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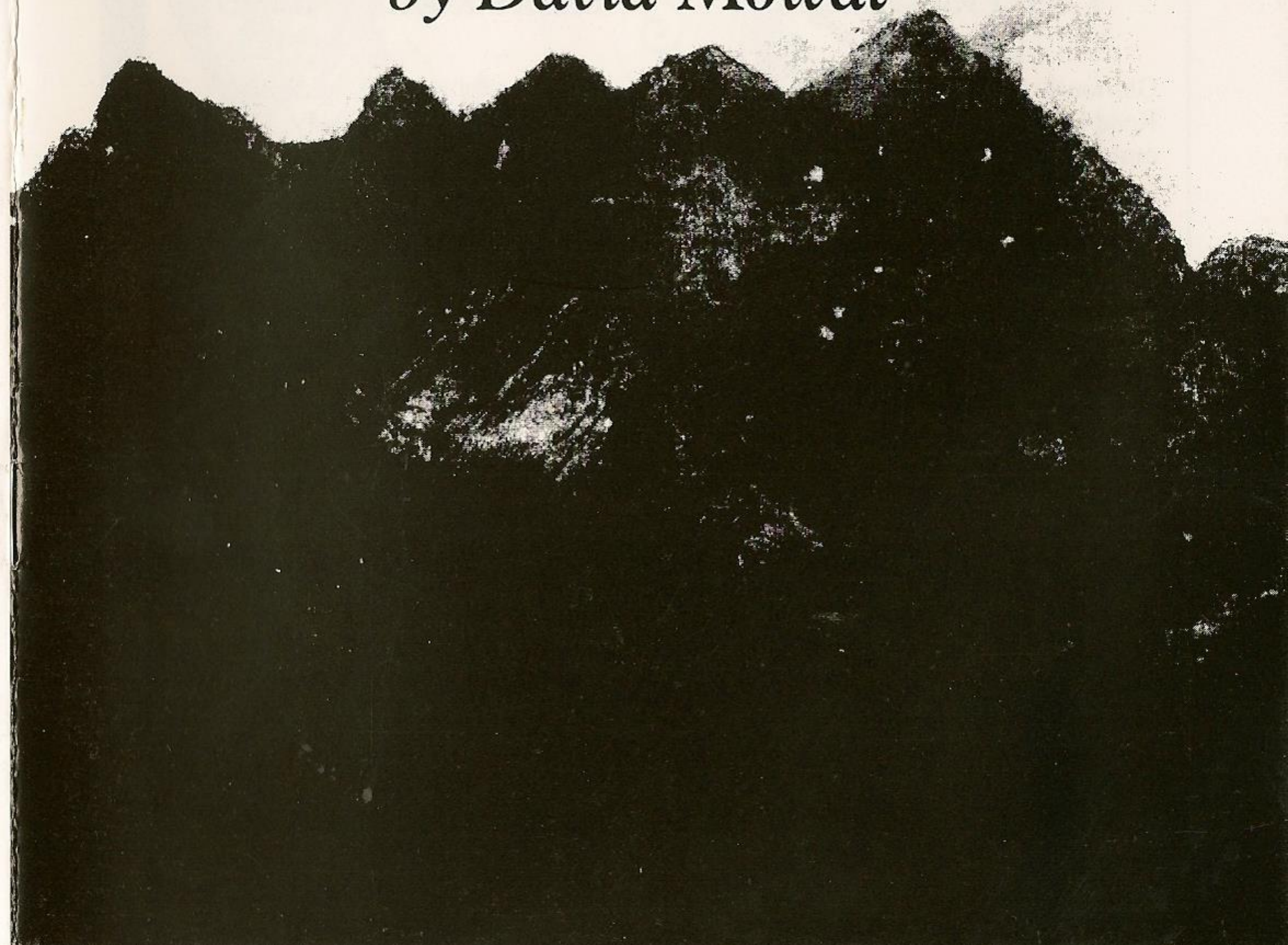


