

The Questors Theatre Archives
Questories
New Plays Festivals
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EALING GAZETTE
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FESTIVAL'S NEW PLAYS GIVE DIRECTORS WIDEST SCOPE

THE New Plays Festival at The Questors, Ealing, has become an ideal pad for directors or playwrights to launch new treatments of the drama.

"Time, Sex and You Know What," by James Hepburn, and **"The Time Keeper"**, by Tony Gariff, 25-year-old Ealing schoolteacher, are two plays that give the director a completely freehand.

Both plays had their first performance at the Questors on Friday. James Hepburn wrote his for director Cecil Hayter. Tony Gariff, a member of the Questors for two years, gave Mr. Hayter a play that needed visual effect to add life to its two characters.

ABANDONED

"The Time Keeper" is a compact one-acter in which a mother and son relationship is developed between an interviewer and a young man fascinated by clocks and watches, who has applied for a job with a clockmaking firm.

The play suggests the interviewer is the mother of the young man, who was abandoned in Korea as a child.

He treats his mother's watch as a fetish and finds pleasure in its minute mechanism.

The relationship breaks as the mother watches him smooth the watch over his face.

The play kept the audience alert and eager for the next twist.

SENSUOUS

"Time, Life, Sex and You Know What," was a play of ideas, a visual victory for the director. The three main sections of the play centre on the "You Know What", which is Death.

Time show the fear of passing time that must end in death. Life shows the disregard for the centre of life the heart and—how we do not realise its importance until too late.

The dialogue, which could have been heavy going, is relieved by the articulate movement of near nude bodies on frames at the back of the stage. The imaginative lighting induced a sensuous atmosphere.

Visually, the play was a success. The dancing, the graceful movement of the company, music and lighting says as much as the often obscure dialogue.

The play is by turn exhausting and exciting. It is something of an intrusion upon personal ideas and thoughts.

The actors personified ideas rather than characters

Taking part were Anthony Barber, Glynn Caren, Val Caren, David Gower, Pat Harris, Peter McNamara, Michael Moriarty, Peter Wilfrids and Ted Scrivener.

P.B.