

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

In the Studio

INÉS DE CASTRO

by John Clifford

Inés, the Spanish mistress of a Portuguese prince, finds her future put at risk by political events in which she has no interest or influence. In the last hours of her life she fights to save herself, her family and her optimistic view of human nature.

Despite having been written in 1988, before the changes in Eastern Europe, John Clifford's sombre retelling of a tragic and terrifying medieval legend gains new potency in the light of current events in former Yugoslavia.

23 - 30 April at 7.45pm

In the Playhouse

UNCLE VANYA

by Anton Chekhov

translated by Michael Frayn

A classic Russian drama, directed by a Russian, but performed in English. *Uncle Vanya* will be directed by guest director Oxana Meleshkina, professional actress, director and filmmaker and Artistic Director of a small Arts Centre in Moscow, who directed our production of *The Typists* in the Studio in 1992.

30 April, 3-7 May at 7.45pm; 1 May at 2.30pm

Supported by Roger and Wendi Kelly

In the Studio

THE MAIDS

by Jean Genet

translated by Bernard Frechtman

directed by John Horwood

A modern classic, *The Maids* was inspired by a real life murder case. In 1933 two sisters in service with a respectable family in Le Mans savagely murdered their mistress and her daughter for no apparent reason.

In our production, as Genet intended, the parts of the maids and their cruel mistress are played by men. We regret that it is not suitable for children.

14-21 May at 7.45pm

In the Playhouse

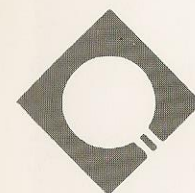
CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF

by Tennessee Williams

One of the great plays of modern American theatre, written by one of its masters, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* shows how thin the veneer of domestic accord can be and how quickly it melts in the claustrophobia of family propinquity and stifling Southern weather.

