

The Questors Theatre Archives
Questories
New Plays Festivals
14th Festival 1973

THE MIDDLESEX CHRONICLE
3 July 1973

SORRY, BUT IT WAS A HOTCH-POTCH

THE third and last of the plays in the Questor's New Plays Festival was John Norman's **Crincum Crancum**. It sets out to be a study of England's reactions to the French Revolution and following years up to 1815.

Frankly, I have never seen such a hotch-potch of incomplete and uncoordinated scenes. A huge cast revolves round one central figure who goes to the gallows for his pains. The characters range from George III, being dressed, to a three-minute glimpse of the world's oldest profession.

Apart from the latter far from edifying spectacle the feminine reactions to those momentous events are entirely absent.

Another "amusing" little scene is of bodies being tipped out of their coffins and a ring taken off a woman's finger. Probably these things happen, but not as a result of the French Revolution but as part of the life of those times. Hogarth drew it all some few years before.

The play would seem an impossibility on an ordinary proscenium stage, but achieved its maximum effect on the Questor's vast acres! It was directed by Robin Duval assisted by Eileen Norris.

Duncan Livingstone, the young man who gets caught up in a conspiracy to assassinate the King, but, in spite offunking it at the last minute, suffers with all the others, played with sang-froid and calm assurance.

MAURICE REEVE.