

THE QUESTORS THEATRE

Its easy to join...

- Come to the main office during office hours.
- Join us in the Grapevine Bar at The Questors Theatre on any Wednesday at 8pm for a free guided tour and a drink on us.
- Pick up a membership form from the foyer.
- Call **020 8567 0011** during office hours.
- Find out more at www.questors.org.uk.

Questors membership gives you...

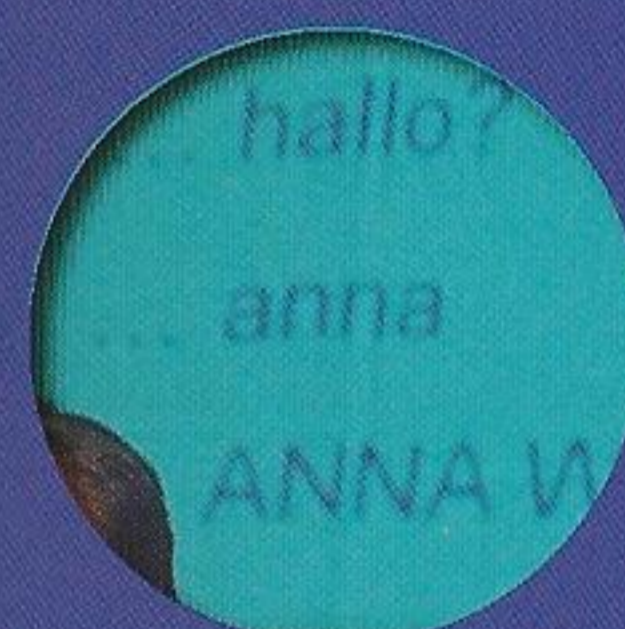
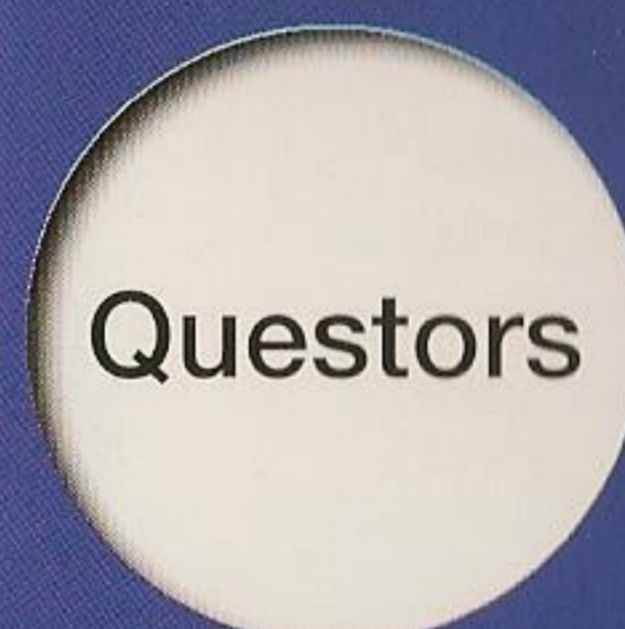
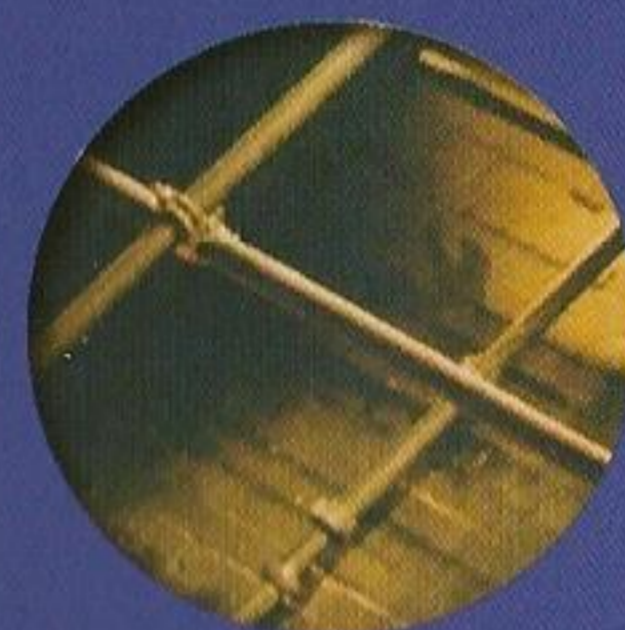
- Free tickets to at least 8 productions a year.
- Access to over 20 productions a year - classic, contemporary, international and new plays, from just £6.50 a ticket.
- Membership of the Grapevine Bar
- Questopics, our club magazine.
- The chance to act, direct, or get involved backstage.
- Discounts at: Holmes Place, Butlers restaurant, Ealing Dance Centre, Monty's Tandoori, Près de Lós exclusive lingerie.

