

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

THE STAGE AND TELEVISION TODAY

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QUESTORS FESTIVAL

THE first two plays of the 1973 Questors New Plays Festival, on June 9 and 10, though far from negligible, were not calculated to produce any furore of excitement. The first, David Mowat's **"My Relationship with Jayne,"** is one of those unfortunate plays which is not quite good enough to attract the type of cast needed for its successful performance. The theme—for it cannot be called a plot—concerns a dedicated young writer who calmly carries on with his latest epic while his father is dying and ultimately finds his way out to an ordinary, unliterary marriage through a sparring affair with Jayne, who works for his literary agent.

Caroline O'Reilly missed most of the opportunities of making a really good comedy part of the character of Jayne, and seemed more at home as Deborah, the girl Timon ultimately marries. John Turner played Timon with a humourless heaviness which obscured all that was best in the play—namely, its subtle wit.

Pierre Roudy's **"Watch on the Works,"** adapted into English by the author and Cyril Buhler and presented in the Stanislavsky Room, concerns a lonely old man, deserted by his wife, who personalises and falls in love with the gasometer he is hired to watch, investing it with feelings of revenge which lead to somewhat surrealistic happenings when a workman insults the object he has come to paint.

Although Philip Remington as the old man and Donald Starkey as the workman do their best to throw light on the play, we are left in some doubt as to what point the author is trying to make, plus a strong feeling that any subtlety and meaning has been translated out of the work.

The first play was directed by Brian Watson and the second by Carol Wiseman, who showed a good feeling for production in the round.

L.G.S.