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CO ARE DELIGHTED TO SPONSOR
ANOTHER QUESTORS PRODUCTION AND
EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO
FRIENDS AND ASSOCIATES. WE HOPE
YOU WILL ENJOY
'SEE HOW THEY RUN'

Matlock House • 229 High Street • Acton • London W3 9BY
Tel: 0181 992 7811 • Fax: 0181 993 7109



coming programme

Playhouse

THE GOLDEN AGE by Louis Nowra. 11 Jan - 18 Jan '97

Studio

FRENCH WITHOUT TEARS by Terrence Rattigan. 18 Jan - 1 Feb '97

Playhouse

THE REHEARSAL by Jean Anouilh. 1 Feb - 8 Feb '97

art exhibitions

Grapevine Gallery WENDY LANE 14 Dec - 4 Jan
An exhibition of Landscapes.

Upper Foyer MARTIN GOOLD 14 Dec - 4 Jan

Martin Goold was born in London in 1961 and trained at Chelsea School of Art, graduating from the MA Fine Art Course in 1984. He has exhibited in London and the South of England including two recent solo exhibitions; at the Highgate Gallery in London in July 1995, and at the South Hill Park Arts Centre in Bracknell in July 1996.

why not become a QUESTORS MEMBER?

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(Concessionary rate applies to students, UB40s and Leisure Pass holders)

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* Other membership categories available include: Family, Joint Senior Citizen and Associate.

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Mention farce and immediately the name Brian Rix and his Whitehall Theatre come to mind. Older audience members might, however, recall a famous series of farces, written by Ben Travers, that played at the Aldwych Theatre in the 20s and 30s. Both Rix and Travers are peculiarly British, yet the farcical tradition is thoroughly European, surviving in translation far better than straight comedy.

Farce is a very old theatrical form, dating back to well before the middle ages. It developed in France and then spread to Italy and Germany. In England the French influence became particularly strong, indeed the phrase "French Farce" sums up all the elements of farce.

By concentrating on a heightened sense of reality, physical assault, stage movement and impossible situations, farce is able to deal in those sensitive areas of human stupidity where a character is placed in an awkward or embarrassing situation.

It became established in this country mainly with the plays of Arthur Wing Pinero (1855-1934). *The Magistrate*, *The School-mistress* and *Dandy Dick*, established him as the inventor of modern British farce. If, these days, Pinero is not revived that often, *Charley's Aunt* (1892) by Brandon Thomas, remains the best known and most revived farce of this period. Philip King wrote in this tradition. A sometime actor he died in 1979, at the age of 74. In 1940 he had a first comedy produced, *To Meet The Prince*, and during the second half of his life - often in collaboration with others - created nearly thirty plays.

King had an actor's intuitive sense of the theatrical. His plays spring to life as soon as they are spoken, especially in *SEE HOW THEY RUN*, his most celebrated. This play has seen many revivals from the time of its first London production early in 1945 and was King's favourite. He even occasionally appeared as The Bishop of Lax (who turns up in another, and much later piece, *I'll Get My Man*).

Everyone in *SEE HOW THEY RUN* is someone else, and it contains a classic line when, as the third act wanes under a green cheese moon, the Bishop exclaims in despair: "*Sergeant! Arrest most of these people!*" Philip King wanted to make people laugh. In *SEE HOW THEY RUN* he aimed at a large public - a target that could hardly be missed!

cast (in order of appearance)

IDA, a maid
MISS SKILLON
THE REVEREND LIONEL TOOP
PENELOPE TOOP, his wife
LANCE-CORPORAL CLIVE WINTON
THE INTRUDER
THE BISHOP OF LAX
THE REVEREND ARTHUR HUMPHREY
SERGEANT TOWERS

PENNY SIMS
LESLEY WHYTE
JAMES GOODDEN
NATASHA REESKENS
JAMES J HORADA
DAVID JAMES
GRAHAM WILLIAMS
RICHARD GALLAGHER
VINCENT WOOD

see how they run

by Philip King

crew

DIRECTOR
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
SET DESIGNER
LIGHTING DESIGNER
SOUND DESIGNER
STAGE MANAGER
WARDROBE

PROPS
ASM
MAKE-UP
LIGHTING OPERATOR
SOUND OPERATORS

SET CONSTRUCTORS

RIGGERS

R. ALEXANDER PORTER
NORMAN WILKINSON
JOHN ROLFE
ANDY MACDONALD
MALCOLM SMITH
GERALDINE HAWKINS
BERNADETTE D'ALTON,
OLWYN CLARK
DAVE JOHNSON
DEBBIE NRI
JULIA CRUTTENDEN
JULIE PARKER
LAURENCE AND
HELEN LEWIS
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SYDNAM, IAN HOWLETT and BRIN PARSONAGE.

First performance of this production, Saturday 28 December, 1996.

time - autumn 1944

The Allied Invasion of Europe is well under way.

The action of the play takes place in the Hall at the Vicarage, Merton-cum-Middlewick.

act I

An Afternoon in September

act II

The same night

act III

A few minutes after Act 11