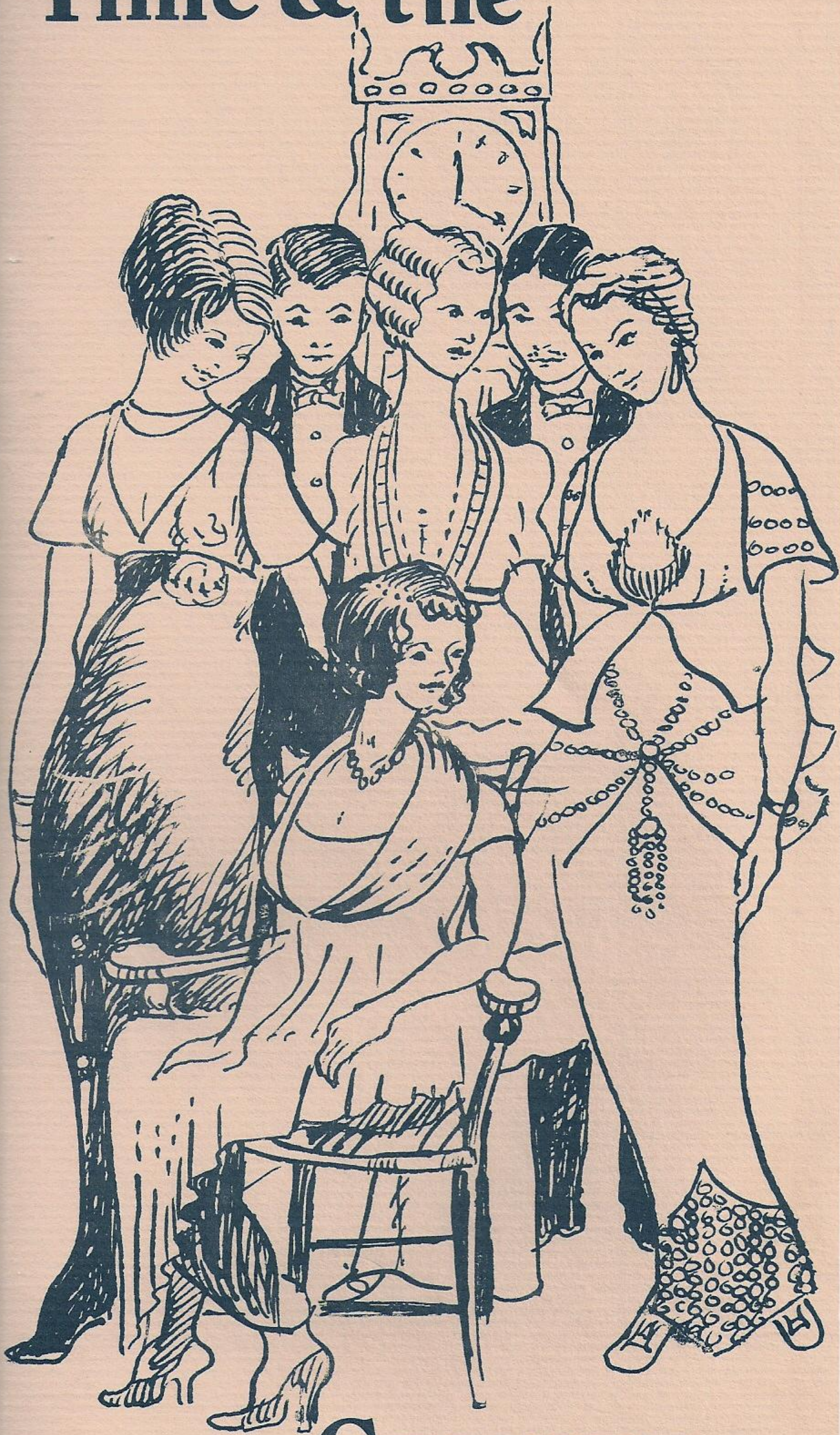


# Time & the



# Conways





# THE QUESTORS THEATRE COMPANY

*First performance July 16th 1983*

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With *Dangerous Corner* in 1932, J.B. Priestley brought a new bite to domestic drama. Later, *Time and the Conways*, (first produced at the Duchess Theatre in 1937) and *I Have Been Here Before*, became his so-called 'Time Plays' and in quite different ways explore a kindred theme.

For two years Priestley had been absorbed by J.W. Dunne's theories — as expressed in *Experiment with Time* and *The Serial Universe* — that just as the mind can travel back into the past it can travel forward, and that this may be seen in dreams when the mind is untrammelled by consciousness. This theory he used to tie up the lives and the fates of the Conway family — a typical middle-class home seen over a period of twenty years.

In Act 1 the time is 1919 and the Conway family, celebrating Kay's 21st. birthday, explode with life and hope now that the Great War is over. Only Kay holds a prophetic vision — what will the future really hold? Act 2 moves us on nineteen years in time and reveals a different view of the Conways. The family now are torn by cynicism, family loss, bitterness, waste and despair. What happened to all those lovely characters who played their game of Charades with such zest for life?

Finally Act 3 reverts to 1919, but we, the audience, have the power to view the characters in a 'time capsule', with knowledge of the past, present and future; we have stepped outside the barriers of time.

At the end of this journey with the Conways — so theatrically alive and full of humour — we too may be wondering what life's journey is all about. The answer is best expressed by Alan in Act 3; "What we really are is the whole stretch of ourselves, all our time, and when we come to the end of this life, all those selves, all our time will be us — the real you, the real me".



