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Welcome to The Questors Theatre, one of London's best kept secrets - except to its 3,000 members. How do I know about the Questors? I am proud to have been their President for over 17 years. Founded in 1929, it has since grown into the largest community theatre in Europe with a reputation for the highest standards, not only in acting but in direction and design as well. Luckily, with so many members, we have a wealth of talent to call on for all aspects of production and members are encouraged to be as actively involved as they would like. Alternatively, they simply enjoy the social side of the club, including the friendly Grapevine Bar (one of the many perks of membership) and the many and varied shows in our newly refurbished 350 seater Playhouse Theatre and more intimate Studio Theatre.

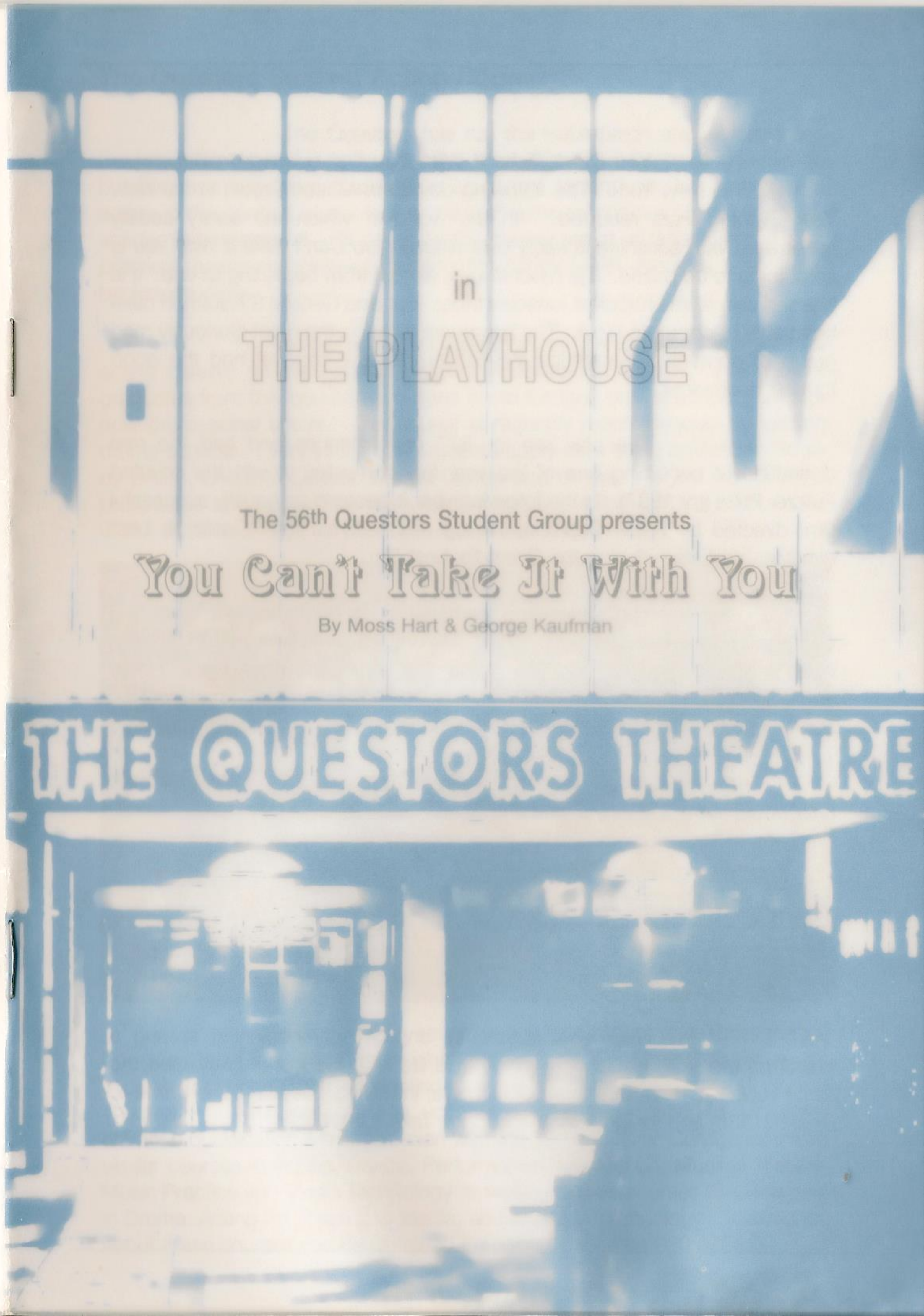
The Questors runs a professionally recognised two-year acting course in conjunction with Kingston College. There are also acting courses for beginners, free backstage training courses, visiting companies from home and abroad, regular art exhibitions, and workshops and clubs for young people. In short, there is something for everyone and with annual membership costing as little as £23.50 (including up to 8 free shows) it's great value for money as well.

