

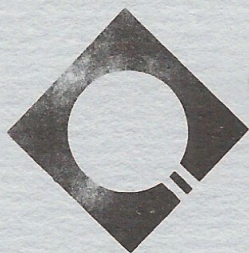
 THE QUESTORS THEATRE COMPANY

THE WALTZ OF THE TOREADORS

by JEAN ANOUILH
adapted by LUCIENNE HILL



THE WALTZ



THE QUESTORS THEATRE COMPANY

First performance January 27th 1979

Director's Note

During the 1940's and 1950's, one of the most prolific French playwrights was Jean Anouilh. Over this period he wrote some eighteen plays. Of these, the most well known in this country have been *Thieves' Carnival*, *Antigone*, *Ring Round the Moon*, *The Waltz of the Toreadors*, *The Lark*, *Poor Bitos*, *The Rehearsal* and *Becket*.

Although some may see him in the main as a great comedy writer, carrying on the traditions of Molière and Feydeau, it is difficult to classify his plays as either pure comedy or pure tragedy. Either the whole development of the action appears to be leading to a pessimistic conclusion until with a sudden volte-face, he imposes a happy ending — for instance in *The Lark*, or a savage dénouement is imposed on a play whose tone up to that point has been one of urbane triviality, as in *The Waltz of the Toreadors*. His plays have been published, like George Bernard Shaw's *Plays Pleasant and Unpleasant*, under the headings *Pièces noires*, *Pièces brillantes*, *Pièces costumées*, and *Pièces grinçantes*, which my French dictionary translates as 'grating, grinding and gnashing'. Most certainly, under the veneer of high comedy, a great deal of 'grating, grinding and gnashing' goes on in tonight's play, which is one of the *Pièces grinçantes*.

In *The Waltz of the Toreadors* we see two of Anouilh's favourite themes — (1) the granting of a 'second chance', the opportunity to start afresh to the hero whose ideals have been tarnished by contact with life, and (2) the cynicism, when that second chance comes too late and the hero resigns himself to compromise and acceptance of his lot without resistance.

Brian Rich

Z OF THE TO

by JEAN ANOUILH
adapted by LUCIENNE HILL

Cast in order of appearance

General St. Pé	—	MICHAEL LANGRIDGE
Emily (his wife)	—	RUTH LISTER
Gaston (his secretary)	—	KEVIN BUXTON
Estella	—	CATHERINE GRUBB
Sidonia (his daughters)	—	SUSAN SLEE
Doctor Bonfant	—	MICHAEL GODLEY
Mlle Ghislaine de Ste-Euverte	—	GILLIAN KERSWELL
Eugenie (a maid)	—	FRANCES MARTIN
Mme Dupont-Fredaine	—	JENNY HICKS
Father Ambrose	—	WILLIAM BOYCOTT
Pamela (a maid)	—	JULIE BRIDGMAN

Directed by Brian Rich
Designed by Joy Corbett

The action of the play takes place in the General's study adjoining his wife's bedroom, in their house in a small provincial garrison town in France. It is a spring day, some time before the First World War.

ACT I

Scene 1 — Morning

Scene 2 — A little later

ACT II

Scene 1 — Midday

Scene 2 — Afternoon

ACT III

Evening

There will be an interval between Acts I and II, and between Acts II and III.

READERS

Lighting Designer
Lighting Operator
Assisted by

Richard Broadhurst
Sue Kendrick
Roger Brace

Sound
Assisted by

Colin Horne
Graham Goodall

Wardrobe
Assisted by

Wendy Brackley
Members of The Questors Wardrobe

Properties
Assisted by

Joan Curry
Aileen Roger

Stage Managers

Tim Hayward, Roger Sturm

Assistant Stage Managers

Sue Sotheran
Alec Atchison
Michele Gerrard
Stephen Harries
Leon Henry
Irene Kerr
Linda Rivans
Geoff Moore

COMING TO THE DISCUSSION?

We are pleased to announce that the Public Discussion on *The Waltz of the Toreadors* will be led by the translator,

LUCIENNE HILL

Lucienne Hill began her career in the theatre as an actress, but is best known as a translator, and sometimes adapter, of the plays of Anouilh and of other French dramatists, such as Salacron, Françoise Sagan and Roger Vitrac. Over a dozen of her translations of Anouilh have appeared on the London stage.

Lucienne Hill will talk about Anouilh's plays, which she is uniquely qualified to do, and about her own experiences in translating them, and will lead a critical discussion on the production you are seeing this evening — a discussion in which all members of the audiences are freely invited to join.

Note the date!

TUESDAY, 6th FEBRUARY at 7.45p.m.
in the
BERNARD SHAW ROOM

The major works of JEAN ANOUILH (born 1910)

Where translations exist, these are given in brackets, with their dates.

- 1932 L'hermine (The Ermine, 1955)
Jézabel
- 1937 Le voyageur sans bagages (Traveller without Luggage, 1959,
John Whiting)
- 1938 La sauvage
Le bal des voleurs (Thieves' Carnival, 1952, Lucienne Hill)
- 1940 Léocadia (Time Remembered, 1954)
- 1942 Eurydice (Point of Departure, 1951)
- 1944 Antigone (1946, L. Galantière)
- 1946 Médée (Medea, 1957)
Romeo et Jeannette (Fading Mansion 1949, adapted,
D. MacDonagh)
- 1947 L'invitation au château (Ring Round the Moon, 1950,
Christopher Fry)
- 1948 Ardèle (1951, Lucienne Hill)
- 1950 La répétition ou l'amour puni (The Rehearsal, 1960)
- 1951 Colombe (1951, adapted, D. Cannan)
- 1952 La valse des toréadors (The Waltz of the Toreadors, 1956,
Lucienne Hill)
- 1953 L'alouette (The Lark, 1955, Christopher Fry)
- 1955 Ornifle ou le courant d'air
- 1956 Pauvre Bitos ou le diner de têtes (Poor Bitos, 1964,
Lucienne Hill)
- 1959 Becket ou l'honneur de Dieu (Becket or the Honour of God,
1961, Lucienne Hill)
Hurluberlu ou le réactionnaire amoureux (The Fighting
Cock, 1966)
- 1961 La grotte (The Cavern, 1965)
- 1962 La foire d'empoigne
L'orchestre (The Orchestra, 1967)
- 1969 Cher Antoine (Dear Antoine 1971)
- 1969 Les Poissons Rouges
- 1972 Le Directeur de l'Opéra (The Director of the Opera 1972)
- 1975 L'Arrestation.

Anouilh has also written dialogue and scenarios for a number of films including *Monsieur Vincent* (1947) and *Deux sous de violettes* (1951). He has been responsible for the translation and adaptation of Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and three of Shakespeare's plays: *As You Like It*, *The Winter's Tale*, and *Twelfth Night* (1952).

What's On Next

FEBRUARY

In the Theatre

THE GHOST SONATA

by August Strindberg

February 20 - 24

In the Studio

DIVERSIONS

A Student Group Production
including plays by Ayckbourn, Pinter and Saunders.

February 26 - March 9

At the Film Society

DIRTY MARY, CRAZY LARRY

February 2, 11.00p.m.

MARCH

In the Theatre

A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS

by Robert Bolt

March 10 - 17

APRIL

In the Theatre

IT'S ALL FOR THE BEST

by Steve Gooch

April 6,7,8,19,20,21
