

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

*In the Studio – The 49th Student Group in*

### Here Comes a Chopper

by Eugène Ionesco

This is one of Ionesco's most powerful plays, overwhelming, prophetic, often extraordinarily funny in its details.

13 - 17, 19 - 23 March at 7.45pm

*In the Playhouse*

### Scorched

by Carl Grose

Winner of the 1994/95 Student Playwriting Competition, *Scorched* is set on the island of Cornwall in the not too distant future. A catastrophic story seen through the eyes of Cornwall's last society, using humour, ritual and finally tragedy to explore the extreme situation that these people have been forced into. Spiritual, mythical, apocalyptic.

30 March, 2 - 6 April at 7.45pm; 31 March at 2.30pm

*In the Playhouse*

### Coarse Acting – The Revenge

Returned by overwhelming popular demand, the best of the World Coarse Acting Championships. If you missed it last time, hurry to book your tickets now. A hilarious evening awaits you.

11 - 13 April at 7.45pm. Tickets £6.50


*In the Studio*

### Anna Christie


by Eugene O'Neill

Set in America in the 1920's. Anna is reunited with her estranged father, Captain of a coastal barge. She is careful to keep her father ignorant of her worldly past, although this emerges as she becomes involved with a sailor whom she and her father have rescued from "Dat ole devil sea". This tragic comedy is resolved in a tempestuous final act.

20 - 27 April at 7.45pm



**THE QUESTORS THEATRE**



The  
**MUNICIPAL**  
THEATRE STOCKTON-ON-TEES

Commencing Monday 1st April for One Week Only

The Municipal Theatre Stockton-on-Tees is a member of the Grand Group.

Evenings at 7.45pm  
Matinee Wednesday At 2.30pm

Saturdays at 5.00pm and 8.30pm

Otstar Productions Ltd.  
present  
**DOTTY OTLEY**

**BELINDA BLAIR**  
**GARRY LEJEUNE**

in  
**NOTHING ON!**

by  
**ROBIN HOUSEMONGER**

with  
**SELSDON MOWBRAY**  
**BROOKE ASHTON**  
**FREDERICK FELLOWES**

Directed by **LLOYD DALLAS**

Designed by **GINA STAIRWELL**

Stage Manager  
**TIM ALLGOOD**

Assisted by  
**POPPY NORTON-TAYLOR**

**WORLD PREMIERE PRIOR TO NATIONAL TOUR!**

Smoking is not permitted in the auditorium. The use of cameras and tape recorders is forbidden.

The management reserve the right to refuse admission, also to make any alteration in the cast which may be rendered necessary by illness or other unavoidable causes.

From the Theatre Rules "All exits shall be available for use during all performances."

The fire curtain shall be lowered during each performance.

