

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

In the Playhouse

THE RIVALS

by Richard Brinsley Sheridan

A classic comedy witty, stylish and full of robust characters including one of the most famous of the time: Mrs Malaprop.

11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 May at 7.45pm

Sunday Matinée at 3pm 12 May

Sponsored by Fuller, Smith & Turner plc

In the Playhouse

NEBUCHASIAH II

A Coarse Oratorio — words by Michael Green
music by Harold Britton

One performance only. 11pm Saturday 18th May
(Follows the last night performance of *The Rivals*)

Members and Guests £2

In the Studio

IPHIGENIA

by Euripedes

(Adapted by John Barton and Kenneth Cavander)

Euripedes' two plays make a powerful evocation of the sacrifice of youth to war.

25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 May and 1 June at 7.45pm

In the Upper Foyer

A Rehearsed Reading

A new play selected by The Questors New Plays Reading Panel

Sunday 26th May at 7.45pm

My Mother Said I Never Should



by Charlotte Keatley

April 20th and 23rd-27th · 1991 at 7.45pm
 Sunday · April 21st at 3pm

CHARLOTTE KEATLEY: *Biography*

CHARLOTTE KEATLEY was nominated "Laurence Olivier Most Promising Newcomer to British Theatre, 1990" for *My Mother Said I Never Should*. The play was premièred at Contact Theatre, Manchester in 1987, winning the George Devine Award, 1987 and the Manchester *Evening News* Best New Play Award, before an acclaimed run at the Royal Court Theatre (nominated for *Evening Standard* Most Promising Playwright, 1989) and at the Gaîté Montparnasse in Paris (nominated for three Molière Awards). The play has now been translated into ten languages, is an A-level text, and is in production all over the world from Leeds to Japan.

Other work includes running a performance art company; directing and writing *The Legend of Padgate* in 1986 — a community play for eighty actors and musicians: the monologue *Waiting for Martin* toured by the English Shakespeare Company in Britain and Canada 1987; and co-writing *Fear and Misery in the Third Term* for Liverpool Playhouse 1989. She has written extensively for BBC Radio Drama; for television she has written the children's play *Badger* for Granada, nominated for the Prix Danube, 1989; and Channel Four are producing her film *Falling Slowly* for 1991.

Charlotte was also a theatre critic for many newspapers including two years on *The Financial Times*. She was appointed Judith E. Wilson Visiting Fellow in English at Cambridge University, 1988-9. Her new play concerns the eighteenth century gambler and mathematician Émilie du Châtelet, with whom Voltaire lived for sixteen years.

PLAYWRIGHT'S INTRODUCTION

I wrote the first draft of *My Mother Said I Never Should* in 1985, when I was twenty-five. I wrote it because I didn't know of any plays about mothers and daughters, although we have hundreds of years worth of plays about fathers and sons, or sons and mothers. The women in Shakespeare's plays have no mothers. Yet it seems to me that a woman's relationship with her mother, that strange bond of love and jealousy, has a lifelong and unavoidable influence.

I set the play across this century because we have witnessed such enormous changes in opportunities for women between each generation — although many of the desires and stresses for women remain unchanged. I wanted to acknowledge the debt that my generation owes to past generations of women; "feminism" is too often presented as a preoccupation of university educated women in their twenties or thirties. I learned my "feminism" living in Leeds and Manchester, alongside young mothers or older women, who often had to work, but wouldn't call it a "career". These women invested their creative energy in their children or husband's lives. I don't have children myself, but I believe the behaviour of mothers shapes a nation as much as governments or wars do; so I would call this play "political" and I wrote it for mainstage spaces.

I wanted to see ordinary women's lives given their importance in our theatres. I think the most exciting plays in Britain at the moment are being written by women, because women have only recently thought of being playwrights, and we have many new stories to tell, and in new ways. There is evidently a demand for these new voices. *My Mother Said I Never Should* has now been translated into ten languages and performed across Europe, America, Japan and Australia, as have many of these new plays by British women. Most of these plays start their life outside London, and I am indebted to Brigid Larmour, Artistic Director of Contact Theatre Manchester, who directed the première of *My Mother Said I Never Should*, and gave me inspired support through the two years I spent re-writing the play.

