



LOAVES

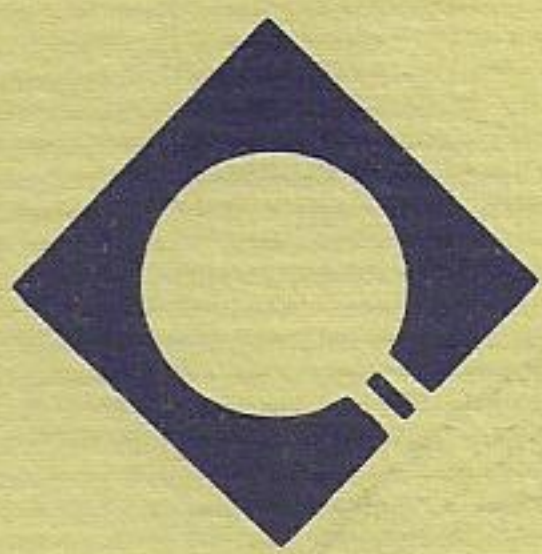
AND
FISHES

An Edwardian Comedy
by
W. Somerset
Maugham

28th April - 5th May, 1984
at 7.45pm



THE QUESTORS THEATRE COMPANY



THE QUESTORS THEATRE COMPANY

First performance 28th April 1984

In 1900 *Punch* commissioned the 26-year-old William Somerset Maugham to write two short stories for them. One, a satire entitled *Cupid and the Vicar of Swale*, was received with moderate success and Maugham — a great recycler of his own material — rewrote it as a full-length play in 1903 and called it *Loaves and Fishes*.

But what had been acceptable as a short story was not admissible, apparently, in the theatre. Agent after agent turned Maugham away, and it was not until 1910 that Charles Froham, the producer who had already put Maugham's theatrical work in the history books by having four of his plays running in the West End at the same time (*Lady Frederick*, *Jack Straw*, *Mrs Dot* and *The Explorer*), agreed to mount a production.

The play was premièred at the Duke of York's Theatre on 24th February, 1911 — it was a critical disaster and ran for 48 performances. Maugham, however, was undismayed. He believed that the reason for its failure was the public's refusal to see a clergyman lampooned. He was probably right, because a novel he had written using the same material (he really was no wastrel) in 1906, entitled *The Bishop's Apron* was a huge commercial success. It seemed that the Edwardian public was happy enough to read such scurrilous material in the privacy of its own home, but to be seen laughing at it in a public theatre was not to be countenanced.

This present production offers you a rare opportunity to see for yourselves what all the fuss was about. Tasteless, or sparkling? Blasphemous, or hilarious? Feeble, or elegant? Now is your chance to decide.

LOAVES AND FISHES

by

W. Somerset Maugham

Characters in order of appearance

Lady Sophia Spratte, <i>sister to Canon Spratte</i>	Jennifer Tudor
Ponsonby	Peter Grogan
The Rev. Lionel Spratte, <i>the Canon's son</i>	Jeremy Bentham
The Hon. and Rev. Canon Theodore Spratte	Ken Ratcliffe
Mrs Fitzgerald	Lesley Bilton
The Earl Spratte, <i>the Canon's brother</i> . . .	Derek Bullock
Winifred Spratte, <i>the Canon's daughter</i>	Sue Arnold
Gwendolen Durant	Marjorie Wiles
Bertram Railing	Derek Stoddart
Lord Wroxham	Tony Diggle
Mrs Railing	Mary Culverhouse
Louise Railing	Nikki Tait

Directed by Jack Wood

Set designed by Matthew Sudds

Costumes designed by Stella Bond

The action of the play takes place in the Drawing Room at St. Gregory's Vicarage in South Kensington.

The year is 1907.

There will be one Interval of fifteen minutes

Stage Manager	Chris Sydenham
Deputy Stage Manager	Tina Harris
Assistant Stage Managers	Alec Atchison Martin Bishop, Gabriel Farrell
Prompt	Alison Jones
Wardrobe	Stella Bond
assisted by	Sue Peckitt, Judy Sturley
Properties	Garth Shaw
assisted by	Hilary Brown
Construction	Tim Hayward
assisted by	Arthur Boardman, Paul Bland, and members of the crew
Lighting	Richard Broadhurst
assisted by	Malcolm Roberston, Jacqui Ellis
Sound	Grace and Charles Lacaille

Thanks to Goeff Moore, Phil Pinkham, Roger Kelly
Hair by Greasepaint Ltd.

Lady Sophia's blouses
from
The Spring Collection
at



George Street

Richmond

The production photographs for *Loaves and Fishes* are by John Wilson.

HOTPLATE

Delicious food is available in the Upper Foyer from 6.30 pm during the run of theatre productions.

Interval refreshments will be served and you can buy tea or coffee tokens in advance.

Orders for Interval drinks can also be given at the bar prior to the performance.

Patrons are respectfully asked to refrain from taking refreshments into the auditorium.

OPEN DISCUSSION

The Discussion on *Loaves and Fishes* will be held on TUESDAY 8th MAY at 7.45 pm in the BERNARD SHAW ROOM.

It will be led by

KENNETH McCLELLAN

experienced actor, director, writer of successful plays and also author of that wittily serious book, *Whatever Happened to Shakespeare?*

TUESDAY 8th MAY at 7.45 pm
in the
BERNARD SHAW ROOM

All are welcome

Admission is free

SPECIAL ATTRACTION

SATURDAY 12 MAY 1984

THE THEATRE WILL BE
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
FROM 10 am to 4 pm

TOURS — REFRESHMENTS — DISPLAYS
WHY NOT COME ALONG AND FIND OUT
HOW THE THEATRE WORKS?

In addition

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 THEATRE

MAY 19 – 26

THE MASTER BUILDER

by Henrik Ibsen
translated by Michael Meyer

JUNE 14 – 21

LARK RISE

by Flora Thompson adapted by Keith Dewhurst

JULY 14 – 21

THE MATCHMAKER

by Thornton Wilder
(2nd Year Student Group production)

IN THE STUDIO

MAY 10 – 13

LONG WAY AWAY

an improvisation

JUNE 12 – 16

DANCING NAKED

the Première of a new play by David Pearson

JULY 14 – 21

ROMEO AND JULIET

by William Shakespeare

NEXT SEASON

ABODE OF PEACE by Ruth Praver Jhabvala

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

by Oscar Wilde

HENRY IV PART I by William Shakespeare