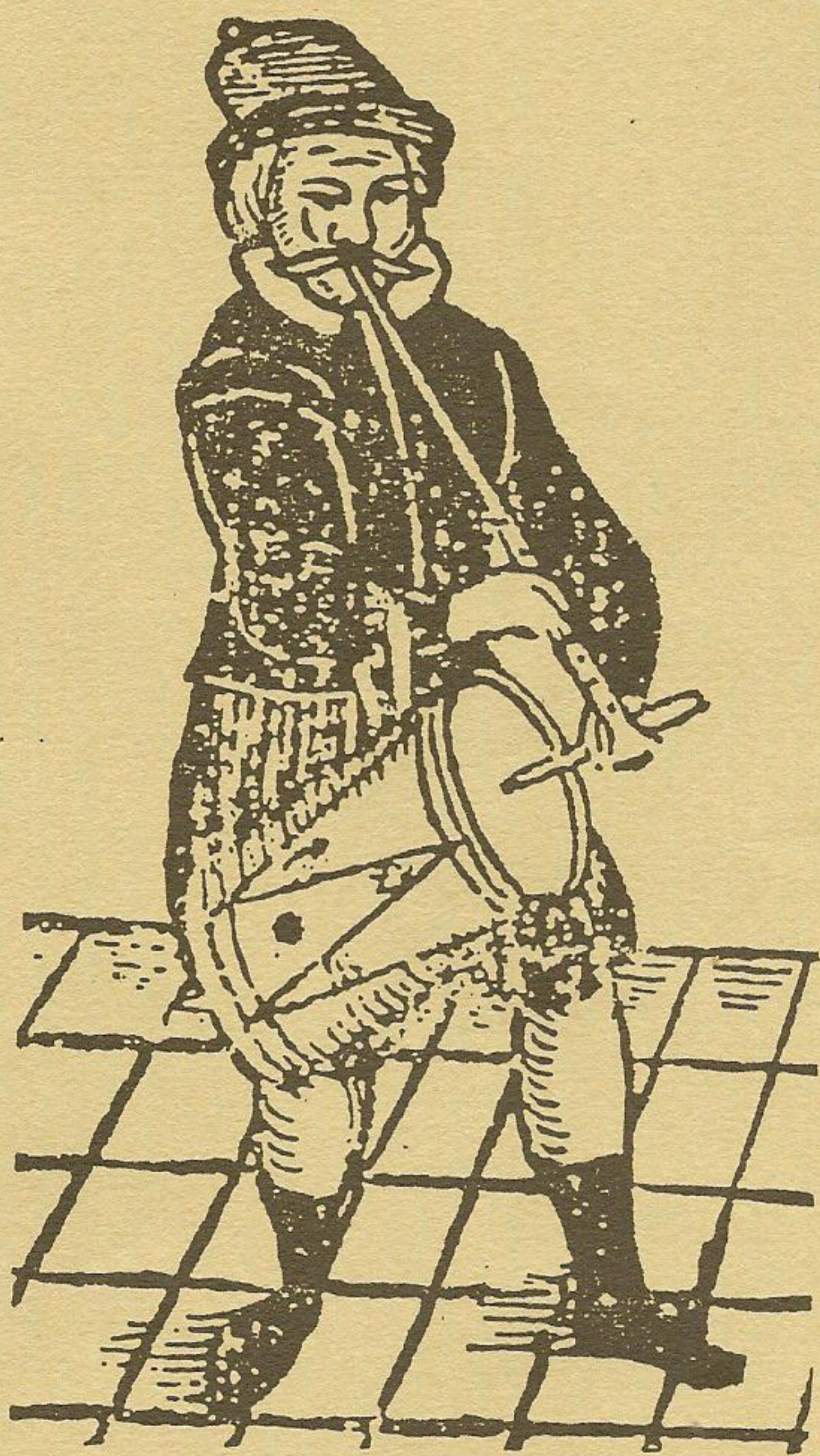


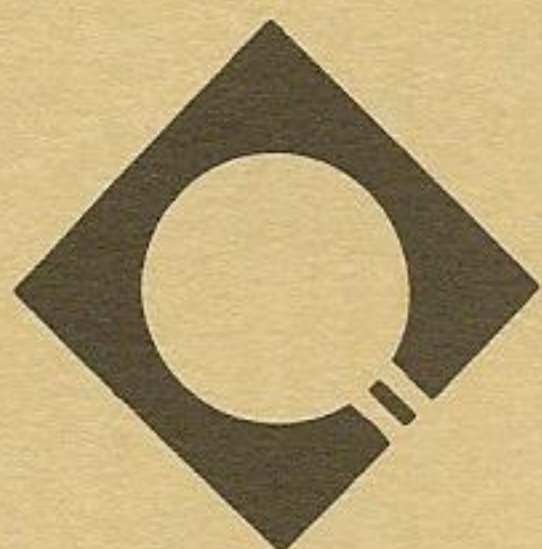
BARTHOLOMEW
FAIR:
A COMEDIE,
ACTED IN THE
YEARE, 1986



By the Author, BEN JONSON.



