

Thanks to the following who have given us invaluable help and advice-

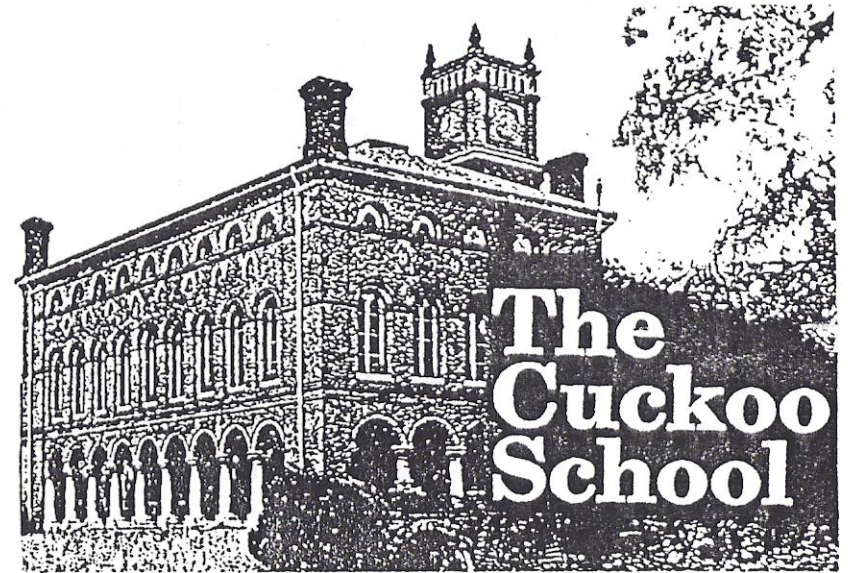
Mr & Mrs Roy Mills
Gunnersbury Park Museum
John Craddock
Robin Ingram
Christine Waite
The Playback Team

and, of course


**All our contributors for their memories of The Cuckoo School
without whom this play would not have been possible.**



*For more information about this and Playback in general, please
contact Pam Gower in the Theatre Office.
Work will be starting on the next Playback project in the New Year*



Memories of Poor Law Schooldays

PLAYBACK has the support of
The London Borough of Ealing 



THE QUESTORS THEATRE STUDIO

A PLAYBACK Reminiscence Play
THE CUCKOO SCHOOL

by
Phillip Sheahan

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CAST

Paul Ashby
Lisa Day
Eddie Duff
Fiona Gee
James Goodden
Sandra Healy
Fiona Nicholson
Craig Winchcomb

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Director - Simon Thomas
Assistant Director - Sandra Healy
Designer - John Stacey
Musical Director - Martin Seager
Stage Manager - Adrienne Talbot
Deputy Stage Manager - Martin Stoner
Lighting Designer - Martin Sapsed
Sound Designer - Martin Coster
Wardrobe - Anne Gilmour
Construction - Nigel Bamford
Lighting Operators - Henry Broom, Andrew Barbour
Sound Operators - Stephen Gapp, Alan Cook
Assistant Stage Managers - Katie Tyrrell, Fiona Timmins
Prompters - Wendi Kelly, Gordon Miller
Tour Organiser - John Johnson
Playback Co-ordinator - Jane Dewey
Exhibition - Christine Garland

Playback
and The Cuckoo Schools 1856 - 1933

Playback is a special community initiative of the Questors Theatre which has been concerned for nearly five years in the collecting and sharing of living history through drama.

The first Playback project on the Acton Laundries resulted in the highly successful production *Soapsud Island* which was presented both in the Questors Theatre Studio and on tour throughout the region. It has also been developed as part of the London Borough of Ealing's history provision to schools. Playback members are currently organising further reminiscence workshops with Gunnersbury Park Museum in which ex-laundry workers will meet young schoolchildren.

The second play *The Cuckoo School* has once again been created from a large collection of transcribed memories, this time from ex-pupils, staff and neighbours of the Central London District Schools in Hanwell. The remaining building is still in use today as the Hanwell Community Centre.

The transcripts, along with the mass of collected material - photos, magazines and letters etc, will form the basis of a valuable archive which, after mounting its own exhibition to accompany the production, Playback will pass on to the Ealing Museum Service.

The play itself is based on the first hand experiences of people who knew The Cuckoo School. Very often their exact words are used. Sometimes scenes are created from a recalled event with the emotions that surrounded it. The characters on stage however, do not represent 'real' individuals, what they say and do in the play combines the stories of many people - a selection of the memories of the last generation who knew The Cuckoo School.