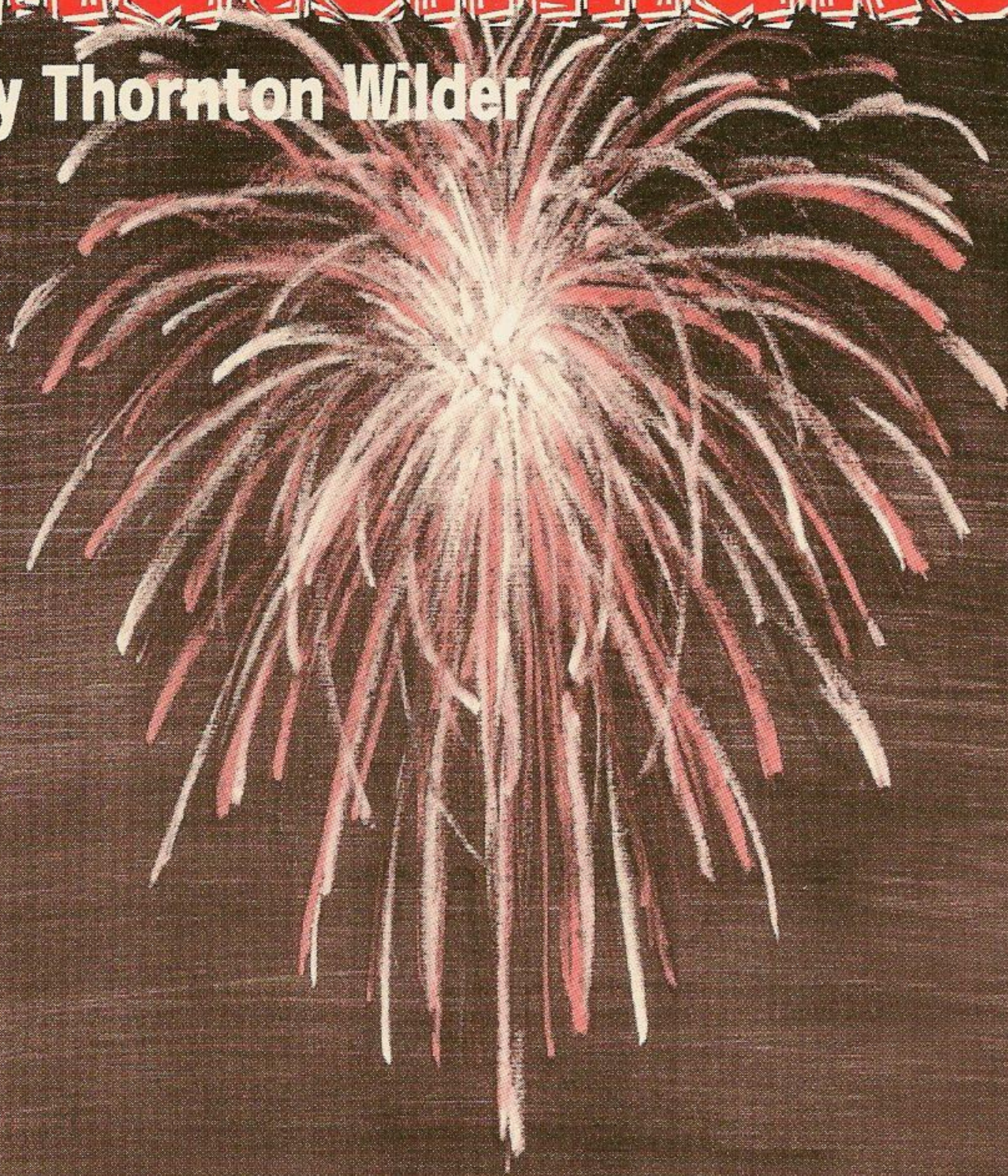


The Matchmaker

by Thornton Wilder



A swift moving farce that
explodes into an hilarious
climax of complication

THE
QUESTORS
THEATRE
MATCHMAKER



PROGRAMME NOTES

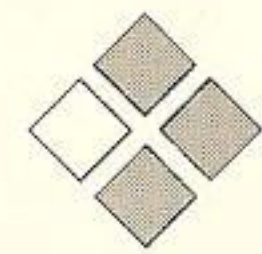
Thornton Wilder is perhaps best known as an innovator, one of America's most original novelists and playwrights of the twentieth century. Although his output was small as he spent much of his life teaching and lecturing, his novel "The Bridge of The San Luis Rey" won a Pulitzer Prize, as did his plays "Our Town" and "The Skin Of Our Teeth". They all broke the mold of conventional form and content revealing the extraordinary within the ordinary. He related the theatre to celebrations and festivals not to naturalistic imitations.

This particular play has an interesting history. Just as Shakespeare based many of his plays on earlier works, so Thornton Wilder based his first effort on an obscure English farce by John Oxenford - "A Day Well Spent" - which later developed into an Austrian comedy by John Nestroy - "Einen Jux Will Es Sech Machan" - and called it "The Merchant of Yonkers". By introducing the character of Dolly Levi to the Merchant and developing the plot still further, he eventually arrived at "The Matchmaker", which was first produced at the Edinburgh Festival in 1954. From there it travelled to London and America where it re-emerged many years later as the musical "Hello Dolly"!

'My Play', Wilder said in the 1950's, 'is about aspirations of the young (and not only of the young) for a fuller, freer participation in life'.

What would he have made of the world of TV and the computer in the 2000's?