THE QUESTORS THEATRE COMPANY



THE QUESTORS THEATRE COMPANY

PRESIDENT: JUDI DENCH OBE

VICE-PRESIDENTS: SIR BRIAN BATSFORD, ALFRED EMMET OBE, ROGER REES

First performance: 14th March 1986

BARTHOLOMEW FAIR

THE FAIR

The beginnings of St. Bartholomew's Fair are in the founding of the Priory and Hospital of St. Bartholomew by Rahere, a former court jester to Henry I, who had been converted after a deathbed recovery from malarial fever. What began as a cloth fair became by Jonson's time a huge general trade and pleasure fair, lasting three days and sprawling over four parishes. Jonson as a boy lived within a mile of Smithfield and there is some evidence that he attended the Fair not only as a fair-goer, but as a puppeteer. The Fair flourished throughout the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, but finally shrank away until it died out in the 1850s.

THE PLAY

Bartholomew Fair was first performed on 30th October 1614; it opened the Hope Theatre on Bankside. The following night it played (with suitable additions) at Court before James I. It seems to have been successful, and despite growing Puritan opposition to it, it is believed to have been frequently performed until the Commonwealth in 1649. After the Restoration it was swiftly revived: 1661 saw five productions of the play. It held the stage, although much adapted, until 1735 — and then received no performance until 1947, save for a badly-received revival by the Phoenix Society in 1921. Since 1947 it has received seventeen performances, both professional and amateur. Like other Elizabethan and Jacobean plays, it seems to appeal to a late twentieth century sensibility in a way it did not appeal to the sensibilities of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Directors and critics disagree about why this should be. It has been seen as 'an attack on middle-class morality', a 'cynical and bitter play', a 'play about class struggle', a 'genial' play — one recent production was dismissed as a 'nice, clean, safe, bright, sweet Jacobean panto'!

Whatever view one takes, the central 'character' is the Fair itself; the people who belong to the Fair remain constant and unchanging amidst the flux and excitement, while those who come to the Fair from outside are changed and re-formed by their experiences. And the play re-asserts a common basic humanity: 'Forget your other name of Overdo', says Quarlous to the Justice, 'remember you are but Adam, flesh and blood'.

THE PROJECT

This play was chosen as a vehicle for a particular project: to involve in one of our productions those Questors members who do not normally have a chance to appear on stage or work behind stage. In all 76 people will appear on The Questors stage tonight; 50 have never done so before. Some are new Acting Members, many Audience Members, but there has been no distinction made in this production. The tapestry of the play demands a large cast of individuals who can weave in and out of the Fair, each making a distinctive contribution, each meshing with the others until Jonson's overall pattern is revealed.

JOHN DAVEY

BARTHOLOMEW FAIR

By Ben Jonson

CAST
in order of speaking

THE INDUCTION ON STAGE

Stage-keeper.....KEITH PARRY
Book-holder.....ROGER DE TONEY
Scrivener (*a clerk*).....TONY WALLIS

AT JOHN LITTLEWIT'S HOUSE

John Littlewit.....PAUL CLARKE
Win Littlewit, *his wife*.....ALICE DIDSBURY
Winwife.....GAVIN MCQUEEN
Quarlous.....ALAN PATERSON
Humphrey Wasp (*'Numps'*).....ROGER LEWIS
in charge of
Bartholomew Cokes, *an Esquire of Harrow*.....WILLO JOHNSTON
Grace Wellborn, *ward of Justice Overdo*.....JO COPE
Dame Alice Overdo, *wife of Justice Overdo*.....ANNE SAWBRIDGE
Dame Purecraft, *mother of Win Littlewit*.....SANDRA HEALY
Zeal-of-the-Land Busy, *a Puritan*.....NEVILE CRUTTENDEN
Solomon, *Littlewit's man*.....ANDREW DAVIE

BEFORE THE FAIR

Justice Adam Overdo, *who presides
in the Court of Pie-Powders*.....MICHAEL GREEN

AT THE FAIR

The Lord Mayor.....ERIC KIRBY
'Lantern' Leatherhead.....RICHARD BROWN
Joan Trash.....GRACE CRADDOCK
Nightingale, *a Welsh ballad-singer*.....MEIC LLEWELLYN
Ursula, *an Irish 'pig-woman'*.....ANNE O'BRIEN
Moon-Calf, *her tapster*.....ANDREW HAYNES
'Jordan' Knockem, *a horse courser*.....JOHN KELLY
Ezekiel Edgeworth, *a cutpurse*.....JOHN DOBSON
Captain Whit, *an Irish pimp*.....MIKE ROBOTHAM
Haggis }
Bristle } *the watch*.....GEOFF WEBB
Pocher }DAVID JENKINS
Trouble-All, *a madman*.....BERNARD ARIGHO
Costermonger.....PIERS WHIBLEY
Norden, *a Scottish cloth-trader*.....JEAN MASTERS
Puppy, *a wrestler from the West*.....PETER MACNAMARA
Val Cutting, *a roarer*.....PAUL JIGGINS
Punk Alice.....TERRY OAKES
Filcher, *quack doctor & doorman*.....SARAH ANDREWS
Sharkwell, *water-carrier & doorman*.....CHRIS MORGAN
.....JOHN TURPIN

