

FOUR IRISH PLAYS
The Questors Student Group
February 1962
Press cuttings

Middlesex County Times
17 February 1962

FOURTH PLAY WAS WORTH THE OTHER THREE TOGETHER!

Once upon a time, there were four little one-act plays. All written by Irishmen, which the Questors Theatre student group presented at Mattock-lane, Ealing. The first play was called "Looking Glass, Looking Glass," by Ned Gethings. It took place in a home for the aged, and the characters included a demented old lady; her faithful companion Ellen; a calm, wise, nun; and a somewhat less calm and wise young nurse. It was very simple, and serious and sad. But it was also very dull.

The second play was called "The Only Jealousy of Emer," by W B Yeats. It took place in a small Irish kingdom during the tenth century, and the characters included a king, his queen, his mistress, and his ghost.

It was nicely directed by Bashir Badruddin, with lots of fierce masks and dancing and music; and Mr Badruddin gave a nice performance as well; stripped to the waist, spitting real saliva, and hissing and snickering splendidly.

But despite the saliva, I'm afraid that the play itself was once more very dull; even duller than Mr Gethings.

Fishers' wives in black

The third play was called "Riders to the Sea," by J M Synge. It took place in a remote fisher's hut on the West Coast of Ireland; and the characters included a great many remote fishers' wives in black clothes, not forgetting the odd corpse.

...mentary area. C.T.G. ... some and a changing room for the X-ray Department.

FOURTH PLAY WAS WORTH THE OTHER THREE TOGETHER!

ONCE upon a time, there were four little one-act plays, all written by Irishmen, which the Questors Theatre student group presented at Mattock-lane, Ealing. The first play was called "Looking Glass, Looking Glass," by Ned Gethings. It took place in a home for the aged, and the characters included a demented old lady; her faithful companion Ellen; a calm, wise, nun; and a somewhat less calm and wise young nurse. It was very simple, and serious and sad. But it was also very dull.

The second play was called "The Only Jealousy of Emer," by W. B. Yeats. It took place in a small Irish kingdom during the tenth century, and the characters included a king, his queen, his mistress, and his ghost.

It was nicely directed by Bashir Badruddin, with lots of fierce masks and dancing and music; and Mr. Badruddin gave a nice performance as well; stripped to the waist, spitting real saliva, and hissing and snickering splendidly.

But despite the saliva, I'm afraid that the play itself was once more very dull; even duller than Mr. Gethings'.

Fishers' wives in black

The third play was called "Riders to the Sea," by J. M. Synge. It took place in a remote fisher's hut on the West Coast of Ireland; and the characters included a great many remote fishers' wives in black clothes, not forgetting the odd corpse.

The wives made a great many speeches like "Faith and begob, but I can still hear the wind whistling up the creek as it did on the night I buried my eighth husband, Patrick the Daft."

In between these, they kept up a continuous wordless moaning, the sort of sound the Luton Girls' Choir might produce when tuning up at a rehearsal.

But alas, this play too was very dull — perhaps the duller of the three.

"Bedtime story"

Now, however, we come to the fourth play, which was called "Bedtime Story," by Sean O'Casey. It took place in a bachelor flat in Dublin, and the characters included John Jo Mulligan (a clerk), Angela Nightingale ("a gay lass"), Daniel Halibut (another clerk), and Miss Mossie ("a very respectable lodging - house keeper").

This play, unlike Miss Mossie and the other plays, wasn't very respectable at all. But again unlike the others, neither was it very dull.

Instead, it was loose and light-hearted and laughable, with Max Lawrie extremely funny in plus-fours and trilby as John Jo the conscience-stricken Catholic sinner, and Maria Ritchie extremely sly and sexy in shirt and sweater as the mercenary Nightingale bird he sins with. It was, in fact, worth the other three plays put together.

DOUGLAS McVAY

JANUARY

MR. J. W. SMALL
The death occurred suddenly of Mr. W. J. Small, of 33, Brunner-road, Ealing, while returning from a visit to his married daughter at Maidenhead on Sunday.

By his association with the Brentham Bowling Club, Brentham Ex-Servicemen's Association, and St. Barnabas' Church, Mr. Small was well-known to many local people.

He was extremely well-

Ch...
we...
you...
Mr...
Ru...
Mr...
eld...
P...
lan...
(...
the...
dre...
car...
ma...
I...
ma...
I...
Jo...
dre...
mi...
I...
cep...
Ha...
7...
Mi...
wo...
Wa...
Ma...
on...
h...
ter...
Sell...
cen...
Mr...
E...
rou...
Mr...
T...
by...
C...
the...
dres...
whi...
N...
mar...
B...
Sus...
Mik...
fou...
trin...
carr...
T...
thei...
trav...
gro...

PEOPLE

The wives made a great many speeches like “Faith and begob, but I can still hear the wind whistling up the creek as it did on the night I buried my eight husband, Patrick the Daft”.

In between these, they kept up a continuous wordless moaning, the sort of sound the Luton Girls’ Choir might produce when tuning up at a rehearsal.

But alas, this play too was very dull — perhaps the dullest of the three.

“Bedtime story”

Now, however, we come to the fourth play, which was called “Bedtime Story,” by Sean O’Casey. It took place in a bachelor flat in Dublin, and the characters included John Jo Milligan (a clerk), Angela Nightingale (“a gay lass”), Daniel Halibut (another clerk), and Miss Mossie (“a very respectable lodging-house keeper”).

This play, unlike Miss Mossie and the other plays, wasn’t very respectable at all. But again unlike the others, neither was it very dull.

Instead it was loose and light-hearted and laughable, with Max Lawrie extremely funny in plus-fours and trilby as John Jo the conscience-stricken Catholic sinner, and Maria Ritchie extremely sly and sexy in shirt and sweater as the mercenary Nightingale bird he sins with. It was, in fact, worth the other three plays put together.

DOUGLAS McVAY