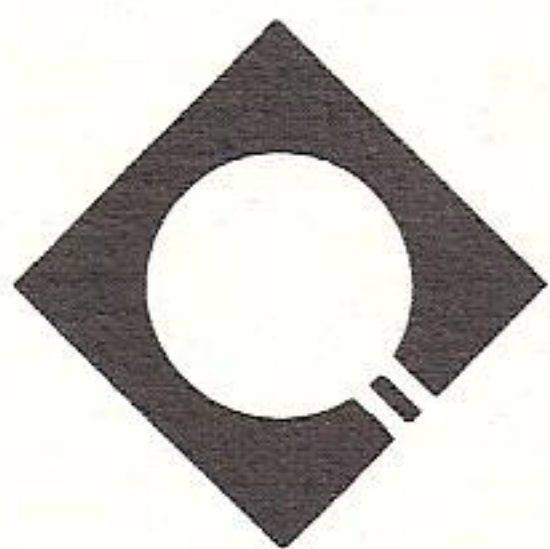




# **THE BEGGAR'S OPERA**

THE QUESTORS THEATRE COMPANY · NOVEMBER 1979



# THE QUESTORS THEATRE COMPANY

*First performance 14th November 1979*

## "THE QUESTORS THEATRE

Questors Theatre in Mattock Lane, Ealing (a suburb of London), the headquarters of an outstanding amateur group founded in 1929 by Alfred Emmet, who in 1933 turned a disused chapel into a small theatre. After the Second World War, under his enthusiasm and leadership, a large sum of money was raised for the erection of a new theatre seating three hundred and fifty people, much of the actual building work being done by members, with professional assistance. In this adaptable theatre, which opened in 1964, plays have been staged in a proscenium-arch setting, with a variable forestage, on a three-sided 'thrust' stage, in the round, or in an open 'space stage'. Attached to the theatre are the Shaw Lecture Room, opened in 1958, the Stanislavsky Rehearsal Room, opened in 1960, and a number of administrative offices. The Questors, which runs a training course for amateur actors and a large number of young people's groups, has an exceptional record for the presentation of new plays, including *Next Time I'll Sing To You* (1962) by James Saunders."

*From The Concise Oxford Companion to the Theatre*

During the run of *The Beggar's Opera*, the Questors Theatre celebrates its fiftieth birthday. The Theatre has much to celebrate, as is indicated by the following information, provided by Alfred Emmet.

## FIFTY YEARS

- 450 main productions
- 40 Studio productions
- 18 New Plays Festivals
- 89 premieres of full-length plays
- 63 premieres of short plays
- 5 International Amateur Theatre Weeks
- 33 Student Training Courses (mostly of two years)
- 19 years of touring shows to schools, 8 with 'Questabout'
- 25 years of running Young People's Groups (currently 14 groups, involving 270 young people)
- 20 years of members' Grapevine Club – £54,000 profits donated to Development Fund
- £193,000 raised for capital and development purposes
- Annual turnover increased to £52,000
- Membership increased from 17 to 4627
- Annual audience increased from 300 to over 30,000

### What is unchanged:

'The Questors is an association of individuals banded together for a common purpose, to serve the art of the theatre.' (Statement of Policy adopted in 1947)

# **E BEGGAR'S OPE**

**by JOHN GAY**

Cast in order of appearance

Macheath . . . . . JOHN HINES  
Mr. Peachum . . . . . TED SCRIVENER  
Lockit . . . . . TONY MATHER  
Filch . . . . . MIKE LLEWELLYN  
Mat of the Mint . . . . . TONY BARBER  
Wat Dreary . . . . . RICHARD COWNE  
Ben Budge . . . . . HAMISH GORDON  
Jemmy Twitcher . . . . . DUNCAN ROWBERRY  
Nimming Ned . . . . . DAVID EVANS  
Harry Paddington . . . . . JOHN BANNISTER  
Crook Finger'd Jack . . . . . HOWARD SHEPHERDSON  
Polly Peachum . . . . . CAROL BOLT  
Mrs. Peachum . . . . . KAY BARWICK  
Lucy Lockit . . . . . DOROTHY BOYD TAYLOR  
Jenny Diver . . . . . GILLIAN KERSWELL  
Diana Trapes . . . . . SYLVIA ESTOP  
Mrs Coaxer . . . . . VIVIENNE PATERSON  
Mrs. Vixen . . . . . CAROL METCALFE  
Molly Brazen . . . . . JO ARUNDEL  
Dolly Trull . . . . . JUDY EMMET  
Suky Tawdry . . . . . OENONE GRANT  
Mrs. Slammekin . . . . . MONYENE KANE  
Betty Doxy . . . . . JULIE BRIDGMAN  
Kitty Bagshott . . . . . BARBARA HUTCHINS

