

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### *In the Playhouse*

#### **Fourth World Coarse Acting Championship**

This epoch-making event in the international theatrical calendar is to be adjudicated this year by the celebrated actor **TIMOTHY WEST**. The world's greatest acting talents will be represented and among those competing are teams from the Royal National Theatre; the Royal Shakespeare Company; the Talisman Theatre, Kenilworth; the Richmond Shakespeare Society and The Questors' own Bunny Langridge Players.

N.B. The performance begins at 7.30pm

**Sunday 8 October**

Tickets: Members and Guests: £8.00

This hilarious evening always sells out so **book now** to avoid disappointment.

### *In the Studio*

#### **Abigail's Party** by Mike Leigh

This work takes apart the suburban set and doesn't put them back together again. Devised using improvisation techniques, it still has a final script which is dipped in acid and as finely polished as a new CD. The hopes of the 80s suburban élite may have been dashed by the recession – but Leigh's play trashes their pretensions with venomous delight.

**14 - 21 October at 7.45pm**

### *In the Playhouse*

#### **Nasty Neighbours** by Debbie Isitt

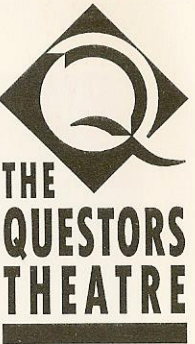
This new play for the 1995 BT Biennial is a fast-moving dark comedy. Isitt's work is renowned for touching a raw nerve while exploring the murkier side of "ordinary" British life.

**21, 24 - 28 October at 7.45pm; 22 October at 2.30pm**

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**THE  
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THEATRE**

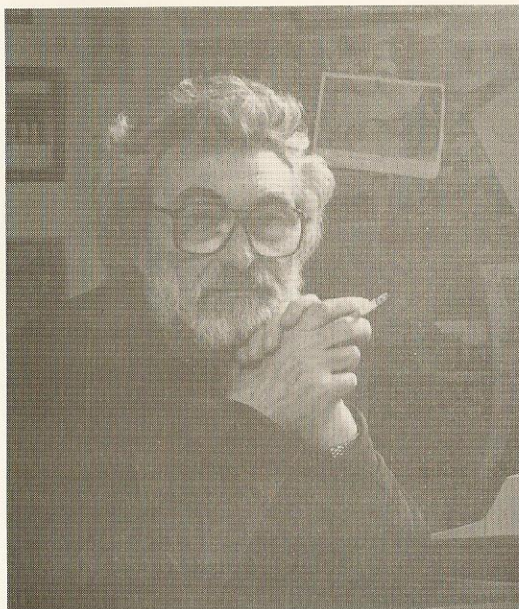
**JAMES SAUNDERS**

## *Next Time I'll Sing to You*



A Revival of The Questors original 1962 version to celebrate James Saunders' 70th Birthday.

This production supported by Richard & Eleanor Smith



Photograph: Sarah Saunders

## JAMES SAUNDERS

James Saunders was born in London in 1925. His first association with The Questors was in 1960 when three of his short plays under the title of *Ends and Echoes* were performed at the first New Plays Festival in the old 'Tin Hut'. Then for the 1962 New Plays Festival he wrote *Next Time I'll Sing to You*, which transferred to the West End and won him the *Evening Standard* Award for Most Promising Playwright.

This was followed by: *A Scent of Flowers* at the Duke of York's in 1964; *Neighbours* at

Hampstead Theatre in 1964, which transferred to the Mayfair Theatre; *The Italian Girl* (based on Iris Murdoch's novel) at Wyndham's in 1967; *The Travails of Sancho Panza* at the National Theatre in 1969; *Games* and *After Liverpool* in 1971; *Hans Kohlhaas*, *Bye Bye Blues* in 1973; *The Island* in 1975; *Bodies* in 1977 and *Fall* in 1981, which won the Molière Award for 1988 after its Paris production. *Making It Better* played at Hampstead Theatre and the Criterion in 1992.

For television, he has written six adaptations of stories by D H Lawrence; three plays for the series *Country Matters*; *The Captain's Doll* and the series *Bloomers*. He wrote the screenplay for the film *The Sailor's Return*. His plays are regularly produced on BBC radio.

Other plays by James Saunders performed at The Questors are: *Double Double*; *Who was Hilary Machonochie?\**; *The Pedagogue\**; *Neighbours\**; *A Scent of Flowers*; *Triangle*; *The Borage Pigeon Affair\**; *The Italian Girl*; *Hans Kohlhaas\**; *Bye Bye Blues*; *The Island\**; *Random Moments in a May Garden\*\**; *The Girl in Melanie Klein\**; *Bodies*.

James has also had a long association with the Orange Tree Theatre at Richmond, where his latest play *Retreat* enjoyed an extended run earlier this year.

\* Plays premiered at The Questors.

\*\* First Stage Production at The Questors.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

*Next Time I'll Sing to You*, was a remark made by the Hermit to the Rector as he left the Hermit's hovel in a field in Great Canfield, Essex. The meaning behind the remark may be revealed in the book *A Hermit Disclosed*, by Raleigh Trevelyan, but not in James Saunders's play. The book attempts to discover why James Mason, a real person, should become a recluse for the last 40 years of his life, afraid of being poisoned and convinced he was a saint. This was just the inspirational starting point for the play by James Saunders who believes that in truth we all live in solitude behind whatever facade we present to society.

