

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

In the Studio

SOAPSUD ISLAND

An area of Ealing famous as London's "washtub".
A new community reminiscence workshop.

28, 30 April, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 May at 7.45pm

PLAYS OF THE YEAR

In the Playhouse

THE SHIFT

by Peter Owen Knowles

(winner of the 1990 Student Playwriting Competition)

A young English student starts shift work at a factory in a very Welsh part of Wales. He finds he is treated first as a foreigner and then as an outsider.

5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 May at 7.45pm

Sunday 6 May matinée at 3pm

Sponsored by The Royal Bank of Scotland

In the Studio

THE HOUSE OF YES

by Wendy Macleod

Described by the author as 'a suburban Jacobean play', but the setting is modern America.

26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 May, 1, 2 June at 7.45pm

In the Playhouse

HELLO PARIS

by Sebastian Baczkiewicz

A new play by the author of *Harry* and *The Man Who Shot the Tiger*. Offbeat, witty and resonant in style.

2, 5, 6, 8, 9 June at 7.45pm

Sunday 3 June matinée at 3pm

BRABRA *The Shadow of a Gunman*

by

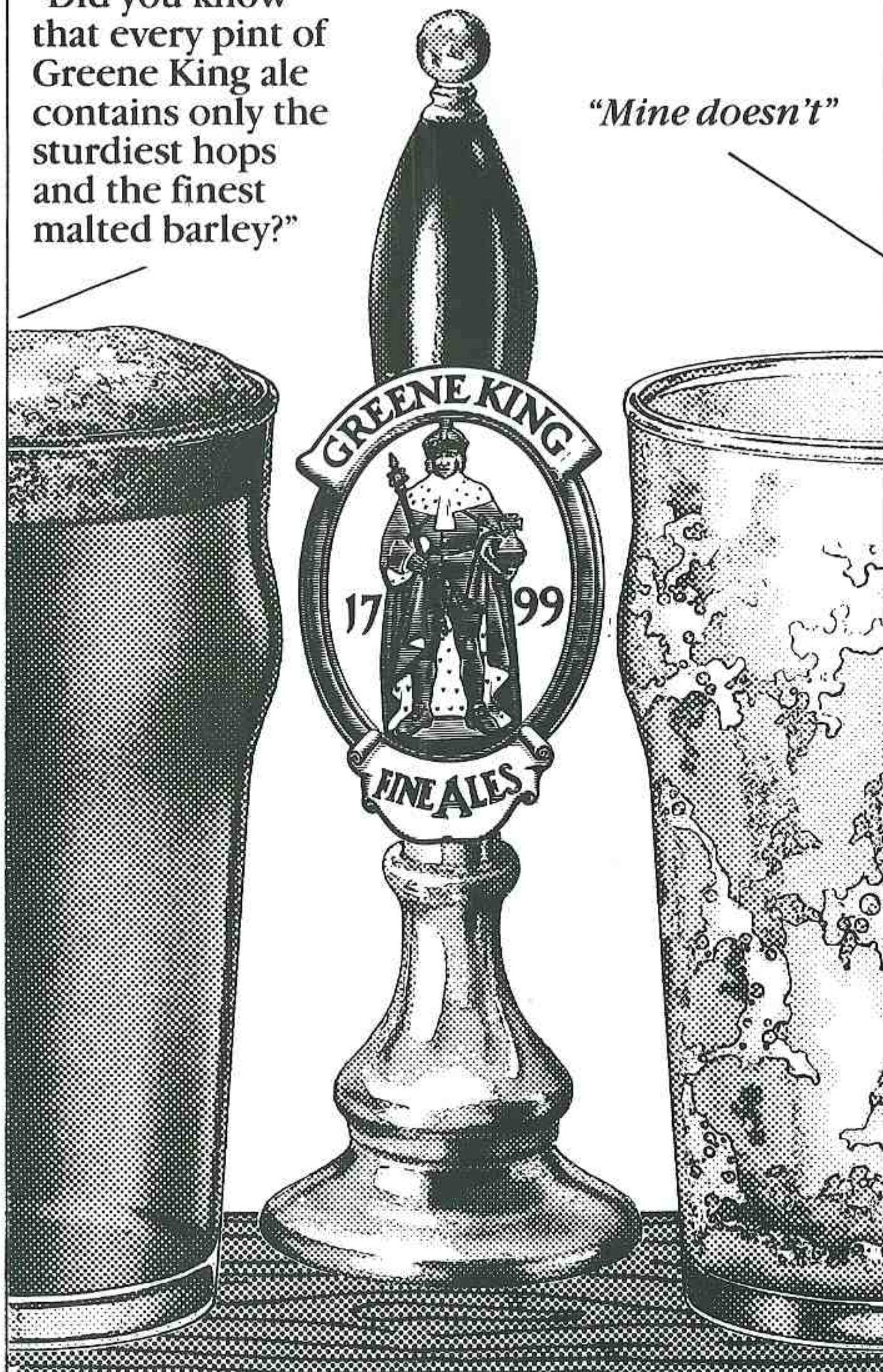
SEAN O'CASEY

Sponsored by



**Greene King are pleased to support
The Questors Theatre by sponsoring
*The Shadow of a Gunman***

“Did you know
that every pint of
Greene King ale
contains only the
sturdiest hops
and the finest
malted barley?”