THE QUESTORS THEATRE

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

THE ALMAS

by David Mowat



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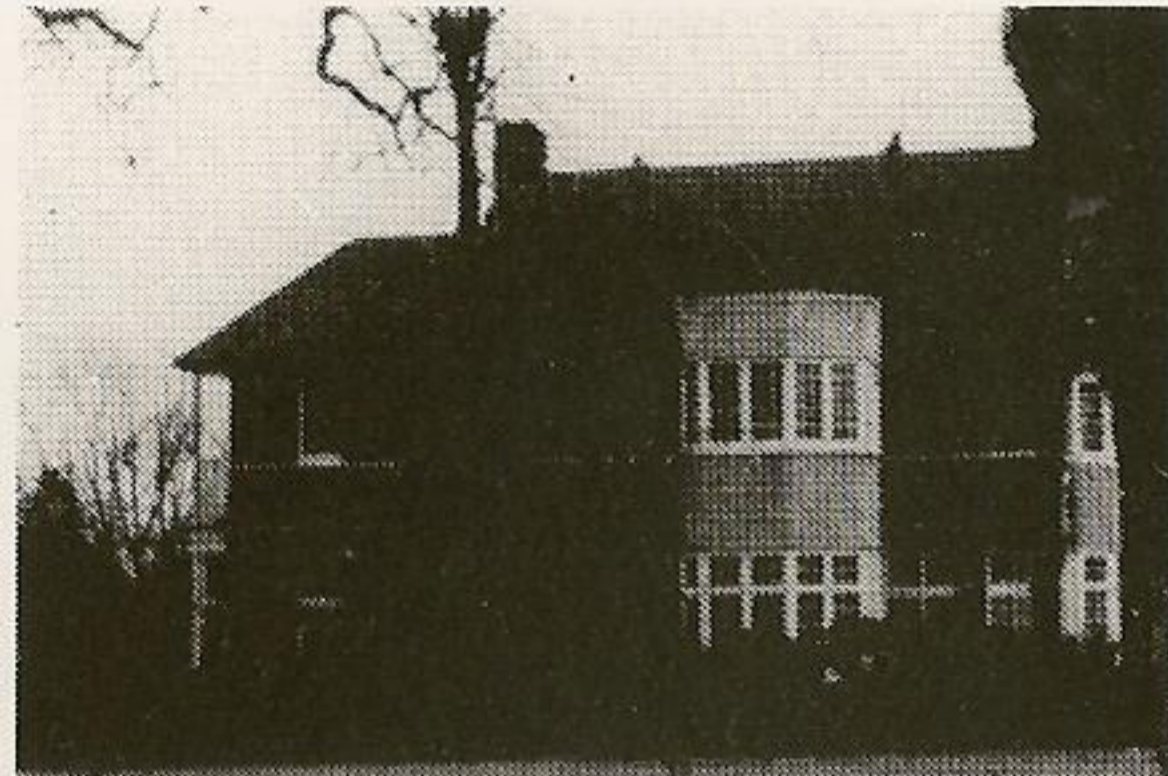


