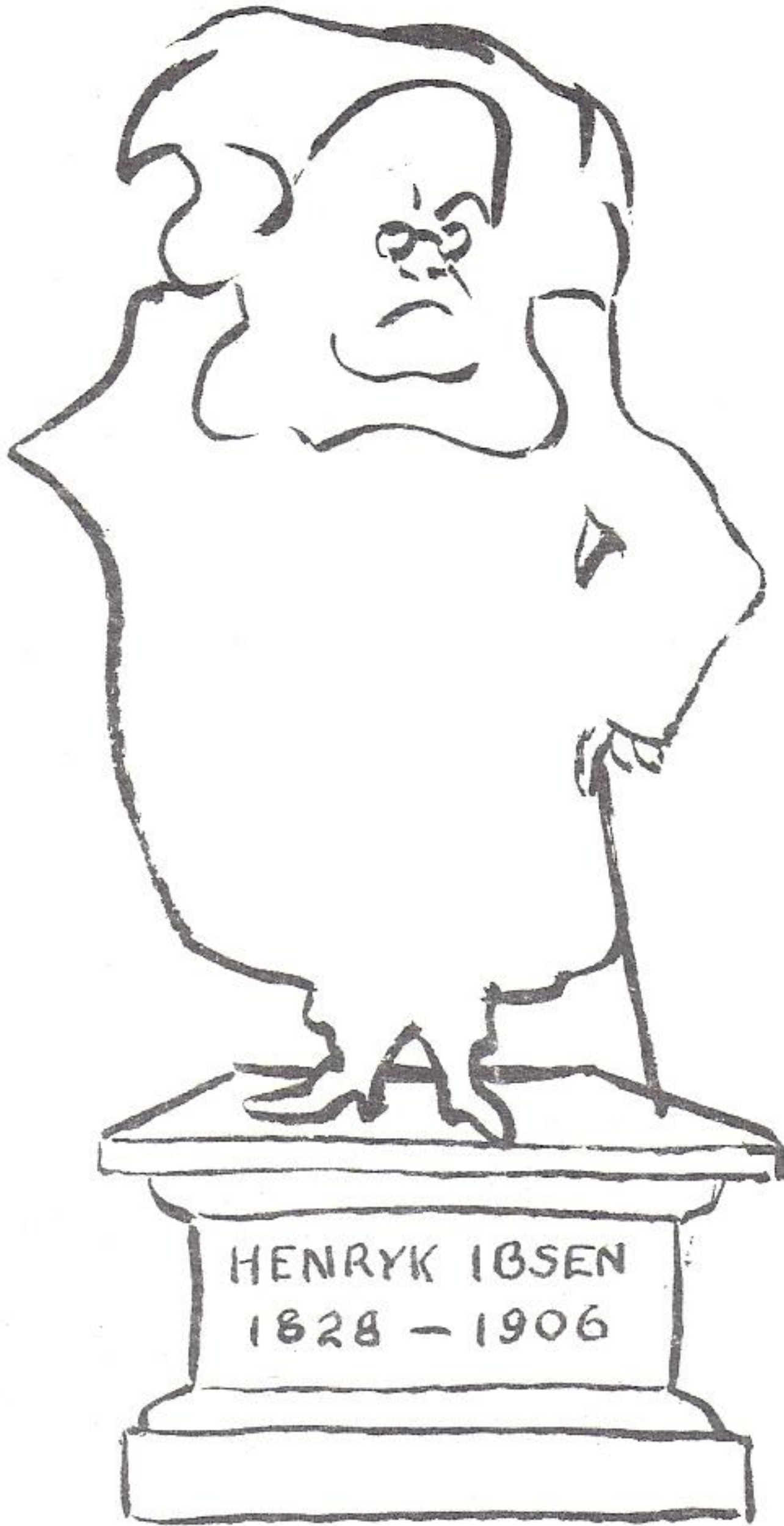


 THE QUESTORS THEATRE



The
'Master Builder'



THE QUESTORS THEATRE COMPANY

First performance 19 May 1984

THE MASTER BUILDER – DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"Tell me Hilde, why have you come? What do you want here?"

"I want my kingdom".

