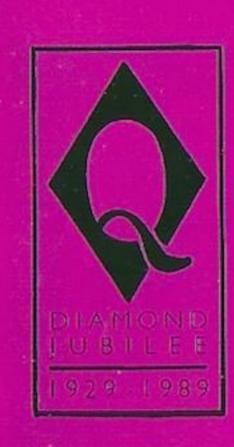


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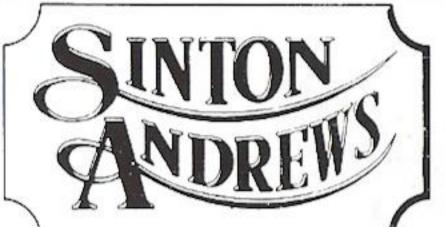


by Dion Boucicault





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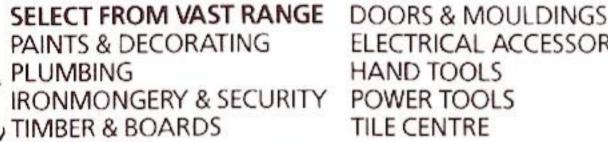
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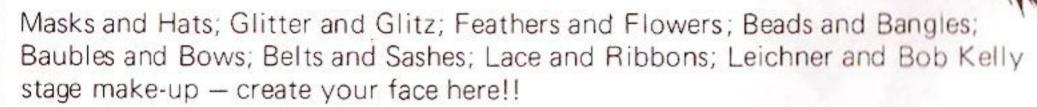


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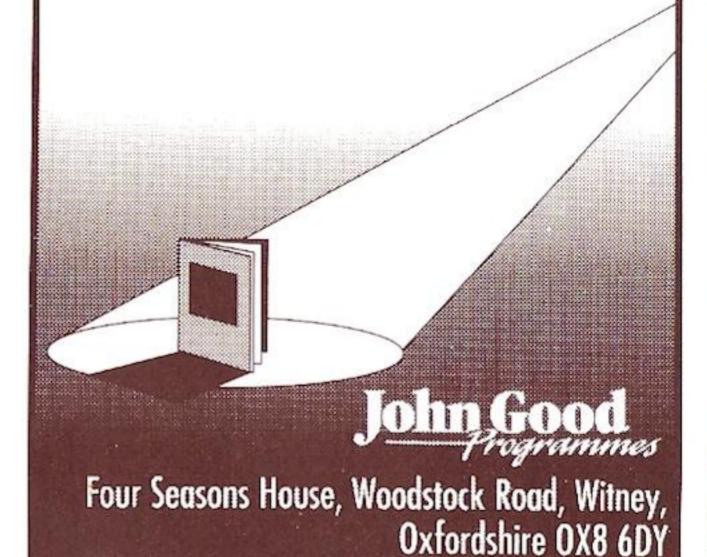
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Vice Presidents: Sir Brian Batsford, Alfred Emmet, OBE, Roger Rees, Michael Williams
Theatre Manager: Elaine Orchard

First performance 15 April 1989

£ONDON A\$\$URANCE

by Dion Boucicault

Directed by Roberta Green

Sets by Julian Dowson
Costumes by Celia Dowell
Lighting by Martin Stoner
Sound by Robin Thompson

sponsored by





The Author

Dionysus Lardner Boucicault was born in Dublin in 1820 and died in New York in 1890. He was a prolific writer and led the sort of life that would make a good play.

Here are the main events:-

1820 Born in Dublin

1830 Moved to London with Dr. Dionysus Lardner (assumed to be his real father).

1836 Claimed to be an Engineering Student at London

University

Joined a provincial theatre company in Cheltenham as an actor with the stage name Lee Moreton. He played a leading role in his own first professionally produced play 'A Legend of the Devil's Dyke'

1841 'London Assurance' opens in Covent Garden

- 1844 He visits France in search of plays to adapt for English audiences.
- 1845 Marries Ann Guiot a French widow twenty years his senior. Shortly after the marriage she falls to her death travelling in the Alps in mysterious circumstances. He inherits a small fortune which is rapidly spent.

1848 Returns to London

1849 A play 'The Willow Copse' adapted from the French is staged with great success.

1851 Joins Charles Kean's company as writer/actor.

1852 Kean stages 'The Corsican Brothers' and 'The Vampire' to popular acclaim.

1953 Elopes to America with Kean's ward Agnes Robertson.

1854 The birth of a son Dion William.

1857 'The Poor of New York' staged in New York. Also a daughter Eve born.

