

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

Middlesex County Times
28 June 1974

'ANALYSIS' FAILS TO MEET THE MARK

A GROUP of players can only be as strong as their weakest point and, sad to say, for the Questor's production of **"The Last Analysis"** it was their most important—the play itself.

Let it be clearly stated that the Questors company includes talent of extreme high quality in the amateur field, but no amount of acting prowess will disguise what, to me, was an inordinately bad play.

Judge for yourself—the plot as written below is fairly indicative of what I mean.

Wilhelm Reich (John Wilbourn) is a self-confessed apostle of the sexual revolution—its first acolyte and like all converts, zealous. He believed man was repressed from birth. His real desires were curbed, leading to neuroses and eventual self-destruction.

He advocated complete freedom of sexual activity which led to the release of pure, blue energy known as Orgone. This led him to the conclusion that Orgone was the driving force of the Universe and that love, literally, makes the world go round. (I seem to have heard that somewhere before.)

For someone who knew all the answers Reich ends up with more than his share of the dreaded neuroses himself, which leads us conveniently to the main scene of the play—Reich on an analyst's couch.

Through his vivid imagination, fertilised by senses of guilt, flashbacks to his earlier life come alive on stage.

Sexual uncertainty towards his mother and her eventual death by the rope, his relationships with Freud, Einstein, the Communist Party in pre-Nazi Germany and the rest of humanity are delved into and become interesting in parts—almost too interesting sometimes, but sadly glossed over quickly in time to get a few more neuroses in before the second act.

Roland Bowden's play is not good. Inadequately written and barely interesting, it was left to the Questors' actors and stage management to make the best of a bad job.

Full credit to the special effects men of Mattock Lane who excelled themselves in this production and helped lift it to the usual standard of this company.

The cast gave good performances on the whole, with Wilhelm Reich as a young man being well portrayed by **John Wilson**.

What a pity the Questors had to choose this for their new plays festival—usually a really great date in their calendar. Sorry Questors, but not this time with this play.

As a footnote to the management of the theatre—how about freshening up the air inside the theatre itself? It seems to get staler as time goes by.

E.C.