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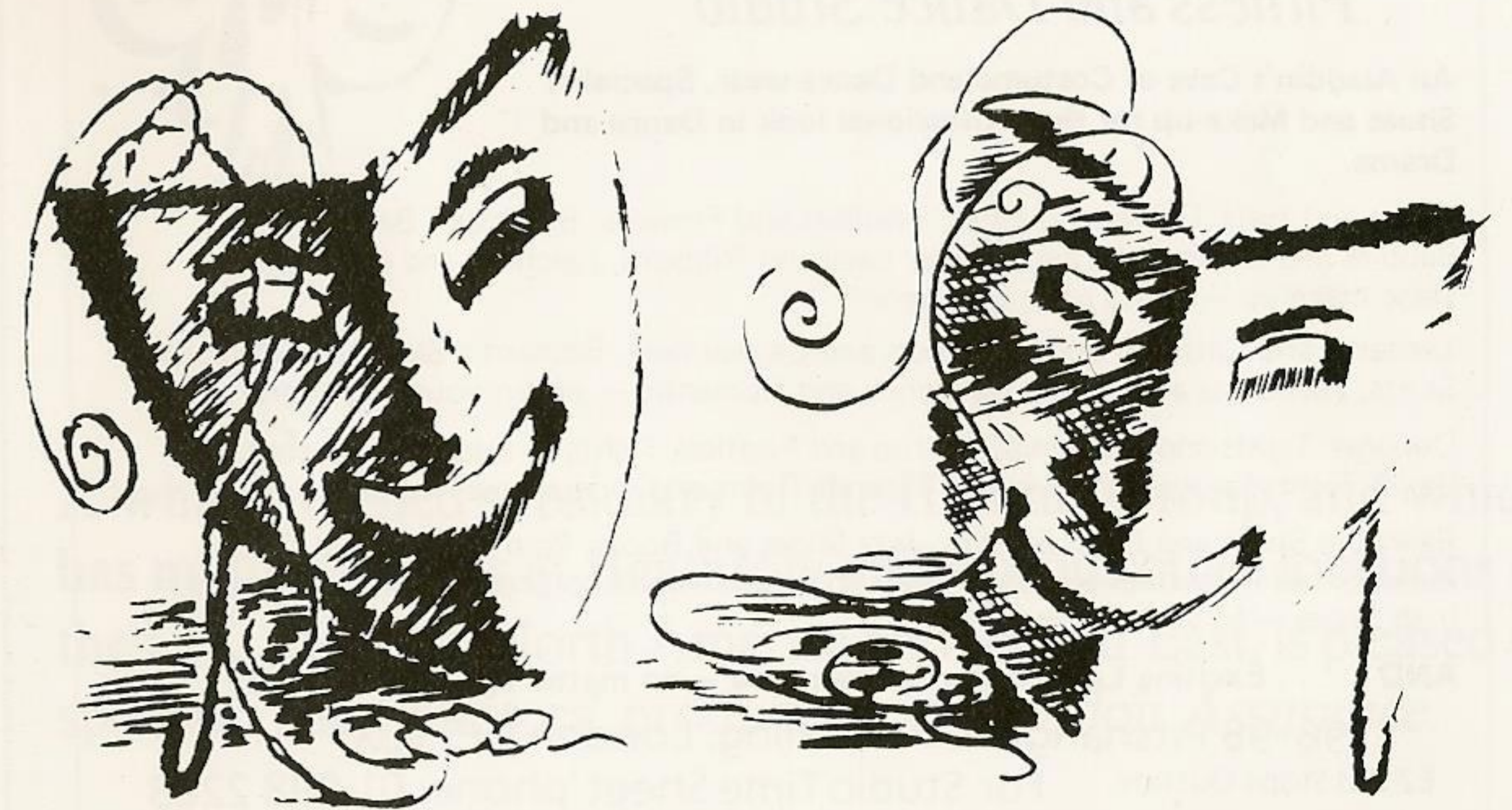
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THE QUESTORS THEATRE
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12 noon - 1.45pm Saturday.

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

PREMIÈRE PRODUCTION

First Performance 6 June 1989

THE ALMAS

by David Mowat

Director	David Mowat
Associate Director	David Emmet
Set Designer	Tony Godel
Lighting Designer	Martin Stoner

sponsored by

Duffy's

124 PITSHANGER LANE,
EALING, W5 1QP

THE AUTHOR

David Mowat's plays, including ANNA LUSE, PURITY, PHOENIX AND TURTLE, WINTER and THE GUISE, have been professionally produced in seven countries. In Britain there have been productions at the Warehouse, by the Royal Shakespeare Theatre Company, The Royal Court Theatre Upstairs, Kings Head Theatre Club, Traverse Theatre Edinburgh, Lyric Theatre Hammersmith, Open Space Theatre, Orange Tree Theatre and Old Red Lion. THE GUISE was banned after seven performances at the Space Theatre, Cape Town, and, in a different production, was toured throughout Britain by Foco Novo. INUIT was toured by Paines Plough.