1859 Another son - Darley George (Det) born.

1860 'The Colleen Bawn' staged in New York. Returns to London to arrange the production here.

1862 Becomes lessee of Drury Lane. He is named in a court case with a married actress and bankrupted. Another son, Patrice born.

1864 'Arrah-na-Pogue' staged.

1865 'Rip Van Winkle'

1866 'The Flying Scud' and 'Hunted Down' in which Henry Irving made his London debut.

1867 A daughter - Nina born. (In 1892 she was the original Kitty in 'Charley's Aunt' and became a popular actress on the London stage).

1869 A son - Aubrey Robertson born.

1872 'Babil and Bijou'

1875 'The Shaughraun' opens in London.

1876 Death of his eldest son, Dion William, at 24.

1885 Travels to Australia with a theatrical company. While there bigamously marries a young actress - Louise Thorndyke - a member of the company.

1885 Divorced from his wife Agnes.

1890 Dies in Louise's arms in New York.

He once remarked his epitaph should read 'Dion Boucicault: his first holiday'.

The Directors Apology

Bernard Shaw once wrote "If 'London Assurance' were revived, (and I beg that nothing of the kind be attempted), there would be no more question of dating about it than about the plays of Garrick or Tobin or Mrs. Centlivre".

Shaw was being ironic but I have taken him literally and dressed the play in the present. There seems to be a parallel between Victorian hypocrisy with its emphasis on things monetary and the present times.

Roberta Green

£ONDON A\$\$URANCE

CAST in order of speaking:

Cool	Michael Gabe
Martine	Sue West
Charles Courtly	Piers Whibley
Dazzle	
Sir Harcourt Courtly	Ken Ratcliffe
Max Harkaway	Kerek Bullock
Pert	Rachel Power
Jane	Sue West
Grace Harkaway	Mary Davies
Mark Meddle	Simon Higginson
Lady Gay Spanker	
Dolly Spaker	Tony Diggle
Ms. Susan Isaacs	Sue West

ACT 1	Scene 1	An anteroom	in	Sir

Harcourt's house in Belgrave Square.

Scene 2 The garden of Oak Hall,

Gloucestershire.

Scene 3 The morning room in

Oak Hall.

ACT 2 Scene 1 & 2 The drawing room in

Oak Hall.

There will be one interval of fifteen minutes between Acts 1 and 2

Production

Director	Roberta Green
Set Designer	
Assisted by	
Lighting Designer	
Lighting Operator	
Sound Designer	Robin Thompson
Costume Designer	
Stage Manager	Eric Lister
Deputy Stage Manager	Aruna Reddy
Assisted by	Grant Filshill
	Jackie Dover
	Jonathan Partington
	Jo Perse
	Jane Stacey
	Sue Kendrick
Props	
Construction	Bob Charles
Wardrobe	
	Fiona Nicholson
Photographs	Rupert Hornstein
Make-up and Hair	The Charles of the Ch
	Kirsty Hanson
520	Tony Cornish

