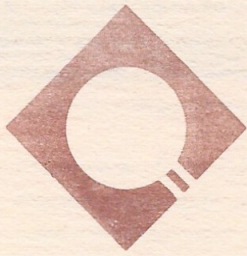
 THE QUESTORS THEATRE COMPANY



# When We Are Married

• By J. B. Priestley •





# THE QUESTORS THEATRE COMPANY

First Performance October 13th 1979

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## When We Are Married By J. B. Priestley

### Director's Note

"I enjoyed writing this broadly farcical comedy," says Priestley in his preface, "because I had a lot of fun remembering and then using various aspects of West Riding life and manners known to my boyhood. The plot is nonsensical but the characters and their attitudes and their talk are all authentic."

Rehearsing the play has brought home to those of us with Yorkshire connections the accuracy of Priestley's observation of his fellow countrymen: the keen sense of hierarchy ("*Alderman Helliwell, Councillor Parker, Mr. Soppitt*"), of propriety ("*We can't have any carrying-on! Gallivanting away, late at night, at Morecambe!*"), and the irresistible urge to point out bluntly to other people where they are going wrong ("*I said from t' first, he should never have been appointed*"). I'm sure that many in the audience also will recognise more than a fleeting glimpse of real people they have known. But there is a universality in the characters too and in this play, perhaps, more than in his others, Priestley has excelled at what he always does best: the creation of memorable groups rather than of individuals. Not to say, of course, that Henry Ormonroyd, Clara Soppitt, Ruby and all the rest do not come over as strong individuals. But it is as a group above all that we remember them, a group in a particular place in a particular predicament.

And at a particular time, too. *When We Are Married*, it has been said, is an epic on a small comic scale, for it encompasses a world and although we witness its present tense, its history is implicit and the dim map of its future can be discerned. The future when the play was being rehearsed for its first production was far from bright and Basil Dean, the producer, contrasted the happy atmosphere in rehearsals with the anxieties in the street outside, for this was the year of the great suspense — Peace or War? And the year in which the play's action takes place — 1908 — was also too close to that other great cataclysm which was to change and destroy that last great flowering of the golden Edwardian world of which Cleckleywyke was a small and comic part.

But of course none of the characters was to know any of this, and they go on their way happily showing with great accuracy of mood, language and situation, the ridiculous illusions of small-town government in which the comic monstrosities are given full rein.

I have a great affection for this play. Bradford Playhouse, where I was brought up, gave the first production concurrently (by special permission of the author) with the London company, and revive it regularly. It is seldom out of production somewhere in these islands and will next month receive the accolade of classical status when it is produced by the National Theatre Company at the Lyttelton Theatre. I hope you will enjoy our production as much as we have enjoyed preparing it for you.



## CAST

*In order of appearance*

Ruby Birtle . . . . .	SUSANNAH WALTERS
Gerald Forbes . . . . .	RAYMOND CHILDE
Mrs Northrop . . . . .	BETTY OGDEN
Nancy Holmes . . . . .	CATHY WACHTER
Fred Dyson . . . . .	PETER HOWELL
Henry Ormonroyd . . . . .	TONY RUSHFORTH
Alderman Joseph Helliwell . . . . .	WILF SHARP
Maria Helliwell . . . . .	JOAN ROBERTS
Councillor Albert Parker . . . . .	KEN RATCLIFFE
Hebert Soppitt . . . . .	VINCENT McQUEEN
Clara Soppitt . . . . .	VIVIEN KERR
Annie Parker . . . . .	JULIE CRUTTENDEN
Lottie Grady . . . . .	RUTH LISTER
Rev. Clement Mercer . . . . .	NEVILE CRUTTENDEN
Mayor of Clecklewyke . . . . .	PETER CARISS
Reporters . . . . .	ROGER KELLY & MARTIN STONER

*Directed by Jeffrey Smith*

*Setting designed by Geoff Moore*

*Costumes by Lindsay Udell*

*Lighting by Martin Stoner*

*Sound by Murray Cooke*

The action of the play takes place in the sitting-room of Alderman Helliwell's house in Clecklewyke, a town in the West Riding of Yorkshire, in the year 1908.

### ACT ONE

A September evening

### ACT TWO

About half an hour later

### ACT THREE

About a quarter of an hour later

*THERE WILL BE TWO INTERVALS OF 12 MINUTES EACH*

The Director wishes to record his thanks to Miss Wilmott of the Local Studies Department, Bradford Central Library, for the generous loan of photographs from the Department's collection and permission to use them.



*Stage Manager:* TIM HAYWARD      *Deputy Stage Manager:* CARINA CHOY-WARRY  
*Assistant Stage Managers:* RITA FENOUGHTY, JULIA ANDREWS, PIPPA CROSS, JANE FENELON,  
NEIL FITZGERALD, ROGER KELLY  
*Properties:* BOB RICKET      *Assisted by:* MARY JENNO  
*Design Assistant:* JACKIE LANCASTER  
*Lighting Operator:* PHILIPPA FORSTER      *Sound Operator:* JEREMY BENTHAM  
*Wardrobe Assistants:* HILDA COLLINS, EDITH RICKET  
*Assistants in all departments:* SUE BAKER, PETER CAFFERTY, JANE EVANS, MICHELE GERRARD,  
ALAN GREENBERG, ROBERT JONES, SARAH BAKER, JOHN WEXLER  
GLASSES BY THE RAVENHEAD COMPANY LIMITED  
CIGARS BY GALLAGHERS LIMITED

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DON'T LEAVE WITHOUT VISITING THE ANNUAL GIFT STALL AND BOOK SALE IN THE FOYER. *ALL PROCEEDS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT FUND.*

THE DRAW FOR THE RAFFLE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE STALL WILL BE HELD AFTER THE PERFORMANCE OF **TWENTY-SIX CHARACTERS IN SEARCH OF AN AUTHOR** ON 21st OCTOBER.

GIFTS FOR THE STALL ARE STILL NEEDED.

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### **A DISCUSSION**

on this production will be held in the Bernard Shaw Room on TUESDAY, 23rd OCTOBER, at 7.45 p.m. This will be led by

#### **PHILIP STONE**

who will be able to give an experienced professional actor's view of the play and its performance and who, incidentally, started his own theatre career at the Bradford Civic Playhouse where this play was first produced.

Do come along – you may be interested to hear what others thought of the show, and we would like to hear what *you* thought.

Note the date:      **TUESDAY, 23rd OCTOBER at 7.45 p.m.**

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### **COMING NEXT IN THE MAIN THEATRE .....**

THE QUESTORS GOLDEN JUBILEE PRODUCTION OF

#### *THE BEGGAR'S OPERA* by John Gay

**NOVEMBER 14 – 24**

**GALA PERFORMANCE NOVEMBER 18**

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### **AND IN THE STUDIO .....**

**NOVEMBER 1 – 4**

#### *THE SHREW* by Charles Marowitz (after Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*)

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**NOVEMBER 29 – DECEMBER 2**

#### *MARTIN GUERRE* a play devised by the company

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