

ARISTOPHANES

ΕΠΕΚΗΟΥ

BRECHT



THE QUESTORS THEATRE STUDENT GROUP

THE WEDDING

by ANTON CHEKHOV

CAST

YEVDOKIM ZAHAROVITCH ZHIGALOV (A minor civil servant, retired)	SCOTT COOK
NASTASYA TIMOFEYEVNA ZHIGALOV (His wife)	VICTORIA LORD
DASHENKA NASTASYA ZHIGALOV (Their daughter)	CORNELIA CARDEW
EPAMINOND MAXIMOVITCH APLOMBOV (Her fiancée)	GAVIN McQUEEN
FYODOR YAKOVLEVITCH REVUNOV-KARAULOV (Imperial Russian Navy, Retired)	JOHN DOBSON
ANDREY ANDREYEVITCH NYUNIN (Insurance agent)	SEBASTIAN BACKIEWICZ*
ANNA MARTYNOVNA ZMIYUKIN (Midwife)	GLENYS BALCHIN
IVAN MIHAILOVITCH YAT (Telegraph clerk)	MICHAEL DINEEN
HARLAMPY SPIRIDONOVITCH DYMBA (Greek confectioner)	MARTIN WOODRUFF*
DMITRY STEPANOVITCH MOZGOVOY (Sailor in the volunteer fleet and Best man)	STEPHEN QUINN*
NATALYIA (old friend of the family)	BERNADETTE D'ALTON*
MARINA (Mother of the Bridesmaids)	JACKIE WHITTLE*
SASHA (1st Bridesmaid)	SUSAN O'NEILL
SOPHIA (2nd Bridesmaid)	LOUISE KENNEDY†
ANDREY (head waiter)	FRANK WYSE*
TATIANA (1st Waitress)	DEBBIE SAMPSON
BABAKINA (2nd Waitress)	WINNIE MILLER

Anton Pavlovich CHEKHOV was born in 1860 in a provincial town in southern Russia, the son of a grocer and the grandson of a serf. He started his writing career while training as a doctor in Moscow, by writing snippets and short humorous stories for comic weeklies, largely to help maintain his brothers and sister. He had written his first play while still at school, a long and serious piece called *Fatherless*, which may or may not be the same as *Platonov*, of which the script was discovered after his death and which has had occasional productions since, chiefly for its curiosity value. Chekhov was already extremely well known as a prolific short story writer (some 500 published) when he started serious play writing in 1887, with *Ivanov*. *The Wedding* was written in 1889, partly based on an earlier sketch called *The Wedding Season* (1881), and is one of a number of one-act farces called by Chekhov, rather disparagingly, his 'vaudevilles'. The plays which earned him world wide fame as one of the greatest of playwrights followed between 1896 (*The Seagull*) and 1904 (*The Cherry Orchard*). He died of consumption in July, 1904, the best loved and most famous of all Russian writers.



THE QUESTORS STUDENT GROUP

First performance 23rd February 1982

THE RESPECTABLE WEDDING by BERTOLT BRECHT

CAST

MOTHER to Bridegroom	DEBBIE SAMPSON
FATHER to Bride	SCOTT COOK
BRIDE	SUSAN O'NEILL
SISTER of the Bride	CORNELIA CARDEW
BRIDEGROOM	JOHN DOBSON
FRIEND to Bridegroom	MICHAEL DINEEN
WIFE	WINNIE MILLER
HUSBAND	STEPHEN QUINN*
YOUNG MAN	GAVIN McQUEEN

Bertolt BRECHT, born in 1898 into a well to do family in Augsburg, always saw himself as a rebel against his 'bourgeois' background. He also was a medical student and in the first World War was called up as a medical orderly, becoming sickened by his traumatic experiences in a military hospital during hostilities. His first play, *Baal*, was written in 1918. He soon became more deeply involved in theatre, first as drama critic for an Augsburg paper, then as 'dramaturg' at the Munich Kammerspiele, and abandoned his medical studies. He left Germany in 1933, settling first in Denmark, then in Sweden, then Finland and finally in the United States. His most famous play, *Mother Courage*, had its first night in 1940 in Zurich, where *The Good Woman of Setzuan* and *The Life of Galileo* were also premiered in 1943. In 1949 he was offered a theatre in East Berlin by the Communist authorities and established there the Berliner Ensemble. Brecht wrote prolifically about the theory of acting and of 'Epic Theatre', though it is not so certain how far he applied those theories in practice. *A Respectable Wedding*, called *The Wedding* on its first production in Frankfurt in 1926, was not published until 1966, ten years after Brecht's death on the eve of the Berliner Ensemble's first visit to London.

There will be one fifteen minute interval after the second play.

*Denotes past student.

†Louise Kennedy is in the Introductory Group.

This performance may be considered unsuitable for young children.

