

THE QUESTORS THEATRE COMPANY

*And a Nightingale  
Sang  
by  
C.P. Taylor*



# THE QUESTORS THEATRE COMPANY

First performance June 18th 1983

C.P. Taylor was born in Glasgow in 1929 and wrote for the theatre from the early 1960's. His work was for a wide range of audiences: community theatre, the West End, studio and regional theatre as well as working both in television and radio.

Among his plays are *Bandits* which was staged by the R.S.C. in its opening season at the Warehouse, 1977. *And a Nightingale Sang*, which played at the Queen's Theatre, London, 1980, *Bread and Butter*, Nottingham and London, 1969, *Black and White Minstrels*, Hampstead Theatre Club, 1972, and *Good*, R.S.C. Warehouse, 1982.

Just as his work was achieving national recognition, Cecil Taylor died at the tragically early age of 52 on 10th December 1981.

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"It's a pleasure to welcome a comedy to the West End that doesn't consist of a number of middleclass citizens standing around trying to sort out their sexual and social problems over cocktails in Hampstead. C.P. Taylor's *And a Nightingale Sang* is refreshingly different in its portrait of a working-class family living in Newcastle-upon-Tyne in World War II. The play is an unmitigated pleasure."

DAILY EXPRESS

"Every once in a while the theatre produces an evening so unexpected, so instantly recognisable as the stuff of humanity, that it rocks you back in your seat . . . . It is not that the characters are so remarkable, but by showing us their comic, obsessive preoccupation with their own individual spot in God's Little Acre, C.P. Taylor manages to warm our hearts and perhaps lets us in on the real secret of the human race's survival."

DAILY MAIL

"The characterisation is affectionate yet sly, sceptical; the north-eastern argot has been scrupulously recorded and lovingly stitched together . . . . to leave a sum impression subtler than caricature, solider than whimsy, and altogether more truthful than a bald paraphrase of the story would lead anyone to suspect."

NEW STATESMAN

*And a Nightingale  
Sang  
by  
C.P. Taylor*

CAST

|                            |                  |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| HELEN .....                | Alison Pollard   |
| JOYCE .....                | Georgie Glen     |
| GEORGE .....               | Norman Wilkinson |
| PEGGY ( <i>Mam</i> ) ..... | Ffrangcon Whelan |
| ANDIE .....                | John Robb        |
| ERIC .....                 | John Dobson      |
| NORMAN .....               | Hugh Simon       |

*Directed by Peter Field*

The action takes place in Newcastle-upon-Tyne during the years of the Second World War.



THERE WILL BE ONE INTERVAL OF 15 MINUTES

*Set designed by John Rolfe*

*Costumes arranged by Lindsay Udell*

*Lighting designed by Alan N. Smith*

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| Stage Manager . . . . .                   | June E. Malcolm  |
| Deputy Stage Manager . . . . .            | Richard Cruse  |
| Assistant Stage Managers. . . . .         | Jo Purse<br>David Evans<br>Claire McKeown                            |
| Production Assistant and Prompt . . . . . | Anne Sawbridge   |
| Properties . . . . .                      | Heather Dowling<br>. Peter Hinson                                    |
| Construction . . . . .                    | Chris Sydenham<br>Bob Charles<br>Tina Harris<br>Roy Brierley         |
| Sound . . . . .                           | Alan N. Smith  |
| Sound Operator . . . . .                  | Susan Crowson  |
| Lighting Operator . . . . .               | Steve Hames  |
| Projectionist. . . . .                    | Jenny Richardson   |
| Wardrobe . . . . .                        | Lindsay Udell<br>assisted by . . . . . Edith Ricket<br>Hilda Collins |
| Dances arranged by . . . . .              | Janet Featherstone   |

Grand Piano kindly lent by  
SQUIRES of Ealing

Period Brandy Bottle loaned by  
International Distillers & Vintners Ltd.

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In the West Foyer there is a display of photographs and programmes illustrating the productions staged by The Questors in the war years, 1939-45.

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## BOOKS

Have you visited the bookstall in the upper foyer? Paper-backs, hardbacks, books large and small, ancient and modern. Books for all tastes and all purses.

Any unwanted books gratefully received — please leave them in the office.

Now come to the

### OPEN DISCUSSION

on this production, which will be held on **TUESDAY, 28th JUNE** at 7.45 p.m. in the **BERNARD SHAW ROOM** and will be led by former RSC actor

### ALAN RICKMAN

whose work is well known to millions as Obadiah Slope in the successful TV serial *Barchester Towers*, and who received outstanding critical acclaim for his performance in *The Seagull* at the Royal Court Theatre, where he was also assistant director of the play *Other Worlds*.

Our regular Discussions after each production provide the opportunity for an informal exchange of views on the play and the way it was done, both with other members of the audience and with the director and company, thereby extending and, we hope, enriching the experience of seeing the show. Each one is led by an experienced theatre personality, thus ensuring an interesting level of discussion.

So come along and join us! if it has been worth seeing (or even if it hasn't) it is worth talking about.

**TUESDAY, 28th JUNE  
at 7.45 p.m.  
in the BERNARD SHAW ROOM**

ADMISSION IS FREE

ALL ARE WELCOME

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### HOT PLATE

Delicious hot snacks and salads are available before every main theatre production from 6.30 p.m. plus tea or coffee or wine and a host of other refreshments.

During the interval tea and coffee will be available plus cakes, sandwiches, sweets etc. but NOT Hot Snacks. Tokens for tea or coffee may be purchased in advance.

*Interval Drinks* can be ordered before the performance from the Foyer Bar.

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### CARDS

Also on sale in the upper foyer during main theatre shows, attractive and varied cards.

# COMING EVENTS

## IN THE MAIN THEATRE

July 16 – 23

### TIME AND THE CONWAYS

by J.B. Priestley

Priestley has said that this is his favourite time-play. It is the story of how the passing of time disenchants and defeats the Conway family.

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July 6 at 7.45 p.m.

### STUDENTS AT WORK

The First Year and Introductory Group Students invite you to come and watch them engaging in typical classes and activities.

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### THE QUESTORS ON TOUR

MINACK THEATRE CORNWALL August 8 – 12

SIR GAWAIN AND THE GREEN KNIGHT

by Peter Stevens

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### THE NEW SEASON OPENS WITH

PERIOD OF ADJUSTMENT by Tennessee Williams

in THE MAIN THEATRE from 10 – 17 September 1983

A light-hearted comedy about love and marriage — American style.

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MEMBERSHIP OF THE QUESTORS entitles you to a ticket for TEN major productions each season, at no extra charge, plus the ability to book for all the numerous other events in the Main Theatre and the Studio for yourself and your friends. You will receive regularly, copies of *Questopics* giving full details of forthcoming events and information about YOUR Theatre.

In addition, you will be welcome, if you wish, to take an active part in the main activities involved in running The Questors Theatre complex.

If you would like to know more about US, why not attend one of the new or prospective members evenings, held every Wednesday at 7.45 p.m.? This is not only an opportunity to ask questions but includes a comprehensive tour of the Theatre, wardrobes, workshop and rehearsal areas (with probably one or more plays in preparation).

We meet in THE GRAPEVINE BAR, another facility available to members about which details can be given.