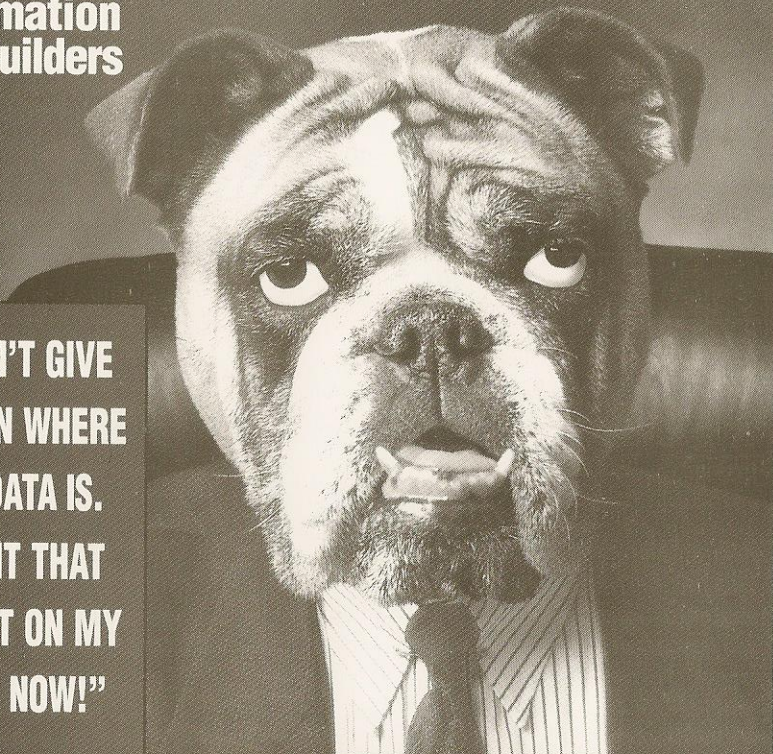
**NOISES OFF**  
by Michael Frayn

**CLOSED!**



## Information Builders

**"I DON'T GIVE  
A DAMN WHERE  
THE DATA IS.  
I WANT THAT  
REPORT ON MY  
DESK, NOW!"**



Information Builders developers and suppliers of world leading software solutions FOCUS and EDA/SQL, invites you to enjoy the production by The Questors Theatre, *Noises Off* by Michael Frayn

Wembley Point, Harrow Road, Wembley, Middx HA9 6DE Tel 0181 982 4700, Fax: 0181 903 2191, e-mail: [inebl@ibi.com](mailto:inebl@ibi.com)  
Ref: 0196.01

## A TRUE STORY

In 1977 Mike Green took a Questors Company for the first time to the Edinburgh Festival. It was *The Coarse Acting Show* and its critical acclaim and success with Festival audiences has subsequently spawned further tours to Edinburgh; a brief sojourn at The Shaftesbury Theatre, no less, and yet more World Coarse Acting Competitions. Indeed *Coarse Acting – The Revenge* is soon to be seen in this very Theatre on the 10, 11 and 12 April.

Whilst in Edinburgh, we discovered many excellent watering holes, among them, the splendid pub "The Sheeps Heid" quite near to Arthur's Seat. One lunchtime, Richard Gaunt, John Turner and myself began to consider what ideas might be suitable for future "coarse plays". All sorts of suggestions were floated, but one particular idea we had was to contrive a piece whereby the action could be split into two so that the dressing room could be seen in parallel with the performance; the actors exposed on both sides of the curtain as it were. We considered dividing the theatre into two with one half of the audience seeing the show from the front of the stage and the other half behind the set. Fired with enthusiasm, we extended the idea to running the play twice, allowing the audience to swop places after the interval. The creative juices flowed; more beer was consumed and inevitably the conversation grew louder. What sort of play would allow such treatment? Shakespeare? Agatha Christie? Farce?

It was Richard who first noticed the man two tables away, busily making notes. Leaning forward Richard whispered "Don't look now, but I think someone's stealing our ideas". A man in a fawn trenchcoat was seated about seven feet away, holding a pen and a reporter's notebook. "I reckon he's been writing down what we have been saying!" said Richard, "he's been listening to us for ages". We changed the subject, discussed topics like golf, the weather and suchlike. Anything but our latest "theatrical masterpiece in the making".

About four years later, Richard called me and said a play called *Noises Off* by Michael Frayn had opened at The Lyric Hammersmith and, on reading the reviews, it sounded exactly like the idea we had dreamt up, all those years ago. We went to see it in the first week and ironically it encapsulated all the ideas we had had in Edinburgh. The writing shimmered with brilliance and the production was superb; it was one of the funniest plays I had ever seen. Even today I can still recall that lunchtime in Edinburgh; was it Michael Frayn in the trenchcoat? Was he at the Festival and happened to chance on three "coarse actors" discussing their next project?

I have to own up to having my tongue pressed firmly into my cheek. The answer is surely no, because a prototype of *Noises Off*, called *Exits*, was conceived way before we went to Edinburgh, but I thought it would be fun to recall the incident. The brilliantly written play you are about to see could only have come from a talent and comic genius as great as Michael Frayn. It has been my privilege to direct *Noises Off* and work with such a brilliant cast and crew; occasionally, but not very seriously, reflecting on whether I might have, in some small way, been instrumental in its creation.

