



Questors Ealing's Theatre

THE COUNTRY

by Martin Crimp

The Studio

9 – 22 February 2008

www.questors.org.uk



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The Country

My search for a three-hander that would complement *Knives in Hens* in themes and setting ended abruptly when some friends suggested *The Country* by Martin Crimp. Not only did it fit the brief perfectly, but its subject matter, language and form were fascinating, and immediately captivated my imagination. It is an intense psychodrama, and every utterance and every action matters both in itself and in its subtext. The cast have spent many rehearsal hours improvising around the script in order to discover character intentions behind and between every line. Martin Crimp's dialogue with its realistic speech patterns and constant interruptions is a challenge for actors and the cast have shown great dedication and skill in producing it so that the rhythms, images and atmosphere created by this dialogue can emerge. Pam, our prompt, has also been invaluable in this process.

The idea behind the production is minimal. Its staging in the round was to keep the focus on character – as well as to enable both *The Country* and *Knives in Hens* to share the same set on alternate nights.

Another happy connection arose when I was thinking about music: Debussy's *Preludes* instantly came to mind for evoking the uneasy mood and the

ambiguity of the characters and their situations. I then discovered that Martin Crimp's idea for 'naming' each act of the play retrospectively was inspired by the way Debussy had named each of his *Preludes*.

I'd like to praise the cast for their commitment to their roles and the crew for their expertise in making the rehearsals and the run as smooth as possible. I'd also like to thank you for coming to see the show!

Lorraine Hill



THE COUNTRY

by Martin Crimp

First performance of this production: 9 February 2008

THE CAST

Rebecca

Corine

Richard

Stephanie Boyle

Jude Claybourne

Mike Hadjipateras

Knives in Hens

8 – 23 February 2008

In the Studio

An outstanding modern play presented in repertoire over two weeks.

Arabian Nights

19 – 23 February 2008

In the Playhouse

The Questors Youth Theatre presents a fantastically theatrical production full of tall tales and adventure.

THE CREW

Director

Set Designer

Lighting Director

Sound Designer

Stage Manager

Deputy Stage Manager

Assistant Stage Managers

Properties

Prompt

Wardrobe

Set Construction

Sound Operator

Photography

Hair & Make-up

Front of House

Programme Editor

Programme Design and Print

Thanks to:

Sarah Gulton, Christopher Hodgson, Alice Pennicott, Jane Mason, Ian Briggs, Zyg Staniaszek, Roger Beaumont and Gary Reid, Mike Hagen and Alex Marker and their students, Anne Neville, Mike Cuming, Ruth Parry, Chris Edwards, Chris Tomlins and the Studio House Services

Lorraine Hill

Alex Agg

Francois Langton

Paul Wilson

Michelle Weaver

Chris Bath

Wesley Lloyd

Efo Abboh

Harriet Parsonage

Pam Smith

Jenny Yates

Richard Williams

Geoffrey Morgan

Ian Cole

Natalie Wickens

Kate Taylor

Greasepaint

Sylvia Wall

Jane Arnold-Forster

Penelope MacLachlan

Considerthisuk.com

Biographies

Stephanie Boyle – Rebecca

This is Stephanie's third show at The Questors. She played Andromache in *Trojan Women* last summer and the Sexton in *Much Ado about Nothing* last March. Before joining The Questors, she lived in New York, where she acted with several theatre groups and in independent short films. Stephanie holds a BFA in acting from Florida State University.

Jude Claybourne – Corrine

Since completing *The Questors Student Group* in 2005, Jude has appeared in *The Shape of Things*, *The Weir*, *Separate Tables* and *Richard III*. She has written and performed comedy and has made a number of short films, but her proudest achievement is being the voice of Staubli, a talking brush attachment on a German Hoover toy.

Mike Hadjipateras – Richard

Mike joined The Questors in 2003. To date his credits with us include *Bouncers* (Les), *The Legacy* (the Chevalier), *'Tis Pity She's a Whore* (Soranzo), *Conversations after a Burial* (Nathan), *The Dog in The Manger* (Teodoro) and *Richard III* (Lord Hastings).

Lorraine Hill – Director

Lorraine has been a drama teacher for the last five years and joined The Questors to do more directing. Most recent school productions were *The Ash Girl* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. At The Questors she was recently Assistant Director for *Mercury Fur* and was also an ASM on *Waiting for Godot*.

Alex Agg – Set Designer

Alex is happy to return to The Questors after designing *Bouncers* (Studio, 2003), *Road* (Playhouse, 2004), and *Ringback* (Studio, 2004). Alex has enjoyed working on the odd theatre production whilst spending the past four years working in event production design throughout London. Recent work includes *The Merchant of Venice*, (KDC at Barons Court Theatre) and *Take Two* (Gatehouse, Highgate).

A Servant to Two Masters

1 – 8 March 2008

In the Playhouse

Like the best of farces, the plot is pure whipped cream.

The Caucasian Chalk Circle

8 – 15 March 2008

In the Studio

Brecht uses storytelling to explore deep themes.

The Railway Children

21 – 29 March 2008

In the Playhouse

A well loved family classic with serious messages at its core.



THE QUESTORS THEATRE

Art Exhibitions

Our regular art exhibitions offer a wonderful opportunity for local artists to display their work. Please take time to have a look when visiting the theatre.

For details on upcoming exhibitions or on exhibiting your work, please contact Jane Mason in the Questors Office on 020 8567 0011.

Dinner

25 – 29 March 2008

In the Studio

Invitations are going out for the dinner party from hell.