'London Assurance' in rehearsal



Michael Gabe, Ken Ratcliffe and Sue West



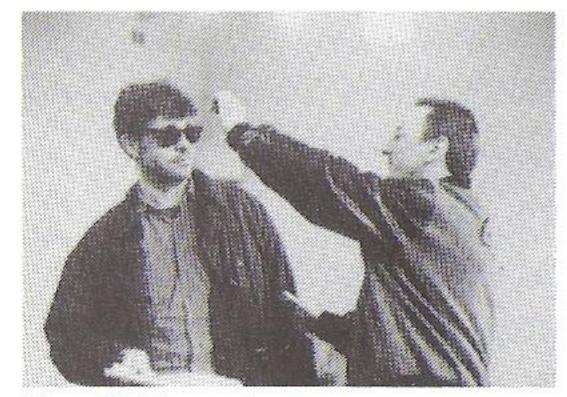
Mary Davies and Ken Ratcliffe



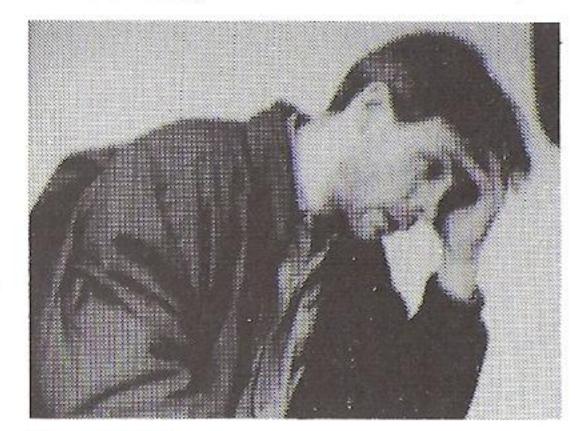
Mary Davies



Simon Higginson



Piers Whibley and Michael Healy



Piers Whibley



Roberta Green

The 25th Anniversary of The Playhouse

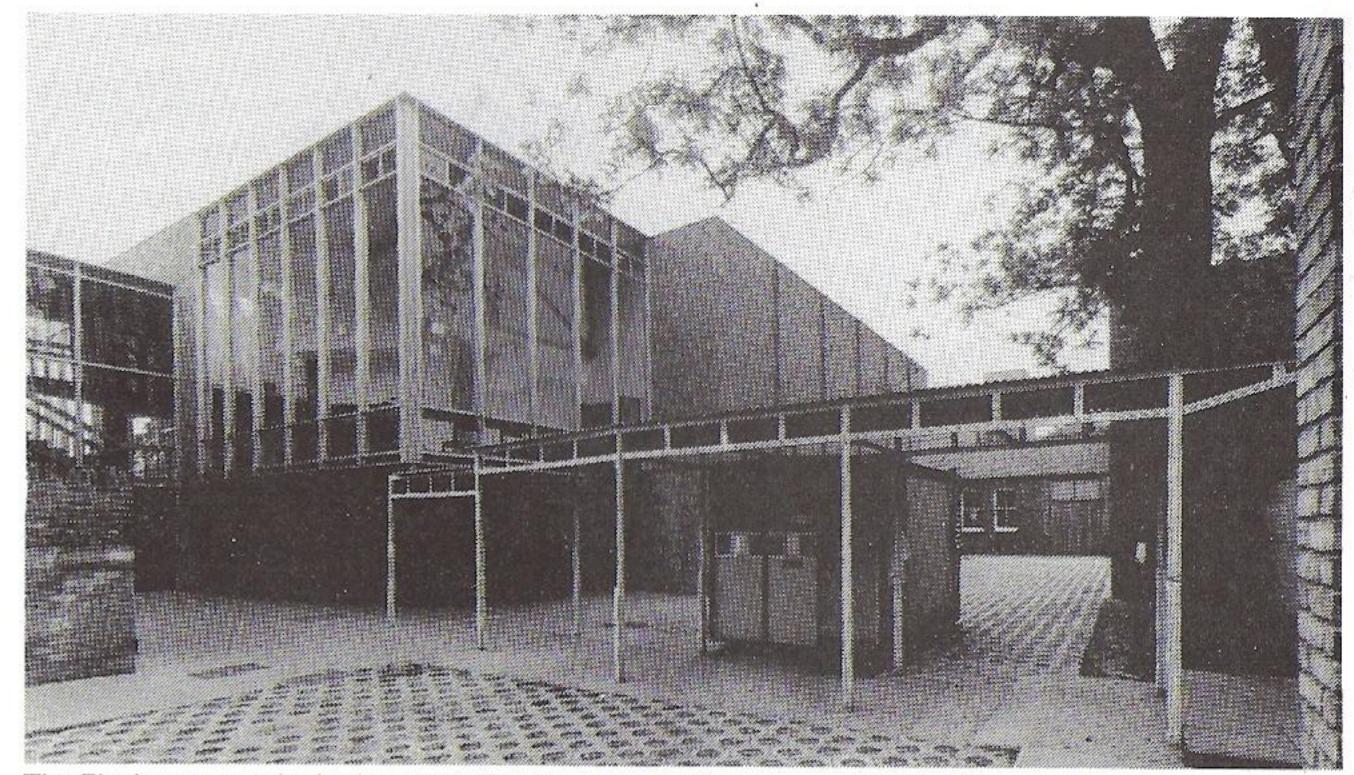
It was in January 1955 that the stage architect Norman Branson presented his plans for a new flexible theatre, almost revolutionary in its design and concept, which would replace the theatre affectionately known as 'The Old Tin Hut', our home since 1933. In the same year the actor Marius Goring cut the first turf and the New Theatre Fund was launched.

It took over a decade for the money to be raised, £60,000 - but in 1963 the old theatre was demolished and the new theatre emerged phoenix-like from the ashes.

Meanwhile our active members were busy building with their own hands and in their spare time the two buildings adjacent to the theatre. In 1958 Sir Michael Redgrave opened the Bernard Shaw Room and in 1960 Dame Edith Evans opened the Stanislavsky Room - known as The Studio during public performances.

