

The Questors Theatre Archives
Questories
11th New Plays Festival 1970

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QUESTORS THEATRE

THE FIRST TWO plays of the Questors annual new play festival, on June 13 and 14, offer nothing new in thought or style although both authors show talent for observed, if not of original characterisation.

"The Others," by David Mowat, is the more interesting work, with exciting, if not always fulfilled, dramatic climaxes. The theme is of the disasters which can overtake ordinary people when the normal reticences, which make family life endurable, are suddenly and deliberately broken down.

The boring father, in a sudden and unexplained excess of morality, inflicts a horrible form of the Truth Game on his dying wife—who would obviously be just as dreary even if healthy—his mentally retarded teenage daughter, his drop-out son, the most normal and the only likeable member of his household, and even on himself. At last he brings in four white-clad beings to help him in his work of destruction; and it would have been nice to discover just who or what the author intended these "Others" to represent.

David Pearson's "All The Lonely People" might have been an entertaining one-acter, but stretched to a full-length play, it contains much padded dullness which outlasts the interest of the theme.

Albert, a conventionally "camp" character who might be amusing if expertly played, buys a derelict house in which to give parties for his as yet non-existent friends, only to have his ownership challenged by a mildly tough character who wishes to turn it into a dormitory-filled institution, while a nymphomaniac Jehovah's Witness endeavours to seduce both men in turn and precipitates the various rivalries between them. His inept male companion, though the least important character, is by far the most amusing.

L.G.S.