularly anxious that no stain shall appear on the handkerchief.

The following alterations to the text are required:

**Act One:** *Page 21* 'Run by a woman who was connected with the Royal Family one time'. For 'Royal Family' substitute 'Empire Loyalists'.

*Page 22* 'Under that picture of the Sacred Heart'. For 'Sacred Heart' substitute 'Infant Samuel'.

*Page 36* 'While Jesus pointed to his Sacred Heart, you pointed to yours. I never point. It's rude' must be cut.

*Page 39* For 'Consummatum Est' substitute 'Kingdom Come'.

*Page 51* For 'buggery' substitute 'beggary'.

**Act Two:** *Page 79* 'Run by three Pakistanis aged between ten and fifteen. They do it for sweets. Part of their religion'. For 'Pakistanis' substitute 'kids'. 'Part of their religion' must be cut.

*Page 85* For 'fucking' substitute 'bleeding'.

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**CONTINUING  
THE QUESTORS GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR**

**Coming in the Main Theatre**

**IN THE SEASON OF  
FIVE ENGLISH COMEDIES**

June 23 – 30

**JUMPERS** by Tom Stoppard

September 15 – 22

**VENUS OBSERVED** by Christopher Fry

October 13 – 20

**WHEN WE ARE MARRIED**

by J. B. Priestley

**AND THE STUDENT GROUP  
JUBILEE PRODUCTION**

July 14 – 21

**CRIME AND PUNISHMENT**

adapted from Dostoievsky's novel by Rodney Ackland

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**AND IN THE STUDIO**

July 5 – 12

The celebrated Hungarian Company, STUDIO K from  
Budapest in Buchner's **WOYZECK**

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*THE FILM SOCIETY :*

**LOVE AND DEATH**

Friday, June 8th at 11 p.m.