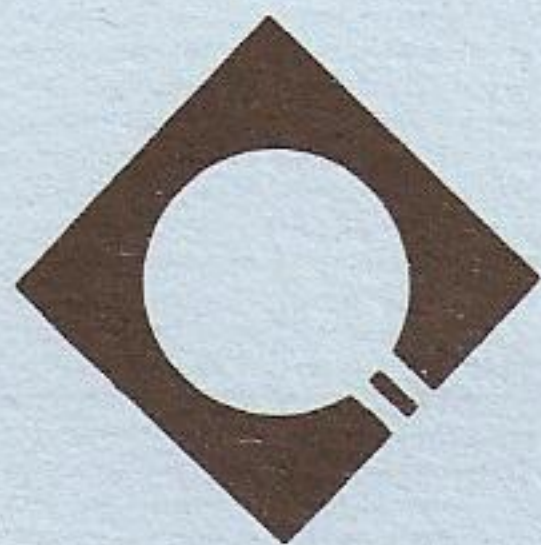


QUESTORS THEATRE

D. H. Lawrence's

The Daughter-in-Law



THE QUESTORS THEATRE COMPANY

First performance 14th September 1985

The Daughter-in-Law was first performed under the title *My Son's My Son* at the Playhouse Theatre, London, in May 1936. At the time it was billed as 'An unrevised play by D.H. Lawrence, completed by Walter Greenwood', (author of *Love on the Dole*). Greenwood, in fact, butchered the play and made changes which were crudely melodramatic and which undermined the subtleties of characterisation and relationships in the original text. It was not until January, 1967 that the full original text was first performed at the Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh, followed by Peter Gill's much acclaimed production at the Royal Court Theatre in March, 1967. In reviewing this production Frank Marcus remarked that 'it seems hardly credible that a play of the quality of *The Daughter-in-Law* could have remained unperformed'.

To see why the play, written at the end of 1911, had to wait more than half a century for any general recognition, we have to look at the condition of the English Theatre at that time. Lawrence himself felt that the plays of the time were 'boney, bloodless drama'. He called Shaw, Galsworthy and Barker, 'the rule and measure mathematical folk' believing that they wrote drama of abstract ideas and representative problems. Moreover their plays dealt with a different social world to his own.

The Daughter-in-Law along with *A Collier's Friday Night* and *The Widowing of Mrs. Holroyd* are plays in which the ordinary situations and probable characters of Lawrence's social world are used to embody crises of immediate relationships and ordinary experience. We know Lawrence primarily as a novelist but it is a mistake to view a play of the dramatic strength of *The Daughter-in-Law* as a sideline, or as a first attempt at exploring the central experience of Lawrence's life, the mother's relationship with her son. For although *Sons and Lovers* begun in 1912, is a great novel embodying this theme, the play can be taken purely on its own merits without the need to refer to Lawrence the novelist. Within the theatre we watch the play; we don't write literary theses.

THE DAUGHTER-IN-LAW

by D.H. LAWRENCE

CAST

Mrs. GASCOIGNE..... RUTH LISTER
JOE GASCOIGNE.....MICHAEL LAW
MRS. PURDY..... JANET EGAN
MINNIE GASCOIGNE.....SARAH MORRISON
LUTHER GASCOIGNE.....ROBIN INGRAM

THE PLAY IS SET IN A NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
MINING VILLAGE c. 1912

ACT I

Scene 1 MRS. GASCOIGNE'S KITCHEN
Early afternoon, winter.

Scene 2 LUTHER GASCOIGNE'S KITCHEN
The same day, early evening

ACT II THE SAME, much later that evening

INTERVAL
15 minutes

ACT III LUTHER GASCOINGNE'S KITCHEN
Afternoon, two weeks later

ACT IV THE SAME, 5 o'clock in the morning,
the next day

DIRECTOR — ELAYNE GOMERSALL

DESIGNER — RAY DUNNING

COSTUME DESIGNER — SUE PECKITT

LIGHTING DESIGNER — MARTIN STONER

SOUND DESIGNER — STEVE HAMES

STAGE MANAGER : ERIC LISTER
DEPUTY STAGE MANAGER : GORDON MILLER
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS : JANE ARROWSMITH
ALAN BOYD
ALAN CAREY
BARBARA CHUNG
SUSAN GASSER
KAREN MILLER
JENNY RICHARDSON
HARRIET SIMON
ASHTAR THOMAS
JACKIE WILLIAMS
PROPERTIES : SUSAN OLIVER
CONSTRUCTION : ARTHUR BOARDMAN
ROGER STURM
with assistance from : NEVILLE GILLETT
LIGHTING AND SOUND OPERATOR : ADAM KAHAN

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NOTTINGHAM EVENING POST.

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.

PETER WHELAN
WILL LEAD THE
OPEN DISCUSSION
ON
THE DAUGHTER-IN-LAW

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24th – 7.45pm
IN THE SHAW ROOM

Peter Whelan's play *The Accrington Pals*, was seen at The Questors in February 1983. This was first performed by the RSC as were two of his other plays, *Captain Swing* and *Clay*. He collaborated with Leslie Darbon on *Double Edge*, which enjoyed a successful run in the West End. In 1973 he directed the *World Première* of *Touch and Go* by D.H. Lawrence at The Questors.

WHY NOT JOIN US EITHER TO LISTEN
OR TO AIR YOUR VIEWS

ALL WELCOME

ADMISSION FREE

LAWRENCE, D(avid) H(erb)ert) 1885 – 1930

Born at Eastwood, Nottinghamshire, fourth of the five children of a miner and his middleclass wife. He attended Nottingham High School and Nottingham University College.

His first novel *The White Peacock*, was published in 1911, a few weeks after the death of his mother. In addition to his further novels, which were considered shocking and highly controversial, he wrote eight plays. Only two of his plays, *The Widowing of Mrs. Holroyd* and *David* (a biblical drama) were given performances in his lifetime, as Sunday night productions by the Stage Society in 1926 and 1927 respectively.

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

IN THE PLAYHOUSE

5 – 12 OCTOBER

THE COUNTRY WIFE

by William Wycherley

2 – 9 NOVEMBER

BLACK COMEDY

by Peter Shaffer

and

LUNCH HOUR

by John Mortimer

23 – 30 NOVEMBER

MISALLIANCE

by Bernard Shaw

IN THE STUDIO

28 SEPTEMBER – 5 OCTOBER

SHOUT ACROSS THE RIVER

by Stephen Poliakoff

27 OCTOBER – 2 NOVEMBER

MEN AND WOMEN

by James Hepburn

4 – 7 DECEMBER

HARD FEELINGS

by Doug Lucie

LUCHTIME SOCIAL GROUP MEETS LAST
WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH 12.30 – 2pm.

Refreshments available.

Autumn/Winter Programme will cover *Weekly Rep.*,
Victorian Melodrama, *Amateur Theatre in Britain*.

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.