Directed by GEOFF WEBB

*THERE WILL BE TWO INTERVALS OF FIFTEEN MINUTES*

# ERA

Setting designed by JOHN STACEY

Costumes designed by NORMAN BARWICK

Musical direction and arrangements by DON KINCAID

Musical numbers staged by DOROTHY BOYD TAYLOR and  
GORDON CALEB

Additional songs by GORDON CALEB and by DON KINCAID

Musicians: GORDON PEACE (piano), JOHN ROLFE (alto saxophone and  
clarinet), GORDON BAIN (drums), DAVID RICHARDSON (bass),  
MARK LATIMER (rehearsal pianist)

Stage Manager: GERRY BLAKE

Deputy Stage Managers: SUE TILSLEY, CHRIS SYDENHAM

Assistant Stage Managers: TINA CREIGHTON, JANE FESSEY,  
RICHARD LEWIS, MARK MORAN, JAN MORGAN, ANDREW MUIR,  
ELEANOR PANAYI, JILL RUSSELL, ALAN B. SMITH, JACKIE TODD,  
MARTIN UDALL, GORDON WATSON

Lighting: RICHARD BROADHURST, ROGER BRACE

Lighting operator: PHILIPPA FORSTER

Lighting assistants: ALISON COLSTON LAKE, CARINA CHOY-WARRY

Properties: BETH CROWLEY

Assisted by: BARBARA SEXON, KAREN GRIMMETT

Construction: ANDREW MUIR, MIKE OHL, DOMINIC O'DWYER

Costumes made in The Questors Wardrobe under the supervision of  
VAL MORAN

Sound: BRIAN McLOUGHLIN

Thanks to ARTHUR BOYD TAYLOR for the 'Nightwatch'.

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**YOU are invited to**

**AN OPEN DISCUSSION**

on this production, to be held on **TUESDAY, 27th NOVEMBER,**  
at 7.45 p.m. in the Bernard Shaw Room, led by

**DAVID GILES**

*Director of the Lyric Theatre Hammersmith*

The most famous show at the old Lyric Theatre was undoubtedly the Nigel Playfair 1920 production of *The Beggar's Opera*, which was so delightfully at home in that theatre's enchanting interior. The auditorium of the new Lyric Theatre Hammersmith is virtually a replica of the old, so it seemed particularly appropriate to invite David Giles, who has, as it were, inherited the Playfair theatre, to lead the discussion on The Questors' production of this play, which is certainly very different from Playfair's production (as, indeed, the theatre of 1979 is very different from that of 1920). Whether you like the way we have done it or whether you hate it, do come along and express your views, or just listen to the views of others.

We have also invited David Giles to take the opportunity of talking to us about the new Lyric Theatre Hammersmith and his plans and future programme. For many members of The Questors the arrival of another new theatre within easier reach than the West End must be more than welcome and this is an opportunity to learn more about it.

**DON'T MISS THE DATE—**

**TUESDAY, 27th NOVEMBER at 7.45p.m.**

**in the Bernard Shaw Room**

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## THE GOLDEN JUBILEE SEASON

The programme of plays in the Main Theatre and the Studio has been specially planned for the Golden Jubilee, but it contains (as usual) a great deal of variety, with plays from varying periods and places, and includes two new plays and four plays by visiting companies from abroad.

### In the Main Theatre

International Amateur Theatre Week, companies from Belgium, Italy and Ireland.

Five English Comedies:

*The Entertainer*

*Loot*

*Jumpers*

*Venus Observed*

*When We Are Married*

*Crime and Punishment* – Special Student Production

*The Beggar's Opera*

*One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*

*The Vampire*

*The Misanthrope*

*Playground* (a new play)

*The Hostage*

*A Month In The Country*

*Medea*

English Amateur Theatre Week: plays from three other amateur companies around the country

### In the Studio

*Light Shining In Buckinghamshire*

*Woyzeck* (Studio K from Budapest)

*Dusa, Fish, Stas and Vi*

*The Shrew* (Marowitz)

*Martin Guerre* (a play devised by the company)

*The Constant Couple*

There have, of course, been, and will be, many other events and activities during the season which cannot be included here, but which constitute a vital part of the life of the Theatre.

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# Coming Next

## In the Theatre

*ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST*

by Dale Wasserman, from the novel by Ken Kesey

December 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 & 15th at 7.45p.m.

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*THE VAMPIRE or THE BRIDE OF THE ISLES*

by J. R. Planché

December 29th – January 12th at 7.45p.m.

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## A Children's Show

Matinees at 3p.m. on December 29th,  
January 1st, 5th and 6th.

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## In the Studio

*MARTIN GUERRE*

An original play, devised by the Company, based on an incident  
in 16th Century France.

November 29th, 30th. December 1st, 2nd at 7.45p.m.

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## At the Film Society

*HUSH, HUSH, SWEET CHARLOTTE*

with Bette Davis

November 23rd at 11p.m.

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