

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

In the Playhouse

### THE BUSY-BODY

by Susannah Centlivre

Last year's highly successful rehearsed reading becomes the first major production of the New Year.

A Restoration Comedy worthy of revival.

20, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 January at 7.45pm  
Sunday 21st January matinée at 3.00pm

Sponsored by FIELD AVIATION LTD.

In the Studio

### A CRUCIAL WEEK IN THE LIFE OF A GROCER'S ASSISTANT

by Thomas Murphy

Set in a small town in rural Ireland in the late 1950's, trembling in the face of economic expansion.

3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 February at 7.45pm

In the BERNARD SHAW ROOM

### THE FORTIETH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE QUESTORS LIMITED

To receive and adopt the Report of the Committee of Management and Accounts for the year ended 31st August 1989. To elect members of the Committee of Management.

By order of the Committee of Management  
GWENAN EVANS  
Secretary

Monday, 8th January 1990

All members of The Questors welcome

Upper Foyer

*Rehearsed Reading*

First in a new series of plays for the 60's

### THE FORMATION DANCERS

by Frank Marcus

Sunday 14th January at 7.45pm

Members and Guests FREE

Printed and published by THE QUESTORS LIMITED



THE

# QUESTORS

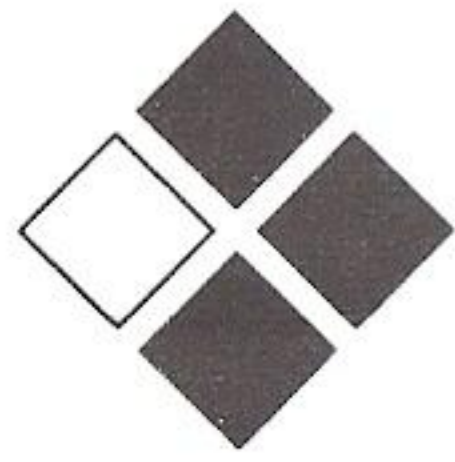
THEATRE

## On the Razzle



Sponsored by  
**Merchant & Co.**  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

by TOM STOPPARD



# Merchant & Co.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

In the beginning — before ball-pens, calculators, computers (and VAT!!) — Harold Aubrey Merchant established a firm of accountants in Ealing. It was 1920; the country was getting back on its feet after the war; we were on the threshold of a new decade. That he successfully met all the challenges of that era is evidenced by the fact that today, on the threshold of the 1990s, his firm still flourishes.

We are sure that our founder, who became Mayor of Ealing, would have been proud that as we step into the nineties, Merchant & Co. continues to meet the needs of its clients with the same dedication and professionalism that he undoubtedly displayed in the twenties.

We are equally proud to have the opportunity of welcoming the new decade alongside our friends at The Questors and would like to wish every success to the cast and all involved with the production of:

“ON THE RAZZLE”

Our expertise in all areas of accounting and taxation is available to help *you* meet the challenges of the 1990s. Ring Susan Silvester on 992 7811 for a preliminary discussion of your needs.

Matlock House · 229 High Street · Acton · London W3 9BY

Tel: 01-993 7109 · Fax: 01-992 7811

## The Play and the Author

There are some plays that have as many face-lifts as an ageing film star worried about her profile.

*On the Razzle* started life in 1835 as a one-act play by John Oxenford called *A Day Well Spent*. A few years later Johann Nestroy turned it into a full Viennese comedy; but while the name of Johann Nestroy may not ring many memory bells for British audiences, nor is it likely that his comedy *He's Out For a Fling* will strike many chords, there will be recognition at the news that Thornton Wilder re-wrote Nestroy's work for America as *The Merchant of Yonkers* and fifteen years later, for Wilder was not a man to waste much, added a new central character and got another Broadway hit comedy called *The Matchmaker* from which eventually sprang the highly successful musical *Hello Dolly!*

But whereas *Hello Dolly!* has hardly a comic line in it, Stoppard has tried to remain true to the spirit of Nestroy's work by using his plot as a springboard for a display of verbal acrobatics, puns, spoonerisms and deadpan non-sequiturs.