“Mine doesn't”

THE AUTHOR

SEAN O'CASEY was born in Dublin in 1880. His boast that he never went to school, was street-educated and taught himself to read at fourteen years of age is now considered doubtful. There is no doubt, however, that he worked as a newspaper-seller, a docker, stone-breaker, railway worker and builder's labourer. In 1913 he helped in the organisation of The Irish Citizens' Army which fought in the streets of Dublin. From his interest in politics he developed an interest in literature. He said he learned his dramatic technique by reading the plays of Shakespeare and watching the plays of Dion Boucicault. His best plays are set in the slums of Dublin. He had an intimate knowledge of the people and the events of 1915-1922 from which he drew his material. His writing is grim, clear-cut, and satirical; but in his work the comedy of satire points directly to tragic implication.

The Shadow of a Gunman was first performed at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin in 1923 and in London in 1927. It is a story of the war in 1920 and its effects on the lives of a group of people in a Dublin tenement house. Men who talk, live and die for an idea are contrasted with the women who live and die for actualities.

O'Casey regarded his plays as weapons in the ongoing struggle for emancipation and workers' freedom from poverty, ignorance and exploitation. He set out to make the Irish working people plain to themselves, warts and all.

His next play *Juno and the Paycock* was performed again at the Abbey Theatre in 1924 and was a huge success. *The Plough and the Stars* followed in 1926. Its subject was the Easter rising of 1916 and caused a riot in the Abbey Theatre on its first production. Consequently his next play *The Silver Tassie* was refused a production and was not seen in Dublin until 1935. It led O'Casey to leave Ireland, rarely to return, and settle in England.

Many of his later plays give evidence of the influence of Expressionism on his work and a posthumous edition of essays under the title *Blasts and Benedictions* (1967) vigorously attacks the fourth-wall convention and the commercialism of the English Theatre.

He died in 1964 at the age of 84 in Devon.

THE SHADOW OF A GUNMAN

by Sean O'Casey

First performance Saturday 31st March 1990

Cast

Donal Davoren **DES NOCTOR**
Seumas Shields **JOE PURCELL**
Mr. Maguire **PETER KENNEDY**
Mr. Mulligan **TONY BARBER**
Minnie Powell **ANNA MACREADY**
Tommy Owens **GRAHAM WILLIAMS**
Mrs. Henderson **RUTH LISTER**
Mr. Gallogher **ALAN CHAMBERS**
Mrs. Grigson **DOROTHY BOYD-TAYLOR**
Mr. Grigson **NEVILLE CRUTTENDEN**
Auxiliary **PETER KENNEDY**

Director **PADDY O'CONNOR**
Designer **JULIAN DOWSON**
Costume Designer **HARRIET BOWES**
Lighting Designer **TIM HAYWARD**
Sound Designer **ROBIN THOMPSON**
Stage Manager **ERIC LISTER**
Deputy Stage Manager **HARRIET SIMON**
Crew **SIBYLLE ERDMANN, ANJA HOHMEYER,
SHARON LEWIS, JEAN MASTERS**
Construction **JIM CAITHNESS**
Assisted by **PAN PAPACOSTA**
Sound Operator **EILEEN HERAGHTY**
Dialect Adviser **JOE PURCELL**
With thanks to **ROGER BRACE**

*The action of the play takes place in a first floor tenement
bedroom in Dublin, May 1920.*

ACT 1 Morning
ACT 2 Late evening

There will be one twenty-minute interval.

ART EXHIBITION IN THE UPPER FOYER

TWO R.A. EXHIBITORS' RECENT PAINTINGS

Geoffrey Vivis M.A. R.C.R.

His paintings have always been from live or direct reference. He moved from Bolton, Lancs. ten years ago, to be Head of Painting at Amersham College. He has exhibited at the Royal Academy since 1963, also at the Royal Society of British Artists.

He was elected a Member of Manchester Academy, 1977 and has previously exhibited at The Questors Theatre in 1982, 1983, 1986 and 1987.

David Gordon

Specialised in painting the urban scene before moving from the Midlands to Buckinghamshire. He has exhibited at the Royal Academy, the RBSA gallery and other London and Midland galleries and has completed a large mural for Sandwell Council before moving from the Midlands. He is a member of the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists and the Birmingham Art Circle. At present he is custodian of Hughenden Manor for The National Trust.

A FEW DROPS OF WATER

The Story of The Questors Theatre 1929 - 1989

by Gwenan Evans and others



On sale now in the Foyer or contact the Theatre office
during the daytime on 01-567 0011

£6.95

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
Fiona Nicholson
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 and Comfort
courtesy of Lever Brothers.

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.