What is this kingdom that Hilde Wangel wants from the Master Builder? What precious possession is hoarded by this lonely giant? Answer these questions and the tragedy of Halvard Solness is accessible. So I have tried.

Solness, like Ibsen himself, is an awe-inspiring, dynamic creator crippled by his inability to come to terms with a strong commitment to God that has now lapsed. This loss of faith has left him in torment because he fears God's retribution, but he cannot blindly enslave himself to a master who demands total self-sacrifice of his servants. His is a mind that needs and wants to delight in Life – completely and utterly to find joy in every minute of his existence.

Hilde Wangel alone can help him to this delight. That is her kingdom the ability to enjoy life. An unconquerable kingdom with its castle whose walls will never crumble, because if you do not have the imagination to see it you cannot attack it, and if you can see it you would never want to harm it.

But Hilde too is crippled. For Ibsen she possessed a sick sexuality. She had had an electrifying sexual experience seeing the Master Builder high at the top of a tower. Now, ten years later, she wants that experience again. That is the price for her kingdom.

Perhaps if Solness had read Tolstoy's *War and Peace* he might have stilled his torment with the comment the author makes in that novel, "Life is everything. Life is God. Everything changes and moves to and fro, and that movement is God. And while there is life there is joy in consciousness of the Godhead. To love life is to love God".

THE MASTER BUILDER

by

HENRIK IBSEN

translated by Michael Meyer

Cast in order of appearance

Halvard Solness John Turner
Ragnar Brovik Simon Higginson
Knut Brovik John Martin
Kaja Fosli Ruth Arnold
Aline Solness Sarah Andrews
Dr. Herdal Michael Green
Hilde Wangel Maggie Wilkinson

Directed by Neville Raschid

Set designed by Norman Barwick

Costumes designed by Nikki Tait

Lighting designed by Frank Wood

*There will be two intervals, the first fifteen minutes
and the second five minutes*

There is a display in the West Foyer of photographs of previous productions by The Questors of plays by Ibsen.

Stage Managers		– Anthony Dodd Sue Blake
Deputy Stage Manager		– Neville Bradbury
Assistant Stage Managers		– Cornelia Cardew Anita Mehta Lucinda Angus Johanna Barwick Patricia Scanlon Nichola Smith Steven Anderson Gabriel Farrell
Wardrobe		– Nikki Tait
	assisted by	– Barbara Sweryda
Properties		– Marguerite Minster
	assisted by	– Neville Gillett
Construction		– Richard Fernley
	assisted by	– Carey Middleton
Lighting Assistants		– Sandy Bhardwaj Martin Udall
Sound		– Stuart Dollin
Flying		– Roy Brierley Martin Udall Alan B. Smith Paul Worsley
Prompt		– Val Howe
Promotional Video		– Stuart Dollin Sandy Bhardwaj Frank Wood

With thanks to: Canon (U.K.) Ltd.
Olympus Optical Systems Ltd.
Panasonic (U.K.) Ltd.
Iris Phelps, Rob Hughes, Nigel Cowell,
Eric Regan, Monyene Kane, and all the other
Questors members who helped.

The Questors Theatre gratefully acknowledge the assistance
towards building the beams for the set provided by



UK Corrugated

– manufacturers of
corrugated cases and fitments.

The production photographs for *The Master Builder* are
by Frank Wood.

OPEN DISCUSSION

The Discussion on *The Master Builder* will be held on TUESDAY 29th MAY at 7.45 pm in the BERNARD SHAW ROOM.

Why not come along and express your views, or hear the views of others?

The evening's discussion will be led by

MICHAEL MEYER

whose translation of *The Master Builder* you are seeing tonight.

Michael Meyer is widely regarded as the definitive translator of Ibsen's plays. You may have seen him recently in the television programme *All The World's A Stage* discussing Ibsen and *The Master Builder* in particular.

There is no one more qualified to talk about Ibsen's work, and we are delighted he has agreed to lead the discussion on our production.

TUESDAY 29th MAY at 7.45 pm

Admission Free

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.

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

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

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

THE GRAPEVINE XXV DANCE

SATURDAY 7th JULY

Tickets: £5.50 each

(Dress: Dinner jackets/Lounge suits)