But don't just take my word for it, the next time you're in West London call into The Grapevine Bar on any Wednesday evening at 8pm for a free tour of the theatre and a drink on us!

Worth looking into? Definitely!

*Judi Dench*

Dame Judi Dench  
 President of The Questors Theatre



in  
**THE PLAYHOUSE**

The 56th Questors Student Group presents  
**You Can't Take It With You**  
 By Moss Hart & George Kaufman

**THE QUESTORS THEATRE**

*You Can't Take It With You* first opened on December 14th 1936 in New York. The following day John Mason Brown in the New York Evening Post reported: 'In the world in which the sanity usually associated with sunshine is sadly over-valued, *You Can't Take It With You* is something to be prized. It is moonstruck, almost from beginning to end. It is blessed with all the happiest lunacies Moss Hart and George S Kaufman have been able to contribute to it. The Sycamore family is the most gloriously mad group of contented eccentrics the modern theatre has yet had the good fortune to shadow.'

The play ran for 837 performances and had the rare distinction of becoming one of the very few comedies to win the coveted Pulitzer Prize (for 1937). In the following year it became an equally successful film, directed by Frank Capra, providing him with his third Oscar as best director - and also winning the Oscar for best film.

The playwriting partnership of Kaufman and Hart had begun with *Once in a Lifetime* in 1930. The original script was written by Hart, then a young hopeful and 15 years the junior of Kaufman. Hart's autobiography, *Act One*, records how Kaufman took the play apart and re-constructed it, starting with some swingeing cuts:

'No, it doesn't work at all'. He said gently. 'I thought the cuts would show you why it wouldn't work.' He sighed and scratched his ear. 'Perhaps the trouble starts earlier than I thought.'

He took the play from my lap and placed it on the desk again. 'All right. Page one Scene One. I guess we may as well face it.' He picked up the pencil and held it poised over the manuscript, and I watched fascinated and awestruck as the pencil swooped down on page after page.'

From this apparently unpromising beginning sprang a fruitful partnership, resulting not only in a life-long friendship (they died the same year, 1961) but a number of hit plays, including *The Man Who Came to Dinner* (1939) and tonight's play *You Can't Take it With You*.

## The Questors Student Acting Course

The Questors has run the Foundation and Performance Course since 1947. It is unique not only for the quality of the training provided, but because it is the only part-time course of its kind offering a training in acting in the context of a living, working theatre as opposed to a college or academic background. Students on the course are at all times involved in a practical theatre environment, coming into contact with directors, actors and backstage crew.

About a third of the actors at The Questors started their acting careers on the Foundation and Performance Course. Many other graduates from this course have gone on to full-time drama schools and are now professional actors. The course is regularly recommended by leading drama schools. Every year many students apply after being advised to do so by RADA, LAMDA, Central, Drama Centre and others. If you would like a prospectus and application form, please ring the office on 020 8567 0011, 9.30 - 5.30 weekdays, or pick up a leaflet from the foyer.



For the last seven years the Acting and Performance Courses have been run under the auspices of Kingston College as an accredited course. The College also runs a BTEC National Diploma (Technical Theatre) - a two-year, full-time vocational course, providing a University entrance qualification - in association with the Theatre. (The College also runs similar courses in Acting, Dance, Performance, Production, Musical Theatre, Music Practice and Music Technology as well as degree courses (BA Honours) in Drama: Acting for Stage and Media, and in Music Technology.) Information about these courses can be obtained from the College on 020 8268 3031.