The Questors through the New Plays Festivals encouraged David Mowat's talent in his early and formative years. Six of his plays were produced: they were - JENS (1969) INUIT (1970), THE OTHERS (1970), JOHN (1971) MY RELATIONSHIP WITH JAYNE (1973) THE MIDNIGHT SUN (1983). Five of David Mowat's plays are published, including two volumes by Calder and Boyars.

ABOUT THE PLAY

In certain remote regions of Soviet Central Asia - Mongolia - China - a primitive anthropoid sub-species is still supposed to exist, referred to by the local people as Almas. Nowadays sightings of these almost legendary creatures have dwindled, but circumstantial evidence seems to indicate they might still survive. It's related that towards the end of the last century one, a female, was caught and domesticated: she later produced children who, unlike herself, were able to learn human speech...

I have set this play in Semipalatinsk - that is, a real town in Soviet Central Asia, but actually the place is only 'semi-palatinsk', and I have gone out of my way not to foster clichés about 'Russia', preferring to look at a family which, though a bit bizarre, might be found anywhere (well, almost anywhere).

Also I've set it 'more or less' in our own time: in fact it could be any time in the last forty years, or even earlier. As far as I'm concerned, the action takes place now and takes place here: that's what the theatre can do. Television has taught us to be 'authentic', and done it very well, but theatre must occasionally unlearn this useful skill if it is to regain the universal highground it once used to command.

The play, like my earlier one WINTER, is about science, particularly the limitations of science. It's also about 'man' (using the word in its crudest sense), and man's effrontery in supposing himself the 'lord of creation', conveniently forgetful of what surpasses him: the woman, the child, the animal.... as well as nature, and the power behind nature. The play is also therefore about power, and the unknown (what lies beyond knowledge). It's also, for good measure, about human behaviour, and in scene nine you can even find a fair representation of my views on cosmology (though dismissed by Gyorgy as 'twittery'). Doing a bit of research into astrophysics, for another play, ages ago, I was struck by one particular theory, I think it was by Dirac, which suggested that the universe started with 'minus one'.

For all this it's not a heavy play, or at least it's not supposed to be: and if you don't find anything about food queues or Gorbachev, etc, please don't blame the play for not being authentic. It's not trying to be.

David Mowat

THE ALMAS *by David Mowat*

CAST

In order of appearance

Gyorgy **Howard Benbrook**
Mikhail **John Downs**
The Almas **Leela Selvon**
Vroni **Anne Sawbridge**
Usha **Mari King**
Kristina **Sheree Clapperton**
Frederic **Mark Webb**

The action takes place in Semipalatinsk (East Kazakhstan) Soviet Central Asia.
(see Author's notes previous page)

Director **David Mowat**
Associate Director **David Emmet**
Set Designer **Tony Godel**
Lighting Designer **Martin Stoner**

This performance lasts approximately two and a half hours including one fifteen minute interval

PRODUCTION

Stage Manager **Jenny Richardson**
Deputy Stage Managers **Trish Knight**
Susan Oliver
Assistant Stage Managers **Peter Collins**
Jo Perse
Ros Willey
Properties **Margaret Bull**
Sally Lister
Prompter **Bridgett Stevens**
Construction **Tom Morton**
Wardrobe **Jackie Dover**
Grace Craddock
Sylvia Wall
Lighting Operator **Jonathan Partington**
Sound Recordist **Peter Kendrick**
Sound Operators **Sue Kendrick**
Kerry Williams
Hair and Make up **Amanda Clarke**
Nikita Rao
Photographs **Paul Walker**

Thanks to **John Rolfe, Nic Mehew, Doug King, Roger Brace, Norman Hill**
and **Iconastas, 5 Piccadilly Arcade, Gernyn Street, SW1** for the Samovar

ART EXHIBITION IN UPPER FOYER June 3rd to July 23rd

CATHERINE GRUBB was born in Scotland in 1945, but brought up in London. She studied at Edinburgh University and Edinburgh College of Art, graduating with an Honours Degree in Fine Art in 1968. She continued at the University as a post-graduate student in the History of Art department, and it was at this time she also began to study etching seriously. Since leaving University she has worked as a free-lance artist, and as a part-time lecturer and teacher.

