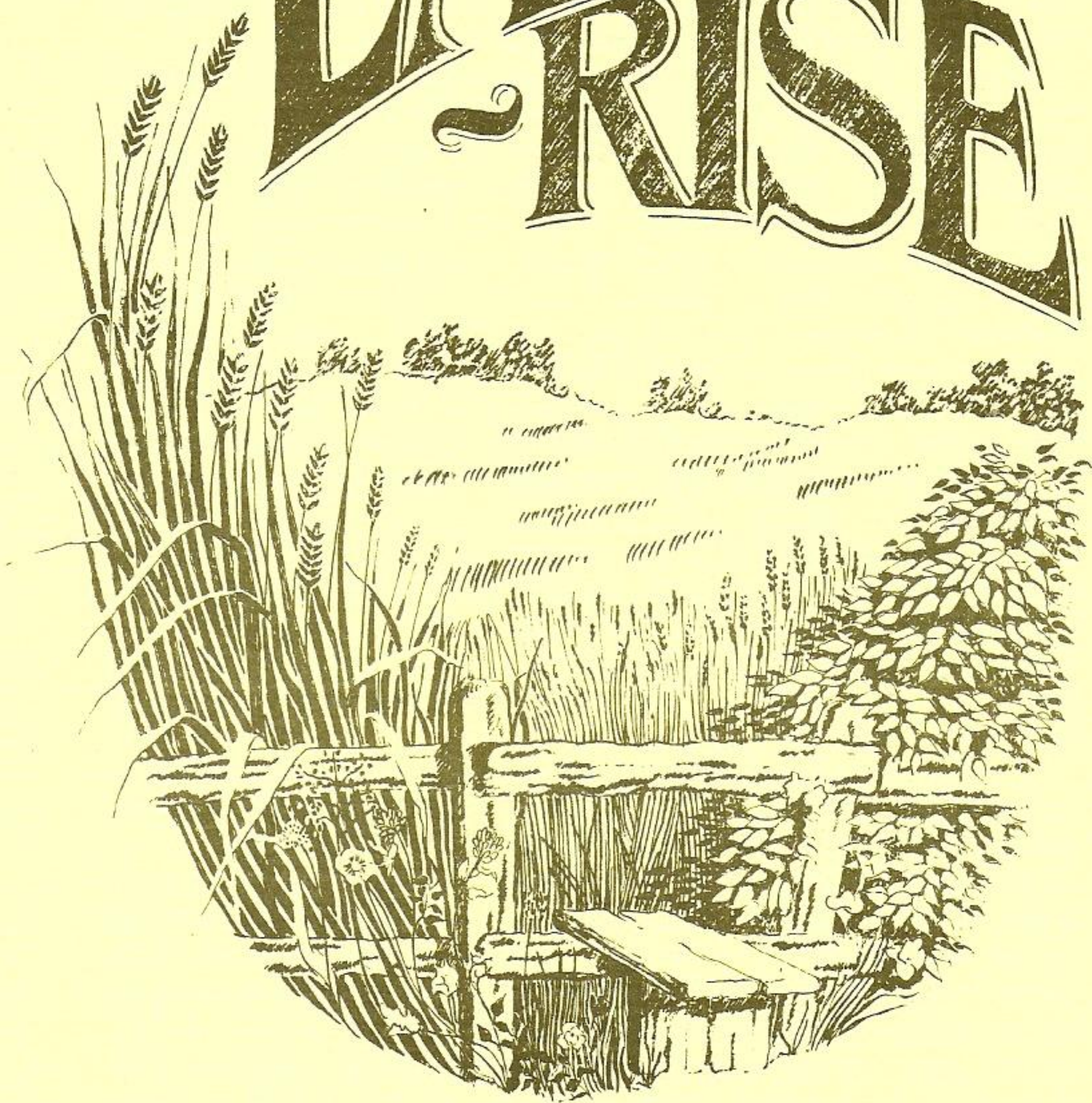
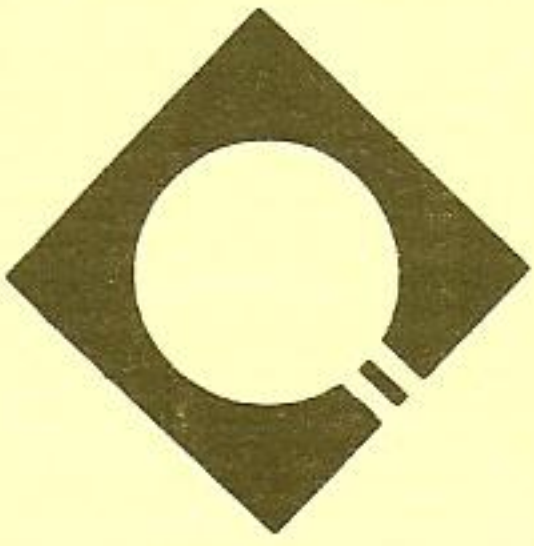


# LARK RISE







# THE QUESTORS THEATRE COMPANY

*First performance 14th June 1984*

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## WHY PROMENADE ?

