

The Questors Theatre Archives
Questories
New Plays Festivals
17th Festival 1976

SHEPHERDS BUSH GAZETTE

18 March 1976

POLITICAL AGITATOR PROVES TO BE FUN

YOU'VE got tomorrow night and Saturday night to see *Agitator*, the second play at the Questors Theatre in their series of three world premieres for the 17th New Plays Festival.

The play is written by John Norman and involves two actors, both of whom are George Jacob Holyoake (1817-1906). He was a man who started work in an iron foundry at the age of 10 and afterwards involved himself in most of the radical movements of the 19th century.

One actor plays Holyoake from birth to death and the other from death to birth. This separation allows the changing character of Holyoake's nature to be explored.

In addition to this separation, the actors clash between themselves, one being an extremist and the other a moderate. As well as playing Holyoake and themselves the actors take it in turns to act various people whom Holyoake met during his life.

The play is about politics, intended to move, entertain and bring laughter to its audience. In fact it does more, it stimulates some very violent political discussion and is both daring and successful.