

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS

THREE TALL WOMEN *By Edward Albee*

In the Playhouse, 17th - 24th February

In this Pulitzer Prize winning drama, Albee examines, disassembles and re-connects the parts of one woman's life. "THREE TALL WOMEN" blazes as bright as a midsummer day. Electrifying and heartrending, each of Albee's women is memorable..." The story of this difficult and elderly woman is told by her young lawyer and a paid companion who act out the stages of her life.

The Questors Youth Theatre Presents HELEN OF TROY

By Euripides, translated by Adonis Galleus, Catherine Stevens and Toni Brown

In the Studio, 24th February - 3rd March

Adding to their string of exhilarating and power-packed performances, the young peoples' group brings you this exciting tale of conflict and intrigue in Ancient Greece.

Coming Soon.....

VOICES FROM AMBRIDGE in COME RAIN COME SHINE

Devised and directed by Gareth Armstrong and Malcolm McKee
Featuring cast members of **THE ARCHERS** in their 50th year on radio
In the Playhouse 18th March at 8.00pm

After the enormous success of Shakespeare Revue, Questors Theatre brings you this light-hearted celebration, in words and music of the British Countryside. **Come Rain, Come Shine** is a fascinating mixture of classic and contemporary writing with the emphasis on lyricism and laughter. As with Shakespeare Revue, it features material from a wealth of famous authors and newly commissioned material from the cream of British Comedy Writers.

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Georges Lèon Jules Marie Feydeau was born in Paris on 8th December 1862, to Ernest and Lodzia. Ernest was a well known scholar and writer, his un-missable "History of Burial Customs of the Ancients" and the licentious (for its time) novel "Fanny" being his most notable contributions to the world of writing.

Due, perhaps, to the early exposure to literature, Georges, at the age of 6, began writing a play after his first visit to a theatre in 1865. Ernest told Georges' governess to let him off his studies that day. Thereafter Georges sometimes got out of studying by writing plays. He was later to remark that "laziness had led him to the theatre".

Feydeau first performed monologues and short scenes at social gatherings, demonstrating considerable talent as an actor. Indeed he nearly gave up writing to tread the boards! His first professionally produced play was "Love and Piano" (1883). It was a success and considered to be extremely humorous and involved mistaken identity. A sure sign of the absurdity to come in later plays.

From 1892 onwards his 'great' plays appeared. "Hotel Paradiso" (of which "A Little Hotel on the Side" is a re-working). "The Dupe", "Going to Pot", "The Lady from Maxim's" and the ever popular "A Flea in her Ear", his final play "I'm Not Deceiving My Husband" opened in 1914.

Having suffered from melancholia, presumably brought on by an unmentionable disease, he was moved to a sanatorium in 1919. From then until his death in 1921 he was rarely lucid. A very sad end for somebody who gave so much fun during his life.

Gordon Craig once remarked, "Farce is essential theatre. Farce refined becomes high comedy: Farce brutalized becomes tragedy." With farce absurdity and improbability are the norm. Numerous asides to you, the audience, assist to subtly bring you into the play itself. Making people laugh was Feydeau's self-prescribed therapy and we can be grateful for it, for he continues to do just that.

All that we ask of you is that you leave logic at the door and suspend your disbelief during the brief span of the play.

John Turner

The music played during the performance is an 'assortment' of Offenbach.

A LITTLE HOTEL ON THE SIDE

Translated by John Mortimer from
L'Hôtel du Libre Echange by Georges Feydeau & Maurice Desvallières
First performance of this production on 20th January 2001

Cast

BENOIT PINGLET, a building contractor	Ian Buckingham
ANGELIQUE, Pinglet's wife	Sarah Morrison
VICTOIRE, their maid	Felicia Massiah
HENRI PAILLARDIN, an architect	David Hovatter
MARCELLE, Paillardin's wife	Melanie Morrissey
MAXIME, Paillardin's nephew	Reese De Ville
MATHIEU, the Pinglets' friend	Leigh Scheindlinger
VIOLETTE	Lydia King
MARGUERITE	Sophia Alexandrodes
PAQUERETTE	Madeleine Dodd
PERVENCHE	Sarah Burgess
Understudy	Laura Williams
BOULOT, a porter	Toni Conesa-Ribera
BASTIEN, the hotel manager	Derek Bullock
BOUCARD, a police inspector of the Department of Public Morality	Jim O'Connor
CHERVET, a schoolmaster	Michael Green
Other parts played by	Joe Goodman, Martin Stoner and other members of the company

The action takes place in the home of the Pinglets and in the Free Trade Hotel, Paris

THERE WILL BE TWO INTERVALS OF 15 MINUTES EACH

Production

Director	John Turner
Assistant director	Andrew Jones
Set designer	Wanda Duszynska
Costume designer	Jennie Yates
Lighting designer	Chris Newall
Sound designer	Colin Horne
Set construction	Antony Bridges
Furniture design	Nick Hawker
Stage managers	Eric Lister, Marguerite Minster
Deputy Stage Manager	Ruth Simpson
Assistant Stage Managers	Zena Ali, Alec Atchison, Defne Erdem, Kiran Maini, Alison Meik, Pam Smith
Construction assistance from	Roger Brace, Peter Collins, Jim Craddock, Erwyn Davies, Kader El Maadi, Tina Harris, Nigel Lawrence, Richard Lewis, Chris Sydenham
Wardrobe	Sarah Andrews, Sylvia Wall
Hair and Make-Up by Greasepaint	Sasha Payton, Carmella Reuben, Clare Silvester
Lighting Operator	Katy Gallantry

Thanks also to: Emily Bagnell, Jo Perse, Jenny Richardson, Carys Stout, Luke Thomas and Paris Yaw