MIKE LANGRIDGE



# Noises Off

by Michael Frayn

*First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: Saturday 9th March 1996*

## CAST

(in order of appearance)

Dotty Otley .....	GILLIAN KERSWELL
Lloyd Dallas .....	ROBERT STAINES
Garry Lejeune .....	SIMON HIGGINSON
Brooke Ashton .....	LISA MILNE HENDERSON
Poppy Norton-Taylor .....	SARAH MORRISON
Frederick Fellowes .....	HOWARD BENBROOK
Belinda Blair .....	CAROLINE BLEAKLEY
Tim Allgood .....	ANTHONY CURRAN
Selsdon Mowbray .....	NORMAN WILKINSON

ACT ONE: The living-room of the Brents' country home, Wednesday afternoon.  
(Grand Theatre, Weston-Super-Mare, Monday, January 14th)

Interval of 15 minutes

ACT ONE: The living-room of the Brents' country home, Wednesday afternoon.  
(Theatre Royal, Goole, Wednesday matinée, February 13th)

**ACT ONE:** The living-room of the Brents' country home, Wednesday afternoon.  
(Municipal Theatre, Stockton-on-Tees, Saturday, April 6th)

The cast of *Noises Off* are performing a play called *Nothing On*.

(With special thanks to Amanda Bernstein)



THE PLAYHOUSE IS EQUIPPED WITH AN INFRA-RED SOUND TRANSMISSION SYSTEM FOR USE BY PEOPLE WITH HEARING DIFFICULTIES. IT IS ALSO 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.

## PRODUCTION

Director ..... MIKE LANGRIDGE  
Set Design ..... JENNY COOKNELL  
..... NICK HAWKER, JOHN HORWOOD  
Lighting Designer ..... FRANCIS STEVENSON  
Sound Designer ..... MARTIN BRIDGES  
  
Stage Manager ..... KATY GALLANTRY  
Deputy Stage Managers ..... BRIN PARSONAGE  
..... KATE SMITH  
“The Crew” ..... SIMON EARNSHAW  
..... CULLEN HENSHAW, LUBNA MALIK,  
..... EMMA RANTOR, LIZ TROTT  
..... LOUISE WODEHOUSE-EASTON  
Prompt ..... GORDON MILLER  
Costumes ..... JEAN DERBY  
Properties ..... ANNELIESE MORGAN  
*Assisted by* ..... ROZ PALMER  
Construction ..... JENNY COOKNELL  
..... ALISDAIR FRASER, CELIA WENBAU-SMITH,  
..... RICHARD KELLY, RICHARD BUNN,  
..... KIERON KERR, DARREN ANDERSON,  
..... PIERS LANGRIDGE, “THE CREW”  
Lighting Operator ..... KRIS COLLIER  
Sound Operator ..... NIGEL BAMFORD  
Set Painting ..... SANDY COVENTRY  
..... KATE MORTON

*Thanks to:* BROCKWAY CARPETS, VANGUARD REMOVALS,  
ADRIAN ASHER, ROLAND BEARNE, CAROLINE BLEAKLEY,  
PAUL BOTLY, ROGER BRACE, JIM CAITHNESS, DAVE CHAPMAN,  
PETER COLLINS, BOB COOPER, TOM HAMPTON,  
BRIAN INGRAM, RICHARD LEWIS, ERIC LISTER, CHRIS SYDENHAM,  
GILBERT WEBSTER, JON WEBSTER, THE STAG THEATRE.

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 EXHIBITIONS

UPPER FOYER - 9 MARCH - 6 APRIL 1996

JOHN FLEMONS - Watercolours from France

John Flemons trained at the Chelsea School of Art, and also studied at the University of London Institute of Education and the Birmingham School of Art Education. He was Senior Lecturer at Thomas Huxley College in Ealing, and for ten years was Head of Art at Morley College, where he still teaches.

He has had one-man shows at the University of Birmingham, Queen Mary College, the Cockpit Theatre, Brunel University, Thomas Huxley College and the Morley Gallery.

