

# 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](http://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](http://www.questors.org.uk).

**Box Office:** 020 8567 5184  
**Admin:** 020 8567 0011  
**Fax:** 020 8567 8736  
**Email:** [enquiries@questors.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@questors.org.uk)  
**Website:** [www.questors.org.uk](http://www.questors.org.uk)

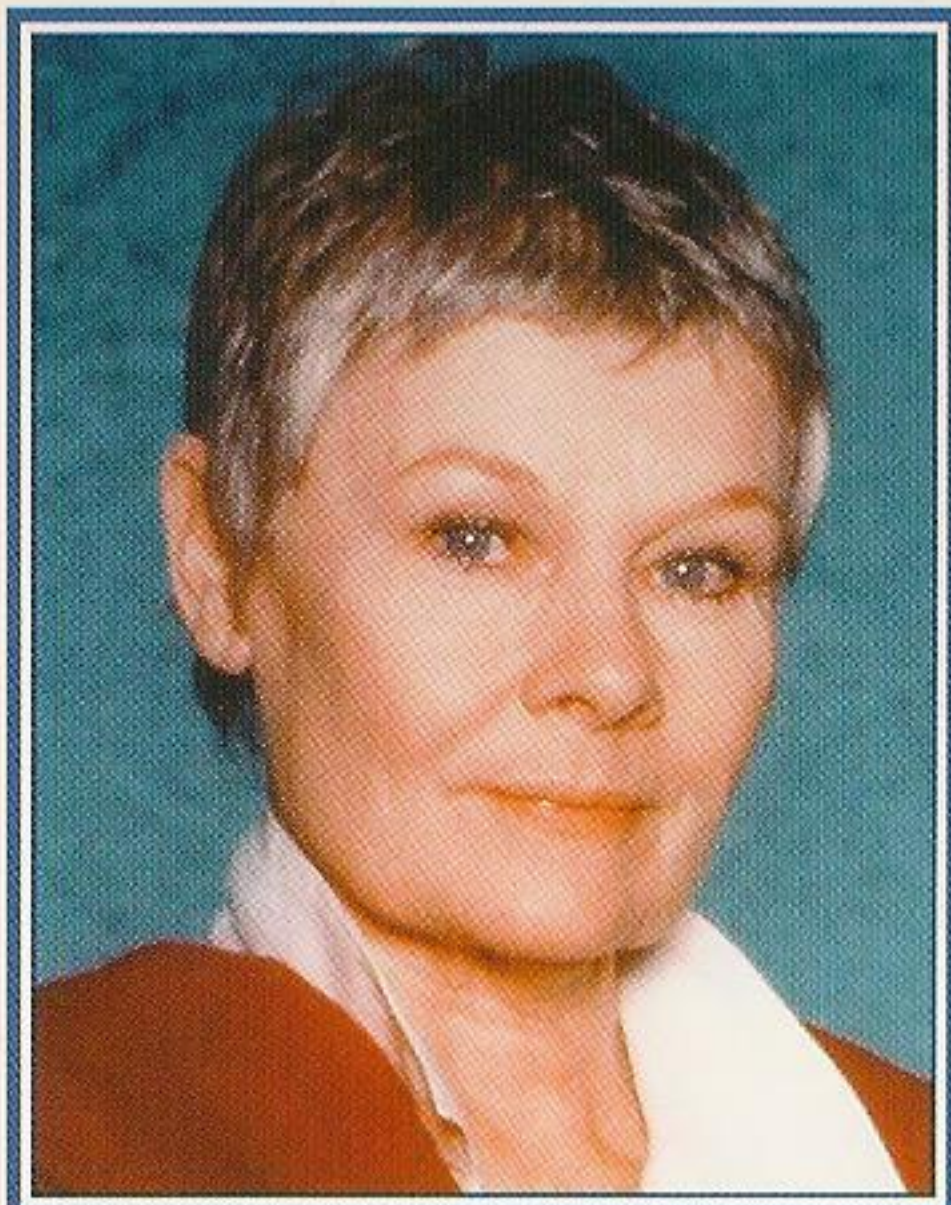
**The Questors Theatre**  
Mattock Lane  
Ealing  
W5 5BQ