To quote The Matchmaker **'Think it Over?'**



Merchant & Co.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
AND REGISTERED AUDITORS

The Partners & Staff of
Merchant & Co. are pleased
to support The Questors production of

The Matchmaker

We extend a warm welcome to friends
and associates and hope you will have
an enjoyable evening.

Matlock House • 229 High Street • Acton • London W3 9BY
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The Matchmaker

First performance of this production - 11 March 2000

Act One

Vandergelders house in Yonkers, New York in the 1880's

Act Two

Mrs Molloy's Hat Shop, New York

15 minute Interval

Act Three

The Harmonia Gardens Restaurant on The Battery, New York

Act Four

Miss Van Huysen's House, New York

CAST

Horace Vandergelder
Ambrose Kemper
Gertrude
Cornelius Hackl
Ermengarde
Malachi Stack
Mrs Dolly Levi
Barnaby Yucker
Mrs Irene Molloy
Minnie Fay
Rudolph- Head Waiter
A Cabman
August - Waiter
Miss Flora Van Huysen
Miss Van Huysen's Cook

John Robb
Mathiev LaRoche
Michael Gerrard
Cameron Smillie
Christina Yianne
John Hines
Ffrangcon Whelan
Adam English
Sarah Morrison
Rebecca Hill
Michael Gerrard
Stephen Rea
Hugh McGregor
Fran Martin
Sandra Healy

CREW

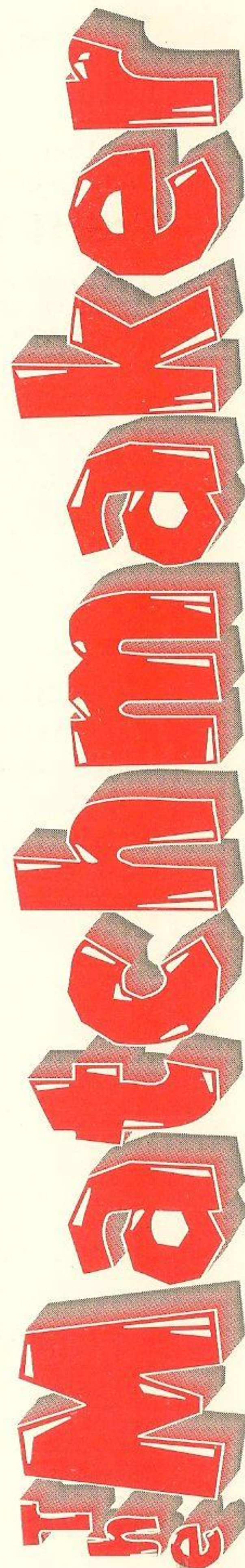
Director
Designer
Assistant Director
Lighting Designer
Sound Designer
Stage Management

Wardrobe
Hair & Make-Up

Ann Stutfield
Ana Snawdon
Deborah Vale
Terry Mummery
Nigel Worsley
Adrian Asher
Geraldine Hawkins
Mel Pereira
Jason Etherington
Karen Yearwood
Sylvia Wall
Elizabeth Bisinotto
Amanda Keegan
Carol Waghorn

With thanks to:

Merchant & Co., Moet and Chandon, Anne Gilmour, House Services
and all those that helped on this production



FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS

22 March - 1st April

THE QUESTORS 53RD STUDENT GROUP presents

RIGHT YOU ARE! (IF YOU THINK SO) by Luigi Pirandello

IN THE STUDIO - Free to Members

The peace and tranquility of a small provincial town is disturbed by the arrival of some curious new comers whose various stories about themselves don't add up. So what is the truth? Does truth exist? Nobel Prize winner, Pirandello explores the conflict between illusion and reality. Hilarious as it is profound - you'll be left questioning how far you can rely on your own subjective reality.

1st - 8th April

THE CONSTANT WIFE by W. Somerset Maugham

IN THE PLAYHOUSE - Free to Members

Constance's husband is cheating on her with her best friend. Everyone wants to tell her but does she want to know? And if she does know how can she get her own back without spoiling her comfortable life? A comedy that isn't resolved until the last line.

Sunday 2nd April

THE SHAKESPEARE REVUE

Devised & Directed by Christopher Luscombe & Malcolm McKee

Starring Gemma Craven & Clive Francis

IN THE PLAYHOUSE

Following a sell-out season at The Barbican and a critically acclaimed West End run, this "irrepressible musical production" (Daily Express), originally staged by The RSC, is coming to The Questors. This joyous words-and-music celebration of the delights of the bard gathers together some of the finest comic material inspired by Shakespeare. With contributions from the cream of writing and performing talent this collective masterpiece is certain to enthrall, entrance and ENTERTAIN!

A hugely enjoyable show.... Absolute Bliss.... A delightful comic cocktail.

15th - 22nd April

SOAPSUD ISLAND by Phillip Sheahan

IN THE STUDIO

An immediate hit when it premiered at Questors in 1990 as the first production by "Playback", *Soapsud Island* celebrates in drama and song the memories of those who worked in the famous Acton laundries between the wars. Since then it has been performed nation wide to popular and critical acclaim, collecting en route an impressive number of festival awards. Now, 10 years on, it's back (with some new twists) to rekindle the enthusiasm of old fans and to delight a new audience.

29th April - 6th May

PYGMALION by George Bernard Shaw

IN THE PLAYHOUSE

Still one of the most popular plays of the twentieth century being further immortalised as the basis for the musical *My Fair Lady*, however The Questors present the original stage version. A romance, but not a love story, a comedy but not without its touching moments, a classic for all time.

Would anyone miss it? "Not bloody likely!"

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