Three ways to book tickets:

- Ring our Box Office on 020 8567 5184
Open Mon - Fri, 11.00am-12 noon, Show nights and Wednesdays 6.45pm - 8.30pm, Sunday Matinee 2.00pm - 2.30pm.
- Fill in a booking form (inside Questopics) and return to the Box Office.
- Book online at www.questors.org.uk.

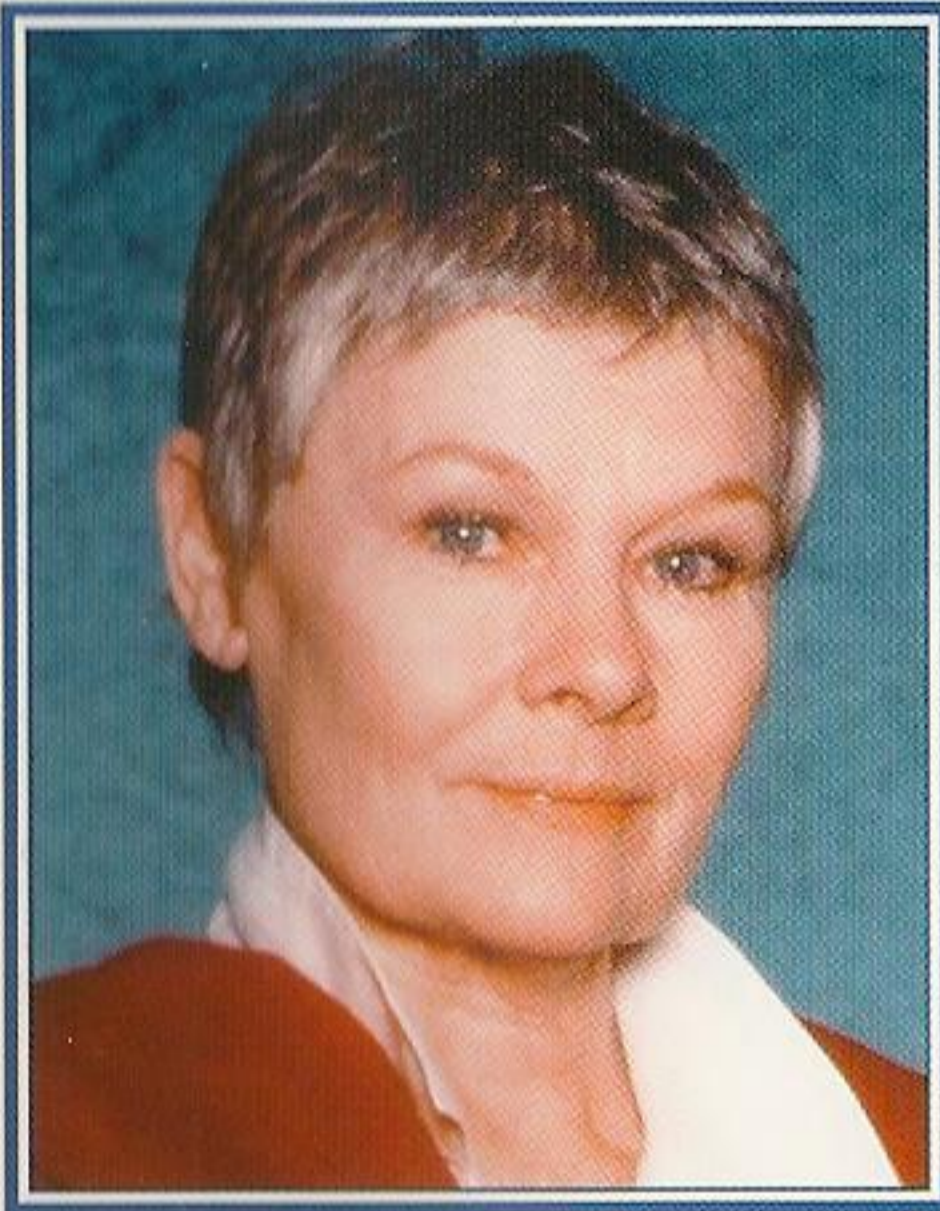
Box Office: 020 8567 5184
Admin: 020 8567 0011
Fax: 020 8567 8736
Email: enquiries@questors.org.uk
Website: www.questors.org.uk