GRAPEVINE GALLERY - 9 MARCH - 6 APRIL 1996

MARTIN ROBBINS

Martin Robbins, was born in Warwickshire 1957. He is a painter of both abstract and more figurative work. He was originally inspired by the landscapes of Brittany and Cornwall. He later abandoned the more representational landscapes, and pursued more abstract explorations into the relationship between painting and self-expression, using an individual technique and marks in order to convey a sense of energy, harmony and empathy with the media via expression of personal emotions.

## WHY NOT GET MORE OUT OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

### *Did you know that . . . . .*

We will give you £5 off your annual membership fee if you introduce a new member to Questors? For details contact Alice Pennicott in the office on 0181 567 8736

### *And . . . . .*

that by showing your Questors card at the following restaurants you will be eligible for various offers and discounts

Noughts and Crosses

Caffé Uno

Pierre Victoire

Café Cyberia

Full details available from the office.

## 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.

### BACKSTAGE PREVIEW

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	Spencer Butler
Artistic Directorate	John Horwood, Norman Wilkinson
Director of Studies	David Emmet
Chair	John Davey
Vice-Chairman	Steve Hames
Company Secretary	Sue Blake
Club Secretary	Christine Garland
Finance Director	Ken Kettle
Stage Director	Nick Hawker
Marketing Director	Colin Jervis
Theatre Manager	Elaine Orchard
Productions Secretary	Christine Greening
Membership Secretary	Alice Pennicott
Marketing Officer	Fleur Lloyd
Programme Editor	Vincent McQueen
Questops Editor	Peter Knight
Sponsorship	Geoffrey Sellman
Box Office Management	Ken Parker
Programme Sales Organiser	Val Blaxland
Front of House Manager	Eric Lister
Press Relations	Sandra Hutchinson
Haberdashery	Tootal Craft
Wardrobe Equipment	Wilkinson Sword Scissors..Fiskars Ltd
Wardrobe Care	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 0181-567 0011.

### Membership

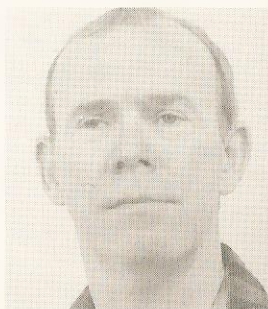
If you wish to become a member please fill in the application form (copies in the Foyers); just send it to the Theatre with the appropriate subscription. 0181-567 8736.

### Box Office

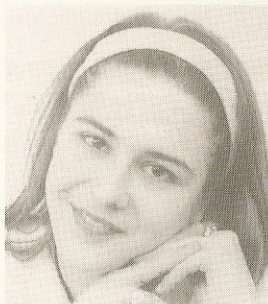
For personal callers the box office is open every Wednesday evening 6.45pm to 8.30pm; Monday to Friday 11.00am to 12 noon; during productions 6.45pm to 8.30pm; Sunday matinées 2.00pm to 2.30pm; Studio productions 6.45pm to 8.00pm.



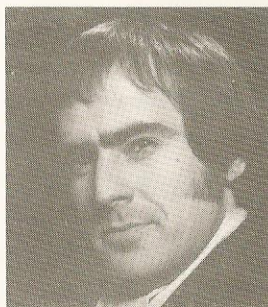
**SELSDON MOWBRAY** (Burglar) first 'trod the boards' in *A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM* with the Ben Greet Players, with whom he toured for three years, playing among other roles, Moth, Mustardseed and Nerissa. After many seasons in local rep he made it to the West End playing the drunken policeman in the highly acclaimed *EXCUSE ME MR KELLY*, which ran for seven years. He went to Stratford Ontario to play Mercutio, King John and the Porter in the 'Scottish Play'. After three years in Hollywood playing various English Butlers he returned to his native country to play KING LEAR in Portsmouth. He has appeared with the BBC Rep in various Shakespearean roles, more recently as Old Gobbo in *THE MERCHANT OF VENICE*.



