

Electra

by

Sophocles

Translated by H.D.F. Kitto

Cast

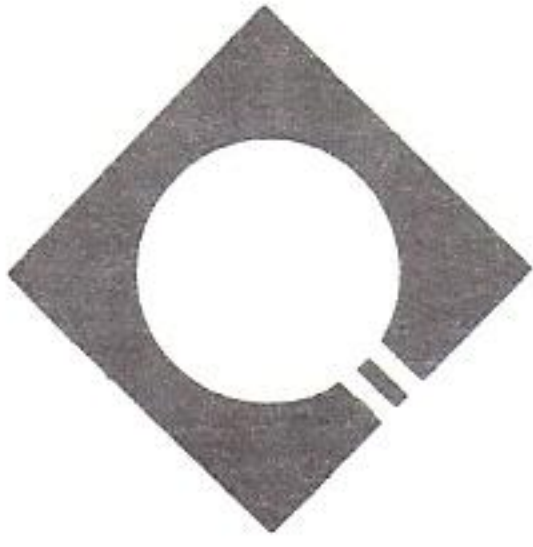
ELECTRA.....	Kathleen Pennor
ORESTES.....	Luke Williams
PAEDAGOGUS.....	Ken Buddell
CHRYSOthemis.....	Marjorie Wiles
CLYTEMNESTRA.....	Nikki Tait
AEGISTHUS.....	Richard Brown
PYLADES.....	Tony Valenti
CHORUS.....	Chrissi Robertson Sue Bradford, Ruth Arnold

SOPHOCLES, the Athenian tragic dramatist, was born in 496 B.C. He has been described as the consummate dramatic artist, the inventor of plot and the creator of character. He lived for 90 years and observed some of the most important events in human civilisation: when he was young Athens was young in democracy; in his youth she was defending it against the might of Persia; in his old age Greece was divided by the contrary ideals of statecraft and ambition for power that led to the Peloponnesian War.

Sophocles is said to have written over a hundred plays, of which seven are extant. He wrote for a theatre very different from our own; not a place of entertainment eight times a week, but a series of annual festivals, the main one held in the Spring, when a cycle of dramatic performances promoted civic splendour and religious ritual.

In *Electra* Sophoclean detachment is pushed to extremes as it presents with consummate skill and dramatic irony the story of Electra and Orestes, sister and brother, who triumph against their enemies, though one of them happens to be their mother. Their harsh judgement, which allows for no place for guilt or grief at this horrendous crime, is shown by Sophocles as an end in itself. It is on Electra, as the title implies, that the principal focus of attention in the play falls, and its bleakness is relieved by the psychological insight and human sympathy displayed in the portrait of this heroine.

When the bloody conclusion is reached the Chorus state: '... Now at last your sufferings are ended. You have won your own deliverance'.



THE QUESTORS STUDENT GROUP

First performance February 23rd 1983

Coda

by
Olwen Wymark

Cast

MAN..... **Tony Valenti**
WOMAN..... **Nikki Tait**
VISITOR..... **Marjorie Wiles**

Olwen WYMARK was born in America, and was married to actor Patrick Wymark until his death in 1970. She has worked with the Unicorn Theatre for Young People, London, the Tricycle Theatre, and held the appointment of Lecturer in Playwriting at New York University.

She has written more than three dozen plays for radio, television and the stage. Two years ago the Questors Theatre Student Group performed *Find Me*, a documentary play about a mentally disturbed girl. *Coda*, originally written for the experimental Close Theatre which is part of the Glasgow Citizens' Theatre, is a personal foray into the world of the absurd, of marriage and the impossibility of transferring our problems to others. These problems are represented by symbols, the weapons are words, but is a conclusion ever reached? Though a visitor arrives, can he or she help?

FOLLOWED BY AN INTERVAL OF FIFTEEN MINUTES

Directed by Wendy Stone
Set designed by Jackie Tye and George Benn

Black Comedy

by
Peter Shaffer

Cast

BRINDSLEY MILLER	Richard Brown
CAROL MELKETT	Ruth Arnold
MISS FURNIVAL	Sue Bradford
COLONEL MELKETT	Ken Buddell
HAROLD GORRINGE	Tony Valenti
CLEA	Chrissi Robertson
SCHUPPANZIGH	Luke Williams
GEORG BAMBERGER	Tony Willis

The action takes place in Brindsley Miller's apartment in South Kensington, London. 9.30 on a Sunday night.

Peter SHAFFER was born in Liverpool in 1926. Between attending St Paul's School, London, and Trinity College, Cambridge he was conscripted as a coal-miner. He worked in the New York Public Library, for Boosey and Hawkes in London and later as a literary and music critic.

His plays seem remarkable for their variety of subject: *Five Finger Exercise* (1958) naturalistically set within a family; *The Royal Hunt of the Sun* (1964) a magnificent epic depicting the Spanish conquest of Peru and the personal confrontation between Pizarro and Atahualpa; *Black Comedy* (1965) arguably the most successful modern farce; *Equus* (1973, and presented at Questors in March 1982), reflecting the moral dilemma of a psychiatrist; and currently *Amadeus*, which gives a different perspective to Mozart and his music.

Black Comedy highlights the insignificance of social conventions as its characters stumble, in more ways than one, in the dark!

Stage Managers **Richard Harris/June E. Malcolm**
Prompter **Patricia McGrail**
Assistant Stage Managers. **Neil McArthur, David Evans,
Peter Barclay, David Emmet**
Wardrobe. **Kathy Skinner**
assisted by **Edith Ricket, Kate Roberts,
Lyn Kitch, Jan Lewis**
Properties **Paul Anderson**
Lighting. **Francis Stephenson**
assisted by **Ian Aldridge, Len Weller**
Sound. **Mike Graham**
assisted by **Stuart Dollin**
Construction **Richard Fernley**

*Many thanks are extended to the numerous people who have
helped at every stage of this production.*

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 36th 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

Director of Studies and Acting Tutor. **Alfred Emmet**
Deputy Director of Studies and Acting Tutor **David Emmet**
Acting Tutor to Second Year Group **Wendy Stone**
Movement Tutor **Johanna Godliman**
Speech Tutor **Lawrence Wade**
Make-up Tutor **Julie Cruttenden**

THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING HAPPENING AT THE QUESTORS

IN THE MAIN THEATRE

March 12 – 19

SIR GAWAIN AND THE GREEN KNIGHT

by Peter Stevens, from the translation by Brian Stone

A story imbued with the heroic atmosphere of the saga and the spirit of mediaeval romance, telling of Sir Gawain's triumph in almost insuperable ordeals.

April 9 – 16

A MONTH IN THE COUNTRY

by Ivan Turgenev, translated by Ariadne Nicolaeff

The pampered wife of a wealthy landowner falls in love for the first time – with her son's young tutor. Turgenev's masterpiece is a wry comedy about the extraordinary way people start to behave when infected by the virus of romantic love.

April 26 – 30

THE MIDNIGHT SUN

by David Mowat

A new play which tells the true story of a Polish seaman who, having absconded from his vessel and taken refuge on an English ship, finds himself stateless. Unable to return to his homeland, not permitted to immigrate into any other state, his dilemma is interwoven with the legend of the Flying Dutchman.

During all main theatre productions food is available from 6.30 pm at THE HOTPLATE in the upper foyer.

IN THE STUDIO

The spring programme of Studio productions will be announced shortly.

MEMBERSHIP of The Questors entitles you to a ticket for ten major productions each season, plus the chance to book for numerous other events. If you would like to know more about The Questors activities, you are welcome to attend one of our **OPEN MEETINGS**, which are held every Wednesday at 7.45 pm.