

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

In the Playhouse

JOHN GABRIEL BORKMAN

by Henrik Ibsen

An intense, dramatic and powerful play written towards the end of Ibsen's life when he had established himself as an internationally renowned playwright.

25, 29, 30, 31 January, 1 February at 7.45pm

Sunday matinée 26 January at 3pm

In the Studio

THE STRANGENESS OF OTHERS

by Nick Ward

A contemporary play by a contemporary author which won him the George Devine Award when it was first presented at The Royal National Theatre in 1985.

8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 February at 7.45pm

In the Playhouse

THE THREEPENNY OPERA

by Bertolt Brecht

Music by Kurt Weill

Translated by Hugh MacDiarmid

Our European Season continues with Brecht's up-dating of John Gay's *Beggar's Opera*. Composer Kurt Weill contributed the haunting music including the legendary "Mack-The-Knife" describing the eponymous hero.

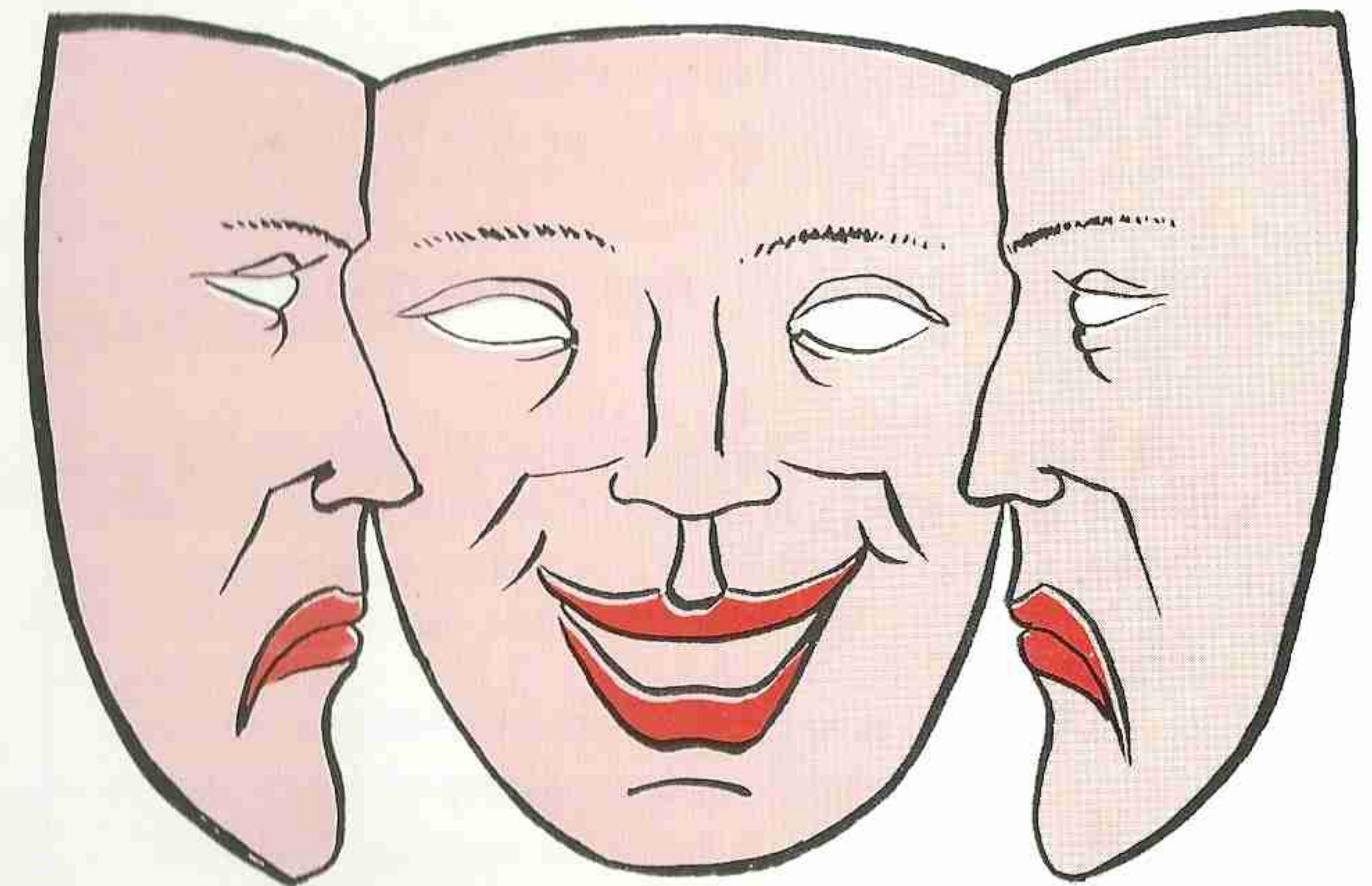
15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 February at 7.45pm

Sunday Matinée 16 February at 3pm

Printed and published by THE QUESTORS LIMITED

THE QUESTORS THEATRE

The 1992 European Season



THE HAPPIEST OF THE THREE

by

Eugene Labiche

Sponsored by

HARLEY WHITE

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HARLEY WHITE

The Harley White Group
is pleased to be associated with
The Questors production of

THE HAPPIEST OF THE THREE

If thoughts of insurance and investment matters take
the laughs out of your life, let us offer you some friendly
professional advice and leave the drama on the stage.