**BROOKE ASHTON** (Vicki) is probably best known as the girl wearing nothing but 'good honest natural froth' in the 'Hauptbahnhofbrau' lager commercial. Despite this, she has enjoyed a flourishing career, extending from a widely acclaimed Dandini in Hull, to six months in Dubai with PIXIE PEARLS. Her television appearances range from Girl at Infants School in *ON THE ZEBRAS* to Girl in Strip Joint in *ON PROBATION*. Cinemagoers will have seen her in *THE GIRL FROM ROOM 14*, where she played the Girl in Room 312.



**FREDERICK FELLOWES** (Philip Brent) comes from a theatrical family, his parents were a popular speciality dance act in the thirties and forties 'The Funny Fellowes'. He taught at a prep school near Haywards Heath before bowing to family tradition and joining the Osmosis Players. There followed successful seasons in Nairobi, Ventnor and Southwold. More recently he appeared in the shortlived and controversial all-male version of *THE TROJAN WOMEN*, as Larry Sunrise, the tap dancing news vendor in the musical, *WALL STREET SERENADE* and as Stan Brownlow in *A BACK IS STABBED*, the award winning thriller set in the world of Rugby Union. He is happily married and lives near Crawley, where his wife breeds pedigree dogs. "If she ever leaves me" he says, "it will probably be for an Irish Wolfhound!"



**TIM ALLGOOD** (Company Stage Manager) is in constant demand for his technical skills, but started his career as a Market Researcher. A chance visit to a production of *THERE'S A GIRL IN MY SOUP* converted him and he then spent six years in rep as an ASM. Tim has since worked backstage as SM on a number of successful shows such as *MORE ARSENIC VICAR*, *A KILLER CALLS* and *CARDINAL KNOWLEDGE*. More recently Tim toured with another Lloyd Dallas farce, *PLEASE COME UNDRESSED* which had a highly successful run in the West End from December 1993 to January 1994.

**POPPY NORTON-TAYLOR** (Company ASM and Tour Manager) The daughter of Digby Norton-Taylor, Chairman of European Breweries, Poppy was educated at Cheltenham and Montreux. Poppy says this is her first 'real' job and she is enjoying the challenge enormously. Her hobbies include riding, skiing, tennis, reading good books and loving anything small and furry.

# GRAND THEATRE

WESTON-SUPER-MARE

Proprietors: GRAND THEATRE (Weston-super-Mare)  
General Manager: E.E.A. GRADSHAW.

The Grand Theatre  
Weston-super-Mare  
is a member of the  
Grand Group.

Evenings at 7.45pm  
Matinee Wednesday  
At 2.30pm  
Saturdays at 5.00pm  
and 8.30pm

Commencing Tuesday 15th January for One Week Only

**Otstar Productions Ltd.**

present

**DOTTY OTLEY**

**BELINDA BLAIR  
GARRY LEJEUNE**

in

***NOTHING ON***

by

**ROBIN HOUSEMONGER**

with

**SELSDON MOWBRAY  
BROOKE ASHTON  
FREDERICK FELLOWES**

Directed by **LLOYD DALLAS**

Designed by **GINA STAIRWELL**

For Otstar Productions  
Stage Manager  
**TIM ALLGOOD**

Assisted by  
**POPPY NORTON-TAYLOR**

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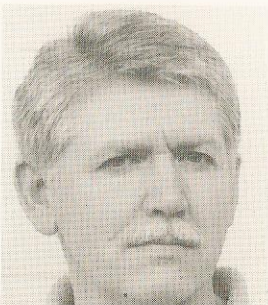
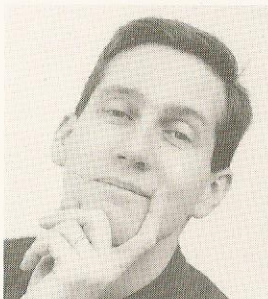


