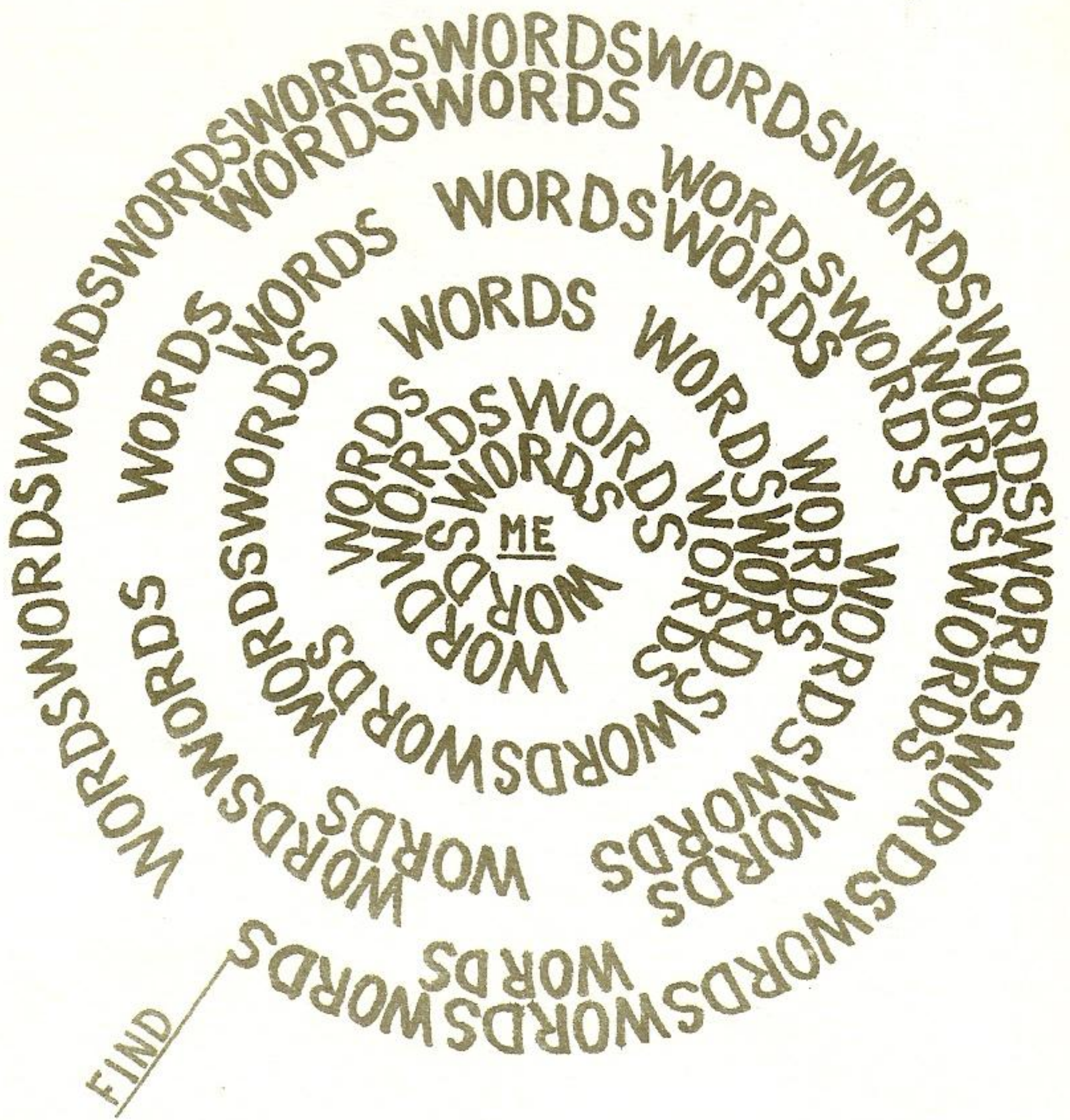


1981



THE QUESTORS
STUDENT GROUP



presents

CONVERSATION PIECES

and

FIND ME



THE QUESTORS STUDENT GROUP

First performance February 22nd 1981

THE PLAYWRIGHTS

HAROLD PINTER (real name Da Pinta), born 1930. Trained as an actor. His first play (*The Room*, one act) was produced in 1957 by the Drama Department of Bristol University. It was later seen in London on a double-bill with *The Dumb-Waiter* (1960). His first full-length play, *The Birthday Party* (1958) was well received by the critics, but had only a short run, and it was *The Caretaker* (1960) which established him firmly as an outstanding playwright. Since then many of his plays have been performed on both stage and television, and he has also written a number of screenplays, notably for *The Go-Between*. The Questors has staged a number of his plays, including *The Birthday Party* (1959), *The Homecoming* (1960), *Old Times* (1974) and *Landscape and Silence* (1977). Later in the season *No Man's Land* will be staged in the Main Theatre.

ALAN AYCKBOURN has a good claim to being the most popular and accessible playwright of the last twenty years. His West End successes are numerous; a steady stream of well-constructed comedies has flowed from his pen. Almost all his plays have first been staged at Scarborough, where he is the resident dramatist — and all have been played 'in the round' as *A Talk in the Park* will be tonight. The Questors has presented only two of his plays in the Main Theatre: *Relatively Speaking* (1973) and *Absurd Person Singular* (1977). Some of the plays from *Confusions* (from which tonight's play comes) were presented by the Student Group in 1979.