The Questors Theatre
Mattock Lane
Ealing
W5 5BQ



The Good Person of Szechwan





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 18 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 our 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 £27.00 (including at least 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!

Dame Judi Dench
President of The Questors Theatre



The Good Person of Szechwan

by Bertolt Brecht
translation by John Willett

Bertolt Brecht

- 1898 Born Berthold Friedrich Brecht in Augsburg, Germany on 10 February.
- 1899 Brecht attends Augsburg Grammar School.
He was disciplined for expressing a non-patriotic attitude in a school essay.
- 1917 Enrols as a medical student at Munich University.
Attends Arthur Kutscher's theatre seminar.
- 1918 Brecht is conscripted as a medical orderly.
He writes *Baal*, an outrageous and blatantly sexual work.
- 1919 He writes *Drums in the Night*.
He becomes a father, he meets Theatre Director Erich Engel.
- 1922 He writes *In the Jungle of Cities*.
- 1923 The first productions of *In the Jungle of Cities* and *Baal*
open in Munich and Leipzig.
- 1924 Settling in Berlin,
he becomes the literary adviser to Max Reinhardt's Deutsches Theater.
- 1925 *Man Equals Man* premieres in Darmstadt and Düsseldorf.
He begins to study Marx.
- 1930 *The Measures Taken* has its first performance in Berlin.
- 1931 *St Joan of the Stockyards* is completed.
- 1932 His dramatisation of Maxim Gorky's novel *The Mother* is performed in Berlin.
Brecht studies Marxism.
- 1933 He flees Nazism, first to Prague and then to Denmark.
- 1938 *Fear and Misery of the Third Reich* is given its first performance in Paris.
- 1939 Completes writing of *Mother Courage and her Children*.
- 1940 Brecht moves to Finland to evade Nazi invasion of Denmark.
- 1941 *Mr Puntilla and his Man Matti*, *The Good Person of Szechwan* and
The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui are completed. Neutral Switzerland hosts
the first performance of *Mother Courage and her Children*.
- 1945 *Fear and Misery of the Third Reich* is performed in New York.
Brecht and Laughton translate *Galileo*.
- 1948 Brecht publishes *Little Organum for the Theatre*. *Mother Courage* starts
rehearsals at the Deutsches Theater in the Soviet sector of Berlin.
- 1949 *Mother Courage* opens at the Deutsches Theater.
Brecht applies for an Austrian Passport.
- 1950 Brecht's opera *The Trial of Lucullus* is tried out.
- 1953 Brecht writes *Turandot* and *Buckow Elegies*.
He is elected President of the PEN Club (German section).
- 1954 Brecht is awarded the Stalin Peace Prize.
Mother Courage is awarded prizes for best play and best production.
- 1955 Brecht awarded The Lenin Peace Prize in Moscow.
- 1956 Whilst preparing the Berliner Ensemble for a visit to the UK he dies of a heart
attack on 14 August. The visit goes ahead.