Her work had always had a pronounced linear quality, and she was first attracted to etching by the possibility it afforded of achieving very fine line work and minute detail.

Her subject matter is divided between imaginative works (often with a musical or literary basis), still lifes, animal studies, and landscapes - most recently of the North Cornish coast.

She has had many solo exhibitions around the country and her work is in a number of public collections.

Since 1981 she has had a bi-ennial summer exhibition of etchings at The Questors Theatre. This year, however, she is also showing monoprints and pastels (many based on drawings done at Festival Ballet classes and rehearsals) as well as etchings.



THE QUESTORS THEATRE COMING EVENTS

In The Studio

Student Playwriting Competition-Joint Winner

THE MIND FOREST

by Richard Steadman-Jones

A new play based on the life of Victorian spinster Mary Kingsley and her journeys into the jungle of West Africa

Directed by Anthea Dobry

Cast includes: Nevile Cruttenden, Lisa Day, Rachel Power, Daniel Smith and Ffrangcon Whelan

Performances 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th June at 7.45pm

Tickets: Members and Guests 2.50

Sponsored by Waterstone & Company

In The Playhouse

Student Playwriting Competition-Joint Winner

WAR STREET SERENADE

by Katy Louise Dean

A raw look at life among rootless youngsters in a small English town.

Directed by Paddy O'Connor and designed by Brad Askew

Performances: 17th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, June at 7.45pm

18th June at 3pm

Tickets: Members FREE Guests 17-22 June £3.00

23-24th June £3.50

Sponsored by Waterstone & Company

LATE NIGHT in the Studio

'D MINUS'

by Kevin Madley

A Questors author directs his own world premiere - a gentle comedy of pregnancy, playgrounds and parenthood

Cast: Ceri Jones

Two performances only: Thursday 15th and Friday 16th June at 10.30pm

Tickets: Members and Guests £1.00

Proceeds in aid of the REDEVELOPMENT FUND

Rehearsed Play Readings

In the foyer Sunday 11 June at 7.45pm

THE BELLE'S STRATEGEM

by Mrs Hannah Crowley (1780)

A hero ultimately forced into an acceptance of his real emotions by the contrivances of the heroine who refuses to marry a man who does not truly love her

A Sparkling Comedy!

Directed by Christine Garland

In The Foyer

Sunday 18th June at 7.45pm


THE CHANGING

by David Lewis

A new light-hearted comedy on changing sexual roles.

Directed by Brian Ingram

Admission is FREE to all members and guests at PLAYREADINGS



THE QUESTORS THEATRE

INFORMATION

For The Questors Theatre

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

Geoff Webb
Paddy O'Connor
Martin Bowley
Roger Kelly
Gwenan Evans
Michael Vadon
Lucille Terry
Doug King
Elaine Orchard
Jill Gee
Lindsay Udell
Elaine Orchard
Robert Gordon Clark
Ken Ratcliffe
Simon Higginson
Geoffrey Sellman
Ken Parker
Douglas Thomas
Dorothy Dent
Barralets of Ealing
Gutermann
Wilkinson Sword
Persil, Comfort, Stergene

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

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.



THE QUESTORS THEATRE

MATTOCK LANE, EALING, LONDON W5 5BQ

Telephones: Membership Secretary 01-567 8736 General Office 01-567 0011

Member of The Little Theatre Guild of Great Britain and The International Amateur Theatre Association.

The Questors Ltd
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 Regd Office
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 London W5 5BQ

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I/We wish to join THE QUESTORS and hereby make application for membership as follows (please tick appropriate box)

(Mr.)

NAME (Mrs.)

(Miss)

(BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE)

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE NO.....DATE OF BIRTH (if under 18).....

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(In the case of Joint Club membership, both applicants should sign)

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JOINT OAP MEMBERSHIP: Entrance Fee £1.00. Annual Subscription £16.50. **STUDENT/UNWAGED MEMBERSHIP:** Entrance Fee

nil, Annual Subscription £8.00. **ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP:** Entrance Fee £1.00. Annual Subscription £7.50.

