

THE BRICK

by **NIGEL SWAIN**

*runner up in the
1986 Questors Student Playwriting
Competition*

Brick — the smallest unit in the British Army

A STUDIO PRODUCTION
sponsored by
QUESTORCISE

 **THE QUESTORS THEATRE COMPANY**



THE QUESTORS THEATRE COMPANY IN THE STUDIO

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

First performance: 12 June 1987

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

When I first read it the play tugged at a nerve in the way it looked a year or two ahead and saw this country torn in half by civil strife. The same thing had been on my mind. The degradation and pressure of worklessness and poverty in a land of high expectations must result sooner or later in an explosion, I thought. And here was a play about it from a totally unexpected direction . . . not agitprop or liberal hand-wringing . . . but from an ex-army intelligence officer who knew first hand from Ulster the corrosive effects of such conflict.

His play is a timely warning from the dirty war across the water where British army "spooks" and under-cover men are mirror images of their provo counterparts. It also diagnoses a sickness in our officer corps that reflects a sickness in our nation at large . . . the sickness of an ever-divided people unable to come to terms with age-old class differences. But now the class that has always run the army has hired new professionals to do the "grey-area" work. In the play we follow the progress of one such professional . . . called home from Ulster to fight for Queen and country on his own streets . . . and wondering "whose country?"

PETER WHELAN

THE QUESTORS STUDENT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION

When the contest was launched in May last year, our greatest fear was that there would be a dearth of worthwhile scripts. An early trickle of plays reassured us a little and then towards the closing date in November we were overwhelmed with a positive torrent (fifty in the last week!).

Much to our relief, there were plenty of good quality plays. A panel of readers whittled them down to a short-list of six and from these the winner and runner-up were selected. We are most grateful to our distinguished judges, Judi Dench, Michael Williams and Roger Rees for their help in this respect.

We had not originally intended to have a runner-up but the first two plays were so outstanding it was decided to produce both, hence this production of *The Brick*.

The object of the competition was to improve our links with universities and colleges and to encourage new members and fresh talent from that area. There are signs that this year's competition has already done that and the Committee of Management have therefore decided to run a further competition next year and possibly make it an annual event. Eventually we hope The Questors' Student Playwriting Competition will become a regular and leading feature of the theatrical scene in this country.

MIKE GREEN (*Organiser*)

THE BRICK

by

NIGEL SWAIN

Captain Peter Thomas Robin Ingram
Lt. John Sharp/*Baseline Soldier* Guy Rose
Corporal Bill Webb Tony Valenti
Lance Corporal Dave Jenner Mike Dineen
Private Norman Andrews Peter James
Private Steve Baker Mark Webb
Lance Corporal Carver RMP/
Baseline Soldier David Slottved
Lance Corporal Wilkinson RMP/
Sgt. Mulroy/*Baseline Soldier* . Michael Law
Rick Riley Stuart Rhodes
Ted Riley Bill Rudderham
Emma Annette Sheppard
Colin Dobson Graham Williams
The Colonel Michael Healy
Sgt. Hollis/*Baseline Soldier* Michael Gabe
Police woman Mari King
Gerry Cummings Christopher Waldock

THE PLAY IS SET IN AN ENGLISH TOWN, IN THE
NEAR FUTURE, AND WILL BE PLAYED WITHOUT
AN INTERVAL

DIRECTOR : PETER WHELAN
assisted by : ANDREW DAVIE
SET DESIGNED BY : JOHN STACEY
COSTUMES BY : JUNE NEVIN

STAGE MANAGER	:	SALLY LISTER
DEPUTY STAGE MANAGER	:	WENDY HUTCHINSON
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER	:	MICHELLE TAYLOR
LIGHTING	:	TIM HAYWARD
<i>assisted by</i>	:	COLIN ABDEY
SOUND	:	IAN HOWLETT
WARDROBE	:	JUNE NEVIN
MAKE UP	:	SHARON HUNT
PROPERTIES	:	DAVID WHEATLEY
RESEARCHER AND PROPERTIES ASSISTANT	:	LISA HILTON
SPECIAL EFFECTS	:	FRANK WOOD
PROMPT	:	VALERIE HOWE
CHOREOGRAPHER	:	DOROTHY BARBER

WITH THANKS TO DOUG KING, GEOFF MOORE,
DAVID HITCHISON, JIM CRADDOCK,
JENNY RICHARDSON, KATE AITKIN, JOHN BARRATT
Mrs. DAVID BARNES, DON KINCAID, ROY BRIERLY,
LAWRENCE NEVIN, GEOFF WEBB, NICK PITT
AND ALL THOSE WHO PROVIDED A VOICE!

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The Brick is being sponsored by

QUESTORCISE

It also forms part of The New Plays Festival of the Little Theatre Guild of Great Britain, which is the Guild's 40th Anniversary project.

The New Plays Festival has been made possible by the generosity of The Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, and we gratefully acknowledge their grant aid for this production.

**The Questors Student Playwriting
Competition was sponsored by
Gestetner.**

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WORLD PREMIÈRES

Producing a play is a complex business. Presenting a world première has additional complications. To start with, the script from which the Director and Actors work will not be neatly packaged in the form of a printed 'Acting Edition'.

Most people assume that what they read on the page is the work of the author alone. When a play is presented in book form not only is the dialogue given but it is usually accompanied by the moves, details of the setting and other technical aspects of the play. This kind of script is of course the result of a collaboration of all those concerned with the production. The stage manager's final production copy will be the source of all these additions to the original script. The director and actors will have made their mark; cuts and changes (one hopes with the author's approval and consent) will have been made. Even extensive rewriting may have taken place. The result, frozen in time, is of one particular production, on a particular type or size of playing area, with a particular cast.

An interesting example of the changes that can come about is shown in the American paperback edition of Tennessee Williams *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. The 'Broadway' version of Act III is given in addition to Act III as originally written, showing how drastic rewriting was done owing to the influence of the director Elia Kazan.

The Director and the Actors in *The Brick* have the freedom of not being influenced by anyone else's views of the play. They are creating the characters and presenting the author's ideas on the stage for the first time. This is an exciting challenge, but an experience familiar to many members of The Questors Theatre Company with our reputation, over the years, of introducing new work to audiences.

PETER KNIGHT
Programme Editor

COMING EVENTS

IN THE PLAYHOUSE

20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 JUNE at 7.45pm;
21 JUNE at 3.00pm

ANIMAL FARM

by George Orwell adapted by Peter Hall

(This production will also be presented at The Minack Open Air Theatre, Cornwall, in August.)

IN THE STUDIO

11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 JULY at 7.45pm

ALBERTINE in FIVE TIMES

by Michel Tremblay

SPECIAL FUND RAISING PERFORMANCE

SUNDAY 21 JUNE at 7.45pm

DONALD SWANN

and **DIGBY FAIRWEATHER,**

with **LIZA LINCOLN** and **A JAZZ TRIO**

in ***A SHOW OF AFFECTION***

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 MEMEBERS EVENINGS and have a conducted tour of the Theatre Complex, starting at 8.00pm, every WEDNESDAY, from The Grapevine Bar.