"To stay away from *Next Time I'll Sing To You* is deliberately to deprive oneself of an experience that is as searching as it is unexpected, and as funny as it is touching". This is the final paragraph of Harold Hobson's review in *The Sunday Times* of January 27, 1963. But, this was not to be the last time he saw it or referred to it. In *The Daily Mail* of February 26, 1963, Bernard Levin says, "So, Mr Hobson having declared not once, but many times that this is the best play in London, I took the opportunity of its transfer from the Arts Theatre (where I missed it) to check. Mr Hobson is not quite right . . . . . *Next Time I'll Sing To You* is in fact the best non-play in London".

As to the meaning of the play to quote Hobson yet again. "(It) aspire(s) to the condition of music; and music is not to be rationalised."

These are samples of many reviews in the same vein about the first West End production of *Next Time I'll Sing To You* which started life right here at The Questors. Now, 32 years on, as we celebrate Jim's 70th, I trust you'll share their sentiments on its return to home ground.

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LARRY IRVIN: (The Director) First joined The Questors in 1956. Roles he has created in James Saunders's plays are Meff in *Next Time I'll Sing to You*, *The Pedagogue*; and Sear in *The Borage Pidgeon Affair*. Plays by James Saunders he has directed are *The Girl in Melanie Klein*, *Random Moments in a May Garden*, *Hans Kohlbaas* and *Bodies*. Other appearances include Archie Rice in *The Entertainer* and Lord Brockhurst in *The Boyfriend* After eleven years away from The Questors he rejoined earlier this year and played Willie Loman in *Death of a Salesman*.

# JAMES SAUNDERS

## Next Time I'll Sing to You

*First performance of this production Saturday 16 September 1995*

### CAST *(in order of appearance)*

Meff ..... SIMON SNASHALL  
Dust ..... GUY ROSE  
Lizzie ..... SHEREE CLAPPERTON  
Dross ..... NIGEL LAWRENCE  
Hermit ..... MARK REDRUP

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Music ..... DON KINCAID

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*There will be one interval of fifteen minutes*

### PRODUCTION

Director ..... LARRY IRVIN  
Set Design ..... JOHN STACEY  
Lighting Design ..... TIM HAYWARD  
Sound Design ..... IAN HOWLETT

Stage Managers ..... KATY GALLANTRY  
JON WEBSTER  
Deputy Stage Manager ..... JANET BOOTH  
Assistant Stage Managers ..... LUCY FFINCH  
NICOLA BENNETT  
PIPPA EVANS

Properties ..... CECILE RODRIGUEZ  
Assisted by ..... ROZ PALMER  
Lighting Operator ..... MERYL WADE  
Sound Operator ..... LINDA MACDONALD  
Construction ..... ALISDAIR FRASER  
Wardrobe ..... CORRINE NEILD

*Thanks to:*

NIGEL BAMFORD, SHEREE CLAPPERTON, ANN GILMOOR,  
ERIC LISTER, BRYN PARSONAGE, GREASEPAINT

### THE CAST

**SIMON SNASHALL:** (Meff) Joined The Questors in 1993 after several years with the National Youth Theatre. With The Questors he has appeared in *Touched*, *Beaux Stratagem*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* and *Rhythm of the Road*, a Playback production.

**GUY ROSE:** (Dust) With The Questors from 1987 till 1989, during which time he appeared in *Good*, *The Brick*, *Somewhere in England*, *Whose Life is it Anyway* and *Tartuffe*. Plays since rejoining in 1994 are *Amongst Barbarians*, *The Homecoming* and *Death of a Salesman*.

**SHEREE CLAPPERTON:** (Lizzie) Sheree joined The Questors in 1988 and appeared in *Charley's Aunt*, *The Almas*, *Queen of Spades* and *I. Next Time I'll Sing to You* is her first play at The Questors since studying at the Drama Studio.

**NIGEL LAWRENCE:** (Dross) Nigel has appeared in many plays since leaving The Questors Student Group in 1987. His most recent appearances have been in *Julius Caesar* and *Death of a Salesman*.

**MARK REDRUP:** (Hermit) Became an acting member in 1990 since when he he has appeared regularly at The Questors. Most recently he has been in *The Changeling*, *Alice Through the Looking Glass* and *Fair Slaughter*.



THE PLAYHOUSE IS EQUIPPED WITH AN INFRA-RED SOUND TRANSMISSION SYSTEM FOR USE BY PEOPLE WITH HEARING DIFFICULTIES. IT IS NOW POSSIBLE TO USE THIS SYSTEM WITH PERSONAL HEARING AIDS SWITCHED TO THE T POSITION. To obtain the appropriate receiver please contact the Duty House Manager.



THE PLAYHOUSE IS EQUIPPED WITH A LIFT, WITH ACCESS TO THE BAR AND UPPER FOYER LEVELS FOR THOSE WITH MOBILITY PROBLEMS.

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.

Richard and Eleanor Smith  
are pleased to support  
another Questors production  
and send their best wishes  
to the cast and crew of  
*Next Time I'll Sing to You.*

**ART EXHIBITION IN THE UPPER FOYER**

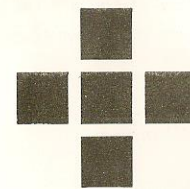
16 - 30 September 1995

**DOROTHEA BUXTON HYDE**

showed outstanding natural talent at a very early age and is now one of the country's leading artists. Her work is now exhibited throughout the world with her original paintings in some private collections. Much of her recent success and critical acclaim has been centred on her wildlife portrayals, but she has always painted a wide range of subjects.



**Another  
winning  
performance**



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