

othello

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

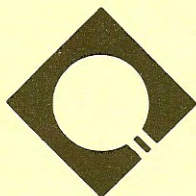


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Midland Bank

THE QUESTORS THEATRE COMPANY

MARCH 1981



THE QUESTORS THEATRE COMPANY

First performance: March 7th 1981

SONG

Goe, and catche a falling starre,
Get with child a mandrake roote,
Tell me, where all past yeares are,
Or who cleft the Divels foot,
Teach me to heare Mermaides singing,
Or to keep off envies stinging,
And finde
What winde
Serves to advance an honest minde.

If thou beest borne to strange sights,
Things invisible to see,
Ride ten thousand daies and nights,
Till age snow white haies on thee,
Thou, when thou retorn'st, wilt tell mee
All strange wonders that befell thee,
And sweare
No where
Lives a woman true, and faire.

If thou findest one, let mee know,
Such a Pilgrimage were sweet;
Yet doe not, I would not goe,
Though at next doore wee might meet
Though shee were true, when you met her,
And last, till you write your letter,
Yet shee
Will bee
False, ere I come, to two, or three.

John Donne

This poem was written at almost exactly the same time as Shakespeare was writing *Othello*.

Othello

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

CAST

RODERIGO GRAHAM WILLIAMS
IAGO MICHAEL LANGRIDGE
BRABANTIO MICHAEL DAVIS
OTHELLO NEVILLE CRUTTENDEN
CASSIO MICHAEL HEALY
DESDEMONA MARY DAVIES
GRATIANO TONY WORTH
SECOND SENATOR DAVID PEARSON
DUKE NORMAN WILKINSON
FIRST GENTLEMAN BILL WALL
MONTANO MIKE ROBOTHAM
SECOND GENTLEMAN RICHARD LEWIS
EMILIA GILLIAN KERSWELL
BIANCA JILLYANN HEALY
LODOVICO ALAN CHISHOLM
FIRST SOLDIER MICHAEL DINEEN
SECOND SOLDIER KOLLYN BAILEY
SENATORS MICHAEL GREEN, BILL WALL
LADIES, SOLDIERS, SERVANTS. SARAH ANDREWS
GWYN EVANS, LYNNE FEATHERSTONE,
PAUL ANDREWS, SIAN OWEN
STAN GLOBOCKI

Directed by Robin Duval
Sets designed by Norman Barwick
Costumes designed by Lindsay Udell
Lighting by Andrew Dixon
Sound by Colin Horne

The action takes place in Cyprus and Venice.

There will be one interval of fifteen minutes

Stage Managers Candy Clotworthy, Crusty Grierson
Assistant Stage Managers Caroline Scotcher, Matthew Grierson,
Alasdair Hall, Janet Gibson, Paul Harrison,
Annette Smith, Jan Morgan, Scott Cook
Wardrobe Lindsay Udell
assisted by Diana Lloyd, Barabara Hutchins, Edith Ricket,
Grace Lacaille and members of the Questors Wardrobe Department
Properties Iris Phelps
assisted by Lynne Featherstone
Lighting Assistants Jolanta Tarnowska, Dave Randels, David Dawson
Sound Assistant Phil Page
Prompt Sue Baker
Fights arranged by Frank Wood
Make-up Julie Cruttenden

Why not come and join the

DISCUSSION

on this production, which will be held on **TUESDAY, 24th MARCH**, at 7.45 p.m. in the Bernard Shaw Room?

There are always 101 different ways of presenting any Shakespeare play. Some may seem valid, others you may hate. We would like to hear how you reacted to this production. And you may like to hear how others reacted, in particular

RICHARD PROUDFOOT

who will lead the Discussion and is a well known Shakespeare scholar and University Lecturer, with a wide experience of Shakespeare in performance — one exceptionally well able to combine the theatrical view with the academic view.

Our after-show Discussions, if you have not yet met them, provide a fascinating opportunity to extend your experience of the play.

NOTE THE DATE

TUESDAY, 24th MARCH at 7.45 p.m.
in the Bernard Shaw Room

All are welcome

Admission is free

OTHELLO

Written in 1602/3. Dekker's *The Honest Whore* (1604) contains an apparent reference to *Othello* - 'a Barbarous Moor'. There are also borrowings from *Othello* in the 'bad' First Quarto of *Hamlet* (1603).

Performed in 1604, '. . . By the Kings Maiesties plaiers. Hallamas Day being the first of Nouember. A Play in the Banketinge house att WhitHall Called The Moor Of Venis.' (Revels Account).

1612-13. *The Moore of Venice* was one of the twenty plays given by the King's Men at the Revels preceding the marriage of Lady Elizabeth.

Registered; 6th October 1621. Thomas Walkley. Entred for his copie under the handes of Sir George Buck, and Master Swinhoe warden. The Tragedie of Othello, the moore of Venice.

Published: 1622. (First Quarto) 'The Tragedy of Othello, The Moore of Venice. As it hath beene diuerse times acted at the Globe, and at the Black-Friers, by his Maiesties Seruants. Written by William Shakespeare, London. Printed by N.O. for Thomas Walkley, and are to be sold at his shop, at the Eagle and Child, in Brittons Bursse, 1622'.

Source: A novella in Giraldi Cinthio's *Hecatommithi* (1565), though the story differs in detail from Shakespeare's. 'Disdemona' is the only character named; the Ensign loves her, and kills her, and the Moor is killed by her relations. Shakespeare seems to have read Cinthio's Italian, as no other contemporary version is known.

Stage History: 1660. 'To the Cockpit to see *The Moor of Venice* which was well done. Burt acted the Moor; by the same token, a very pretty lady that sat by me called out, to see Desdemona smothered.' (Pepys, 11th October).

1660, 8th December. Killigrew's Vere Street production with Margaret Hughes as Desdemona: probably the first appearance of an actress on the public stage.

Othello was one of the few plays to escape 'improvement', and has been regularly performed since its first appearance on the stage. It is very popular in the U.S.S.R.

**COMING UP
IN THE MAIN THEATRE**

APRIL 4 – 11

THE MAGISTRATE

by ARTHUR WING PINERO

This very popular late 19th Century comedy makes its first-ever appearance on the stage of The Questors.

APRIL 25 – MAY 2

NO MAN'S LAND

by HAROLD PINTER

The Questors first staged a play by Pinter twenty-two years ago (*The Birthday Party*, 1959). *No Man's Land* (1975) joins the list of major plays by this most distinguished of modern British dramatists to be presented at the theatre.

MAY 30 – JUNE 7

THE BOY FRIEND

by SANDY WILSON

By arrangement with Samuel French Ltd.

The immensely popular musical (it ran for five years in the original production) glides smoothly onto the Questors stage at the end of May. Don't miss it!

AND IN THE STUDIO

JUNE 11 – 14

THIS STORY OF YOURS

by JOHN HOPKINS

(author of many television serials and plays, including the much-acclaimed tetralogy, *Talking to A Stranger*.)