21, 24 - 28 May at 7.30pm; 22 May at 2.30pm

Sponsored by



THE

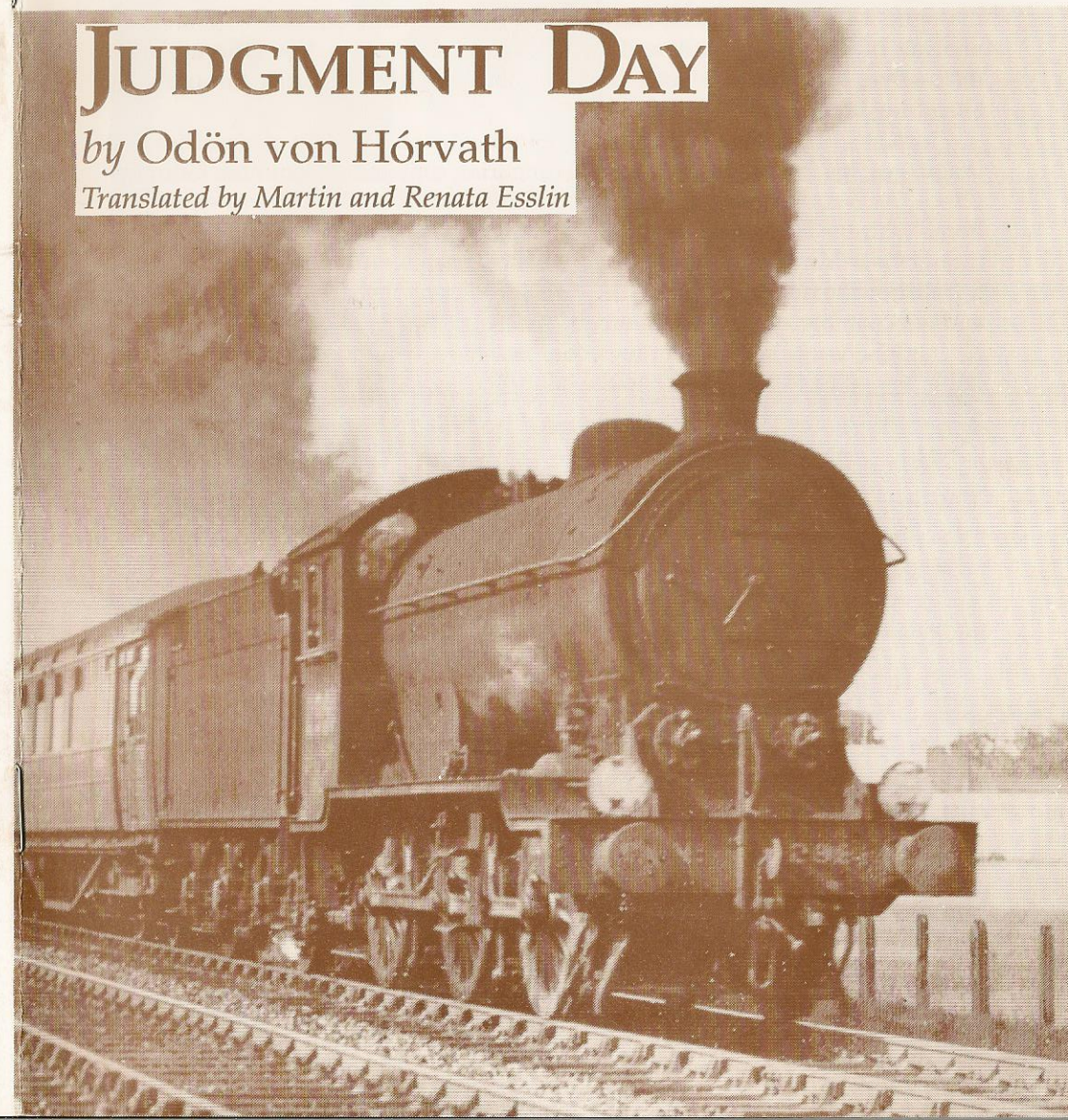
QUESTORS

THEATRE

JUDGMENT DAY

by Odön von Hórvath

Translated by Martin and Renata Esslin



Odön von Hórvath

Odön von Hórvath has been described as the "black box", the flight recorder, of the Third Reich, his work offering the clue to what happened in the moments leading up to catastrophe. His plays portray the mentality that made it possible for a Fascist government to come to power in Germany. They capture the flavour of a society in the grips of economic crisis and high unemployment, and in search of new leadership.

Judgment Day was written in 1936. With its sharp observation and spare dialogue it has the direct narrative thrust of a folk tale together with a subtle analysis of the roots of guilt and the concept of retribution. Von Hórvath's is a distinctive, idiosyncratic voice and his quirky humour sparks through this absorbing and disturbing play.

Born in 1901, Odön von Hórvath was educated in a variety of countries and languages; his father was an Austro-Hungarian diplomat, his mother German-Czech. As a child he knew Budapest, Munich and Vienna and was equally at home with the Hungarian and German languages. After university in Munich, though he held a Hungarian passport, he chose to make his home in Berlin. There he relished the rich literary and theatrical life. He enjoyed a wide circle of friends and was notably attractive to women.

In all he wrote seventeen plays, four novels, several film scripts, numerous fragments of novels and plays and a handful of poems.

His first great successes as a playwright came in the early 1930s, with satirical, often political, comedies; in 1931 he won a prestigious award for the most promising playwright of the year. His *Italian Nights* attacked the Nazis and the unwary Social Democrats alike. Then, in 1933, Hitler came to power. Von Hórvath's next play was banned and he himself was eventually deprived of the right to live or work in Germany.

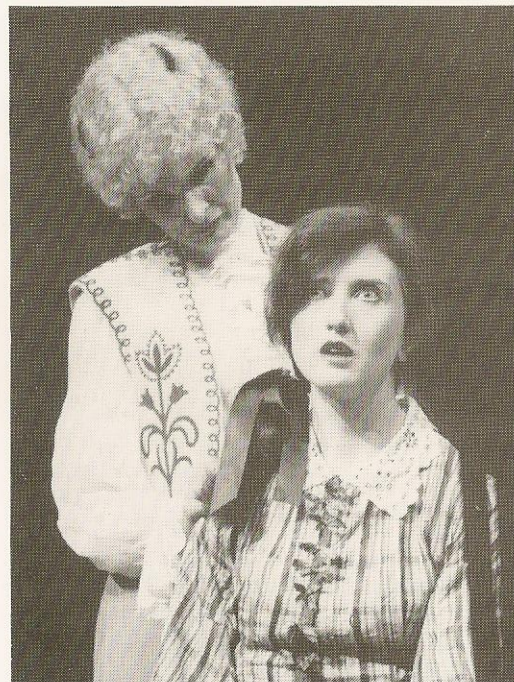
He continued to write plays, aiming for the theatres in the German-speaking parts of Czechoslovakia in 1937. In 1938 Czechoslovakia fell to Germany.

Von Hórvath died, strangely, in Paris on 1st June 1938. He had been with friends to see *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves*. When he left them a violent summer storm blew up and he was killed in the Champs Élysées by a falling branch from a chestnut tree under which he was sheltering.

On his hotel room desk he left two half empty glasses of wine and a page of notes for a new novel. He was thirty six.

Note: The Marital Health Law: Germany 1935

"The Marital Health Law of 18th October 1935 forbids marriage, among other circumstances, if one of the betrothed is suffering from a mental disorder which renders the marriage detrimental to the national community."



Photographs from two previous Questors productions of plays by Odön von Hórvath.

Left: Gillian Kerswell and Mari King in *Don Juan*; December 1984.

Below: The cast of *Cold Times*; August 1986.



