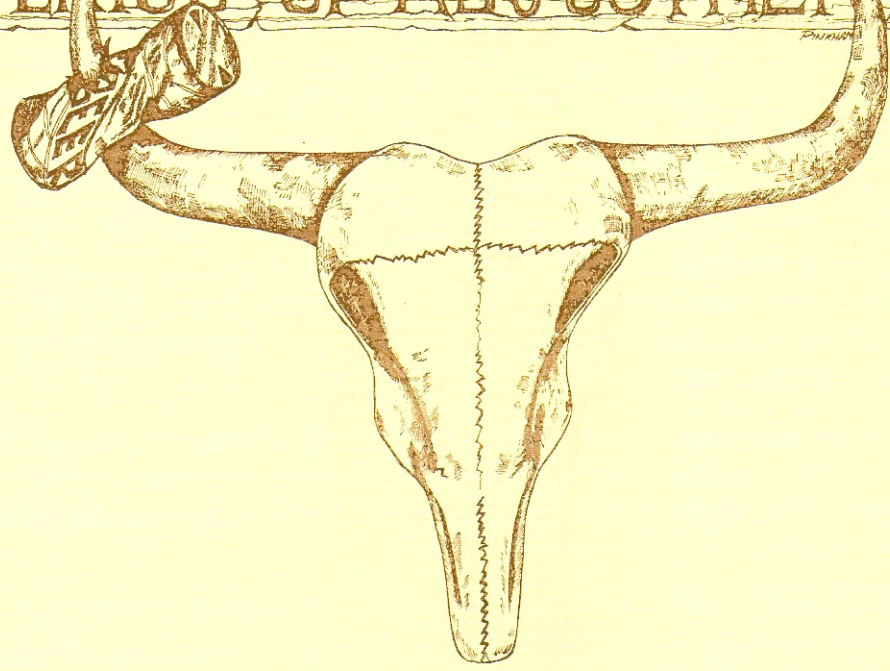


Sept 1983

PERIOD OF ADJUSTMENT



THE QUESTORS THEATRE COMPANY



# THE QUESTORS THEATRE COMPANY

*First performance September 10th 1983*

---

Tennessee Williams died last year at the age of 72. A prolific writer not only of plays but of screenplays, poems, novels and short stories, he received a Rockefeller fellowship at the University of Iowa and won the Pulitzer prize both in 1948 and 1955.

*Period of Adjustment*, written in 1960, is something of an experiment for him as it is in the style of a typical Broadway marital sitcom that even borders on the farcical. But his well-known themes of sexual frustration and disillusionment with the so-called American Dream are never far below the surface and sometimes are so dominant that for moments you can forget it is meant to be a comedy at all.

Indeed the aftertaste is surprisingly bitter and sad, like that of some of Alan Ayckbourn's social satires — so much so that the critics and Tennessee Williams himself are in two minds as to whether the ending is really as happy as it seems . . . . .

Set, like many of his plays in the Southern States, these middle-class characters with their comfortable lives and little problems would seem to have none of the shattering physical and mental defects found in some of his earlier characters. But these people are not products of the pre-war Depression, they are living in the post-war fifties when the 'angry young men' had no excuse not to be successful.

The easy answer is to get rich quick and sell your soul to materialism, or to opt out completely and escape into fantasies of becoming a Wild-West cowboy or the first man in a moon rocket. The men in this play are like spoilt children hankering after their brief moments of past adventure and glory in the Korean war and unable to face up to the responsibilities of a humdrum existence. The women themselves trying to conform to the Hollywood image of the ideal woman, have the job of mothering their men back to becoming all-American husbands and fathers happily ever after.

---



# PERIOD OF ADJUSTMENT

by

## TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

### CAST

RALPH . . . . .	Phillip Sheahan
ISABEL . . . . .	Colleen Johnson
GEORGE . . . . .	Martin Woodruff
DOROTHEA . . . . .	Ferne Arfin
MR. MCGILLICUDDY . . . . .	Philip Remington
MRS. MCGILLICUDDY . . . . .	Annalisa Taylor
SUSIE . . . . .	Julie Bridgman
POLICE OFFICER . . . . .	Stephen Quinn
CAROLLER . . . . .	Caroline Bleakley

*Directed by* ANNIE KIMBER  
*Set designed by* Philip Pinkham  
*Costumes designed by* Diana Lloyd

Stage Manager	—	Caroline Bleakley
Deputy Stage Manager	—	Marguerite Minster
Assistant Stage Managers	—	Steve Hawkins, Hilary Robertson, Tom Smith, Lyndsay Maples
Properties	—	Iris Phelps
	assisted by	Marjorie Edwins
Wardrobe	—	Diana Lloyd
	assisted by	Hilda Collins, Sarah Griffey, Edith Ricket, Barbara Howes, Jacki Hulbert
Lighting Designer	—	Steve Hames
	assisted by	Philippa Forster, Beverley Keech
Sound Designer	—	Dave Ellis
	assisted by	Murray Horrex
Prompt	—	Grace Craddock
Set Construction	—	Tim Hayward
	assisted by	Howard Orman, Nick Winkworth, Gill Clarke, Peter Hinson, Chris Sydenham

Our thanks also to John Turner, Oenone Grant, Michael Langridge,  
David Pearson, Geoff Webb,  
Colin Horne, Ruth Arnold.

Brandy donated by Lucky's Cocktail Bar  
Restaurant, 1a Haven Green, W5

Champagne donated by Moët & Chandon  
and

Cigars by Desmond Sautter Ltd.



ACT 1 Ralph Bates' home,  
Memphis, Tennessee.  
Christmas Eve.

ACT2 The same.

INTERVAL OF 15 MINUTES

ACT 3 The same.



The plays of *Tennessee Williams* have always been the subject of discussion and argument. Why not take the opportunity of attending

#### OUR OPEN DISCUSSION

on Tuesday 20th September  
in THE SHAW ROOM at  
7.45 pm.

This will be lead by

#### OLWEN WYMARK

Mrs Wymark has had her work produced on Radio and TV as well as in the theatre and her play *The Child* won the Giles Cooper award in 1980.

A long standing friend of The Questors who's previous discussions have included *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Treats* and *Bonjour, Là, Bonjour*.

## Forthcoming attractions

IN THE STUDIO

2 – 8 OCTOBER

### E. S. P.

AN EXPERIMENTAL STUDIO PRODUCTION

*directed by David Emmet*

A montage, a theatrical sculpture, an evening of dramatic power, technical effects, imaginative subtlety and Pythonesque humour – the aim is pure theatre.

IN THE MAIN THEATRE

8 to 15 OCTOBER

### HABEAS CORPUS

*by Alan Bennett*

*directed by Geoff Webb*

Trousers fall and buxom bosoms are flaunted in Alan Bennett's hilarious picture-postcard comedy – the funniest play The Questors have staged since that other modern masterpiece of mirth, *Arsenic and Old Lace* (also directed by Geoff Webb).



sponsored by  
Whitbread London Ltd.

HOT FOOD AND SNACKS ARE SERVED IN THE MAIN FOYER  
FROM 6.30 pm.

INTERVAL REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE

If you would like to know more about The Questors 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.