Tonight you will be reading this programme-note in a standing position. Those comfortable red-plush seats to which you have become accustomed have been denied you; well, most of them anyway. From the Foyer you will be led by underground passage into the Playhouse. That familiar ticket, which normally assures you of the comfort and anonymity of a reserved seat in a darkened theatre, entitles you tonight to promenade with the actors.

Why are we subjecting you, the audience, to this barbarism? To be truthful, it is in the name of experiment. As the director of this production I believe that the final barrier between actor and audience which theatrical convention has lived with over the years is now showing signs of crumbling. I am taking up my own tiny pick-axe in order to speed the process of demolition.

Very great theatrical names have taken larger pick-axes over the years to remove that invisible but oh-so-impregnable barrier. Guthrie realized the excitement of introducing actor and audience to each other. Stephen Joseph brought them together with 'Theatre in the Round'. But I believe that greater theatrical excitement can be engendered and deeper truths explored by Promenade theatre.

Television has played a great part in bringing the audience into close contact with the actor's work. In the theatre, sitting in Row K or in the circle, one somehow feels a sense of loss of focus — how much better if one could be one's own TV camera and zoom in for that odd close up! With promenade theatre I believe that this can be achieved.

Of course one takes risks. How long will it take for the audience to overcome their stage fright? Will the actors ever get used to the audience being in different positions on consecutive nights?

I think that in these early days of Promenade Theatre it takes a special kind of audience and a special kind of actor. The National Theatre found both; I think the Questors has both. A new kind of theatrical experience can be found if we are prepared to experiment and discover together.

We, the Company, in attempting to create this theatrical experience, have kept in the front of our minds Flora Thompson's wonderful book and Keith Dewhurst's adaptation. Tonight we invite you to join us in the hamlet of Lark Rise during a hot summer's day in 1880.

Remember that your own reaction will be observed by other members of the audience. No longer the red plush and the darkness! The Black Magic chocolates will have to be devoured in the car on the way home from the theatre. But with luck you may feel that you have taken part in an adventure — an adventure that I hope we shall have enjoyed together.

Edward Pitt, *director.*



# LARK RISE

*A play by Keith Dewhurst from Flora Thompson's trilogy*

## Cast list

Martha Beamish	Polly Andrews
Bishie, Postie	Glyn Backshall
Polly	Emma Barwick
Mr Morris, Jerry Parrish, Landlord	Roger Bootle
Boamer	Richard Brown
Fisher, Carrier	Julian Critcher
Albert Timms	John Davey
Garibaldi Jacket	Gillian Kerswell
Emma Timms	Lorna Duval
Laura	Sophie Duval
Mrs Miller, Mrs Andrews	Georgie Glen
Old Price, Dick, Grandfather	Michael Howard
Pumpkin, Doctor, Squire Bracewell	John Kearns
Edmund	Andrew Mackersie
Old David, Major Sharman, Rector	Vincent McQueen
Edmund ( <i>understudy</i> )	Keith Owen
Mrs Blaby, Mrs Beamish	Anne Renn
Stut, Twister	Wilfrid Sharp
John Price	Anthony Thomas
Cheapjack, Algy, Tramp	Colin Thomas
Mrs Spicer, Old Sally	Ffrangcon Whelan
Mrs Peverill, Queenie Macey	Val Wilding
Villagers	Maria Brusa, Grace Craddock Monyene Kane, Betty Ogden Glynn Caren, Andy Harvey
Children	Victoria Andrews, Huw Langridge Gareth McLennan Georgie Reid, Megan Whelan
The Old Mole Band	Priscilla Lobley ( <i>accordion, piano</i> ) Ben Lobley ( <i>accordion, concertina, trombone, whistle, melodian, mouth organ, singer</i> ) Jonny Miles ( <i>bassoon, saxophone, guitar, piano, banjo, singer</i> ) Kelly Burke ( <i>fiddle, bass</i> ) Bob Lobley ( <i>percussion</i> )
Singer	Carol Metcalf
Harmonium	Tim Godfrey

Directed by Edward Pitt  
 Associate director Simon Meadon  
 Designer Beth Crowley  
 Costumes Lindsay Udell  
 Lighting Richard Broadhurst  
 Sound Alan N. Smith



There will be no interval. The duration of this performance will be approximately one hour and fifty minutes.



