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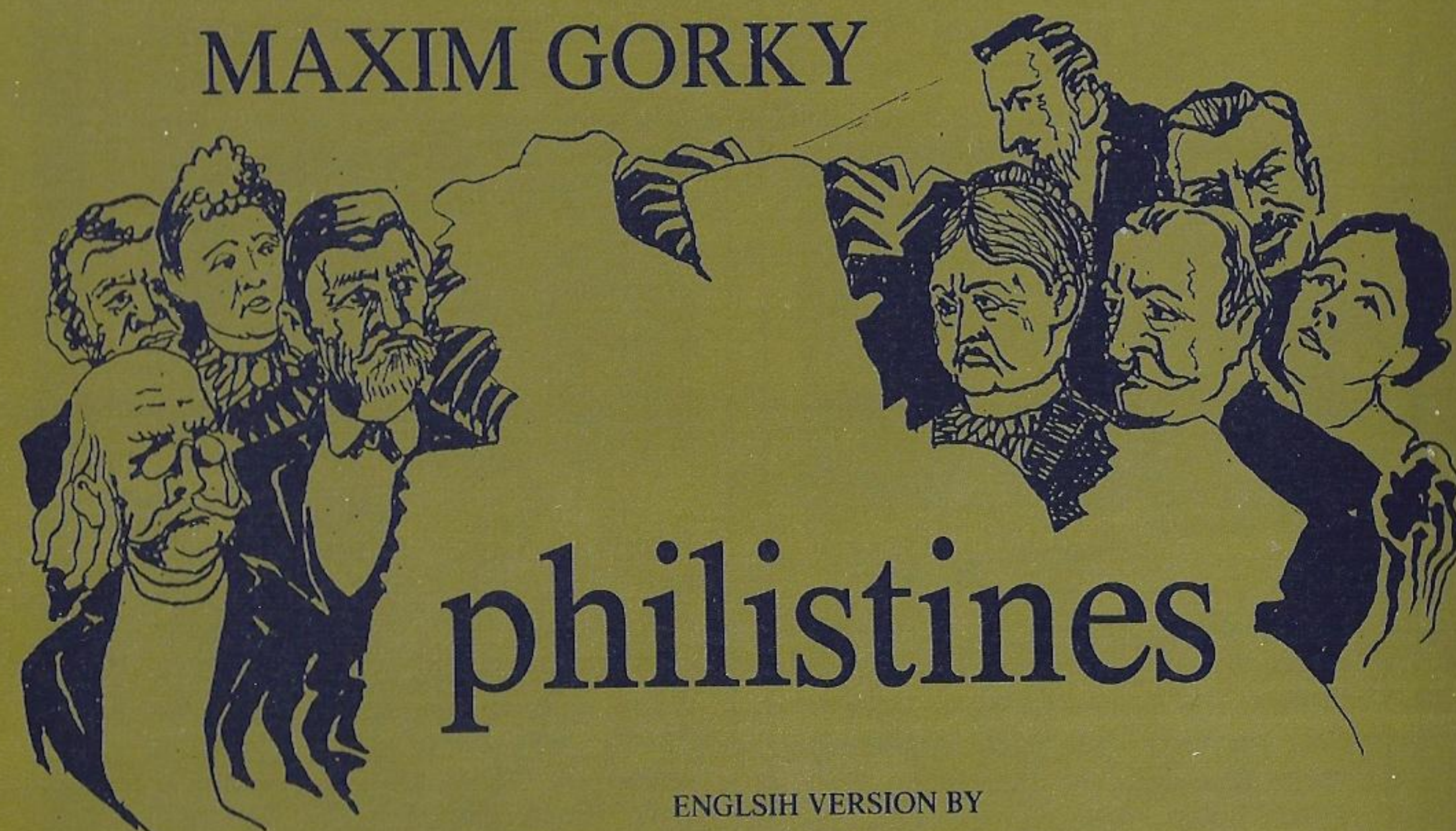