THE QUESTORS SECOND YEAR STUDENT GROUP

*present*

# TIME AND THE CONWAYS

*by*

J.B. Priestley

## CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

HAZEL..... Chrissie Robertson  
CAROL..... Abigail Cruttenden\*  
ALAN..... Luke Williams  
MADGE ..... Nicola Tait  
KAY ..... Ruth Arnold  
MRS CONWAY..... Marjorie Wiles  
JOAN HELFORD..... Sue Bradford  
GERALD THORNTON..... Ken Buddell  
ERNEST BEEVERS..... Tony Valenti  
ROBIN ..... Richard Brown

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*The play directed by Wendy Stone*

*Set designed by Norman Barwick*

*Costumes designed by Nicola Tait*

*Lighting by Francis Stevenson*

*Sound by Stuart Dollin*

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*\* Member of the Young Questors Group*



ACT ONE

That night. Kay's twenty-first birthday. 1919

INTERVAL OF FIFTEEN MINUTES

ACT TWO

Another birthday, 1938

INTERVAL OF TEN MINUTES

ACT THREE

Kay's birthday, 1919

The scene throughout is a sitting room in Mrs Conway's house, a detached villa in a prosperous suburb of a manufacturing town, Newlingham.

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Stage Managers . . . . . Glyn Backshall, Chris Roberts  
 Deputy Stage Managers. . . . . Kath Riley, Lucinda Angus  
 Assistant Stage Managers. . . . . Yvette Bach, Amanda Barrie,  
 Majorie Edwins, Bob Mathews,  
 Martin Regan  
 Wardrobe. . . . . Lesley Harris  
*assisted by* . . . . . Christine Smith, Dave Evans  
 Properties . . . . . Bob Ricket  
*assisted by* . . . . . Christine Smith, Dave Evans  
 Construction . . . . . Roger Adams  
*assisted by* . . . . . Bill Skedgell  
 Lighting *assisted by* . . . . . Mark Dressel, Mari King,  
 John Saunders, Annie Ward

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Special thanks are due to the following for their assistance:

WARDROBE Sue Wyatt  
 R.A.F. Uniform supplied by 'Harveys' of Hove,  
 Sussex.

PROPERTIES Sue Baker and Sarah Baker. Ann Sawbridge.

LIGHTING GOATHIRE for technical assistance.

MAKE-UP GREASEPAINT Ltd.

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In the West Foyer there is a display of photographs of the two previous productions by The Questors of *Time and the Conways*.



## THE STUDENT GROUP

The first Questors Student Training Course for Actors was started in 1947. A new Group has been formed every year since then, to run under the same direction. This is a 2-Year Course, aimed at giving preliminary training for amateur actors and preparing them for membership of the main acting group of The Questors Theatre. Between 20 and 24 students are generally enrolled for the First Year Course, selected by audition from some 60 applicants. At the end of the first year, there is a further process of selection to make up the Second Year Group, whose final production you are seeing this evening.

The Course makes great demands on the Students. In the first year there are 5½ hours of classes every week for 36 weeks, including Speech, Movement, Acting and Make-up. In the second year, the intensity of work steps up greatly, with 7½ hours of regular classes each week and many hours of additional rehearsals for the two productions given by the Group during the year, the first of which was the programme of short plays given in the Studio Theatre in February.

The Course therefore demands a very high standard of commitment and enthusiasm and a great sense of loyalty to the Group. Without that, a student will not make the grade, but with it, will learn how to make a valuable and rewarding contribution to the life of the theatre. More than one third of the present acting members of The Questors had their initial training in our Student Group.

The Training Course is run under the auspices of the Ealing Education Committee. A new Second Year Group is now being formed from those who have just completed their first year and applications are being invited for the new First Year Course to start in September.

The minimum age for the Student Course is 18. The Questors also run an 'Introductory Group' for 17-year olds, likewise selected by audition. For this, the class time is only 3 hours per week, but the personal commitment to the Group is just as high.

For further information, or a copy of the Prospectus of the Course, apply to the Theatre Manager.

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### STUDENT GROUP STAFF (1982/83)

<i>Director of Studies and Acting Tutor (First Year)</i>	Alfred Emmet
<i>Acting Tutor (Second Year)</i>	Wendy Stone
<i>Deputy Director of Studies and Acting Tutor (First Year)</i>	David Emmet
<i>Movement Tutor</i>	Johanna Godliman
<i>Speech Tutor</i>	Lawrence Wade
<i>Make-up Tutor</i>	Julie Cruttenden
<i>Tutor to Introductory Group</i>	Steven Hallmark



# THE NEW SEASON IN THE MAIN THEATRE

OPENS ON SEPTEMBER 10th with

## PERIOD OF ADJUSTMENT

by Tennessee Williams  
directed by Annie Kimber

and performances will continue until September 17th.

*IN THE STUDIO* on September 9th and 10th,  
**DANNIE ABSE**, the poet, will be featured in an evening  
of his work. This will include a performance of his one  
act play *Gone*, directed by Richard Halberstadt.

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## AND LATER NEXT SEASON

### HABEAS CORPUS

by Alan Bennett  
directed by Geoff Webb

### HAMLET

by William Shakespeare  
directed by Alfred Emmet

### BODIES

by James Saunders  
directed by Larry Irvin

### THE COARSE ACTING SHOW

directed by Michael Green

### PRINCESS IVONA

by Witold Gombrowicz  
directed by David Emmet

### RING ROUND THE MOON

by Jean Anouilh  
directed by Tony Rushforth

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Full details of these productions, together with our  
regular Studio productions, will be given in *Questopics*,  
the Members' Monthly magazine.

If you are not already a member and would like to  
know more about us why not attend one of the new or  
prospective members evenings? These are held every  
Wednesday, commencing at 7.45 pm in the Grapevine  
Bar. This is not only an opportunity to ask questions  
but includes a comprehensive tour of the Theatre,  
wardrobe, workshop and rehearsal areas.