The inaugural production on the 18th April 1964 was Henrik Ibsen's 'Brand'. The play was given a lavish and exciting production by a founder member Alfred Emmet. On the 22nd April there was a Gala performance of this play attended by H.M. The Queen Mother. In 1971 Alfred Emmet was awarded the O.B.E. in recognition of his services to amateur theatre generally and to The Questors in particular.

There are many members who will remember with affection that Gala night 25 years ago, and its record on film entitled 'This is The Beginning' can be seen again when Tony Shipley gives his illustrated lecture on the building of the theatre in the Playhouse on Sunday 16th April at 7.45 pm.



The Playhouse as it looked in 1964. The Foyer and offices were added in 1971.



ANNE FLYNN

Technically, Anne Flynn would be described as a 'naive' or 'primitive' artist, having never been trained at Art College or elsewhere since her schooldays, when she developed an almost obsessive passion for painting. She recalls how when first given the opportunity to work with oils, she was so excited that she tried out all the colours in a most unusual sky on which her Art Teacher commented 'That's a very Van Gogh-ish sky.' This passed her by as at the time she had not ever heard of Van Gogh. She has continued to paint ever since, without ever having an exhibition of her work. When my wife and I met her at the home of her brother-in-law, Peter Cotes, and saw a sample of her work, we were so impressed that we determined to do what we could to promote this exhibition.

Anne was married to John Boulting, one of the famous 'Boulting Film Twins', who died nearly four years ago. This exhibition has been a spur to her to resume painting after a less creative period following John's death in 1985.

Alfred Emmet

The exhibition is in two parts:

IN THE WEST FOYER a series of twelve paintings inspired by Arthur Miller's TV film Playing For Time dealing with the Auschwitz Women's Orchestra, which the artist describes as having haunted her. These pictures are not for sale individually as they should not be separated.

IN THE MAIN FOYER a selection of recent and earlier work. The 'portraits' are not intended as individual representations, though inspired by characters the artist had seen in her travels. She does not care to use models in her work.



In the Playhouse

THE SEAGULL

by Anton Chekhov (In a version by Thomas Kilroy)

Thomas Kilroy's version of Chekhov's classic drama takes place in Ireland while remaining entirely faithful to the spirit of the play.

Directed by John Davey the cast includes Dorothy Boyd Taylor, Alan Chambers, Ben Crocker, Gwenan Evans, Michael Hiller, Alex Nash, Heather Naylor, Anne Renn, Simon Roberts and Tony Rushforth.

Dates: May 13th, 15th-20th at 7.45 pm

May 14th at 3 pm

Tickets: Members FREE Guests May 13 - 18 £3.00, May 19 - 20 £3.50

In The Studio

WHITE NIGHTS and DOSTOEVSKY

A fascinating twin bill with an adaptation by Keith Miles of Dostoevsky's famous story and a play on Dostoevsky himself by the same playwright. The two plays mark the debut as directors of actors Michael Gerrard and Alan Widdrington.

Dates: 6 - 13 May at 7.45 pm Tickets: Members & Guests: £2.50

PLAY READINGS IN THE FOYER "Pass It On" by RENEE

Feminism is alive and well in the New Zealand Theatre!

Directed by Howard Shepherdson

Sunday 14th May 7.45 pm

THE QUESTORS THEATRE — INFORMATION—

For The Questors Theatre

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ADMINISTRATION

The Questors office is open from 9.30 a.m. until 5.00 p.m. every weekday. If you wish to make contact for details of membership, or hiring the Theatre and rehearsal rooms, telephone the office on **01 567-0011.**

MEMBERSHIP

If you wish to become a member you can use the form on the page opposite; just send it to the Theatre with the appropriate subscription.

BOX OFFICE

For personal callers the box office is open evenings only from 6.45 p.m. to 8.45 p.m. on days of performance and five days prior to each Playhouse production.

THE STUDENT GROUP

Wardrobe Care

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The Questors runs a two year part time student course; details can be obtained from the office.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S GROUP

There are a number of groups for younger members. These cater for all age groups, from 5-17. The classes are intended to create awareness of the theatre and provide a stimulating channel for imagination.

NEW MEMBERS EVENINGS

Why not attend one of our new, or prospective members evenings, and have a conducted tour of the Theatre complex. Tours start and finish at the Grapevine Bar, 8.00 p.m. every Wednesday.

