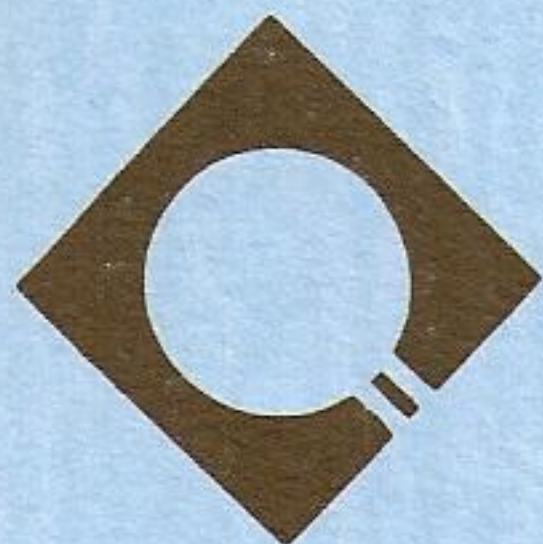


 THE QUESTORS THEATRE

T
girls
P

Caryl Churchill

 THE QUESTORS THEATRE



THE QUESTORS THEATRE COMPANY

PRESIDENT: JUDI DENCH OBE

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

First performance: 25 November 1986

Actresses first appeared on stage in this country from about 1660.

In plays written before this time, the cast would have anything from twelve to thirty men's speaking parts and between three or four women, played by men or boys.

Though the number of women in a play has increased most plays have a larger proportion of male characters.

This situation occurred for historical reasons and within this framework the idea has grown up that a play with too many women, or heaven forbid, an all woman cast, will not succeed at the box office.

This has been proved wrong from time to time but one is hard pressed to find examples.

A revival of the all woman comedy, aptly entitled *The Women*, by Clare Boothe Luce is opening shortly at The Old Vic, it will be interesting to see how this somewhat dated play will fare.

Another all woman play has just closed at The Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, Lorca's *The House of Bernarda Alba*. It played to sold out houses for the length of its run and received great critical acclaim.

Caryl Churchill, who wrote tonight's all woman play, has displayed in her other writing her feeling for the role of women in society. To do this she has used unconventional theatrical techniques involving a condensing of time and the playing of women by men and vice versa. There is no cross casting in *Top Girls* but there are other surprises.

Her plays have had both commercial and critical success. She also has her detractors who are upset by her outspoken and unorthodox approach to the theatre of sexual politics. Much of her work has been based on improvisations by groups of actors with whom she has worked in the past. Perhaps it is they who are speaking to us through her voice and encouraging this blurring of time and space in their efforts to communicate.

PETER KNIGHT

TOP GIRLS

by
CARYL CHURCHILL

Cast in order of appearance

MARLENE SARAH MORRISON
WAITRESS ANNIE KELLER
ISABELLA BIRD CAROLINE HARRINGTON
LADY NIJO SARAH LERMIT
DULL GRET DENYS GASKILL
POPE JOAN WENDY MEGENEY
PATIENT GRISELDA LESLEY BILTON
JEANINE LESLEY BILTON
ANGIE DENYS GASKILL
KIT ANNIE KELLER
JOYCE CAROLINE HARRINGTON
WIN SARAH LERMIT
NELL LESLEY BILTON
LOUISE WENDY MEGENEY
MRS. KIDD CAROLINE HARRINGTON
SHANA ANNIE KELLER

ACT I

Scene 1 A restaurant. Saturday night.

Scene 2 'TOP GIRLS' Employment Agency:
Monday morning

Scene 3 Joyce's backyard. Sunday afternoon.

ACT II

Scene 1 'TOP GIRLS' Employment Agency.
Monday morning.

Scene 2 Joyce's kitchen. Sunday evening. One
year later.

THE ACTION TAKES PLACE IN THE EARLY 1980's.