**DOTTY OTLEY** (Mrs Clackett) makes a welcome return to the stage after playing Mrs Hackett, Britain's most famous lollipop lady (Ooh, I can't arldy old me lolly up!) in over 320 episodes of TV's ON THE ZEBRAS. Born in Malta she trained at the Estelle Birkwood School of Drama and Allied Arts, winning the Bronze Medal and going on to the Embassy Theatre, Swiss Cottage, where, as an ASM, she gained experience in successful productions like AS YOU DESIRE and STARCHED APRONS. She later understudied Bee Duffell in HADDOCK'S EYES and Margaret Lockwood in PETER PAN at the Scala. A season with The King's Theatre, Peebles and two seasons with The Duke's Players, Lyme Regis, led to a prolonged stay in Australia where she enjoyed some of the biggest successes of her career. Currently writing her memoirs, "Completely Dotty", she lives in St John's Wood with her two dalmations, Ernest and Hemingway.

**BELINDA BLAIR** (Flavia Brent) has been on the stage since the age of four, when she made her debut in SINBAD THE SAILOR at the old Croydon Hippodrome as one of Miss Toni Tanner's Ten Tapping Tots. She subsequently danced her way round the UK, South Africa and the Far East in shows like ZIPPEDY-DOO-DA! and HERE COMES LES GIRLS! A damaged tendon led to her first straight parts in GOOD TIME GIRL and RING TWICE FOR RITA. More recently she has been seen in such comedy hits as DON'T MR DUDDLE!, WHO'S BEEN SLEEPING IN MY BED?, TWICE TWO IS SEX and PLEASE COME UNDRESSED, also with Lloyd Dallas as director. She is married to scriptwriter Terry Burke, who has contibuted lead-in material to most of TV's chat shows. They have two sons and three retrievers.

**GARRY LEJEUNE** (Roger Tramplemain) was twice winner of the Rose Bruford Medal for Effort. His many successful tours have brought him to Weston-super-Mare only once before, when he was starring in THE ADVENTURES OF A WINDOW DRESSER. He has made innumerable television appearances, but is perhaps best known as "Cornetto", the ice-cream salesman who stirs the hearts of all the lollipop ladies in ON THE ZEBRAS. Has recently made his screen debut as "M's" filing clerk in the new James Bond film "KILL ME SOFTLY".

**LLOYD DALLAS** (Director) read English at Cambridge. A Commonwealth Scholarship took him to Princeton, where he spent his time commuting to New York to see Arthur Miller plays and musicals on Broadway. Lloyd has directed plays in most parts of Britain, winning the South of Scotland Critic's Circle Special Award in 1979. In 1981 he directed a highly successful season for the National Theatre of Sri Lanka. He is perhaps best known for his brilliant anthology "Shakespeare in Summer" seen in many parks in various London Boroughs. He is currently working on a project to tour a new musical version of Chekov's THE CHERRY ORCHARD, entitled FAMILY TREES which includes the hit song "WE'RE MOSCOW BOUND".



# NOTHING ON

by

**ROBIN HOUSEMONGER**

Cast in order of appearance

**Mrs Clackett**

**Roger Tramplemain**

**Vicki**

**Philip Brent**

**Flavia Brent**

**Burglar**

**Sheikh**

**DOTTY OTLEY**

**GARRY LEJEUNE**

**BROOKE ASHTON**

**FREDERICK FELLOWES**

**BELINDA BLAIR**

**SELSDON MOWBRAY**

**FREDERICK FELLOWES**

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**ACT ONE**

The living-room of the Brent's country home on a Wednesday afternoon.

**ACT TWO**

The same, one hour later

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There will be one interval of fifteen minutes between Acts One and Two.

**For Otstar Productions**

**Company and Stage Manager**

**TIM ALLGOOD**

**Assistant Stage Manager**

**POPPY NORTON-TAYLOR**

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Sardine Services. Miss Ashton's Lenses by Double Vision Optical Ltd. Silverware and Cardboard Boxes by Mrs J G H Norton-Taylor. Stethoscope and hospital trolley by Severn Surgical Supplies. Straitjacket by Kumfy Restraints Ltd. Coffins by G Ashforth & Sons.

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We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of **EUROPEAN BREWERIES** in sponsoring this production.