JUDGMENT DAY

by Odön von Hörvath

Translated by Martin and Renata Esslin

First performance of this production Saturday, April 9th 1994

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Forestry Worker **KELVIN WEST**
Mrs Leimgruber (*baker's wife*) **JENNIFER TUDOR**
Travelling Salesman **MARK REDRUP**
Thomas Hudetz (*stationmaster*) **KEVIN BOLAND**
Josephine Hudetz (*his wife*) **SARAH ANDREWS**
Alfons (*her brother, pharmacist*) **NORMAN WILKINSON**
Ferdinand (*butcher*) **PAUL BOTLY**
Anna Lechner (*landlord's daughter*) **LISA DAY**
Policeman **JIM O'CONNOR**
Landlord of The Wild Boar **ROBIN INGRAM**
Leni (*waitress at The Wild Boar*) **HELEN SANDERS**
Kohut (*railway fireman*) **GEOFF WEBB**
Public Prosecutor **JOHN TURNER**
Police Inspector **DEREK CHANDLER**
Detective **MARK REDRUP**
Truck Driver **GEOFF WEBB**
Mr Leimgruber **DEREK CHANDLER**
Photographer **MARK REDRUP**
Child **AINE MCGREEVY**
Pokorny (*railway engine driver*) **KELVIN WEST**
Kreitmeyer (*railway maintenance man*) **JOHN TURNER**

The action takes place:

- Scene 1: A small railway station
Scene 2: On the track where two trains have collided
Scene 3: At 'The Wild Boar'
Scene 4: At the viaduct
Scene 5: At 'The Wild Boar'
Scene 6: At the chemist's
Scene 7: On the track where two trains collided

The time is the nineteen-thirties. Four months pass between Scene 2 and 3.

Interval of fifteen minutes after Scene 5.

THE PLAYHOUSE IS EQUIPPED WITH AN INFRA-RED SOUND TRANSMISSION SYSTEM FOR USE BY PEOPLE WITH HEARING DIFFICULTIES. To obtain a headset please contact the duty house manager. The Playhouse is equipped with a lift for the benefit of those with mobility problems.

PRODUCTION

Director **PAT GOWMAN**
assisted by **SOPHIE ROSS**
Designer **BRAD ASKEW**
Costumes **BERNADETTE DUNNE**
Lighting Designer **TIM HAYWARD**
Sound Designer **IAN HOWLETT**
Stage Manager **JOHN CLAYTON**
Deputy Stage Managers **LUBNA MALIK,**
RICHARD MANNING
Assistant Stage Managers **IAN BOSTON,**
DAVE CHAPMAN, ALISON HULME, JACKIE LITTLE,
LIZZI NEVILLE, VICKY NORRIS, SARAH REEVE
Props **JEAN ASH**
assisted by **PAT TOMLIN**
Construction **NEVILLE GILLETT,**
JIM CRADDOCK, COLIN ABDEY
assisted by **IAN JARVIS**
Prompter **GORDON MILLER**
Lighting Operator **JAMES ALLISON**
Lighting Assistant **SAM BOWDEN**
Sound Operator **LEILA BAYANDOR**
Technical Adviser **ALAN B. SMITH**
Make-Up & Hair **JUNE CHANICKA,**
PAUL MISSEN

Thanks to: **BUCKINGHAMSHIRE RAILWAY CENTRE,**
NORMAN BARWICK, MARK SAPSED & PETER KENDRICK,
"BESPOKE MUSIC:
RICHARD HODSON & GODRIC WILKIE" for original music

1. The taking of food and drink into the auditorium is NOT permitted.
2. The use of cameras, video-cameras or tape equipment during the performance is also prohibited.
3. 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.

ART EXHIBITION IN THE UPPER FOYER

9 - 16 APRIL 1994

MARGARET RUSSELL

Margaret Russell is a London born artist of the naive school of painting who has exhibited at the Rona Gallery and the Medici Gallery, Piccadilly and her work has been accepted at the Royal Academy.

She has previously held one-woman exhibitions at Richmond and the Sterberg Centre as well as The Questors. Her pictures are in private collections in Ireland, Japan, the United States and Australia.

She has been commissioned by MacMillan Publishers in the past two years to illustrate a series of book covers. She teaches art to the elderly and disabled.

On the surface she is a simple painter, easily accessible; her art has been described as "...compelling and evocative....and as with the best fantasy is rooted in day-to-day reality", and "...having a real understanding of relationships, often arresting, sometimes disturbing, always interesting". Above all, many of her pictures are "...sheer exuberant fun", and "a breath of fresh air".

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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
Chair
Vice-Chairman
Company Secretary
Club Secretary
Finance Director
Stage Director
Marketing Director
Theatre Manager
Productions Secretary
Membership Secretary
Programme Editor
Questtopics Editor
Marketing Manager
Sponsorship
Box Office Management
Programme Sales Organisation
Front of House Manager
Press Relations
Haberdashery
Wardrobe Equipment
Wardrobe Care

David Emmet
Simon Thomas
David Emmet
John Davey
Doug King
Sue Blake
Christine Garland
Ken Kettle
Kris Collier
Paul Ashby
Elaine Orchard
Christine Greening
Alice Pennicott
Vincent McQueen
Barbara Neville
Sam Jennings
Geoffrey Sellman
Ken Parker
Val Blaxland
Eric Lister
Trish Fox, Sarah Wood
Tootal Craft
Wilkinson Sword Scissors..Fiskars Ltd
Persil, Comfort and Stergene
courtesy of Lever Bros.
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. 081-457 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.