



BY DOUGLAS VERRALL
THE QUESTORS THEATRE
FEBRUARY 1980



THE QUESTORS THEATRE COMPANY

First performance February 19th, 1980

Let's go.

They do not move (Beckett: **Waiting for Godot** End of Act I)

Though this be play to you, 'tis death to us.

(Sir Roger L'Estrange)

Oh! call my brother back to me!

I cannot play alone;

The summer comes with flower and bee —

Where is my brother gone?

(Felicia Dorothea Hemans: 'The Child's First Grief')

God — the Ground of all being.

(Paul Tillich)

Solipsism: the view of theory that self is the only object of real knowledge or the only thing really existent.

(Oxford English Dictionary)

And sigh that one thing only has been lent

To youth and age in common — discontent.

(Matthew Arnold)

My God, my God, look not so fierce on me!

Adders and serpents, let me breathe a while!

(Marlowe: **Doctor Faustus**)

But don't they ever just only pretend to kill one another?

Why shouldn't you pretend to die, and get dragged out as if you were dead; and then get up and go home, like an actor?

(G.B. Shaw: **Androcles and the Lion**)

And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice,
Lazarus, come forth.

(John 11: 43)

Let's go.

They do not move (Beckett: **Waiting for Godot** End of Act II)

(Quotations chosen by Douglas Verrall)

PLAYGROUND

by

DOUGLAS VERRALL

".....hiding myself behind a façade, play-acting to avoid reality....."

— OSCAR

CAST

in order of appearance

FREDDIE	—	PETER HEALY
OSCAR	—	MICHAEL HOWARD
MARTHA	—	FFRANGCON WHELAN
	—	
LEONARD	—	MICHAEL MOUNTAIN
GRETA	—	MARY HODLIN

Directed by
DAVID FLETCHER

Designed by
DAVID GILBERT

The play is set in the garden at the back of a seaside guest house in the South Coast of England. Early autumn.

ACT ONE : AFTER BREAKFAST
ACT TWO : AFTER LUNCH

THERE WILL BE ONE INTERVAL OF FIFTEEN MINUTES

<i>Stage Manager</i>	—	ROGER STURM
<i>Deputy Stage Manager</i>	—	TONY DODD
<i>Assistant Stage Managers</i>	—	GLYNIS CARTER JULIA ANDREWS JANE FENELON MAUREEN LEWIS LINDA RIVANS
<i>Properties</i>	—	MARY JENNO
<i>Lighting</i>	—	PHIL PAGE & PETE WALTERS
<i>assisted by</i>	—	SUE KENDRICK SIOBHAN NICHOLAS
<i>Sound</i>	—	GEOFF POWELL
<i>Wardrobe</i>	—	FREDDIE EDWARDS

NOW

Come and join in a

DISCUSSION

on the play and its performance, which will be held on Tuesday, **26th FEBRUARY** at 7.45p.m. in the Bernard Shaw Room and will be led by

DANNIE ABSE

Dannie Abse, poet, novelist, playwright (and doctor) has himself had many new plays produced at The Questors and so has first-hand experience of what it is like to see a new work going through the fire of production. After the production of his last play at The Questors, *Funland*, he re-wrote it and under the title of *Pythagoras* it was produced at the Birmingham Rep., has recently been published by Hutchison and is about to have another professional production in Highgate.

The discussion of a new play is always of special interest, not least to the author, to whom your reactions to his work are of great value. So, do come along — all members of the audience are welcome.

NOTE THE DATE

TUESDAY, 26th FEBRUARY at 7.45p.m.

in the Bernard Shaw Room.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR.....

DOUGLAS VERRALL lives in St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex. He was born in East London in 1939. For sixteen years he has been a secondary school teacher, working in places as far apart as Hemel Hempstead and Long Island, U.S.A. He is currently teaching English and General Studies at a school in Hastings. He is married, with four children.

He writes about himself and about *Playground*, as follows:

"I have always been interested in the theatre. I have taken leading roles (e.g. Hamlet, Richard II, Prospero, Cassius) at the annual Pendley Shakespeare Festival in Tring, Hertfordshire (founded by the equestrian commentator Dorian Williams) since 1970 and have most recently acted at the Stables Theatre, Hastings with parts in *The Merchant of Venice* (Bassanio, directed by Peter Ling, writer of 'Crossroads'), *Separate Tables* (John Malcolm and Major Pollock), *The Rivals* (Falkland), *Equus* (Dysart) and *Old Times* (Deeley). My one-man show *Enter Will Shakespeare* has been performed over 50 times in schools, colleges and theatres.

With a full-time job and four children who dance, act and play pianos, violins and recorders, I have little time for writing. I wrote a very bad novel 'Sambo' over ten years ago, but have since had articles, reviews and poems published in 'New Christian', 'The Times Educational Supplement', 'Poetry South East 3', 'South East Arts Review' and 'New Fiction'.

Playground is my first full-length play. I wrote it as a result of taking the Advanced Certificate course at the Central School of Speech and Drama 1976-7. My second play about a family gathering for a photograph is 'on the way'."

Playground is the ninetieth full-length play to be premiered at The Questors Theatre. In addition to this, there have been sixty-three premieres of short plays. In April, there will be a premiere of a new play by James Saunders, *The Girl In Melanie Klein*. Several of his earlier plays, including *Next Time I'll Sing to You*, received their first performances at The Questors. His most recent play, *Bodies* is enjoying a long run in the West End.

COMING IN THE MAIN THEATRE.....

The 3rd
WORLD COARSE ACTING CHAMPIONSHIPS
MARCH 2

YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!

THE HOSTAGE
by Brendan Behan
MARCH 15 - 22

ENGLISH AMATEUR THEATRE WEEK
MARCH 24 - 29

THE DAUGHTER-IN-LAW
by D. H. Lawrence
presented by
THE TALISMAN THEATRE COMPANY
MARCH 24 & 27

DEALING IN FUTURE
by Harold Brighouse
presented by
BOLTON LITTLE THEATRE
MARCH 25 & 28

TRAVESTIES
by Tom Stoppard
presented by
BRADFORD PLAYHOUSE
MARCH 26 & 29

IN THE STUDIO.....

THE QUESTORS STUDENT GROUP PRESENTS
THREE PLAYS

THE ORCHESTRA by Anouilh
THE ADMIRABLE BASHVILLE by G.B.Shaw
THE BILLY-CLUB PUPPETS by Lorca
MARCH 2 - 14

AT THE FILM SOCIETY.....

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF
February 22, at 11 p.m. in the Theatre