TRADERS AND VISITORS

Corn-Cutter.....JEREMY BENTHAM
Merchant.....ROBIN ROADS

Merchant's Wife.....	MARGOT DAYMOND
Their Daughter.....	MARGARET SKEET
Their Niece.....	MARY LOUDON
Knife Grinder.....	CHRIS LUMLEY
Bellman.....	GILES CHESTERMAN
Cutting's Girl.....	FIONA JONES
Breadseller.....	BARBARA NEVILLE
Pie-Seller.....	EVELYN JONES
Tobacco-Seller.....	ELAYNE GOMERSALL
Elderly Gentleman.....	TONY WALLIS
His Wife.....	MURIEL NOPPEN
A Poor Widow.....	ALICE DIBBEN
Her Even Poorer Friend.....	JOAN MCQUEEN
Mousetrap-Man.....	TONY FENELON
A Child of the Fair.....	NATALIE BRANDT
Another Child (<i>a 'tomboy'</i>).....	HELEN CROKE
Puppy's Wife.....	LIZ VARGE
His Elder Daughter.....	HELOISE MATHEWS
His Younger Daughter.....	ALISON KING
His Son.....	SEBASTIAN MATHEWS
A Housewife.....	KATE DUNNING
Her Mother.....	JOAN EGGMORE
Her Daughter.....	AMY DUNNING
Her Son.....	BEN DUNNING
A Dwarf.....	MEGAN WHELAN
The Scarlet Punk.....	JANE MANNING
The Little Punk.....	LYNNE FEATHERSTONE
A Destitute Girl.....	LIZA-JANE SCOTT
A Ribbon Seller.....	CECILY BLYTHER
An Eastern Fortune-Teller.....	SHAHNAZ PAKRAVAN
A 'Blind' Beggar.....	PETER GROGAN
Sign Boy.....	MICHAEL WILDMAN
Giant.....	PIERS WHIBLEY & RACHELLE JOHNSON
	JULIA COOKE (<i>clarinet</i>)
	RHONA TAYLOR (<i>trombone</i>)
Musicians.....	ALISON DIXON (<i>cornetto</i>)
	THELMA BROWN (<i>lute-guitar</i>)
	CLARE FAIRLEY (<i>recorder</i>)
	NAOMI ROBINSON (<i>recorder</i>)
Puppeteers.....	STEVE NOVY & GRACE CRADDOCK

The action of the play takes place on St. Bartholomew's Day (August 24th) 1614.

DIRECTED BY JOHN DAVEY
 ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: CAROL METCALFE
 SET DESIGN BY RAY DUNNING
 COSTUME DESIGN BY JANE DEWEY
 PUPPET SHOW DEVISED BY STEVE NOVY
 OF 'PEKKO's PUPPETS'
 MUSIC WRITTEN BY MICHAEL CARVER

THERE WILL BE AN INTERVAL OF FIFTEEN MINUTES

Stage Manager	: CHRIS SYDENHAM
Deputy Stage Manager	: TINA HARRIS
Assistant Stage Managers	: JULIA ALLEN ALEC ATCHISON LUCY DAYMOND CATHERINE LANGRIDGE CHERYL LOY CLAUDINE MURPHY MALCOLM REES HILARY THOMPSON FIONA BROWN (Prompt)
Lighting Designer	: RICHARD BROADHURST
Lighting Operator	: JENNY RICHARDSON
Lighting Assistant	: ALAN N. SMITH
Sound Designer	: MARTIN UDALL
Sound Assistants	: MICHAEL COOK PATRICIA ELLIS
Design Assistants	: YVONNE MELHUISE KATE DUNNING
Construction with	: BOB CHARLES ARTHUR BOARDMAN TIM HAYWARD NORMAN HOLFORD DAVID STONE
Props	: BRON BECKFORD GERRY BLAKE HARRIET SIMON RONA CHRISTIE
assisted by	
Wardrobe	: MARY ANGUS CHRISTINE BRANDT HERTHA COLLINS JEAN DERBY KIT EMMET VAL MORAN SUE PECKITT ANNE TURNER JACKIE TYE SARAH ANDREWS BRIDGET CAMPBELL- MURDOCH DOREEN DODD CHERYL LOY VAL PALMER NIKKI TAIT SYLVIA WALL FRAN WILKINS KATY WINKWORTH
Make-up and Wigs and	: JULIE CRUTTENDEN GINI HARDY JACKIE SHAWN ELIZABETH FISHMAN DEBBI COBB CLAIR ALLISON SHARON HUNT LINDA JOSEPH

Thanks to: **GEORGE SPEAIGHT** for the loan of the puppets from the 1950 Old Vic Production

And to: **SIMON MEADOW, ROGER KELLY, PHILIPPA FORSTER, JOHN STACEY, JOHN WILSON, KIT EMMET, TONY HILL, NIGEL COWELL**

Fruit supplied by 'Hole in the Wall', Northfield Avenue, Ealing W13

Gingerbread supplied by COOMBES BAKERY, Ealing