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# THE QUESTORS THEATRE

The Questors second year students production

MAXIM GORKY



philistines

ENGLISH VERSION BY

DUSTY HUGHES



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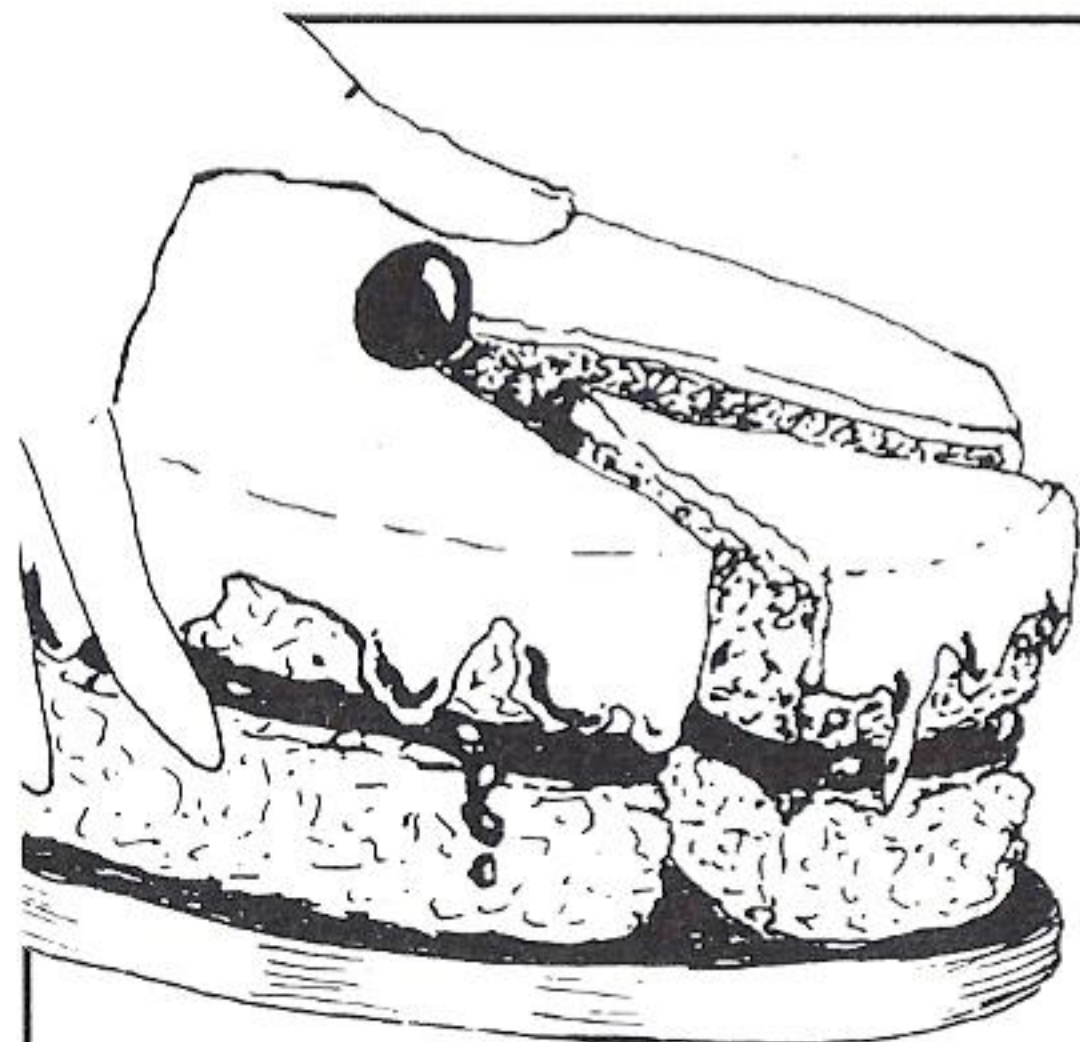
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## PLAYS FOR NEXT SEASON

Our Artistic Director, Geoff Webb's selection of plays for the main house is one the Committee of Management had no hesitation in adopting. It is a well balanced programme, rich in good plays, all of which will present our actors and directors with exciting opportunities. We hope our audiences will be equally excited at the prospects. Here is the programme:

September

**Benefactors** (Michael Frayn)

October

**Taking Steps** (Alan Ayckbourn)

November

**Love's Sacrifice** (John Ford)

December

**The Father** (Strindberg)

Christmas

**Charley's Aunt** (Brandon Thomas)

January

**To be announced**

February

**Measure for Measure** (Shakespeare)

March

**Hobson's Choice** (Harold Brighouse)

April

**London Assurance** (Dion Boucicault)

May

**The Seagull** (Chekhov)



## THE QUESTORS THEATRE

MATTOCK LANE, EALING, LONDON W5 5BQ. TELEPHONE 01-567 0011

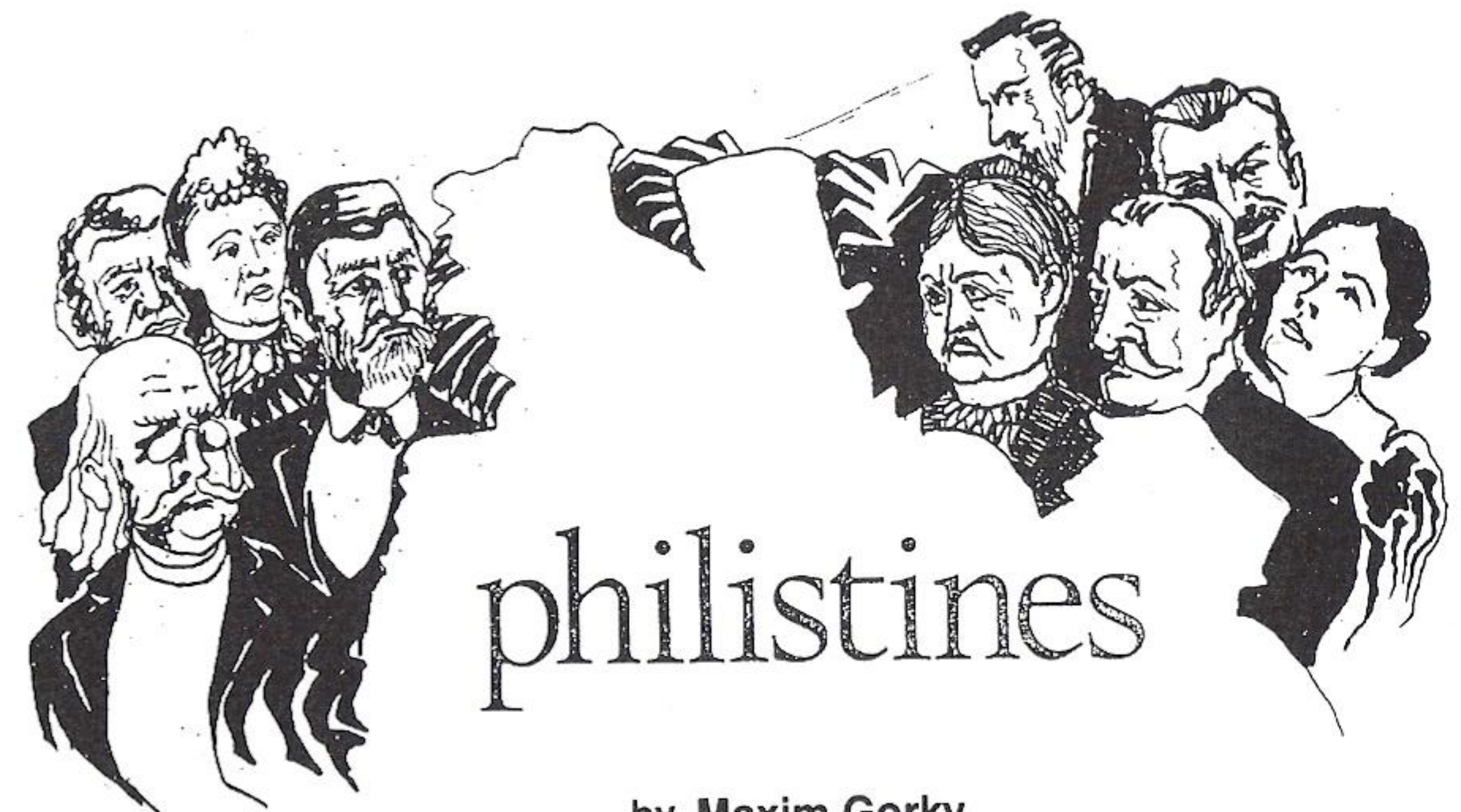
President: Dame Judi Dench

Vice Presidents: Sir Brian Batsford, Alfred Emmet, OBE, Roger Rees, Michael Williams

