

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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 Playhouse

THE BARBER OF SEVILLE

by Pierre-Augustin Beaumarchais
translated by John Wood

The first play of three that follow the times and adventures of Figaro: barber, valet, subversive

10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 February at 7.45pm
Sunday 11th February matinée at 3.00pm

Sponsored by YORKE PEST CONTROL.

THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO

by Pierre-Augustin Beaumarchais
translated by John Wood

A unique opportunity to see both of Beaumarchais' delightful comedies which inspired the operas of Rossini and Mozart.

3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 March at 7.45pm
Sunday 4th March matinée at 3.00pm

Sponsored by DÔME CAFÉS.

In the Studio

FIGARO GETS A DIVORCE

by Odön von Horváth
translated by Roger Downey

The intriguing sequel to Beaumarchais' plays is set in Europe in the 1930's.


24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 March at 7.45pm

'Special Offer' of £1 off when tickets for all three plays are purchased.

Printed and published by THE QUESTORS LIMITED

 THE QUESTORS THEATRE

The Busy- Body



by Susannah Centlivre

Sponsored by



Fields

FIELD AVIATION LTD.

HUNTAVIA HOUSE
420 BATH ROAD
LONGFORD
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A wholly owned subsidiary of the Hunting Group, and which has major facilities at Heathrow and various other locations in the U.K., Europe, North America and the Far East, is pleased to sponsor The Questors' production of *The Busy-Body*.



Fields

BACKGROUND TO THIS PRODUCTION — In March last year a neglected play by Susannah Centlivre was performed at The Questors as a Rehearsed Reading. *The Busy-Body* (directed by Mary Davies) was so well received that it is included in the 1990 season as a full Playhouse production.

THE FEMALE WITS — Between 1695 and 1723 over 40 women's plays were performed in London. Mary Pix, Aphra Behn, Katherine Phillips, Catherine Trotter and Susannah Centlivre were among the female wits of the late 17th and early 18th centuries. Mrs Centlivre wrote eighteen plays, of which *The Busy-Body*, *The Wonder* and *Bold Stroke for a Wife* are still performed.

THE PLAY — *The Busy-Body*, Susannah Centlivre's ninth play, was first performed on Thursday, October 12th, 1709. It received five more performances that month and was revived nearly every year until 1800, a total of 450 performances. By 1884 over 40 editions had been printed and it was regularly played throughout the nineteenth century.

A BIOGRAPHY — 'The Authoress of this play was, at twelve years of age, left an orphan in Ireland. At fifteen, being persecuted on account of her poverty and her beauty, she fled from her enemies, taking shelter in England.

A student of Cambridge met her, a forlorn traveller on her way to London, and prevailed on her to accompany him to the university, in man's attire, as his companion and friend. The haste with which the intimacy was formed was but the forerunner of as hasty a separation.

The biographers have not said where she met her second lover; but it is certain she had the prudence to make him her husband; she became his widow before she was eighteen. She married a Mr Carrol not long after her widowhood. Regrettably he was killed in a duel the year following.

Mrs Carrol became an actress; but notwithstanding her youth, her wit and her beauty, she was unsuccessful in that profession. To avoid the alternative, female profligacy, or domestic drudgery, she now encountered the masculine enterprise of an author.

In this period she united herself to a man whose very title promised her protection from that ancient and modern visitation upon authors — hunger. Mr Centlivre was 'yeoman to the mouth' or principal cook to Queen Anne.

Mrs Centlivre died in 1723 of a disorder neither lingering, nor so painful, as starving.'

(Extract from a biography written by Elizabeth Inchbald — 1753 to 1821 — another unsuccessful actress who became a playwright and novelist.)

The Busy-Body

by *Susannah Centlivre*

First performance Saturday 20th January 1990

The Lady on the balcony	Anna Macready
Charles, son of Sir Francis and in love with Isabinda	David Brooke
Sir George Airy, in love with Miranda	Piers Whibley
Marplot, ward of Sir Francis Gripe	Simon Higginson
Whisper, servant to Charles	Chris Eedy
Miranda, ward of Sir Francis and in love with Sir George	Amanda Bernstein
Patch, servant to Isabinda, formerly to Miranda	Charmian Norman-Taylor
Sir Francis Gripe, Charles' father — and Miranda's and Marplot's guardian	Meic Llewellyn
Sir Jealous Traffick, father of Isabinda	Ken Ratcliffe
Isabinda, in love with Charles	Joanne Careless
Gunbearer/Servant to the Traffick household	Peter Tarrant
Servant to the Gripe household/Landlord	Joe Purcell
Scentwell, maid to Miranda	Stephanie Bridgeman
The Orchestra: Recorder/Leader	Alison Dixon
Bassoon	Rachel Hardy
Clarinet	Julia Cooke

THE ACTION OF THE PLAY takes place in the households of Sir Francis Gripe and Sir Jealous Traffick — and in the streets, parks and taverns of the vicinity.

THE PERIOD PORTRAYED is the early part of the Eighteenth Century.

THE TWO ACTS of the play encompass one entire Autumn day.

There will be ONE INTERVAL FOR REFRESHMENT lasting 15 minutes.

Director	Rodney Figaro
Set Designer	Tessa Curtis
Assisted by	Jackie Dover Phil Pinkham
Lighting Designer	Tim Hayward
Assisted by	Andrew Platt
Sound	Alan N. Smith
Costumes	Lindsay Udell
Costume Assistants	Grace Craddock Pamela Maddox and members of the Wardrobe Dept.
Wigs and Make-up	Joceline Andrews Karin Brouwer Greg Gregoriou of Greasepaint
Firearms Advisor	Eddie Cullen
Spanish Language Advisor	Sylvia Rumori
Stage Manager	Kris Collier
Prompter	Gordon Miller
Deputy Stage Manager	Peter Collins
Assistant Stage Managers	Gillian Leary Emma Poggi
Construction	Tom Morton
Lighting Operator	Jonathan Woodard
Sound Operator	Martin Sapsed

Our special thanks to **Mary Davies** for the use of her original programme notes, **Kathy Skinner**, **Chris Sydenham**, **Tina Harris** and to **SAFEWAY**.

Art Exhibition in the Upper Foyer

RIVKA SINCLAIR

Israeli artist Rivka Sinclair studied at the Bezalel School of Art in Jerusalem, specialised in printmaking in London, and has a Diploma in Creative Screen Printing from the London College of Printing.

Rivka has held many solo exhibitions and many of her prints have been bought by private and public collectors, which include the following:

Oldham Museum and Art Gallery, Lancashire
Leicester Museum, Leicester
St. Thomas' Hospital Collection, London
Camden Local Authority
Christie Contemporary Art etc.

Rivka's work has an unusual quality about it. The landscapes are serene and still, but are also mysterious and haunting. Her images have the rare gift of being both decorative and pleasing to the eye, while at the same time suggesting profound ideas which are hidden 'beyond appearances' — a sense of another world.

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

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 in Acting; 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
Director of Studies
Chairman
Vice-Chairman
Secretary
Finance Director
Administrative Director
Stage Director
Theatre Manager
Productions Administrator
Membership Secretary
Publicity Manager
Programme Editor
Questopics Editor
Press Officer
Sponsorship
Box Office Manager
Front of House Manager
Hotplate
Floral displays
Haberdashery
Wardrobe Equipment
Wardrobe Care

David Emmet
Paddy O'Connor
David Emmet
Martin Bowley
Roger Kelly

Ken Kettle
Lucille Terry
Steve Anderson
Elaine Orchard
Jill Gee
Lindsay Udell
Eric Lister
Ken Ratcliffe
Gwenan Evans
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.