## Plaza Suite







**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.

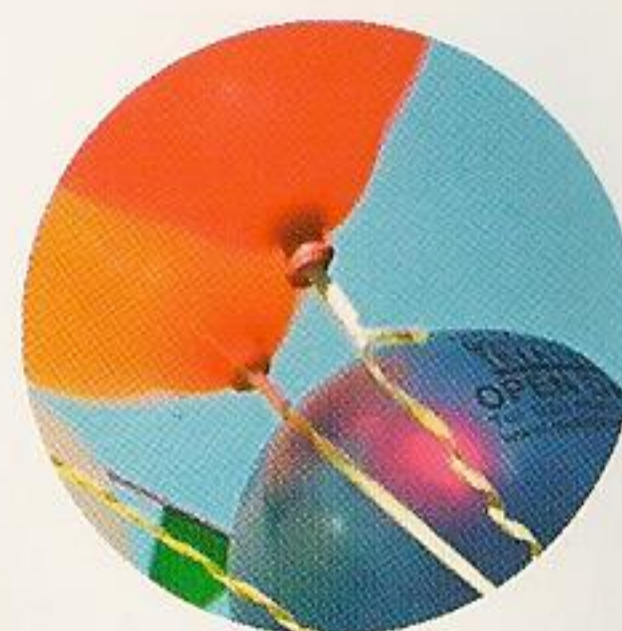
But don't just take my word for it, the next time you're in West London call into The Grapevine Bar on any Wednesday evening at 8pm for a free tour of the theatre and a drink on us!

Worth looking into?

Definitely!

*Judi Dench*

Dame Judi Dench  
President of The Questors Theatre



## Plaza Suite

by Neil Simon



## Neil Simon

Neil Simon has been hailed as the world's most successful playwright. Quite literally dozens of his plays and major films have been produced. He is the only playwright to have four Broadway productions running concurrently. His plays have been translated into many languages and have been hits across the world. During his career of four decades, Simon has drawn on his own childhood experience amidst the hothouse of New York neighbourhoods. The quality for which he is rightfully famous has been his ability to depict aspects of American society in a unique way.

### Neil Simon - A Brief Chronology

- 1927 Born in The Bronx, New York
- 1950 Joined the staff of *Your Show of Shows*
- 1953 Neil Simon married
- 1963 *Come Blow Your Horn*
- 1963 *Caccia alla Volpe*
- 1967 *Barefoot in the Park*
- 1968 *The Odd Couple*
- 1970 *The Out of Towners*
- 1971 *Plaza Suite*
- 1972 *The Last of the Red Hot Lovers*
- 1973 His wife of twenty years died. Thereafter he met and married Marsha Mason.
- 1975 *The Prisoner of Second Avenue*
- 1978 *The Good Doctor*
- 1979 *Chapter Two*. This play dramatises the grief of a widower and his adaptation to a new wife.
- 1980 *Only When I Laugh*
- 1981 *I Ought to be in Pictures*
- 1986 *Brighton Beach Memoirs*
- 1987 *Biloxi Blues*
- 1992 *Broadway Bound*
- 1993 *Lost in Yonkers* (for writing this Simon was awarded a Pulitzer prize); *Podivne' jmeno pro psa*
- 1994 *The Sunshine Boys*
- 1995 *Jake's Women*
- 1996 *London Suite*
- 2001 *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*
- 2003 *Zwei wie Katz und Hund*

## Plaza Suite

*Plaza Suite* by Neil Simon is a comedy consisting of three separate plays all occurring in the same hotel suite.

In the first play, *Visitors from Mamaroneck*, a middle-aged couple re-visit the hotel room of their honeymoon - but the arrangement does not end as romantically as might have been expected. The second play, *Visitor from Hollywood*, recounts the meeting of two old flames and what can happen under the influence of repeating magic Hollywood names. In the last play, *Visitor from Forest Hills*, a mother and father are driven frantic by their daughter who has locked herself in the bathroom and refuses to come out for her wedding, with all the guests and preparations already waiting.

In the film version, Walter Matthau appeared in all three plays but as different characters. Maureen Stapleton, who is also in the film, played all three female roles on Broadway. This is a highly theatrical entertainment which was bound to seem flattened on the screen, but it emerged with at least some of its laughs intact.

Neil Simon (born in 1927 in New York) is, after William Shakespeare, the most performed playwright of all time, but this is the first time The Questors has presented one of his plays.

