

Sept 1957 01
QUESTORS THEATRE, MATTOCK LANE, EALING, W.5.

Telephone: EALing 5184

BOX OFFICE OPENS MONDAY, 9th SEPTEMBER FOR:

Charles Morgan's

" THE RIVER LINE "

A play based on an incident in enemy occupied France.

Saturday 14th September to Wednesday 25th September

at 7.30 p.m.

(No performance on Sunday, 15th September and Thursday, 19th September.

Matinee 3 p.m. on Sunday, 22nd September).

PRODUCER: JOHN CLEMON

Box Office open 7-9 p.m. except on days of performance 6.30 - 8.30 p.m.

(Box Office closed 15th and 19th September).

*SPECIAL PRODUCTION - "TITUS ANDRONICUS"!!

Friday, 27th; Saturday, 28th; Sunday, 29th September at 7.30 p.m.

Usual prices - in aid of the New Theatre Fund. (No free members seats for this show).

Those who remember "Fratricide Punished" will know how uproariously funny the "unofficial" versions of Shakespeare's plays can be. This "Titus Andronicus" is just such another version. Producer Barbara Hutchins is going to see if she can out-do the recent West-End production in bloodshed. A good many of the cast of "Fratricide Punished" will be there to aid an abet her!

Dear Member,

The publication of our club magazine Forestage has been suspended. The rising cost of production is one reason, but the need for more frequent contact with our members is another. This will reach you just before the Box Office opens for "The River Line" and in future you will get a similar letter before each production. We hope that with these more timely reminders more of you will come to each show and bring more of your friends.

"THE RIVER LINE"

This is a play of exciting contrasts in atmosphere. From the tranquility of a Gloucestershire garden, we are suddenly transported into war-time France to a dark, silent granary where four escaped allied servicemen await their next move along "The River Line". These men and the French people who harbour them are under sentence of death ... if they are caught. At the end of Act two comes the unexpected shock, the incident which is the kernel of the plot.

This is also a play of broad contrasts in character. There is the American Phillip Sturgess, a man of integrity and of peace. His friends Valery, Julian and Marie are Europeans, nurtured in a long tradition of war.

Finally there is 'Heron' the man who is still a shadowy presence when not actually on stage. In him Charles Morgan sees, perhaps, a pattern for living in the modern world. He is a man who has discovered the secret of living life without fretfulness or sorrow.

Morgan has much to say to us all about our post-war world but there are times when he enables us to share feelings which are beyond expression. It is this faculty which makes his play so gripping, so strangely satisfying.

THE NEW PROGRAMME

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 19th October | Shakespeare's "Henry V"
an open-stage production designed by Norman Branson and
produced by Alfred Emmet. |
| 30th November | Moliere's "The Miser"
in the highly amusing version by Miles Malleson. |
| 18th January | Barbara Hutchins produces a new and uproariously funny
comedy (un-named as yet) by Alexandra Mkellos, whose
"Testament of Cressid" was so well enjoyed. |

15th March "The Discovery of the New World"
 an epic play by Lebesque, translated by F. Partridge
 to be produced by Pamela Richards.

5th May At last! A contemporary American play! "Summer and
 Smoke" by that controversial exciting playwright
 Tennessee Williams.

BOX OFFICE EXTENSION

For the coming production Box Office hours for personal callers and telephone bookings will be 7 to 9 p.m. up to the opening night. During the run of the play the hours are 6.30 to 8.30 p.m. except on days of no performance, when the Box Office Staff is also on holiday. Do please let us know if you have difficulty in booking your seats.

"PYGMALION" SUCCESS - TORQUAY

"Pygmalion" proved to be our most popular production ever. The run had to be extended by two additional performances to accommodate all those who wanted to see the show. If there were members who were disappointed we can only advise booking good and early next time! Reports are that the play was an even greater success in Torquay in the lovely open-air Torre Abbey Theatre. We kept our reputation for bringing good weather as well as a good show. Surely a feather in the cap of John Holbrook - his first production with us.

BUILDING UP

Members will be wondering when the first of our new buildings will be ready. We have sometimes wondered ourselves, for we have had some vexatious delays. A considerable hold-up was caused by the unexpected necessity to build and equip an electricity transformer house. Delays in deliveries of certain materials have been another factor. And, to be honest, we had rather underestimated the amount of work involved in the wiring plumbing joinery, painting laying of the floors and generally fitting out of the new buildings. As we go to press, everything is moving forward steadily and well, but we shall not have all complete for the first show of the season as we had hoped.

The first buildings will provide foyer and cloak-room accommodation for immediate use. The large meeting room will also be available for letting when not required for our own use. The new rehearsal room is of course also under way and - not so far ahead now - work will start on the main theatre and dressing room blocks. We must all be feeling in some measure the sense of mounting excitement as we move nearer to our goal, and the opening of the first buildings will be a thrilling landmark on the way.

STUDENTS AND STANDARDS

"The Far-Off Hills" had a distinctly better audience than last year's. "Noah", and many more members found that our Student Group can give them a highly enjoyable and entertaining evening, quite apart from the particular interest of seeing "What this year's lot is like", and spotting the future stars. Of last year's Second Year Group, Dorothy Boyd-Taylor, Una Chapman, Glendon Jones and Stuart Hartley have been welcomed to Acting Membership. Auditions are now being held for the new First Year Group (there may be still just time for a last minute application to be considered). Anny Boalth, after being on the staff as tutor of Movement since the beginning of the Group, has now regretfully had to leave on account of the pressure of additional work at R.A.D.A., and Ludmila Mlada has taken her place. Nearly 200 Questors students have enjoyed Anny's classes and will share the regret at her leaving. Members who were present at the Students at Work evening will have seen for themselves how future students are likely to enjoy Ludmila's classes.

NEW THEATRES IN THE NEWS

The Questors have a special feeling for the other new theatre now being built in London - Bernard Miles' Mermaid Theatre at Puddle Dock. Not only has Bernard Miles been a keen, active and generous supporter of our own New Theatre but the Mermaid, with its open stage, is in the same new tradition as our own. Members of The Questors must surely support the Mermaid too. Incidentally, it was Elizabeth Wellman and Theresa Hefferman of our own wardrobe group who made the costumes for the young Mermaid "thrown up" at Puddle Dock during Bernard Miles' inaugural, star-studded concert.

Another theatre with which we have special links is Stephen Joseph's "Theatre-in-the Round", which, at its Scarborough season this year, displayed designs of our new theatre, and produced new plays by two members of The Questors Playwrights Group, Ruth Dixon and Catherine Prynne.

THE YOUNG QUESTORS

The Young Questors Club, which exists to provide an introduction to practical theatre for teenagers, will be starting up again in September, under the leadership of Rena Rice from whom particulars may be obtained. The Club meets once a week.

SUNDAY CLUB NIGHT

3rd October at 7.30 p.m. Members are invited to a reading of "The Three Legged Man" by Elihu Fein. This is a modern version of the Oedipus legend and is certain to provide a very interesting evening.