

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

*In the Playhouse*

### SIXTH ENGLISH AMATEUR THEATRE WEEK

#### HEDDA GABLER

*by Henrik Ibsen*

Monday 19, Thursday 22 October

#### L'AMANTE ANGLAISE

*by Margeurite Duras*

Tuesday 20, Friday 23 October

#### OLD-WORLD

*by Aleksei Arbuzov*

Wednesday 21, Saturday 24 October

*all performances at 7.45pm*

*In the Studio*

### THE LOOKING GLASS LESSON

*adapted from The Lesson by Eugene Ionescu*

*and the writings of Lewis Carroll and directed by Paul Ashby*

Taking as his starting point the play *The Lesson* by Eugene Ionescu, Paul Ashby holds up to the looking glass the character of Charles Dodgson, better known as the author Lewis Carroll

31 October, 1-7 November at 7.45pm

*In the Studio*

### OFFENDING THE AUDIENCE

*by Peter Handke*

There will be a Platform and Late Night Rehearsed Reading of this fascinating text by one of Germany's leading contemporary writers. The "play" or "speak in" challenges preconceptions of the nature of theatregoing and dates from the mid-sixties. This is a rare opportunity to hear an exciting and thought-provoking piece of modern drama. Developed from workshops led by Simon Thomas.

Sunday 1 November at 6.00pm and 10.00pm

*In the Playhouse*

### THE SURGEON OF HONOUR

*by Calderon*

*translated by Gwynne Edwards*

Calderon is to Spain what Shakespeare is to us: their greatest writer. Born in 1600 and living some eighty years, he wrote both dramas and comedies, including *Life is a Dream*. Our production is in a stunning translation by Gwynne Edwards.

7, 10-14 November at 7.45pm; 8 November at 2.30pm

*sponsored by MARTIN BOWLEY*

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THE  
**QUESTORS**  
THEATRE



# Too Clever by Half

**by Alexander Ostrovsky**

*translated by Rodney Ackland*

## The 1992 European Season

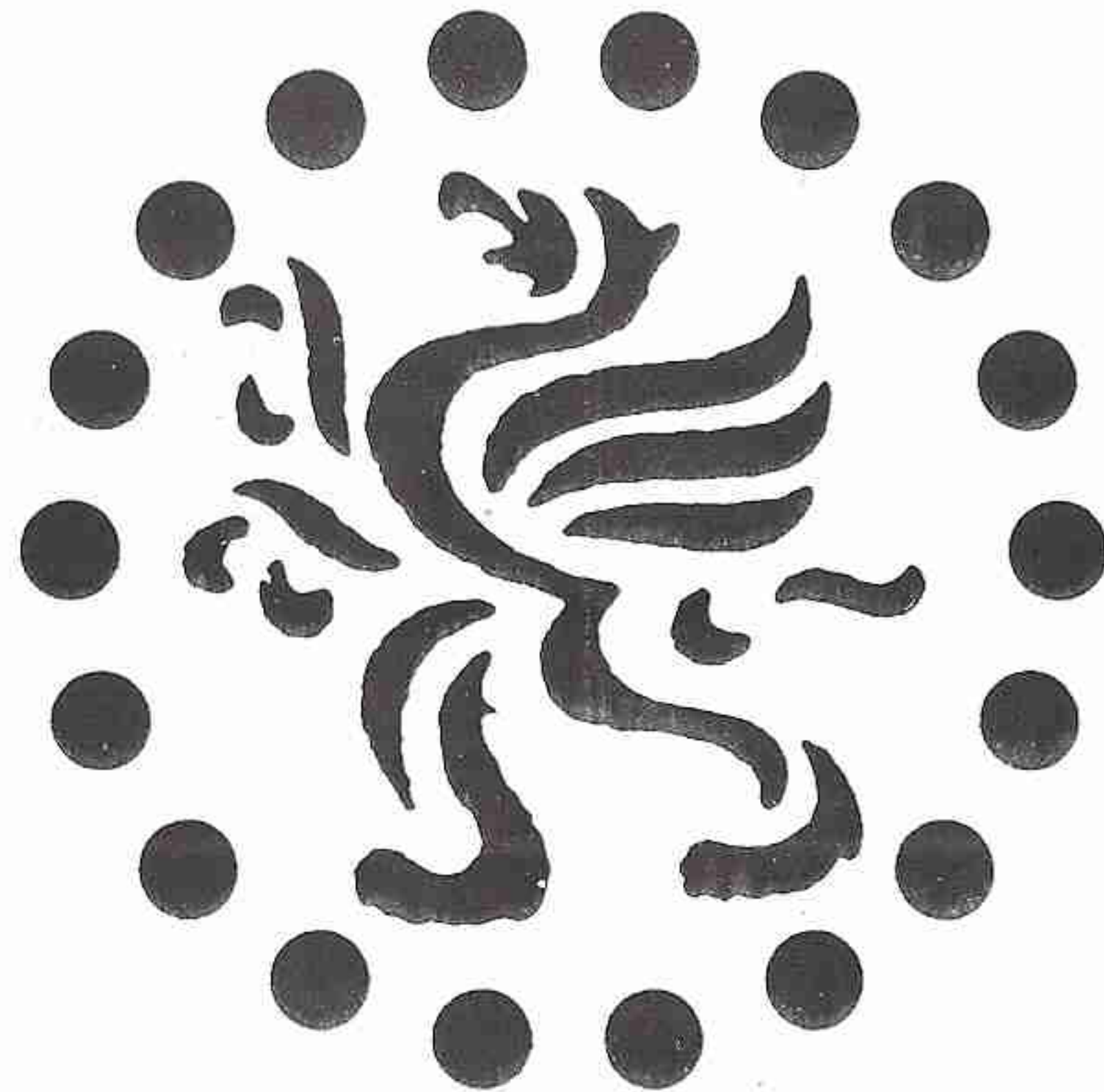
10th and 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th October at 7.45 pm