JEAN TARDIEU, born 1903, began writing poems and plays at the age of 7. At the age of 17, he suffered a nervous breakdown! His early poems were both lyrical and mystical, but after the war (and under the influence of Prevert and Queneau) he began to write humorous poems which made ironic use of rhyme and classical rhythm. He wrote a number of pieces for radio as well as for the stage. Tonight's piece, *They Alone Know*, is taken from a collection which includes *Lovers on the Underground*, seen at The Questors as a Student production in 1975.

OLWEN WYMARK has been writing for theatre, television and radio since 1965. Her first play, *Lunchtime Concert*, was presented by The Citizens' Theatre, Glasgow in 1966. Since then many of her plays (mainly one-acts) have been presented at the Traverse Theatre, The Stables Theatre, Manchester, The Phoenix, Leicester, The King's Head, The Bush and the Richmond Fringe Theatres. *The Child*, a radio play, won the Giles Cooper award in 1980, and *Mothering Sunday* was heard on the radio in December, 1980, *Find Me* won the New Play Prize at the Actors Theatre, Louisville, U.S.A., and has been staged at the Richmond Fringe and at The Edinburgh Fringe Festival. It is the first of her plays to be presented by The Questors.

Cover design by Roger Harris

CONVERSATION

THE COMPANY

CHRISTINA BALIT

DENISE CURRAN

MICHAEL CURRAN

JOHN GRIFFIN

JUDITH JONES

PATRICK LARKIN

MAUREEN LEWIS

DAVID McCABE

SIOBHAN NICHOLAS

BARBARA PENNY

TONY PLUMRIDGE

STEPHEN QUINN

BRIAN REA

DIRECTED BY JOHN DAVEY



CONVERSATION PIECES/FIND ME

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BRIAN REA

DIRECTED BY JOHN DAVEY



THE PROGRAMME

"CONVERSATION PIECES"

CAST IN ORDER OF SPEAKING

A TALK IN THE PARK *by Alan Ayckbourn*

ARTHUR : DAVID McCABE

BERYL : BARBARA PENNY

CHARLES : PATRICK LARKIN

DOREEN : JUDITH JONES

ERNEST : TONY PLUMRIDGE

LAST TO GO *by Harold Pinter*

MAN : DAVID McCABE

BARMAN : STEPHEN QUINN

THE BLACK AND WHITE *by Harold Pinter*

1st OLD WOMAN : MAUREEN LEWIS

2nd OLD WOMAN : SIOBHAN NICHOLAS

THEY ALONE KNOW *by Jean Tardieu*

PROLOGUE : JOHN GRIFFIN

HENRY : STEPHEN QUINN

SALLY : DENISE CURRAN

JULIAN : PATRICK LARKIN

JANE : CHRISTINA BALIT

INTERVAL OF FIFTEEN MINUTES

FIND ME *by Olwen Wymark*

THE COMPANY

PIECES/FIND ME

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INTERVAL OF FIFTEEN MINUTES

FIND ME *by Olwen Wymark*

THE COMPANY

DESIGNER : ROGER HARRIS
LIGHTING : MARTIN STONER
assisted by : JEREMY HALL
SOUND : ALAN B. SMITH
assisted by : MAURY HORWICH
STAGE MANAGER : PATRICIA McGRAIL
DEPUTY STAGE MANAGER : JOHN STRICKLAND
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS: ANNAMARIA LUISE
SHARON WILLIAMS
PROPERTIES : BOB RICKET
PROMPTERS : PAM GOWER
JANE WOOD
CONSTRUCTION : COLIN BROWN
WARDROBE : GRACE LACAILLE
SEATING DESIGN : DAVID EMMET



THE QUESTORS STUDENT GROUP provides a two year part-time training course for actors, intended to prepare them for membership of the main acting group of the theatre. The course is now in its 34th year. A large proportion of the Questors' acting strength started in the Student Group, many of them now playing leading parts. Selection for the First Year Group is by audition, with usually some 60 applicants for 20 to 24 places. Class commitment in the First Year is 5½ hours a week for 40 weeks. At the end of the First Year a further selection is made for the Second Year Group. It is the current Second Year's first production that you are seeing this evening. The members of the Group will then continue to train and to work for their final production in the Main Theatre next July.



STUDENT GROUP STAFF

*DIRECTOR OF STUDIES
AND ACTING TUTOR* ALFRED EMMET
*DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF
STUDIES AND ACTING TUTOR* JAMES CHINN
ACTING TUTOR JOHN DAVEY
MOVEMENT TUTOR IRENE BRADSHAW
SPEECH TUTOR LAWRENCE WADE

COMING UP

In the Main Theatre

OTHELLO

by William Shakespeare

March 7,8,10,11,13,14,18,19,21 at 7.45 p.m.

Special schools performances March 9,12,16,17 at 7.45 p.m.

This production is



SPONSORED BY

Midland Bank

THE MAGISTRATE

by Arthur Wing Pinero

April 4 – 11

NO MAN'S LAND

by Harold Pinter

April 25 – May 2

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Why not prolong your pleasure after *Othello* on Saturday 7th March by going on from the show to the Bistro? Limited to those attending the performance.

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