I am delighted that The Questors Theatre are producing this play and most of all, that you have come to see it tonight.

CHARLOTTE KEATLEY
Manchester, March 1991

My Mother Said I Never Should

by Charlotte Keatley

First performance Saturday 20th April 1991

CAST

Doris: *born in Oldham* **JENNIFER TUDOR**
in 1900

Margaret: *born in Cheadle Hulme* **FIONA NICHOLSON**
in 1931

Jackie: *born in London* **LYNN SCRIVENER**
in 1952

Rosie: *born in Hulme,* **JORDAN KAPLAN**
Manchester in 1971

And the voices of **KELVIN WEST** and **GRAHAM WILLIAMS**

The action of the play takes place between Lancashire and London, at various times ranging between 1923 and the present. And also in a time and place which is none of these.

THERE WILL BE ONE INTERVAL OF FIFTEEN MINUTES

PRODUCTION:

Director **RODNEY FIGARO**
Set Design **JULIAN DOWSON**
Costume Design **CELIA DOWELL**
Lighting Design **JONATHAN PARTINGTON**
Sound by **NIGEL WORSLEY**
Hair & Make-Up **HARALD BALLWEBER,**
RENATA HALL & PENNY WEST
of GREASEPAINT

Stage Manager **GORDON MILLER**
Deputy Stage Manager **HARRIET SIMON**
Prompter **JACKIE HITT**
Assistant Stage Managers **MIKE KERWICK,**
LEIGH MELLOR, LARRY NESTOR,

Sound Operator **JAMES HATCH**
Properties **TAMARA CHRYSTIUK,**
GILLIAN LEARY

Wardrobe Assistants **ELIZABETH GROWNLOW,**
GILLIAN KERSWELL, MICHELLE PORTELLI

Our thanks to the following individuals and companies for their generous assistance:

Barralets of Ealing: David Morley (Antiques) of East Twickenham:
The North Western Sound Archive: Flavia Cannon: Paddy O'Connor:
Chestertons Residential: and CHARLOTTE KEATLEY for her help
and advice.

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

20 — 27 April 1991

JOHN STACEY

JOHN STACEY has been a member of The Questors Theatre for many years. He is mainly involved 'backstage' and is chiefly known as a designer. *Mother Courage*, *Soapsud Island* and *Moll Flanders* are among his most recent designs. John's paintings are all in oil, and are created with a painting knife. The subjects — landscapes, seem to polarize between Cornwall and Scotland. This could have something to do with The Questors' Touring Policy — but that is a different canvas. He has paintings in many private collections from as far as Australia to Mexico and of course this country. He is working on The Questors Playback project *The Cuckoo School*.

Le Phénicien

A new fully licensed French Restaurant

Charmingly located overlooking Haven Green, with parking facilities nearby. It stands directly opposite Ealing Broadway Tube Station. Le Phénicien offers authentic French cuisine prepared by one of London's top French Chefs. The wine cellar is well stocked with the vintages imported from the best regions of France. Soft piano music played three evenings a week adds to the Restaurant's charming and relaxed atmosphere. An ideal venue for parties or quite simply for those who enjoy good food and fine wines.

On your first visit all members of The Questors are entitled to a free bottle of wine from our selected wine list on presentation of this programme.

Opening times: Lunch 12.00 - 14.30 (Last orders)
Dinner 18.30 - 23.00 (Last orders)

Telephone: 081-567 1111 or 567 6297

Le Phénicien, 9/10 Central Buildings, Haven Green, W5

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
Programme Sales Organiser
Marketing Manager
Hotplate
Floral displays
Haberdashery
Wardrobe Equip. Wilkinson Sword Scissors . . Fiskars Ltd
Wardrobe Care Persil and Comfort
courtesy of Lever Brothers.

David Emmet
Paddy O'Connor
David Emmet
Martin Bowley
Roger Kelly
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
Dorothy Dent
Barralets of Ealing
Tootal Craft
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 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.

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.