

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

SUNDAY TELEGRAPH
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The only serious theatrical event of the week was a new David Mowat play, **My Relationship with Jayne**, which opened the annual New Plays Festival at the Questors Theatre, Ealing.

Mr. Mowat concerned himself with a subject close to me: the development of a writer, his inevitable habit of transmuting life into art, his subsequent self-disgust, and, following a broken union with his agent, his abjuration of his career and his return to life with a new wife and children.

"Don't put your faith into writing," are the opening words, spoken by his dying father. The end, which shows the ex-writer taking photographs of his family, leaves one uneasy: a camera, after all, is also a distancing device.

As usual in this intriguing writer's work, there are areas of mystery and sudden eruptions of violence, such as the spontaneous coupling of the agent-wife with her former colleague in the middle of a dinner party also attended by the husband. It gives the play a surreal atmosphere, perfectly in keeping with the subject. Once again David Mowat left me convinced that he is destined to be a leading light among the playwrights of his generation. He has not quite got there yet, but there can be no doubt that he is on his way.