The Good Person of Szechwan

'Oh Gods, for your vast projects
I, poor human, was too small.'

So cries Shen Teh, the good person of the title, near the end of this witty, humorous, yet poignant play in which Brecht asks us to consider the problems involved in trying to do good in a world dominated by poverty, injustice and greed. Chosen by the Gods to confound their human critics and prove that true goodness is possible, the ex-prostitute Shen Teh struggles to survive whilst fulfilling their commandment to love both herself and others. Brought to the brink of ruin by her desire to help her neighbours, her lover and her unborn child, and confronted with the realisation that doing good to one inevitably involves doing evil to another, the gentle Shen Teh is forced to resort to drastic measures. She turns herself into a man: the cold and calculating Shui Ta, willing to exploit all around him in order to achieve his aims. But even when disguised as Shui Ta, her problems continue to pile up...

Described by Brecht as a parable, *Der gute Mensch von Sizuan*, despite its title and some nods towards realism, (for example, in the names of the characters), is not a play about China. A review of the first German production pointed out that 'its characters could just as well be peasants and workers of our own country as Chinese ancestral portraits', whilst Brecht himself later insisted that he had intended *Szechwan* to stand for 'all those places where man is exploited by man'. The action of the play takes place in the urban slums of a city on the cusp of modernity and shows us a society, any society, torn between adherence to traditional values and the demands of a capitalist economy. The play's location in time is equally hard to pin down, perhaps due to its exceptionally long genesis. Brecht began writing it in the spring of 1939, although his journals reveal that he had originally conceived the idea for the play some ten years earlier. Following its first production in 1943 he continued to work sporadically on it, making extensive revisions and changes, and it was not until 1948 that what is now taken to be the definitive version was finally completed and published. *The Good Person* is therefore truly a play for all times and places. It could be set anywhere, and modern parallels with parts of Asia, Latin America, Africa, or even Europe are not hard to discover. It is a superb ensemble piece with a host of memorable characters, and provides excellent acting opportunities for the members of Questors Student Group 58 in their first production.

The Good Person of Szechwan

by Bertolt Brecht, translation by John Willett
First performance 2 March 2005

A Student Group production

Cast

SHEN TEH - SHUI TA	Vanessa Sampson
WANG, the water-seller	Jack Marchant
SUN, an unemployed pilot / NEPHEW	Tom Futerill
MRS YANG, Sun's mother / NIECE	Debbie Bloxham
1st GOD	Celine Boulhaya
2nd GOD	Laura Furones
3rd GOD	Yvonne Ossei
MRS SHIN, a widow	Judy Claybourne
MRS MI TZU, property owner	Liz O'Keeffe
MR SHU FU, the barber / BROTHER IN LAW / PRIEST	Matthew Wade
POLICEMAN / UNEMPLOYED MAN	Richard Deacon
SISTER-IN-LAW / PROSTITUTE	Janine Evans-Pollard
MAN / OLD MAN	Allan Soper
WOMAN / OLD WOMAN	Salomé Azizi
LIN TO, the carpenter / WAITER	Adeel Ahmed
GRANDFATHER	Michael Smith**
BOY	Conner Heraghty*, Tom Punter*
LIN TO'S SON	Dominic Singh*, James Jordan*
LIN TO'S DAUGHTER	Seline Alidena*, Lotte Walters*
PROLOGUE CHARACTERS	All members of the Cast

*Members of The Questors Youth Theatre

**Former member of The Questors Student Group

Production Team

Director	Maggie Wilkinson
Set Design	Evan Rule
Lighting Design	Richard Lewis, Damien Lazell
Sound Design	Nigel Worsley
Costume	Jennie Yates, Melanie Curtis
Stage Manager	Katy Gallantry
Deputy Stage Manager	Clare Watson
Properties	Harriet Parsonage
Crew	Liz Cooper, Anis Ukaye, Ginny Hulin, Hainsley Bennett
Lighting Operator	Dave Bunn
Make Up and Hair	Mouse Christien, Almu Ustara
Construction	Danny Bailey
Photography	David Mosby, Ian Cole, Martin Sapsed
Thanks to:	Jon Webster, Julie Cruttenden, Izabella Urbanowicz, The Grapevine
STUDENT GROUP STAFF	
Director of Studies	David Emmet
Movement Tutor	Nicholas Jonne
Voice Tutor	Catherine Baxter