**Harley White — 25 years of service
to the Ealing community**

The Harley White Group
Sinclair House
The Avenue
Ealing
London W13 8NT
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THE AUTHOR AND THE PLAY

EUGENE LABICHE (1815 - 1888)

Although the name of Georges Feydeau may be synonymous with French Farce to modern audiences, it was Labiche who raised farce to the form it subsequently became. He was a prolific playwright, and during his lifetime raised the art of farce to the level of comedy of character and manners. He was elected to the Academie Francaise, and famous contemporaries equated his work to that of Molière.

His play *The Happiest of the Three* was written for a bet in 1870. Sarcey, the drama critic complained that most current plays dealt boringly with the subject of adultery. He added that a true master of farce would be able to raise a laugh from a subject that in reality could have dreadful consequences. Labiche accepted the challenge and the result is *The Happiest ...*

The society that Labiche attacked was on its last legs. Lovers and mistresses paraded their liaisons openly, following the example of the Emperor, Napoléon III. The propriety and rectitude of the bourgeoisie was a paper thin veneer, but of course part of the unwritten code was that only married men and women could safely have affairs. Labiche ridiculed this hypocritical way of life and was hard on his characters. He intended his audiences to laugh at them rather than with them. According to a modern commentator:

“Labiche ought not to be considered only as a writer of farce: farce was for him only a means. His portrayal of character is scathing in its irony, deeply serious in the midst of the maddest of his inventions . . . The best of Labiche is that which puts him . . . among the great moralists”.

Finally, a bottle of wine will be given to the member of the audience who comes up with the wittiest, most plausible explanation of who exactly is the happiest of the three.

THE HAPPIEST OF THE THREE

by Eugene Labiche

First performance Tuesday 31st December 1991

Cast (in order of appearance)

Petunia SHIREL KELLER
Marjavel DAVID PEARSON
Hermance AMANDA BERNSTEIN
Jobelin KEN RATCLIFFE
Ernest JOHN DOBSON
Berthe KATE LOWE
Krampach TIM SAWERS
Lizbeth CYNTHIA BENJAMIN

Marjavel's house, Paris, Spring 1869.

ACT ONE

The drawing room.

AN INTERVAL OF FIFTEEN MINUTES

ACT TWO

The summerhouse.

AN INTERVAL OF FIFTEEN MINUTES

ACT THREE

The garden.

Production

Director ROGER LEWIS
Set Designer NORMAN BARWICK
Costume Designer CLARE DUBERLEY
assisted by JAN LEWIS, JENNIFER HIGGINS, MARY TARPEY,
CLAIRE HANCHET, JOAN GRIFFIN
Lighting Designer MARTIN STONER
Sound by JOHN JOHNSON
Stage Manager JON WEBSTER
Deputy Stage Manager CLAUDINE MURPHY
Assistant Stage Managers CHERYL BUNTON,
JIM CAITHNESS, MIKE KERWICK, LIZ LINWOOD,
GUY MORROGH, HELEIN TREUHAFT
Properties ANN SCURFIELD,
JOANNA SHAW
Construction JIM CAITHNESS,
TOM MORTON, RAQUEL FARRINGTON,
BOB HOSKINS, PHIL PINKHAM
Lighting Operator JO GATTENBURG
Sound Operator SARAH ALLEN
Hair and Make-Up FIONÁGH CUSH,
TANIA WANSTALL of GREASEPAINT

Thanks to JIM CRADDOCK, TIM GODFREY, JENNY RICHARDSON,
KIM LANCASTER, BARRALETTS OF EALING, FALCOM plc.

The taking of food and drink into the auditorium is NOT permitted,
neither is the use of cameras, video-cameras or tape equipment during
the performance.

ART EXHIBITION IN THE UPPER FOYER

30 November 1991 — 16 January 1992



by ELAINE M. GOODWIN

Elaine has worked extensively in mosaic for 15 years seeing it as an ideal medium for both personal expression and in a wider form in collaborative large scale public murals with her Group 5.

She has worked on murals in India and Australia and has travelled a 'mosaic path' in the Middle East and Far East, India, North Africa and Europe.

Her book *Decorative Mosaic* (pub. Letts) appears in Spring 1992. She has this year exhibited at the Barbican and Leighton House. The work in this exhibition shows work connected with the above book *i.e.* strongly decorative in style, and also continues her very personal exploration of mosaic as 'visual Haiku' in a series of river and sea poems.

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HARLEY WHITE



Harley White Group, Sinclair House, The Avenue, Ealing W13 8NT

081-998 4942

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
and
Director of Studies }
Chairman
Vice-Chairman
Secretary
Finance Director
Administrative Director
Stage Director
Theatre Manager
Productions Administrator
Membership Secretary
Programme Editor
Questopics Editor
Press Officer
Sponsorship
Box Office Manager
Programme Sales Organiser
Marketing Manager
Front of House Manager
Floral displays
Haberdashery
Wardrobe Equip. Wilkinson Sword Scissors . . Fiskars Ltd
Wardrobe Care Persil and Comfort courtesy of Lever Bros.
Dry-cleaning by C.D.S.

David Emmet

Martin Bowley

Doug King

Fiona Nicholson

Ken Kettle

Jim Craddock

Steve Anderson

Elaine Orchard

Jill Gee

Alice Pennicott

Ken Ratcliffe

Barbara Neville

Sam Jennings

Geoffrey Sellman

Ken Parker

Val Blaxland

Robert Gordon Clark

Roger Kelly

Barralets of Ealing

Tootal Craft

Dry-cleaning by C.D.S.

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 081-567 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. 081-567 8736.

BOX OFFICE

For personal callers the box office is open evenings only from 6.45pm to 8.30pm on days of performance and five days prior to each Playhouse production.