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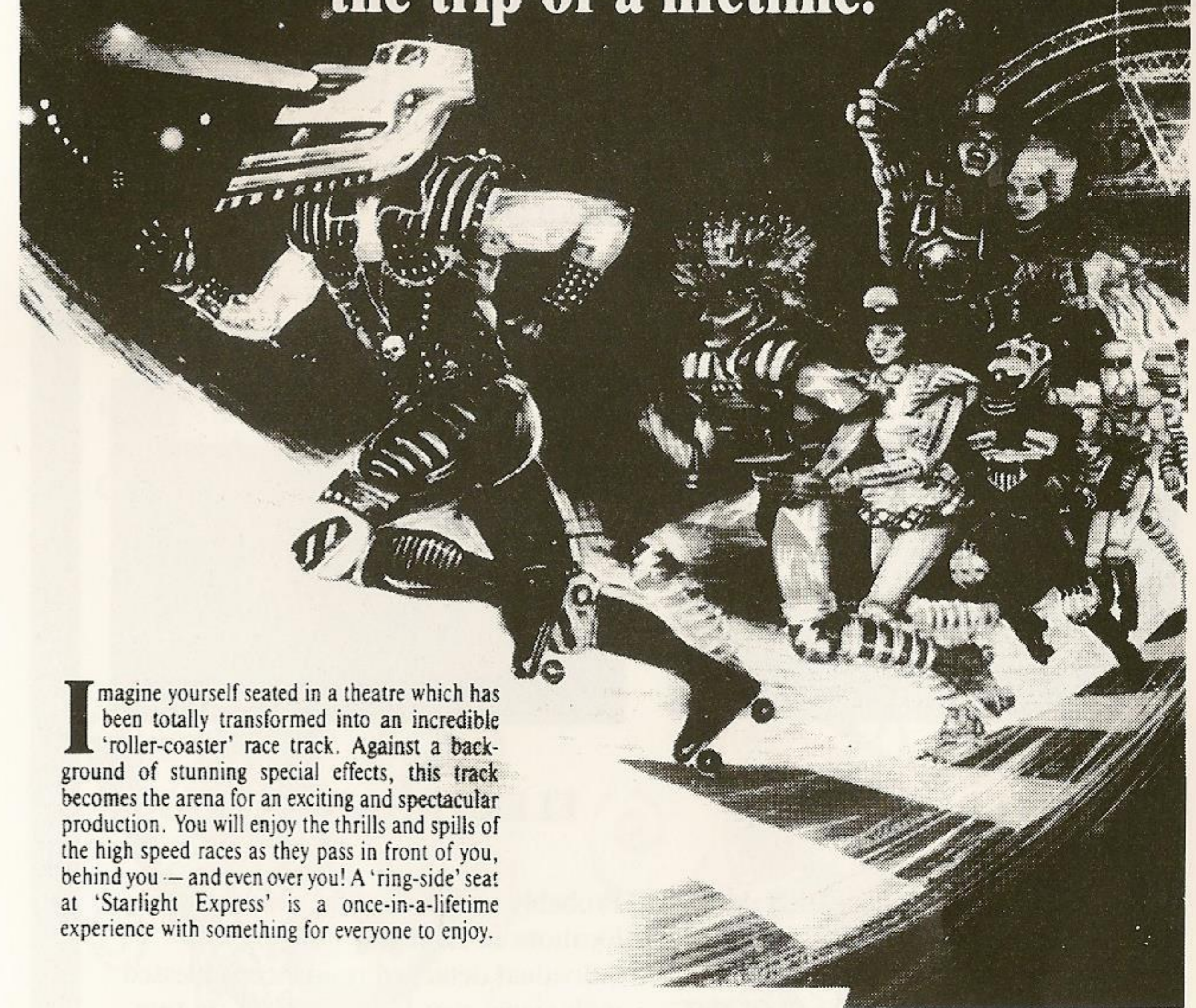
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