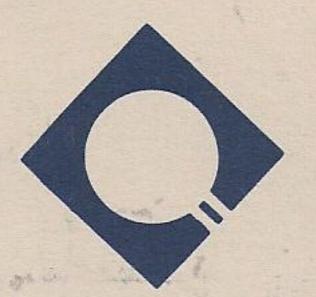
# William Williams







# THE QUESTORS THEATRE COMPANY

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

PRESIDENT: JUDI DENCH OBE

SIR BRIAN BATSFORD, ALFRED EMMET OBE,

ROGER REES, MICHAEL WILLIAMS

First performance: 2 May 1987

# JOHN AUBREY (b. 1625 d. 1697)

An antiquarian with a lifelong passion for collecting historical anecdotes and artifacts, Aubrey's genius, and his tragedy, stemmed from his butterfly-like curiosity and voracious appetite for inconsequential details — the snippets that truly bring people to life before our eyes.

Owing to his seemingly total inability to complete any project he undertook, Aubrey's *Lives* remained as rough, uncollated jottings for over 200 years. He died alone and unpublished, and lay in an unmarked grave in the churchyard of St Mary Magdalene in Oxford; even the time and place of his burial were forgotten for 150 years. His only memorial remains the 50 or so volumes containing his 426 *Lives*, housed in Oxford's Bodleian Library and certain other libraries, including that of the British Museum.

We can only be grateful that Andrew Clark in 1898, and Oliver Lawson Dick in 1949, embarked on the daunting task of editing and publishing Aubrey's work, thus preserving for a wider audience these delightfully witty, humorous, gossipy personality sketches, of the famous and the forgotten, which, while utterly irreverent, are totally without malice, often bringing a spontaneous smile of recognition to the lips.

For example . . .

on Francis Bacon: His Lordship was a good Poet, but conceal'd

On Beaumont and Fletcher: I have heard . . . that Mr Beaumont's main Businesse was to lop the overflowings of Mr Fletcher's luxuriant Fancy and flowing Witt

on René Descartes: He was too wise a man to encomber himselfe with a Wife

on Thomas Hobbes: He was wont to draw lines on his thigh and on the sheetes, abed, and also multiply and divide

on William Shakespeare: His Comoedies will remaine as long as the English tongue is understood . . . He was wont to say that he had never blotted out a line in his life. Sayd Ben Johnson, I wish he had blotted out a thousand.

# BRIEF LIVES

by

# JOHN AUBREY

adapted by

Patrick Garland

# JOHN AUBREY .... MICHAEL HOWARD

The action takes place on a winter's day in 1696 in John Aubrey's room at Mistress Byerley's lodgings, Dirty Lane, Bloomsbury.

There will be one interval of 15 minutes

DIRECTOR : ED PITT

assisted by GWENAN EVANS

Designed by: NORMAN BARWICK

Reynardine sung by Alan Paterson

### CHRONOLOGY

Monarch Reigned from to 1603 1558 **ELIZABETH I** 1625 1603 JAMES I 1649 (executed) 1625 CHARLES I COMMONWEALTH 1685 1660 CHARLES II 1688 (deposed) 1685 JAMES II INTERREGNUM 1702 WILLIAM AND MARY 1689

John Aubrey's lifespan 1625-1697 STAGE MANAGER : DOUG KING

DEPUTY STAGE MANAGER : JANE BLACKWELL

ASSISTANT STAGE : NICK HOLMES

MANAGERS : ALISON RAWLINGS

TRISH KNIGHT

**VANESSA DE SOUZA** 

WARDROBE : LINDSAY UDELL

MAKE UP : NINA GAN

PROPERTIES : JOAN CURRY

CONSTRUCTION : SEAN GRAHAM

assisted by : DOUG KING

**MARK PEARMAN** 

LIGHTING BY : STEVE HAMES

assisted by : MILES RENDLE with help from : STEVE MOLE

SOUND BY : MAURY HORWICH

PROMPT : BRIDGETT STREVENS

SPECIAL THANKS TO GUNNERSBURY PARK MUSEUM
Thanks to JO BARWICK, JULIA CRUTTENDEN,
GABRIEL FARRELL, GEOFF WEBB, JIM CRADDOCK,
EALING HEATING CENTRE
TERRACE ANTIQUES, SEAL BOOKS

It is said of Antiquaries, they wipe off the mouldinesse they digge, and remove the rubbish.

John Aubrey

# THE QUESTORS THEATRE IS HOSTING

# ENGLISH AMATEUR THEATRE WEEK

FROM 11 to 16 MAY

As this follows immediately after the performances of Brief Lives there will NOT be the usual OPEN DISCUSSION of this production.

# SPECIAL FUND RAISING PERFORMANCES

ROGER REES AND VIRGINIA McKENNA

present SONS AND MOTHERS

FRIDAY/SATURDAY 5 & 6 JUNE
MICK LANGRIDGE presents a late night
entertainment BODY LANGUAGE

SUNDAY 21 JUNE

An evening with DONALD SWANN

## HOTPLATE

Delicious Hot and Cold food is available in the Upper Foyer from 6.30pm during the run of Playhouse evening performances.

Refreshments also served in the interval.

(Please note that no hot meals will be provided at the Sunday matinées.)

Also it is as well to check the position when attending the Special Fund Raising performances.

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

# ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE QUESTORS?

Full details are available in the leaflets by the Box Office or you can telephone the Theatre Manager during the day on 01-567 0011 (10 am — 5 pm). Why not attend one of our NEW OR PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS EVENINGS and have a conducted tour of the Theatre Complex, starting at 7.45pm, every WEDNESDAY, from The Grapevine Bar.

# COMING EVENTS

IN THE PLAYHOUSE

# English Amateur Theatre Week

11 and 14 MAY
The Loft Theatre (Leamington)
in PACK OF LIES by Hugh Whitemore

12 and 15 MAY Leicester Little Theatre

in THE BIRTHDAY PARTY by Harold Pinter

13 and 16 MAY People's Theatre (Newcastle)

in WHAT THE BUTLER SAW by Joe Orton

# 29, 30 MAY, 3, 4, 5 & 6 JUNE THE DEATH OF JOE HILL by John Fay

\* Winner of The Questors Student Playwriting Competition

### IN THE STUDIO

19, 20, 21, 22 & 23 MAY

If Shakespeare were a friend of ours he really wouldn't mind us doing this!

devised by John Wilson

# 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 & 20 JUNE THE BRICK by Nigel Swain

\* Runner up in The Questors Student Playwriting Competition

\* This competition was sponsored by GESTETNER and the productions form part of the NEW PLAYS FESTIVAL OF THE LITTLE THEATRE GUILD OF GREAT BRITAIN and are grant aided by the CARNEGIE UNITED KINGDOM TRUST.