Stage Manager  
Deputy Stage Manager  
Assistant Stage Managers

— Colin Horne  
— Jenny Richardson  
— Ray Crocker  
Wendi Harrison  
Doug King  
Clare McKeown  
Caroline McMahon  
Gordon Miller  
Geoff Moore  
Penny Morris  
Charles Nicholls  
Sue Reading  
Garth Shaw  
John Stacey  
Bridgett Stevens

Musical Advisor  
Wardrobe Assistants

— Neil (Reg) McArthur  
— Sarah Andrews  
Hilda Collins  
Jean Derby  
Jacki Hulbert  
Anna Piet  
Edith Ricket  
Nicola Wakeham  
Mary Angus

Make-up

— Julia Cruttenden  
Karen Elton  
Glyn McKay  
Julia York Moore

Properties  
Construction

— Joan Curry  
— Paul Brand  
Tina Harris  
Tim Hayward  
Chris Sydenham

Lighting Operators

— Philippa Forster  
Malcolm Robertson

Lighting Assistants

— Jacqui Ellis  
Friedl Landau  
Jane Blackwell

Sound Assistant  
Flying

— Sue Crowson  
— Gerry Blake  
Roy Brierly

Craft Demonstration Organiser

— Kath Harrington

#### Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Edna Doré of the original National Theatre cast  
Gunnersbury Park Museum — farm implements  
Principal Countryside Officer GLC — farming artifacts  
Whitbread & Co plc — horse tackle  
Master Thatchers Ltd — wheat  
Clive & Tricia Evans — harmonium  
UK Corrugated — cardboard for scenery  
Great Western Housing Association — range  
Ealing Abbey — Church artefacts  
Irish Linen Depot — lace bobbins etc  
Gauloises Scaferlati pipe tobacco donated by Autran & Seita  
G M Gerrards Pitshanger Lane — fruit  
Mr & Mrs Goodbourn — gate  
Glennis Harrison & Marie Holmes for lacemaking tuition  
Lennie Tucker of National Theatre lighting department for loan of torches  
White Light (Electrics) Ltd — additional lighting equipment  
Morris dancing by Hammersmith & Grand Union Morris Men  
Safeways Food Stores Ltd  
Ned Gethings  
Nevile Gillett

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If you have enjoyed the music for *Lark Rise* you may like to  
book the Old Mole band with caller for your barn dance

Telephone Bob or Pris on 567 0801

Recordings of Old Mole are available from Pansound PO Box  
London W13 9QH

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# OPEN DISCUSSION

The Discussion on *Lark Rise* will be held on Tuesday 26 June at 7.45 pm in the Bernard Shaw Room.

It will be led by

**EDNA DORÉ**

who has been a member of the National Theatre since 1976. During that time she has appeared in 20 productions of which she confides that her favourite was *Lark Rise* in which she created the parts of Queenie and Mrs Peverill. Prior to her National Theatre work she appeared at the Albery Theatre playing Mrs Sowerberry in *Oliver*, featured in *Billie* at Drury Lane and Alan Bennett's play *Getting On*. She is currently recording episodes of *Tenko* for the BBC.

**DON'T FORGET TUESDAY 26 JUNE  
IN THE BERNARD SHAW ROOM**

*All are welcome*

*Admission Free*

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## HOT PLATE

A selection of savouries and sweetmeats will be sold by Miss Dorothy Dent and her ladies before each performance.

(From 6.30 pm for Evening performances and approximately an hour before each matinee.)

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IN THE FOYERS THERE ARE DISPLAYS OF  
DRAWINGS, PHOTOGRAPHS AND POST CARDS  
DEPICTING RURAL EALING

Our very grateful thanks to: Alan Gillett for the loan of his original illustrations for Kate McEwan's book *Ealing Walkabout*. Reg Eden and Ealing Central Library for the loan of post-cards and photographs illustrating rural Ealing at the turn of the century. The Friends of St Mary's, Perivale and Kate McEwan for their co-operation.

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New and Prospective Members evenings are held every WEDNESDAY, commencing at 7.45 pm in the Grapevine bar. Included in the programme will be a comprehensive tour of the acting areas, workshops, wardrobe and rehearsal space.



# ***Forthcoming Attractions***

## **IN THE PLAYHOUSE**

**JULY 14 – 21**

### **THE MATCHMAKER**

by Thornton Wilder

(2nd Year Student Group production)

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## **IN THE STUDIO**

**JUNE 12 – 16**

### **DANCING NAKED**

the Première of a new play by David Pearson

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**JULY 14 – 21**

### **ROMEO AND JULIET**

by William Shakespeare

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## **NEXT SEASON**

### **IN THE PLAYHOUSE**

**SEPTEMBER 15 – 22**

### **ABODE OF PEACE**

by Ruth Praver Jhabvala

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**OCTOBER 6 – 13**

### **THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST**

by Oscar Wilde

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**NOVEMBER 3 – 17**

### **HENRY IV Part I**

by William Shakespeare

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## **THE GRAPEVINE XXV DANCE**

**SATURDAY 7th JULY**

Tickets: £5.50 each

(Dress: Dinner jackets/Lounge suits)

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