There will be one interval of fifteen minutes

DIRECTOR : JOHN WILSON
DESIGNER : JOHN ROLFE
Lighting Design : PETE WALTERS
assisted by : TIM HAYWOOD
Costume Design : JACKIE KING
BRIAN MOOREHOUSE
assisted by : CLARE DUBERLEY
Stage Manager : JIM CRADDOCK
Deputy Stage Manager : MARK PEARMAN
Properties : JEANETTE HARRINGTON
ADRIENNE LAWLOR
Sound Operator : CHRIS MURPHY
Lighting Assistants : SOPHIE TURNER
JULIE ALLEN
PAUL DAVIES
NICHOLAS HOLMES
Prompter : HANNA WINE
Assistant
Stage Managers : ANDREW BARBOUR
AMANDA DOLLARD
MARK LEIGH
BEVERLEY ROBERTS
MARK WEBB
KATHY WORDEN
Make-up and Hair by : GREASEPAINT LTD.

WITH THANKS TO

ERIC LISTER, ANTIQUES WAREHOUSE, UXBRIDGE
ALAN DRAKE, ZENITH PLANT HIRE, RYMAN,
RETSINA & MOUSAKA
RESTAURANT SERVICE SUPPLIED BY
DAVID MELLOR OF SLOANE SQUARE.
OFFICE FURNITURE KINDLY LOANED
BY ROLFE EAST & CO.

HOTPLATE

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

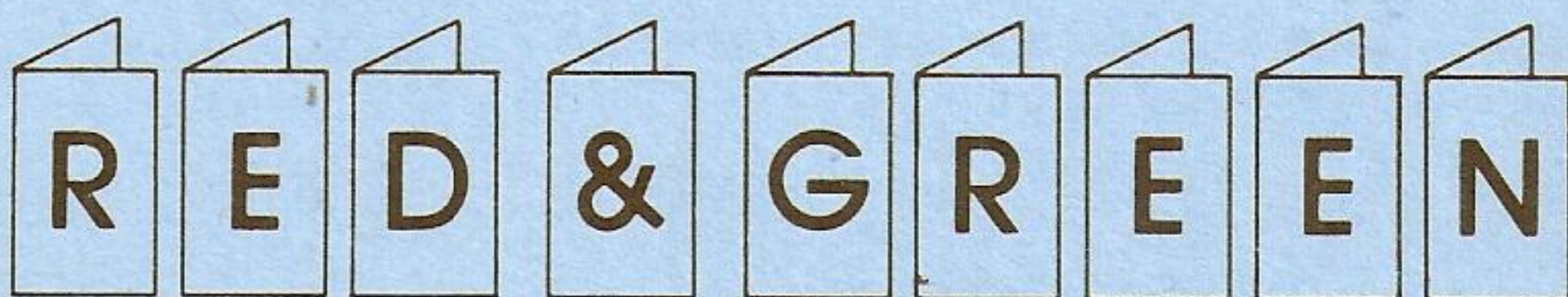
Refreshments also served in the interval.

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

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

THE **OPEN DISCUSSION** ON *TOP GIRLS* WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, 2nd DECEMBER AT 7.45pm, IN THE MAIN FOYER. ADMISSION FREE. ALL ARE WELCOME. AN OPPORTUNITY FOR AUDIENCE AND CAST TO COMPARE NOTES.

THIS PRODUCTION IS SUPPORTED BY



144 Churchfield Road · London W3 6BS
Telephone · 01-992 6029

Books

As well as their regular weekend bookstall at The Waterman's Arts Centre, Brentford, Red & Green Books, a local worker's co-operative, have just opened a bookshop in Acton.

They offer one of the best selections of new and classic paperbacks in the area, a personal ordering service and will provide bookstalls for community events.

The shop is in Churchfield Road, Acton and is open Tuesday to Saturday, 10am to 6pm with late night openings in December.

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE QUESTORS?

Application Forms are available in the Upper and Lower Foyers. The Membership Secretary will be pleased to give details if you call at the main office between 10am and 5pm Monday to Friday or telephone 567 0011.

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.

COMING EVENTS

IN THE PLAYHOUSE



Our Special Christmas Attractions

20 December — 3 January

**MARIA MARTEN, or
Murder in the Red Barn**

AND MATINÉES

21, 27, 28 December, 3 January

EVENINGS 22 December, 1 January

OLD KING COLE by Ken Campbell



24 — 31 January

BLOOD WEDDING by Federico García Lorca
translated by Alan Chambers

IN THE STUDIO

30 — November — 6 December

ONE FOR THE ROAD by Harold Pinter
and

DEATHWATCH by Jean Genet
translated by Nigel Williams

**Don't forget the
CAROL CONCERT on 6th December**