He began his career as a TV comedy writer, most notably for Sid Caesar's *Your Show of Shows*. He is the author of over forty Broadway plays since 1961, ranging from humorous, light-hearted plays of the 1960's (*Barefoot in the Park*, *The Odd Couple*) to darker, more autobiographical works in the 1970's and 1980's (*Chapter Two*, the *Eugene Trilogy* featuring *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Biloxi Blues*, and *Broadway Bound*). His Broadway hits began with *Come Blow Your Horn*, in 1966. *Barefoot in the Park*, *Sweet Charity* and *The Odd Couple* were all running simultaneously in 1970-71. *The Odd Couple* was also filmed and again starred Matthau in fine form with a great performance too from Jack Lemmon. It was also a very popular TV series, with Tony Randell and Jack Klug.

Simon also contributed librettos to such hit musical comedies as *Sweet Charity*, *Promises, Promises*, and *They're Playing Our Song*. His plays are known for their family-based New York settings, where world-weary characters use one-liners to hide often-fractured psyches. Simon has been writing non-stop since the sixties for theatre, film and TV - to list all of these would take up too much space here.

He has been nominated for more Academy Awards and Tony's than any other writer. His plays have been produced in many languages and have been successes in Beijing and Moscow.

I have chosen to have the main characters played by the same actors, as it was in some of the original productions, as this is more of a challenge for myself, Stephen and Joumana and adds another dimension for the audience.

Michael Dineen



# Plaza Suite

by Neil Simon

First performance 4 February 2005

## Cast

### *Visitors from Mamaroneck*

Karen Nash  
Sam Nash  
Bellhop  
Waiter  
Jean McCormack

Joumana Jeffers  
Stephen Brown  
Joe Ellison  
Joe Ellison  
Ann-Marie Walsh

### *Visitor from Hollywood*

Waiter  
Jesse Kiplinger  
Muriel Tate

Joe Ellison  
Stephen Brown  
Joumana Jeffers

### *Visitor from Forest Hills*

Norma Hubley  
Roy Hubley  
Borden Eisler  
Mimsey Hubley

Joumana Jeffers  
Stephen Brown  
Joe Ellison  
Hayley Bath

The plays are set in 1968, in a suite on the 7th floor of the Plaza Hotel in New York. There is a living room and a bedroom which leads to a bathroom.

Act 1: *Visitors from Mamaroneck*. About four in the afternoon, mid-December.

Act 2: *Visitor from Hollywood*. About three in the afternoon on a warm sunny, spring day.

Act 3: *Visitor from Forest Hills*. Three o'clock on a warm Saturday afternoon in Spring.

Act 1 & 2: 1hr 20 mins

Act 3: 40 mins

There will be a 15-minute interval at the end of Act 2.

There will also be a short break at the end of Act 1.

**To the memory of Brin Parsonage**

## Production Team

Director	Michael Dineen
Assistant Director	Bernice Wolfenden
Stage Manager	Bernard Brady
DSM	Kathryn Ruthven
DSM Adviser	Brin Parsonage
Set Designer	Michael Dineen
Construction	Mike Hagan
Lighting Designer	Frank Wood
Lighting Operator	Louis Tonna
Sound Designer	Paul Wilson
Sound Operators	Alun Jones, Nick Jeffery
Costume Designer	Nichola Thomas
Prompter	Pam Smith
Props Adviser	Harriet Parsonage
Music Adviser	Paul Clark
Make-up & Hair	Samantha Minter, Charlotte Neumann
ASMs	Deborah Carey, Ann-Marie Walsh, Joe Ellison, Hayley Bath, Kate Herring
With thanks to	Chris Ifould, Paul Devlin, Liz Prior, Sylvia Wall, Sarah Galton, Julia Cruttenden