LYSISTRATA

by ARISTOPHANES

Cast in order of appearance

LYSISTRATA	VICTORIA LORD
KALONIKE	DEBBIE SAMPSON
MYRRHINE	SUSAN O'NEILL
LAMPITO	WINNIE MILLER
CRESSIDA	BERNADETTE D'ALTON*
RHODIPPE	LOUISE KENNEDY†
STRATYLLIS	CORNELIA CARDEW
PHAIDRIAS	MARTIN WOODRUFF*
STRYMODOROS	GAVIN McQUEEN
MAGISTRATE	JOHN DOBSON
MAGISTRATE'S OFFICER	SCOTT COOK
KINESIAS	MICHAEL DINEEN
MANES	MARTIN WOODRUFF*
SPARTAN HERALD	SCOTT COOK
ATHENIAN AMBASSADOR	MARTIN WOODRUFF*

ARISTOPHANES was born about 448 B.C. and was a mere boy at the outbreak of the Peloponnesian War between Athens and Sparta in 432 B.C. Most of his plays were written during the prolonged war, which finished with the destruction of the Athenian Empire in 404. Small wonder that the futility of war was so often the theme of his satirical comedies. 11 of his plays out of a total of some 40 are still extant. They are in fact the only ancient Greek comedies to be preserved entire, but they give no reason to doubt the judgement of the critics of the time that Aristophanes was the greatest of the Attic comic poets. *Lysistrata* was written in 411, at a time when both Euripides and Sophocles were still writing their tragedies, and at a time when the war was going badly for Athens after a disastrous expedition to Sicily a couple of years earlier. However, in this production, ironically supplementing the other two comedies, we are less concerned with history than with Aristophanes' universal theme, as pertinent today as in his own time.

Directed by WENDY STONE
Designed by ROGER HARRIS
Costumes by BERNADETTE D'ALTON
Lighting by JEREMY HALL
Sound by ALAN B. SMITH, MAURY HORWICH

Stage Manager : Tim Godfrey
Deputy Stage Managers : Garth Shaw, Beverley Mannin
Prompt : Rosalind Norman
Assistant Stage Managers : Lesley Aird, Sofia Lewandowska,
Kath Harrington, John Spencer,
Susan Brooker, Ala Mikulin,
Jenny Stuart-Steel, Sue Wood,
Christopher Mann
Lighting Assistants : Nigel Roffe, Colin Finney
Properties and Food : Jennifer Reid, Ivana Cooke
assisted by : Rosalind Stock, Beverley Blackwell
Construction : Nikki Tait, Tony Valenti,
Mandy Fodrio, Paul Fodrio,
Linda Stone, Barbara Morris
Brecht Furniture : Tim Godfrey
Show printing by : Steve Shedlock

THE QUESTORS STUDENT GROUP provides a two year part-time training course for actors, which is intended to prepare them for membership of the theatre's main acting group. The Course, which is run under the auspices of the Ealing Education Committee, is now in its 35th year. A large proportion of The Questors' acting strength started in the Student Group (and some of the Student Group started in our Young People's Groups, one or two of them from the age of about 6 or 7). It is an intensive course, calling for a high degree of commitment. Selection for the First Year Group is by audition, with usually some 60 applications for 20 to 24 places. At the end of the first year a further selection is made for the Second Year Group of 10 to 12 students. Their intensity of work is very high, averaging up to 10 to 15 hours a week for the 40 weeks of the Course. Tonight you are seeing the current Second Year Group's first production as a group. They will then continue to train and to work for their final production next July in the main theatre.

STUDENT GROUP STAFF

<i>Director of Studies and Acting Tutor</i>	Alfred Emmet
<i>Acting Tutor to Second Year Group</i>	Wendy Stone
<i>Movement Tutor</i>	Irene Bradshaw
<i>Speech Tutor</i>	Lawrence Wade
<i>Make-up Tutor</i>	Julie Cruttenden
<i>Deputy Director of Studies and Tutor to Introductory Group</i>	David Emmet

FUTURE PRODUCTIONS IN THE STUDIO

LOCAL SCHOOLS WEEK

March 14–16

Latymer Upper School present

THE CARNATION GANG

by Stephen Poliakoff

March 18–20

Villiers High School – Southall present

HALF A SIXPENCE

Book by Beverley Cross. Music and lyrics by David Heneker.

May 6–8

Bradford Playhouse in

THE KNACK

by Ann Jellicoe

Three men do respectively too well, all right and not well enough where women are concerned. A young innocent looking for the YWCA enters their lives . . .

AND IN THE MAIN THEATRE

March 6–13

HEDDA GABLER

by Henrik Ibsen

Ibsen is a master of suspense and strong narrative and in Hedda he has created one of the immortal characters of world drama.

March 27 – April 3

EQUUS

by Peter Shaffer

From the fact that an act was committed by a highly-disturbed young man Shaffer has written a play of stunning theatricality. Young people may find this play disturbing.

April 17–24

THE CRIMSON ISLAND

by Mikhail Bulgakov

A classic farce by the author of one of the most popular plays ever staged by the Moscow Arts Theatre. A theatrical company has to stage for the Censor an unrehearsed performance of an adventure story on a South Sea Island.