The 56<sup>th</sup> Questors Student Group presents

# You Can't Take It With You

First performance of this production 12 July 2003

By Moss Hart & George Kaufman

## CAST *In order of appearance*

Penny Sycamore	Mary-Alice Stack
Essie Carmichael	Marianne Micallef
Rheba	Rachel Banks Izen
Paul Sycamore	Tim Samuels
Mr de Pinna	Barry Jones*
Ed Carmichael	Stuart Brown
Donald	Robert H. Manners
Martin Vanderhof (grandpa)	James Farrar
Alice Sycamore	Natalie Taylor
Thelma C. Henderson	Claire Tetley
Tony Kirby	Tony Steele
Madame Kholenkova	Zlata Camdzic
Gay Wellington	Falko
Mr Kirby	Luke Ireland
Mrs Kirby	Claire Tetley
The Chief	Robert H. Manners
G-men: Jim	Adam Vinczewski
Mac	Marc Golland**
Grand Duchess Olga Katrina	Falko

\*Barry Jones is a member of the main Acting Group

\*\* Members of the First Year of the Student Course

*The action takes place in the living room of the Sycamore family in New York. The time is late June, 1936.*

**Act 1, Scene 1:** a Wednesday evening

**Act 1, Scene 2:** very late, the same evening

*Interval of 15 minutes*

**Act 2:** a week later

*Interval of 15 minutes*

**Act 3:** the following day, early evening

*The play lasts approximately 2 hours and 15 minutes, including intervals*

### **The Questors Student Group Tutors:**

David Emmet (*Director of Studies/First Year Acting*)

John Davey (*Second Year Acting*)

John Wilson (*Movement*)

Anna Polydorou (*Voice*)

## PRODUCTION

Director	John Davey
Designer	Peter Collins
Construction	Mike Hagan, John Feather
Lighting Designer	Richard Lewis
Lighting Operator	Bruce Humphreys
Lighting Assistant	Kirsty Packham
Sound Designer	Martin Bridges
Sound Operator	Rob Barnett
Pyrotechnics	Nigel Worsley
Wardrobe	Helen Taylor, Lynsey Flockhart
Specialist Props	Daniel Bradley, Beth Fairweather, Tom Williams
Prompt	Sue Oliver
Stage Managers	Peter Salvietto, Janeth Kempston Alec Atchison
Assistant Stage Managers	Geoff Beynon, Daniel Bradley Beth Fairweather, James Lewis, Tom Williams
Painting	Dennis Dracup, Isabel Glebocki, Sinead Lawler, Alex Marker, Nicky Sowah, Karen Tollady
Hair & Make Up	Kimberley Wright, Tracie Taylor-Roberts, Max Campbell,

### *Thanks To:*

Adrian Asher, Isobel Atchison-Kneen, Bron Blake, Roger Brace, Tina Harris, Colin Horne, Eric Lister, Gordon Miller, Geoff Moore, Jenny Richardson, Chris Sydenham, Louis Tonna, Marylebone High School, Lampton School, Peter Smith and Pat Boyle of Kingston College.

# COMING SOON

## OPEN DAY

Will be on SATURDAY 13<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER  
- make a note in your diary.

**The Learned Ladies** by Molière  
in **The Playhouse**, 27 September - 4 October

A hilarious take on the 'blue-stocking' brigade. The Learned Ladies is the story of the residents of the house of Chrysale, whose daughter Henriette is in love with Clitandre. Chrysale's wife Philaminte and her sister-in-law Belise are running a school of sorts, studying language and literature, their only student being Chrysale's other daughter Armande. Even though Armande is turning down the pretentious road to "knowledge" that Philaminte is preaching, she too is in love with Clitandre. Clitandre, however, only has eyes for Henriette. Meanwhile, Philaminte is angling for a marriage between Henriette and Trissotin a pompous young wit.

**A Wedding Story** by Bryony Lavery  
in **the Studio**, 4 - 18 October

Memory is one of the key themes of modern drama and Bryony Lavery's lyrical and tender play tackles it on many levels. Literally, in that it deals with a mother afflicted by Alzheimer's, and metaphorically, in that it suggests that our whole life is a fusion of past and present and is shaped by the virtual reality of cinema. Set in a fog-enveloped wedding marquee, this 90-minute play presents parallel but intertwined actions. In part, it is the story of free-spirited lesbian Sally who meets the amazing Grace at a wedding and who, after an ecstatic fling, finds herself torn between independent solitude and lifelong commitment. But it is equally about the devastating impact of Alzheimer's on Sally's mother, Evelyn, and on her father, vainly trying to cope with a wife who scarcely recognises him. To add to a rich brew, Sally's brother is a California-based movie buff and the action is suffused with memories of Evelyn's favourite film, Casablanca.

