BERTOLT BRECHT



a student group production

First performance 13 July 1985

"The place is absolutely unlivable! Good intentions bring people to the brink of the abyss, and good deeds push them over the edge. I'm afraid our book of rules is destined for the scrap heap."

So say one of the Gods.

Shen Te, struggling in poverty in the remote Chinese province of Setzuan, is forced to live as a prostitute in order to survive. She wants to do good, but can only achieve this by also doing harm. Torn between the demands of opposites — good and evil, poverty and survival, love and hate — Shen Te discovers that in some ways she is governed by her own actions. At times her predicament is strikingly realistic, and at others it seems like part of a bizarre fable, and the style shifts and turns through the comic, the tragic, the poetic and the musical.

As the Gods finally leave Shen Te, Brecht also leaves us with the question of how much hardness is needed in the world to protect goodness and generosity.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE KIND AND GENEROUS
ASSISTANCE OF

TONY CHOW

and

Maxim Restaurant

Peking Cuisine

NORTHFIELD AVENUE WEST EALING





THE GOOD WOMAN OF SETZUAN

by BERTOLT BRECHT

Characters in order of appearance:

WONG, a waterseller	MICHAEL LAW
	(ANNETTE SHEPPARD
THE GODS	DEANNA JOHNSON
	JO BRUNT
SHEN TE	HELEN RAISWELL
MRS. SHIN	
WIFE	LYNDSAY MAPLES
HUSBAND	
NEPHEW	STUART RHODES
UNEMPLOYED MAN	SEAN McGRATH
CARPENTER	
BROTHER	
SISTER-IN-LAW	
Mrs. MITZU	
GRANDFATHER	
THE GIRL	3 RIANDA ALBERT
	? or SARAH THORNE
NIECE	
UNCLE	
OLD WOMAN	LYNDSAY MAPLES
YANG SUN	STUART RHODES
OLD PROSTITUTE	
SHU FU	
OLD MAN	
MRS. YANGJOA	
WAITER	SEAN McGRATH
PRIEST	
FENG	PAUL HOGGET or LOUISE FROST
	or LOUISE FROST
	KATIE WILLIAMS
	and TOM BURNS
THE CHILDREN	or
	HELENA SALAUN
	and OLIVIA SALAUN

The play is set in the half westernised city of Setzuan.

Scene	1 }	A tobacco shop
	3	The park
	4 } 5 }	The tobacco shop
	INT	ERVAL OF 15 MINUTES
	6	A restaurant
	7	In front of the shop
	8	The factory and yard
	9	The shop
	10	The courtroom

The Play directed by JOHN WILSON*
Original set design by JOHN WILSON
Construction & final design by JEZ HAWES
Music composed and directed by MICHAEL CARVER
Costumes designed by ANNA PIET, JOHN WILSON,
SUE BLAKE, ANITA MEHTA

Stage Manager
Deputy Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Managers

: JIM CRADDOCK
: NEIL THOMPSON
MARGARET BULL
EVELYN FRITH
ANITA MEHTA

Prompter
Wardrobe
assisted by
Properties
assisted by

: IAN FERGUS

ALAN BOYD

: SUE BLAKE

Construction assisted by Lighting assisted by

Sound

: ANNA PIET
DIANA KILBORN

: BOB RICKET KRYSIA SMITH JUDITH OLIVER

: JEZ HAWES STEVE ANDERSON

: ALAN B. SMITH DIANE CROWDER : FRANK WOOD

Bicycles furnished by JIM CRADDOCK
Special thanks to JULIA CRUTTENDEN and GREASEPAINT
GLYN BACKSHALL and SHU PIN BENNETT

The Questors Theatre badges are on sale at the Gift Stall in the Foyer before the performance and during the interval.

^{*} Vic Pompini and John Wilson are past members of the Student Group.

THE STUDENT GROUP

The first Questors Student Training Course for Actors was started in 1947. A new Group has been formed every year since then, to run under the same direction. This is a 2-Year Course, aimed at giving preliminary training for amateur actors and preparing them for membership of the main acting group of The Questors Theatre. Between 20 and 24 students are generally enrolled for the First Year Course, selected by audition from some 60 applicants. At the end of the first year, there is a further process of selection to make up the Second Year Group, whose final production you are seeing this evening.

The Course makes great demands on the Students. In the first year there are 5½ hours of classes every week for 36 weeks, including Speech, Movement, Acting and Make-up. In the second year, the intensity of work steps up greatly, with 7½ hours of regular classes each week and many hours of additional rehearsals for the two productions given by the Group during the year, the first of which being performances of *THE TRIAL* and *Cage Birds* in the Playhouse in February.

The Course therefore demands a very high standard of commitment and enthusiasm and a great sense of loyalty to the Group. Without that, a student will not make the grade, but with it, will learn how to make a valuable and rewarding contribution to the life of the theatre. More than one third of the present acting members of The Questors had their initial training in our Student Group.

The Training Course is run under the auspices of the Ealing Education Committee. A new Second Year Course is now being formed from those who have just completed their first year and applications are being invited for the new First Year Course to start in September.

The minimum age for the Student Course is 18. The Questors also run an 'Introductory Group' for 17-year olds, likewise selected by audition. For this, the class time is only 3 hours per week, but the personal committment to the Group is just as high.

For further information, or a copy of the Prospectus of the Course, apply to the Theatre Manager.

STUDENT GROUP STAFF 1984/85

Director of Studies
and Acting Tutor (1st Year)
Acting Tutor (2nd Year)
and Movement Tutor
Speech Tutor
Make-up Tutor
Tutor to Introductory Group

DAVID EMMET

JOHN WILSON
PENNY DWYER
JULIA CRUTTENDEN
CORNELIA CARDEW

Forthcoming Attractions

IN THE STUDIO

20 – 27 JULY THE SEA by Edward Bond

IN THE PLAYHOUSE

14 – 21 SEPTEMBER
THE DAUGHTER-IN-LAW
by D.H. Lawrence

HOTPLATE

Delicious food is available in the Upper Foyer from 6.30pm 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.

Members Lunch Time Social Group meets every last Wednesday of the month. 12.30 — 2pm Upper Foyer. Refreshments available.

Speakers — Discussions — Displays — Demonstrations etc on matters relating to 'THEATRE'.

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