THE GRAPEVINE CLUB

The Questors has a fully licensed Bar which is now open to all members. The Bar is open every evening plus lunchtimes on Sundays. Questors members are requested to sign in their guests when entering the bar.

THE HOTPLATE

Delicious hot and cold food is available in the upper Foyer between 6.30 p.m. and 8.00 p.m. during the run of Playhouse productions, and coffee, tea, and cakes are served during the interval. No hot food will be provided at the Sunday matinees.

NOTE

The Hotplate is not open for Studio productions, but when Studio performances coincide with those in the Playhouse, it will endeavour to serve those audiences whenever this is possible.



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His handwriting never was very easy to read....



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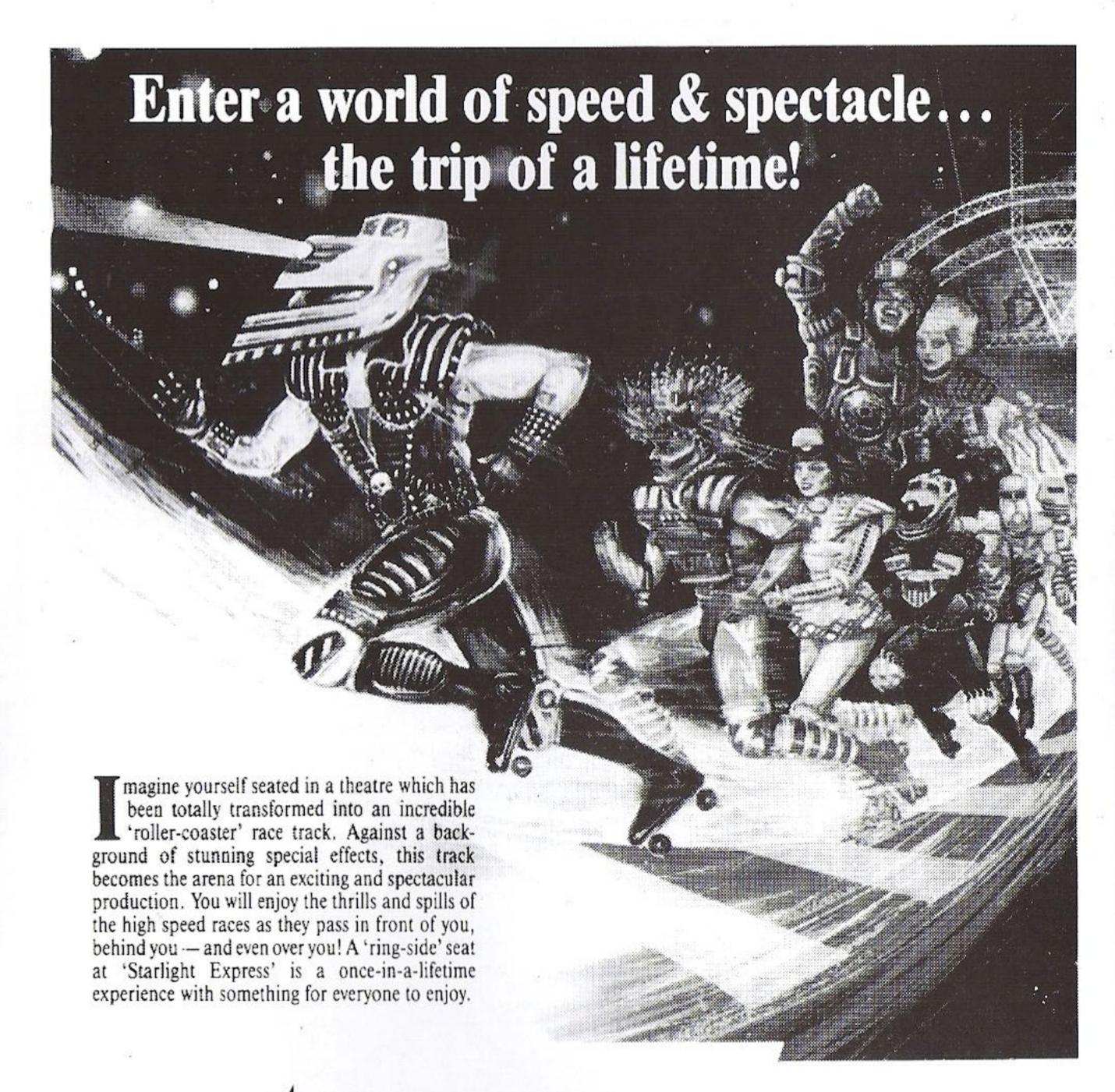
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