The Questors Student Group is run in conjunction with Kingston College

The Cast of The Good Person of Szechwan



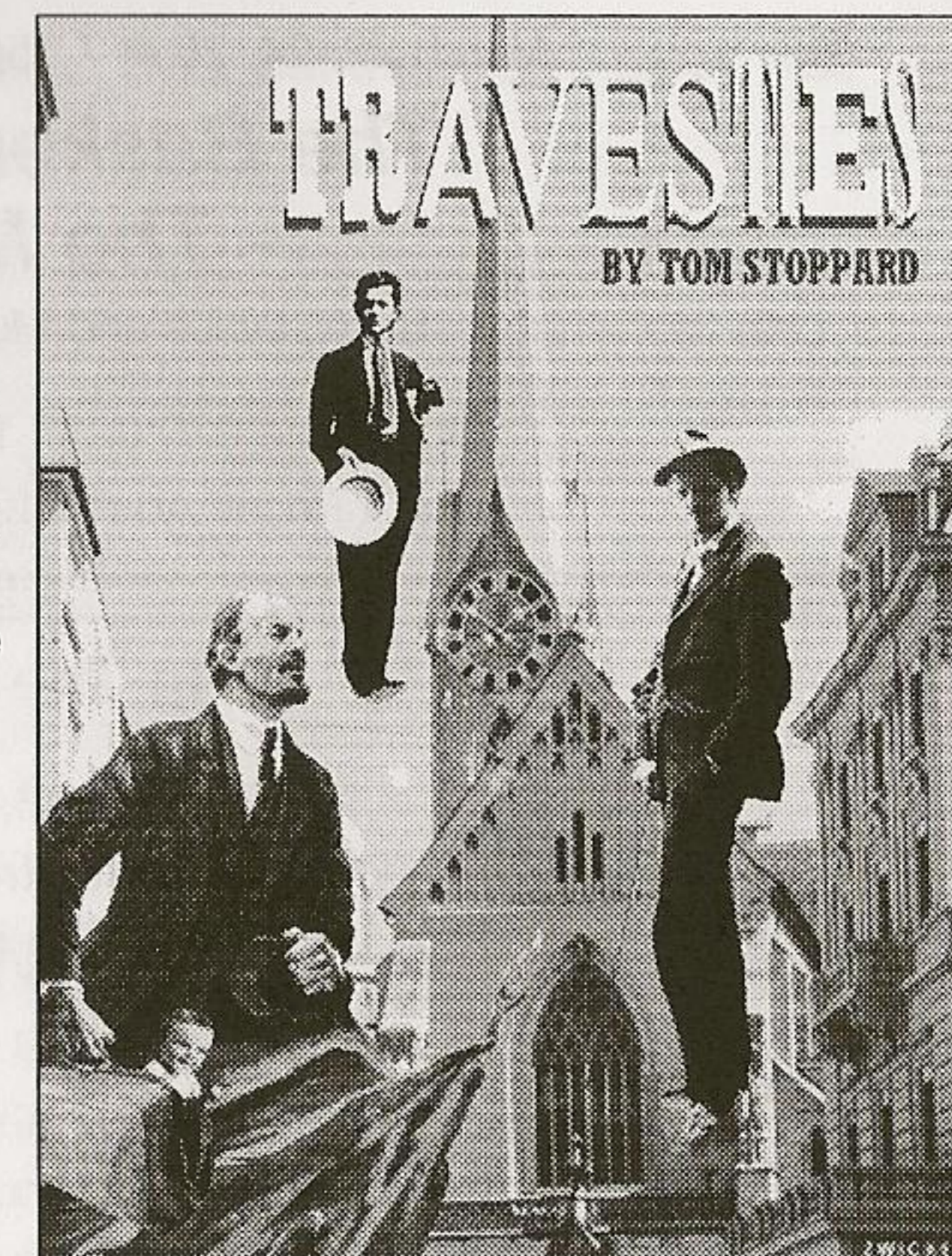
COMING SOON

TRAVESTIES

by Tom Stoppard
in the Playhouse
11-19 March

Stoppard brings together a most unlikely group of people, whose common link is with Henry Carr (a minor official of the British Consulate), in Switzerland in 1917. In the group are: Irish novelist James Joyce, artist Tristan Tzara (in the forefront of the Dada movement) and revolutionary Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov, better known as Lenin.

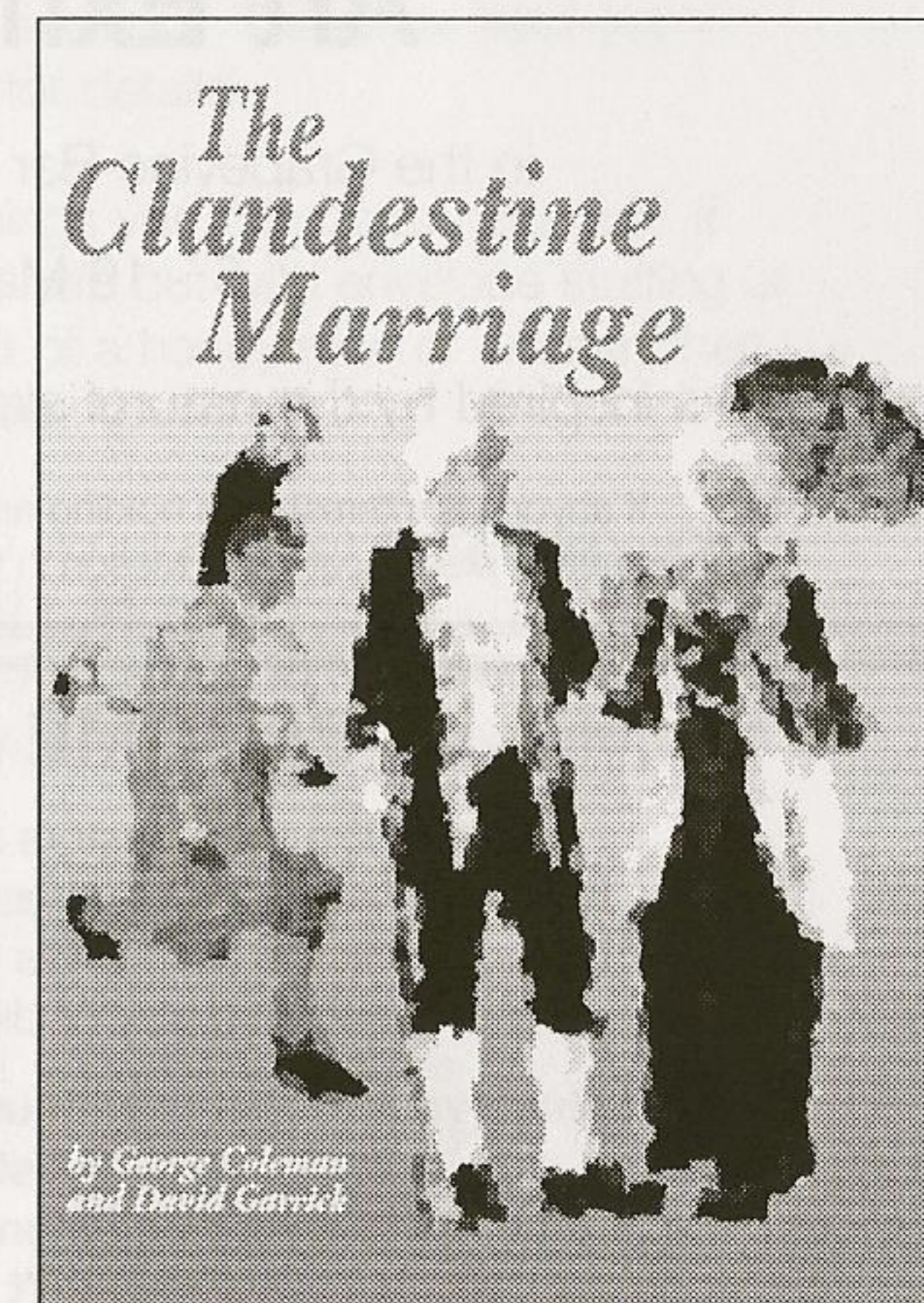
Stoppard's take is Carr's view on the relationship between art and politics. As Carr responds to one of Tzara's claims, 'It may be nonsense, but at least it's clever nonsense!'



