

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### *In the Studio*

### A DREAM PLAY

by August Strindberg

In this surreal and epic drama the god Indra sends his daughter down to earth to discover whether Man's bitter complaint about human suffering is justified. Once there, she becomes consumed by Man's mortality and the weight of the clay from which he is formed subsumes her divinity and threatens her return to heaven.

25 April - 2 May at 7.45pm.

### *In the Playhouse*

### DON JUAN, or THE LOVE OF GEOMETRY

by Max Frisch

translated by Michael Bullock

A somewhat unusual vision of the theme of Don Juan, this comedy by playwright and author Max Frisch, who died recently, is a highly entertaining version of the traditional Don Juan story.

Set in Seville, but a Seville of fantasy, this play combines humour, philosophy and eroticism.

2, 5-9 May at 7.45pm

Sunday Matinée 3 May at 3.00pm

Sponsored by CHELSEA BUILDING SOCIETY

### *In the Studio*

### THE TYPISTS

by Murray Schisgal

This modern play by an American playwright is directed for The Questors by Oxana Meleshkina, professional actress, director and film-maker and Artistic Director of a small Arts Centre in Moscow. In an exciting cultural exchange, Ms Meleshkina will be taking the production back to Moscow after the run here at The Questors.

23-30 May at 7.45pm.

### *In the Studio*

THE QUESTORS TO TEL AVIV — TEL AVIV TO THE QUESTORS

### TEIBELE AND HER DEMON

by Isaac Bashevis Singer

This play by the celebrated writer and Nobel prize winner is presented by the Tel Aviv Community Theatre (TACT) prior to an English tour.

Don't miss this exciting production.

Sunday July 26 at 7.45pm

THE  
QUESTORS  
THEATRE



1999 EUROPEAN SEASON

ADAPTED by P.G. WODEHOUSE

THE  
TYPISTS  
'S  
A COMEDY by FERENC MOLNAR

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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 Play's the Thing*.



## Fields

## THE PLAY'S THE THING

Ferenc Molnar, author of *The Play's The Thing*, was one of Hungary's most famous playwrights, but few theatre-goers in this country could name anything he wrote. Yet his play *Liliom*, the story of a fairground barker, became the world-famous musical *Carousel* and the National Theatre performed a translation of his play *The Guardsman* some twenty years ago. An adaptation of *The Play's The Thing* by Tom Stoppard was produced at the National in the eighties under the title *Rough Crossing*.

The adaptation we are using was written nearly 70 years ago by P.G. Wodehouse. Wodehouse is usually thought of as the writer of humorous novels, and in particular as the creator of Jeeves, the perfect manservant. But although he wrote 70 novels he also wrote no fewer than 8 plays, not to mention 33 musical comedy libretti and 200 song lyrics. Indeed, along with his collaborators Guy Bolton and Jerome Kern he is credited as one of the creators of American musical comedy.

This version of *The Play's The Thing* was first performed in New York in 1926 when Wodehouse was living and writing in the fabulous world of Broadway in the twenties. No wonder that there is a strong flavour of Broadway (and Hollywood) about the situation and the characters, although strangely enough, Wodehouse never specifies their background in the script.

One character is particularly interesting, although it is a comparatively minor part. Johann Dwornitschek, the philosophical footman and perfect servant, must surely represent the first appearance of Jeeves on stage. Jeeves had already appeared in print (although Bertie Wooster was not to arrive for several years). But the resemblance between Dwornitschek and Jeeves is so uncanny one feels Wodehouse must have had Jeeves in mind when he wrote the character.

The play was a great success in New York and ran for 326 performances. In 1928 it opened at the St. James's in London with Gerald Du Maurier and Ursula James and was equally successful. A revival in New York in 1948 ran for 244 performances.

MICHAEL GREEN



# THE PLAY'S THE THING

by Ferenc Molnar

(adapted by P.G. Wodehouse)

First performance Saturday 11th April 1992

## Cast

Sandor Turai .....	<b>PHILLIP SHEAHAN</b>
Mansky .....	<b>MICHAEL GABE</b>
Albert Adam .....	<b>STEPHEN BENTLEY</b>
Ilona Szabo .....	<b>GILLIAN KERSWELL</b>
Almady .....	<b>DAVID PEARSON</b>
Johann Dwornitschek .....	<b>JOHN HINES</b>
Miss Mell .....	<b>ANNE RENN</b>
Maid .....	<b>SONIA PEARSON</b>

The action of the play takes place in a room in a luxurious villa on the French Riviera in 1929, one day in summer.

*Act One:* 2.00 a.m.

*Act Two:* 6.00 a.m.

*Act Three:* 7.00 p.m.

*There will be an interval of 15 minutes between Acts Two and Three.*

On April 19th, the day after the play ends its run at The Questors, the cast and production team fly to Tel Aviv for a six-day tour of Israel as guests of the English-speaking Drama Festival.

## Production

Director .....	<b>MICHAEL GREEN</b>
Designer .....	<b>TESSA CURTIS</b>
Set Painters .....	<b>JACKIE DOVER, MICHAEL PIERCE</b>
Pictures by .....	<b>GEOFF MOORE, PATRICIO CORTI, TESSA CURTIS</b>
Lighting .....	<b>STEVE HAMES</b>
Lighting Assistants .....	<b>ROBERT COOPER, TREVOR CARDEN, FRANK LEWIS</b>
Sound .....	<b>STEVE HAMES</b>
Wardrobe .....	<b>SYLVIA WALL, JOAN GRIFFIN, KATJA HOFMANN</b>
Stage Manager .....	<b>JIM CAITHNESS</b>
Deputy Stage Manager .....	<b>CHERYL BUNTON</b>
Properties .....	<b>CHERRY KANE, ANNE SCURFIELD, ELAINE MERCER, VALERIE SIMON</b>
Prompt .....	<b>JANE DAVIE</b>
Construction .....	<b>TOM MORTON, BOB HOSKINS, RAQUEL FARRINGTON, PETER COLLINS</b>
Assistant Stage Managers .....	<b>HELEN TREÜHAFT, ALKA GULATI</b>
Israel Tour Director .....	<b>JOHN DAVEY</b>
Tour Manager .....	<b>ERIC LISTER</b>

Thanks for Flowers to **CATHY SKINNER**  
Plants supplied by **BARRALETTS of EALING**

Patrons are requested to turn off portable telephones and beepers in the auditorium, since the activation of these during a performance is offensive to audience and actors alike. 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

11 – 25 April 1992

### RICHMOND PRINTMAKERS

Richmond Printmakers are a recently formed group of artists who live or work in the borough of Richmond-upon-Thames.

They specialise in producing original prints and their works include etchings, mezzotints, woodcuts, linocuts, collagraphs and silk screen prints.

Several of their members have exhibited with the Royal Society of Painter-Etchers and Engravers, at the Royal Academy and also at various commercial galleries.

## 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  
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Stage Director  
Theatre Manager  
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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

Vincent McQueen

Barbara Neville

Sam Jennings

Geoffrey Sellman

Ken Parker

Val Blaxland

Robert Gordon Clark

Roger Kelly

Barralets of Ealing

Tootal Craft

### 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.

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