## The Cast of Plaza Suite



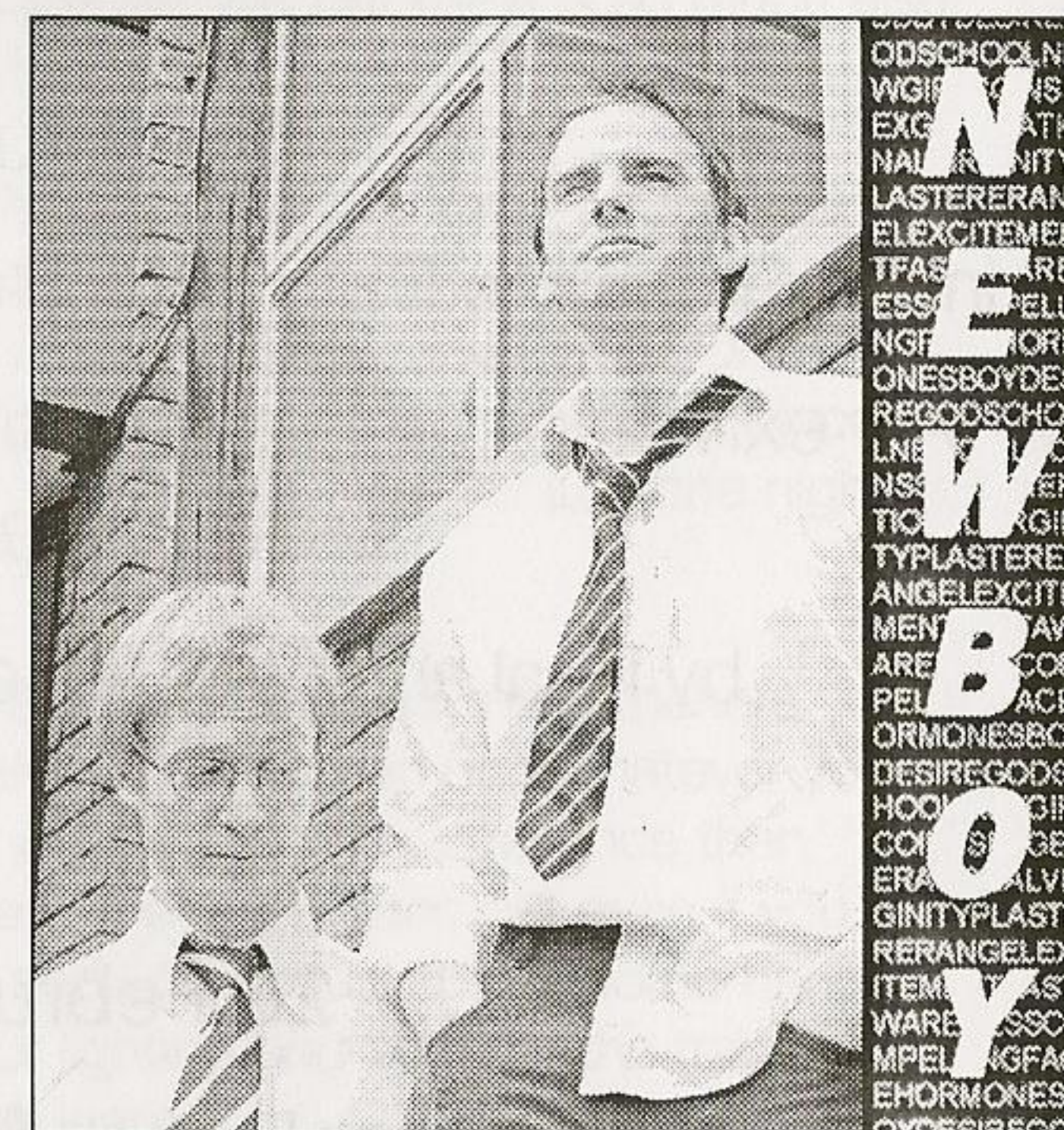
Stephen Brown, Joumana Jeffers

## COMING SOON

### NEW BOY

In the Studio  
by William Sutcliffe  
adapted by Russell Labey  
12 - 19 February

'The face of an Angel, the body of a God and the name of a Plasterer': that's Barry. He's the New Boy in school: enigmatic, unassuming, simply drop dead gorgeous. Girls, boys, even teachers fancy Barry. The thing is that Barry seems totally unaware. Looks like all that's about to change.