THE CLANDESTINE MARRIAGE

by George Colman
and David Garrick
In The Playhouse
8 - 16 April

Ageing rheumatic fop Lord Ogleby is bankrupt and must therefore suffer the marriage of his louche nephew, Sir John, to the nouveau riche Elizabeth (Betsey) Sterling. There is a slight problem however: Sir John's roving eye has fallen on Betsey's beautiful sister, Fanny, who is already secretly married to her father's penurious clerk, Lovewell. Fanny becomes desperate in her own plight and begs Lord Ogleby on bended knee to intervene, but he misinterprets this as a declaration of love to himself. A comedy about true love, jealousy and greed - while the clock keeps ticking.



In The Playhouse

March 22, 24, 25 at 7.45pm, 23 and 26 at 2.00pm

The Baskerville Beast* - *The Musical

Book, Lyrics and Music by Teddy Hayes

Box Office 020 8237 1111 (12 noon till 9pm)
Ticket Prices Adult £12.00 Concession £9.00

In The Studio

March 22, 23, 24 at 7.45pm

Jet Theatre Presents

To Hell With Love

by R Craig

Box Office 020 8566 4359, Ticket Prices £5.00

In this modern reworking of *Orpheus and Eurydice*, hell turns out to be a maze of puzzles and illusions. Running time 60 min approx.

Art Exhibitions

in the Grapevine Bar - **Natural Visions**

5 - 19 March 2005

Works inspired by the natural elements by **Philomena Clarke**

If anyone is interested in holding an art exhibition or would like further information please call Jane Mason in the Questors office on 020 8567 0011

BECOME A CRITIC!

Did you like the Questors show you have just seen?
Did you hate it, or did it raise some interesting issues?
Did you think the acting was brilliant or the set surprising?
Did you enjoy the play or did you find it hard to follow?

You can share your thoughts with us, or read what others have said, at
www.questors.org.uk
Just log on - type your comments - and click the SEND button.
It couldn't be easier.

Get the most from your membership

Many members join just to see shows, but there is so much else you can do, why not get involved?

Front of house is a great place to start. For programme selling, stewarding or serving in the Café you don't need any experience, and training can be given for anyone who fancies working in Box Office. If you want to meet people and have a good time, then the best place to be is behind the Grapevine Bar - you can volunteer for just one night or many.

Backstage staff, including stage managers, prop makers painters and wardrobe staff, are always welcomed and whatever your skills we'll find a place for you. If you have some experience then The Questors is a wonderful place to be a designer, but even if you don't you can help out on shows and you're sure to get some hands-on experience. The same goes for lighting and sound - the theatre is well equipped and a good place to learn.

You can direct if you have some experience or training, but if not then you can always look out for our training opportunities. The Questors has a high standard of acting and to maintain this anyone wanting to act will need to take an audition. These are held every month - please call the main office for details.

There are numerous other things you can do to help out. If you're free in the daytimes you can help out with envelope stuffing or delivering leaflets, and if you're a bit of a handy man or woman then there are always little jobs to be done.

If you'd like more information about active membership, you can ring the office on 020 8567 0011, Mon - Fri, 9.30 - 5.30, email us on active@questors.org.uk, or come along to the lower foyer at 8.00pm on the first Thursday of every month for an active members get together.

