

The Questors Theatre Archives
Questories
New Plays Festivals
15th Festival 1974

THE MIDDLESEX CHRONICLE
5 July 1974

NEW PLAYS AT THE QUESTORS
REVOLUTION AT THE UNIVERSITY

THE first of the Questors' annual New Plays Festival, John Norman's **The Owl-Winged Faculty**, proved interesting and diverting. Set in the senior common room of a new university, it tells of student unrest in amusing terms.

Students have painted on its walls revolutionary slogans which are not noticed until guests are being entertained in after-dinner talk across the walnuts and the wine.

Masked students break in, and even the lecturer in philosophy, Catherine Worth, plays her full part.

Well directed by Robin Duval, there is much good acting by a very large cast of 14 players plus eight students, with Peter Cariss as the English lecturer, Peter Sainty as the history man and Ted Scrivener as a guest getting much laughter with most of the best lines.

The second of the three new plays in the Questors Festival, Roland Bowden's "The Last Analysis", made hard going.

Taking place within analyses sessions in Louisburg Penitentiary in 1957, it tells of the life of Wilhelm Reich between the ages of 13 and 60 in Austria, Germany and U.S.A.

He was the first apostle of the sexual revolution, that man was subject to repression from birth, and the only solution was complete freedom of sexual activity.

His three marriages, relations with Freud and Einstein and his involvement with the Communist Party during Hitler's rise all pass before us.

The trouble with the play seems to be lack of variety: there is a terrible lot of shouting, and entertainment value is completely at a discount. Although his three wives appear, one at a time, it is only for three brief moments. Femininity is wholly absent.

I cannot imagine the play breaking "The Mousetrap's" West End record.

There are many excellent performances among the huge cast of 26 characters. There was some virtuoso lighting by Roger Kelly and David Emmet, and the director was David Gower.

MAURICE REEVE