**A Russian in the Woods** by Peter Whelan  
in **the Playhouse**, 16 - 25 October

Amongst the ruins of post-war Berlin, a young soldier is sent for a weekend to guard a deserted British army office. In the corrosive atmosphere of Cold War power struggles, he innocently finds himself caught up in a situation where his conscience is on trial.

Put it in your  
diary now!

# THE WITCHES

by David Wood  
from the book by  
Roald Dahl

13 December -  
3 January



**MORTYS**  
NEPALESE CUISINE

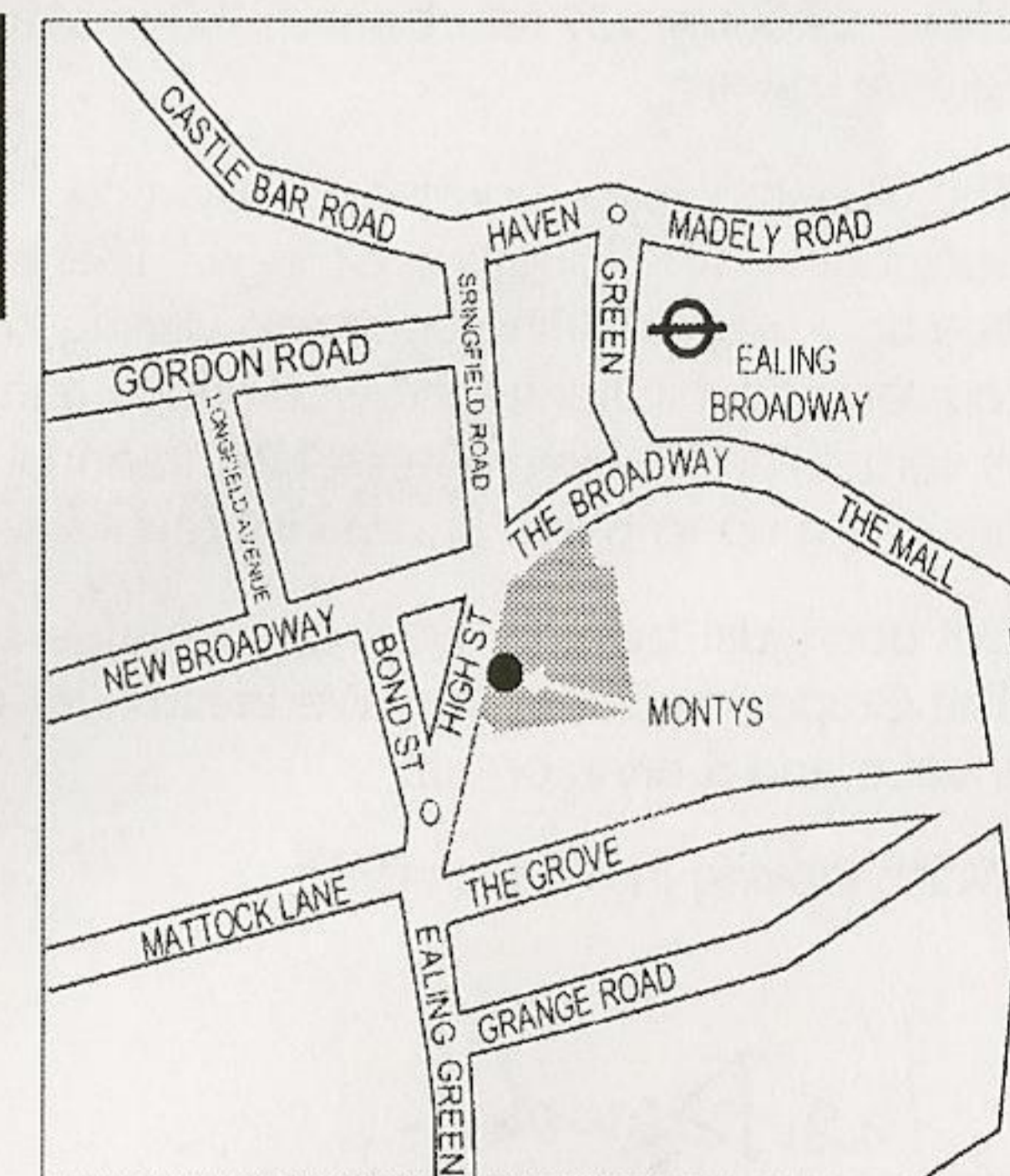
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