Theatre Manager: Elaine Orchard

FIRST PERFORMANCE 19th JULY 1988

THE QUESTORS SECOND YEAR STUDENT GROUP PRESENT



## philistines

by Maxim Gorky

(English version by Dusty Hughes)

Directed by **WENDY STONE**

Designed by **JOHN ROLFE**

Production Assistant **LISA DAY**

Costumes designed by **PAULINE NIXON**

Lighting designed by **MILES RENDLE**

Sound designed by **ROBIN THOMPSON**

A  
John Good  
Programme



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MAXIM GORKY was born into poverty, beaten by his family and sent to work early as an errand boy. He later ran away from home and wandered the Crimea as a tramp. He was hounded by the police for his political activities and lived rough anywhere, working in many trades, from nightwatchman to journalist. Although he attempted suicide he wrote always with a passionate conviction for the future and a love of life.

Gorky became an artist deeply concerned with humanism and a new socialist consciousness and was greatly influenced by Lenin who became his friend and leader. Another great friend was Anton Chekhov, and together they became the most important influences on Russian theatre. In *Philistines* we are shown the humanism of revolutionary struggle. In his later play *The Lower Depths* Gorky pursues this further showing how humanity must emancipate from both within and without.

Written in 1901, in pre-revolutionary Russia, *Philistines* mirrors the inner turmoil of the country. From within the confines of a provincial Russian family, the struggle for change is revealed.

In situations full of humour and pathos, the family fight to escape from under the tyrannical hold of the Patriarch — damned by his own certainties — the young emerge, some to find a way to liberty and a better ideology.

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First refused a license by the Russian censor in 1902, (because of being too progressive), and then cleared for 'members only' performances at the Moscow Arts Theatre, this play opened with box office staff and usherettes carefully recruited from the secret police and a cordon of police surrounded the theatre. "One could think" wrote Stanislavsky in *My Life In Art*, "that these preparations were being made not for a general dress rehearsal but for a general battle."

Thus let battle commence — for as Nil states:

"The man who works is the master here too"





## CAST

VASILY VASILYEVICH BESSEME NOV: a prosperous house-painter, head of his guild  
 AKULINA VIANOVNA: his wife  
 PYOTR: their son, a student expelled from university  
 TATYANA: their daughter, a schoolmistress  
 NIL: their foster-son, a train-driver  
 PERCHIKHIN: a distant relative, a bird-catcher  
 POLYA: his daughter, a seamstress who works during the day for the Bessemenovs  
 YELENA KRIVTSOVA: a jail-warden's widow who lodges with the family

TETEREV (Terenty Khristanfovich): choir singer and lodger  
 SHISHKIN: a lodger  
 TSVETAeva (Masha): a schoolmistress and friend of Tatyana's

STEPANIDA: the cook  
 AN OLD WOMAN  
 THE DOCTOR  
 A YOUNG BOY: house-painter's apprentice  
 A YOUNG BOY:

**PATRICK MCQUILLAN**  
**REBECCA TAYLOR**  
**GREGORY UMBERS**  
**HEATHER NAYLOR**  
**KARL JANS**  
**RICHARD PRESCOTT**  
**LIZ CHADWICK**  
**JULIE GAMBLE**  
**DAVID SLOTTVED**  
**MARK WEBB**  
**SHARON WILSON**  
**LISA DAY**  
**SHARON WILSON**  
**MARK WEBB**  
**ADAM HAMDY\***  
**SAMMY DE SILVA\***

\* Members of the Young Questors Group

### ACT ONE

Five in the evening. An autumn dusk.

### ACT TWO

An autumn day. Noon.

INTERVAL OF FIFTEEN MINUTES

### ACT THREE

An autumn day. Morning

### ACT FOUR

An autumn day. Evening

The scene throughout is the living room of the Bessemenov's family home in a small provincial town.