The play is most certainly not merely a literal translation of Nestroy's work. Stoppard admits that his method of translation might be compared to cross-country hiking with map and compass, where one takes a bearing on the next landmark and picks one's own way towards it. He adds that anything “improper” has less to do with Nestroy than with his own unregretful capitulation to the possibilities of sexual inuendo as and when they occurred.

What makes *On the Razzle* unique and such fun to direct, perform and, I hope, to watch is that every line in it is either a joke or part of one. There are half a dozen puns per page and it is very rare for anyone to say anything that cannot be misinterpreted, or that isn't. As Zangler says towards the beginning of the play, “One false move and we could have a farce on our hands”.

After opening at the Edinburgh Festival, the play transferred to the National Theatre on 22nd September 1981 and received almost unanimously excellent notices. Dinsdale Landen played Zangler, Michael Kitchen played his cocksure manservant, Joan (“Miss Marple”) Hickson played Fraulein Blumenblatt and Weinberl and Christopher were played respectively by Ray Brooks and (in the best tradition of both pantomime and Viennese farce — a tradition which we too have observed) a woman — Felicity Kendal.

SIMON MEADON — Director



## Art Exhibition in the Upper Foyer

### MARGARET RUSSELL

Margaret Russell is a London naive artist who has been painting and exhibiting for twenty years. Her paintings have been accepted by the Royal Academy. She has held several one-woman exhibitions; has been shown in a number of London galleries; and has had paintings purchased for private collections abroad — in America and Australia.

She is a vivid painter with a bold use of colour who finds her subjects in mundane scenes of everyday life to which she brings a highly individual insight. She never tires of the visual pleasures to be found 'On one's own doorstep' and usually paints in oils, sometimes 'on site' or from her own sketches.

While her paintings are naive there is an underlying sophistication and real understanding of differing relationships — often arresting, sometimes disturbing, always interesting. Many of her pictures are sheer exuberant fun as she interweaves elements of fantasy into humdrum subjects.

She also teaches art to the elderly and disabled.

### Have you visited The NEW GRAPEVINE BAR?!

*The Grapevine is newly refurbished, with more space, more comfort, delightful decor, and an even more delightfully comprehensive range of beers, wines and spirits, all at prices which will warm your hearts almost as much as your favourite refreshment — and the company — does.*

*And it's open to all Questors Members over 18 and their guests — all you have to do is have your Questors Membership card with you.*

### A FEW DROPS OF WATER

*The Story of The Questors Theatre 1929 - 1989*

by Gwenan Evans and others



Membership is not complete without it.  
On sale now at the Foyer Bookstall



## THE QUESTORS THEATRE

### INFORMATION

#### 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 6.30pm and 8.00pm 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 matinées.

#### 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.

#### 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, 8.00pm every Wednesday.

#### THE STUDENT GROUP

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

#### YOUNG PEOPLE'S GROUPS

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.

#### For The Questors Theatre

Artistic Director  
Studio Director  
Chairman  
Vice-Chairman  
Secretary  
Finance Director  
Administrative Director  
Stage Director  
Theatre Manager  
Productions Administrator  
Membership Secretary  
Publicity Co-ordinator  
Programme Editor  
Press Officer  
Sponsorship  
Box Office Manager  
Front of House Manager  
Hotplate  
Floral displays  
Haberdashery  
Wardrobe Equipment  
Wardrobe Care

David Emmet  
Paddy O'Connor  
Martin Bowley  
Roger Kelly  
Gwenan Evans  
Ken Kettle  
Lucille Terry  
Doug King  
Elaine Orchard  
Jill Gee  
Lindsay Udell  
Elaine Orchard  
Ken Ratcliffe  
Simon Higginson  
Geoffrey Sellman  
Ken Parker  
Douglas Thomas  
Dorothy Dent  
Barralets of Ealing  
Gütermann  
Wilkinson Sword  
Persil, Comfort, Stergene

#### ADMINISTRATION

The Questors office is open from 9.30am until 5.00pm 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 please fill in the application form (copies in the Foyers); just send it to the Theatre with the appropriate subscription.

#### BOX OFFICE

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