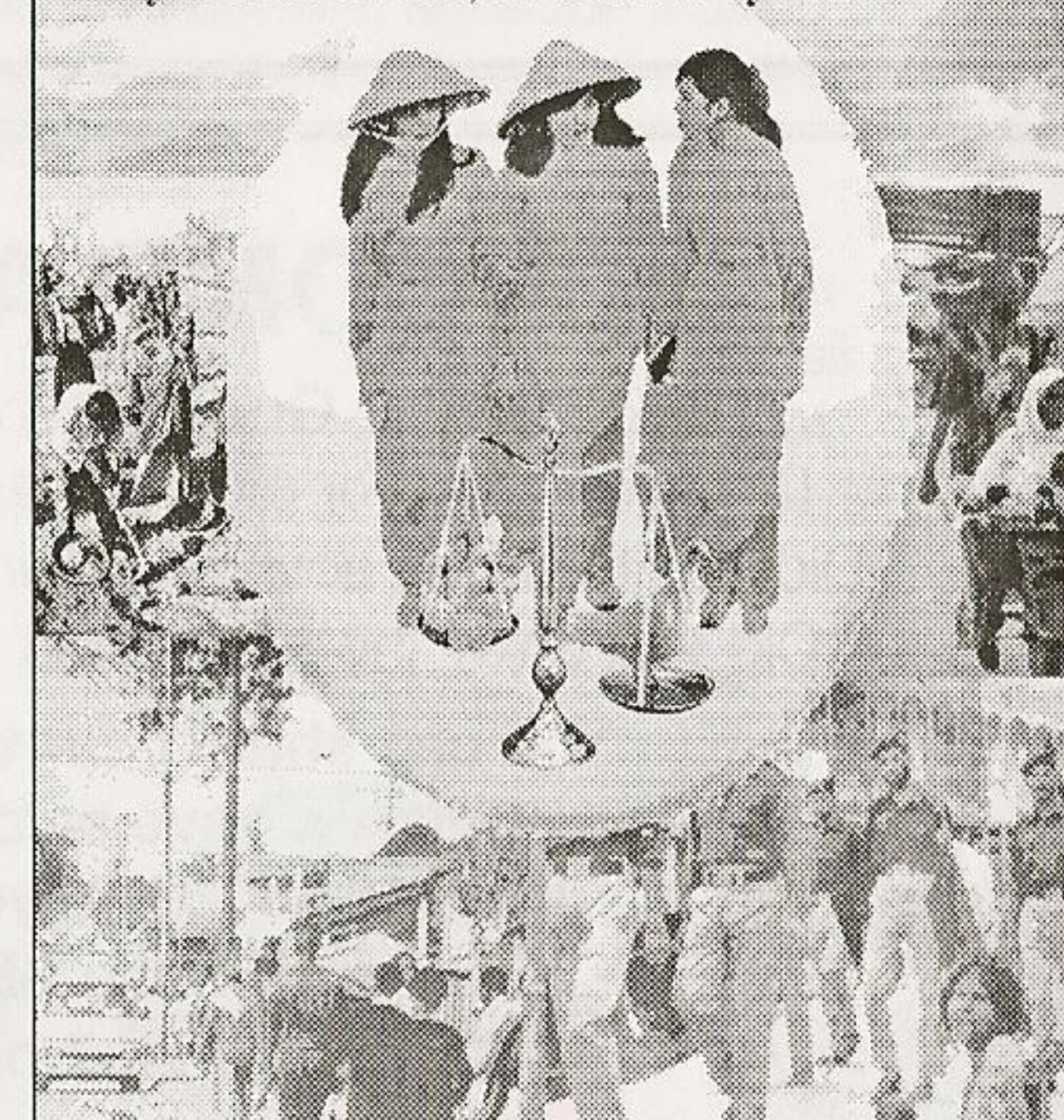
### A Student Group Production THE GOOD PERSON OF SZECHWAN

by Bertolt Brecht,  
translated by John Willett  
in the Studio  
2 - 12 March

A witty yet poignant parable, in which Brecht asks us to consider the problems involved in trying to do good in a world where poverty and greed make it only too easy to do evil. Three gods appear on a mission - to find one really 'good' person. A kindly prostitute, Shen Te, offers them lodging and is rewarded. To protect herself from spongers she masquerades as her male cousin, Shui Ta. Later she falls in love with an unemployed airman, finds he is also a sponger, reverts to the cousin impersonation, and is accused of murdering the missing Shen Te. The gods appear as her judges and accept her plea that everything she did was with good intentions.

### The Good Person of Szechwan

by Bertolt Brecht, Translated by John Willett





# Art Exhibitions

5 - 19 February 2005

In the Grapevine Bar - **The Deep Darkness of Love**

An exhibition of poems and pictures concerned  
with love and loss

by local artist and writer **Angela Rigby.**

7 - 20 February 2005

In the Upper Foyer - **Abstract Poems**

A combination of abstract art and poetry

by digital artist and poet **Helen C Fowler**

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](http://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](mailto: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.

