



QUESTIONS

 THE QUESTORS THEATRE COMPANY



THE QUESTORS THEATRE COMPANY

PRESIDENT: JUDI DENCH OBE
VICE-PRESIDENTS: 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 He died alone and unpublished, and lay in an unmarked grave in the churchyard of St Mary Magdalene in Oxford; even the time and place of his burial were forgotten for 150 years.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

<i>Monarch</i>	<i>Reigned</i>		
	<i>from</i>	<i>to</i>	
ELIZABETH I	1558	1603	
JAMES I	1603	1625	
CHARLES I	1625	1649 (executed)	} John Aubrey's lifespan 1625-1697
— COMMONWEALTH —			
CHARLES II	1660	1685	
JAMES II	1685	1688 (deposed)	
— INTERREGNUM —			
WILLIAM AND MARY	1689	1702	

STAGE MANAGER : DOUG KING
DEPUTY STAGE MANAGER : JANE BLACKWELL
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS : NICK HOLMES
: 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 mouldiness 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

SUNDAY 31 MAY

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.**