Stage Manager  
 Deputy Stage Manager  
 Props  
 Prompt  
 Assistant Stage Managers

Construction

Lighting Designer  
 Lighting Operator  
 Sound Design  
 assisted by  
 Sound Operator  
 Costume Designer  
 assisted by  
 Make-up  
 assisted by  
 Special Advisor

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**HARRY PUCKERING**  
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**HELEN PULLEN, HILARY WILSON**  
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**KATE JAY**  
**CATHERINE BASSETT**  
**STEVEN JOLLY**

Thanks to: JIM CRADDOCK, PETER TERRY, ESTHER HEATHERINGTON





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## THE STUDENT GROUP

The first Questors Student Training Course for Actors was started in 1947. A new Group has been formed every year since then, to run under the same direction. This a 2-Year Course, aimed at giving preliminary training for amateur actors and preparing them for membership of the main acting group of The Questors Theatre. Between 20 and 24 students are generally enrolled for the First Year Course, selected by audition from some 60 applicants. At the end of the first year, there is a further process of selection to make up the Second Year Group whose final production you are seeing this evening.

The Course makes great demands on the Students. In the first year there are 5½ hours of classes every week for 36 weeks, including Speech, Movement, Acting and Make-up. In the second year, the intensity of work steps up greatly, with 7½ hours of regular classes each week and many hours of additional rehearsals for the two productions given by the Group during the year, in February and July.

The Course therefore demands a very high standard of commitment and enthusiasm and a great sense of loyalty to the group. Without that, a student will not make the grade, but with it, will learn how to make a valuable and rewarding contribution to the life of the theatre. More than one third of the present acting members of The Questors had their initial training in our Student Group.

The Training Course is run under the auspices of the Ealing Education Committee. A new Second Year Course is now being formed from those who have just completed their first year and applications are being invited for the new First Year Course to start in September.

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The minimum age for the Student Course is 18. The Questors also run an 'Introductory Group' for 17-year olds, likewise selected by audition. For this, the class time is only 3 hours per week, but the personal commitment to the Group is just as high. Copies of the Prospectus are available in the foyer, or apply to the Theatre Manager for further information.

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## STUDENT GROUP STAFF 1987/88

*Director of Studies  
and Acting Tutor (1st Year)*  
*Acting Tutor (2nd Year)*  
*Movement Tutor*  
*Speech Tutor*  
*Make-up Tutor*  
*Tutor to Introductory Group*

DAVID EMMET  
WENDY STONE  
JOHN WILSON  
PENNY DYER  
JULIA CRUTTENDEN  
MAGGIE WILKINSON





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**EXHIBITION**

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**EXHIBITION IN THE FOYER**

**19 — 23 JULY**

by

**VERONICA PIRACCINI**

**VERONICA PIRACCINI** was born in Bologna in 1964 but lives in Rome where she attended art school (Accademia Di Belle Arte). Since then she has had a number of exhibitions, both personal and collective in various cities throughout Italy, Rome, Toronto, Florence, Caserta, Viareggio, Bari. She is listed in 'Catalogo Dell'Arte Moderna' published by Mondadori and her work has been acclaimed by MARIO PENELOPE an important art critic and leading figure of the BIENNALE in Venice.

In addition to works on sale Veronica will be happy during her brief stay in England to paint pictures on commission, for example portraits, landscapes.

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**COMING EVENTS**

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**POETS AT THE QUESTORS**

September 29th

**PETER KENNY and  
GERALDINE TAYLOR**

Young West London poets whose work has been heard at various venues such as Wooden Lambs, Riverside and The Troubadour.

October 20th:

**ALAN CHAMBERS, STEVE DUFFY  
CHRIS POWICI**

Matcok Press is launching a new series of poetry books with works by the above poets who will read from them. The Press is a cooperative venture formed to make it possible for the audiences at readings to see the poet's work in print at a reasonable price.

November 17th:

**JOHN RETI**

John is the founder of the Camden based Torriano Poetry Meeting House.

December 15th:

**DAVID JARVIS and BARRY LAYZELL**

Two more local poets whose work is well known at West London poetry readings.

Members and their friends are welcome to come to these readings either to listen or to read their own works in the open sessions which are a feature of each evening.

For an experimental period the readings will take place in the extension to the Grapevine.

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