11th October at 2.30 pm

*sponsored by Midland Bank plc*

We at the Midland, as bankers to The Questors Theatre, are pleased to have the opportunity once again to sponsor a Questors production.

We wish the company much success with *Too Clever by Half* and can assure them that we shall not only be "Listening" but watching!



**MIDLAND**  
*The Listening Bank*

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We will be pleased to listen to you at your local Midland branch, situated at 46 The Broadway, Ealing W5 5JZ.

## TOO CLEVER BY HALF

by Alexander Ostrovsky

adapted by Rodney Ackland

*Too Clever By Half*, or *The Diary of a Scoundrel* as it is subtitled, centres around the young Yegor Gloumov, an intelligent and malicious trickster intent on marriage to an heiress and a career in the civil service who flatters and cajoles those of influence to act on his behalf while recording his real feelings about them in a diary. His exploits appear to have misfired when his diary is discovered in a drawer but in fact its discovery produces unexpected results and we are reminded of how corruption craves the whip and society has a masochistic need for the lash of the satirist.

In this production, the designers of both set and costume have discarded realism, preferring to be heavily influenced by contemporary caricatures and sketches by political cartoonists such as Daumier and Cruikshank. The intention is that both the exaggerated style and the design of the set as the open pages of Gloumov's diary give the effect of a pop-up book whose illustrations have come to life. At the same time, the tilt of the stage and the striking perspectives suggest the distorted world of the play torn between liberal emancipation and the twin Tsarist vices of gullibility and corruption. Similarly, the lighting has been designed to make full use of the dramatic effect of chiaroscuro.

Like its hero Gloumov, *Too Clever By Half* has shown remarkable adaptiveness since its première in 1886. Changing social reality always provides new targets for Ostrovsky's perennially fresh satire and directors have never hesitated to exploit these topical dimensions.

As staged by the Moscow Art Theatre in 1910, *Too Clever By Half* showed an *ancien régime* on the verge of breakdown, vainly propped up by doddering idiots like Kroutitzky whilst Gloumov was played as a tragicomic virtuoso of simulation for whom life was a fascinating game. This picture of the crumbling Tsarist empire delighted Lenin and he praised the production as agit-prop in the best sense of the term. An interesting footnote to this production is that Stanislavsky played the part of Kroutitzky. In *My Life In Art* he reveals that he found his image for the character in the appearance of an old house, 'standing somewhat askew in an older courtyard, and seemingly swollen and overgrown with mossy side beards!'

In 1923, Eisenstein brought the play into the transitional period of the 1920's, transforming it into a topical social and political satire ridiculing religion and the bourgeois entrepreneurs thrown up by the contemporary New Economic Policy capitalism by presenting the play in the style of the circus, music hall and variety show.

In 1965, The Leningrad Bolshoi Theatre removed the play from its nineteenth-century milieu and demonstrated that Gloumov is a man of all countries and seasons and that the play speaks directly to contemporary audiences about the problem of honesty in a lying hypocritical society. Indeed, with this in mind, I toyed at one time with updating the play to the late 1980's with Mamaev and his wife Kleopatra being played as Essex man and woman.

The ending of the play is remarkable. Instead of the moralizing finality and meting out of rewards and punishments that is usual in comedy, Ostrovsky refuses to wrap things up. The audience is left to decide who is now 'too clever by half' — Gloumov or his eager patrons. The proverbial saying is double edged.

