





THE QUESTORS THE ATRE COMPANY

First performance May 12th, 1979

'It is very difficult to be wholly joyous or wholly sad on this earth.

The comic, when it is human, soon takes upon itself the face of pain.'

JOSEPH CONRAD

'Comedy is an escape, not from the truth, but from despair; a narrow escape into faith.'

CHRISTOPHER FRY

THE ENTERTAINER was written in 1957 and is set in 1956. 1956-57

The average weekly wage of a man employed in the manufacturing industry was £11. 8s. 0d.

'1956 saw the eruption of a particular type of behaviour which gained the Teddy Boys a great deal of publicity — the so-called rock'n' roll riots in cinemas. These were associated with the showing of particular films, the most notorious being Rock Around the Clock.'

John Osborne was labelled 'an intellectual Teddy Boy'.

'The Anglo-French reaction to the nationalisation of the Suez Canal has been described as 'an imperial reflex' — a reaction based on prejudices and attitudes inherited from the nineteenth century, but quite inappropriate to the modern world.'

The TOP TEN: MAY 1956 (from Melody Maker):

- 1. No Other Love Ronnie Hilton
- 2. Rock and Roll Walz Kay Starr
- 3. Poor People of Paris Winifred Atwell
- 4. A Tear Fell Teresa Brewer
- 5. My September Love David Whitfield
- 6. I'll be Home Pat Boone
- 7. It's Almost Tomorrow Dream Weavers
- 8. Only You Hilltoppers
- 9. Main Title (Man with the Golden Arm) Billy May
- 10. Lost John Lonnie Donnegan.

1957 saw the publication of The Outsider by Colin Wilson.

'Colin Wilson believes that modern civilisation is seriously sick. Indeed, it has reached its 'moment of crisis'. This malaise, while taking on a social form, is not essentially economic, political or even psychological. That was where Marx, Bakunin and Freud went astray. Rather the problem is a 'metaphysical' one. It is a problem of man's consciousness. Man is sick, in 'despair', because at present his consciousness is limited and lacks all intensity. Modern man is 'capable of thinking of nothing but personal appetites and ambitions'. While he has the potential to experience a whole keyboard of mental states, he in fact only experiences two or three notes.'

(Quotations from The Age of Affluence 1951-64 ed. Bogdanor and Skidelsky.)

'Why should I care?
Why should I let it touch me?
Why shouldn't I sit down and try
To let it pass over me?'

ARCHIE RICE

ENTEQUAL ohn Osborne Music by John Ada

THE CAST

in order of appearance

TED SCRIVENER BILLY RICE CATHIE WALLACE JEAN RICE LARRY IRVIN ARCHIE RICE JO ARUNDEL PHOEBE RICE JEREMY BENTHAM FRANK RICE SUE SOTHERAN BRITANNIA SHOWGIRLS TINA KIRK PATSY NUTTALL IAN PINKERTON GRAHAM DODD PHILIP REMINGTON BROTHER BILL

Directed by JOHN DAVEY

Designed by ROGER HARRIS

Music directed by ERIC KIRBY and played by

EDWIN RICHES (Trombone)

FRANCES BOURNE (Bb Trumpet)

JEREMY BENNETT (Violin)

JULIA COOKE (Clarinet and Percussion)

ERIC KIRBY (Piano)

THERE WILL BE ONE INTERVAL OF FIFTEEN MINUTES



Stage Managers

Assistant Stage Managers

ALEC ATCHISON

ROGER STURM

JILL GEE

MICHELE GERRARD

IRENE KERR

LINDA REVANS

ALAN N. SMITH

MICHAEL COFFEY

MALCOM ROBERTSON

IAN RUSSELL

PHIL PAGE

Lighting Designer Lighting Operator

Assisted by

Wardrobe

Properties

Sound

Assisted by

IRIS PHELPS

MURRAY COOKE GRAHAM GOODALL

FREDDIE EDWARDS

Assistants in all departments

BRIDGET MURDOCH BARBARA MORRIS

PETE WALTERS

Archie's dance arranged by VAL CAREN

An Open Discussion

on this production will be held on Tuesday, 22nd May at 7.45 p.m. in the Bernard Shaw Room, led by JOHN ELSOM

Theatre Critic for 'The Listener'

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, 22nd MAY at 7.45 p.m. in the BERNARD SHAW ROOM

1956

January

Terrorist activity in Cyprus.

February

House of Commons rejected Government motion to retain death penalty. Bank Rate increased from $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $5\frac{1}{2}$ %.

Kruschev denounces Stalin in speech to Congress of Russian Communist Party.

March

King Hussein of Jordan discharges Lieutenant-General J. B. Glubb. Archbishop Makarios deported from Cyprus to the Seychelles.

May

First atomic power station in Britain started working at Calder Hall.

June

Last British troops leave Suez. Colonel Nasser elected President of Egypt.

July

Nasser announces nationalisation of Suez Canal.

October

Israeli forces invade Egypt and gain control of Sinai peninsula after five days' fighting.

Anglo-French offensive launched against military targets in Egypt.

November

Soviet forces launch attack on Budapest to crush uprising. Suez Canal blocked by 49 ships. Sir Anthony Eden flies to Jamaica for rest cure.

December

Suez Canal clearing operation by UN salvage fleet begun.

1957

January

Sir Anthony Eden resigns; Harold MacMillan appointed Prime Minister.

March

European Common Market and Euratom treaties signed by France, Germany, Italy and the Benelux countries.

April

British Labour Party calls for abolition of H-bomb tests decision to end call-ups for National Service in 1960. Suez Canal cleared and opened to all shipping.

June

First drawing of Premium Bond Prizes.

Completion of British H-bomb tests in the Pacific.

September

Disarmament discussions in London ended without agreement.

October

First earth satellite launched by Russia.

December

The Queen's Christmas broadcast televised for the first time.

CONTINUING THE QUESTORS GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR

Coming in the Main Theatre

IN THE SEASON OF FIVE ENGLISH COMEDIES

June 2 – 9 **LOOT** by Joe Orton

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

AND IN THE STUDIO

May 24 - 27

PLAYS OF TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

July 5 - 12

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