SIMON MEADON

# TOO CLEVER BY HALF

by Alexander Ostrovsky

adapted by Rodney Ackland

First performance Saturday 10th October 1992

## CAST

Yegor Dimitrich Gloumov, *a young man* ..... ROBERT GOLDSBROUGH  
Glafira Klimovna Gloumova, *his mother* ..... JANET EGAN  
Styopka, *their servant* ..... KELVIN WEST  
Neel Fedoseitch Mamaev, *Gloumov's distant relative* ..... ROGER LEWIS  
Kleopatra Ilvovna Mamaeva, *his wife* ..... ANN BEVAN  
Kroutitzky, *an old man of importance* ..... DENNIS ADAMS  
Ivan Ivanovitch Gorodoulin, *a young man of importance* .. MATTHEW FLEXMAN  
Sofia Ignatievna Tourousina, *a wealthy widow* ..... CATHIE WALLACE  
Mashenka, *her niece* ..... JANE BACKLOG  
Yegor Vassilitch Kourchaev, *a Hussar* ..... NIGEL LAWRENCE  
Golutvin, *a man without an occupation* ..... DAVID HOVATTER  
Madame Maniefa, *a seeress* ..... PAM GOWER  
Matriosha, } *Companions to* ..... FFRANGCON WHELAN  
Lubinka, } *Madame Tourousina* ..... MARI KING  
Mamaev's Manservant ..... PETER JAMES  
Grigori, *Mme Tourousina's manservant* ..... JOHN HINES

THE TIME: 1868

THE PLACE: Moscow and outside Moscow

ACT ONE: *scene one*: The Gloumov Apartment

ACT ONE: *scene two*: The conservatory of the Mamaevs' house

ACT TWO: Madame Tourousina's house outside Moscow

INTERVAL

ACT THREE: *scene one*: The Gloumov Apartment

ACT THREE: *scene two*: Madame Tourousina's house

Director ..... SIMON MEADON  
Designers ..... MICHAEL PIERCE & TOM MORTON  
Costume Designer ..... CATHERINE GRUBB  
Lighting Designer ..... ANDREW DIXON  
Sound Designer ..... IAN HOWLETT  
Stage Manager ..... CORINNE TITE  
Deputy Stage Manager ..... RUSSELL HILL  
Assistant Stage Managers ..... NIGEL BAMFORD,  
ANTONIA CAVENDISH, CORIN DIXON, MAUREEN FLEMING,  
ROB MILLWARD, BRIAN MOORE, ROBERT NESBITT, ZOE NESBITT,  
ROZ PALMER, EMMA SHERLOCK, STEVE SIMMONS, SUSANNE TRAUB,  
CREL WHITE, NICKY WHITE  
Wardrobe Mistress ..... SYLVIA WALL  
assisted by ..... MARY ANDERSON,  
GRACE CRADDOCK, CELIA DOWELL, ANDREA FRANKHAM,  
JANE GOTTS, VAL MORAN, STEPHEN PANDIT, ANNE TOWNLEY  
Construction ..... JIM CRADDOCK  
assisted by ..... NIGEL BRADLEY, PAUL BRADLEY,  
PATRICIO CORTI, RUSSELL HILL, BOB HOSKINS  
Flying Effects ..... PETE KENDRICK & MARTIN UDALL  
Painter ..... KATY EVANS  
Lighting Operators ..... HENRY BROOM & JAMES NIXON  
Sound Operator ..... HELEIN TREUHAFT  
Properties ..... DIANA NESBITT  
Prompter ..... BRIDGETT STREVENS  
Make-up & Hairstylists ..... PAIGE BELL,  
PHILIPPA GODDARD, CLARE LE VESCONTE  
Photography ..... PAUL WALKER

Thanks to: ROBIN CHADWICK, JEAN DERBY, KATH HARRINGTON,  
ODETTE LAWLEY, BERNADETTE McGOVERN, GORDON MILLER,  
ELENA NOVIKOVA, JOHN WILSON, 4i LIMITED, AMARI PLASTICS,  
BARRALET'S OF EALING, THE ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE and  
DUBLIN the dog.

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 10 - 17 October 1992

DESMOND WALDUCK is London born and has lived in Hanwell since 1946.

He studied at Willesden School of Art, and after serving in the R.A.F. during World War II continued his art studies at the Royal Academy Schools. He then worked at a studio in his home illustrating books and magazines. He developed an interest in graphic art and latterly in wildlife art, an interest that was triggered off by an abandoned duckling that took over his, and his family's lives.

Observing ducks at close quarters became a valuable source material for his paintings. His wildlife paintings are based on actual places and the birds or animals were actually seen or clues such as feathers or paw prints were found on location.

Desmond has exhibited at the Royal Academy, the R.I. Galleries Piccadilly, 6½ Suffolk Street, and the Mall Galleries. He has had two One-man shows at Chichester, has exhibited at Farnborough, Richmond, Slimbridge and Arundel. Many paintings are in private collections in this country, America, Australia and the Near East. He has been a part time art teacher for 26 years, teaching at Ealing Art School, Hounslow Borough College and in the Adult Education services of Ealing, Harrow and Hillingdon.

This is his fourth One-man exhibition at The Questors Theatre.

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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  
Studio Director  
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, Comfort and Stergene courtesy of Lever Bros.  
Dry-cleaning by C.D.S.

David Emmet  
Simon Thomas  
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  
Eric Lister  
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.