

AUTHOR AND PLAY

Mr. Goldsmith was born in the year 1728, the son of a clergyman of small means, in County Longford. In 1745 he entered Trinity College, Dublin, where he took his degree five years later, after which he proceeded to Edinburgh to study medicine. He later spent three years abroad, on the Continent, where he gained a reputation for powerful argument, also for light-hearted, not to say irresponsible behaviour. Returning to London he tried his hand as a schoolmaster, also as a journalist. His first important contribution to English letters came in 1759, when he published "An Enquiry into the Present State of Polite Learning in Europe", including a chapter "Of the Stage" which proved offensive to Mr. Garrick, then at the Drury Lane Theatre.

Nonetheless, this treatise presented a clue to the development of Mr. Goldsmith's career. Although he wrote several lasting works, however, including "The Vicar of Wakefield" and "The Citizen of the World", he was only to contribute two pieces to the stage. These were "The Good-natured Man" (1768) and "She Stoops to Conquer" (1773). He had difficulty getting these accepted for performance. In the first, Mr. Garrick wanted changes unacceptable to Mr. Goldsmith; but Mr. Rich subsequently presented it at Covent Garden, after some delay, where it succeeded better than expected, running for nine nights and being published in five editions during the same year. But this earlier piece was not destined to attain the classic status of "She Stoops to Conquer" which everyone now knows well.

TORQUAY VISIT

The production of "She Stoops to Conquer" that you are seeing this evening is to be taken to the Torre Abbey Open Air Theatre at Torquay for a week during July. This theatre is situated in front of the centuries old Tithe Barn, where a low stage is erected and the sloping grounds afford a perfect view for the audience. If the weather is unsuitable for open air playing, performances are given inside the Tithe Barn, which has been specially equipped for the Theatre season. The Barn holds a total audience of 273; and there is room for an additional 120 unreserved places in the open air theatre.

This is the sixth season to be organised by the Torquay Open Air Theatre, which is a purely amateur organisation and depends on amateur groups visiting Torquay for a week during the summer. Previous companies have included The Tavistock Group, The American College Players, The Highbury Little Theatre, and the Ingoldsby Club.

The Hon. Secretary writes: "We are very privileged that The Questors are willing to come to Torquay to help our venture and we do indeed say a very sincere "thank-you" to all concerned. We only hope the weather will be kind and that the Company will enjoy their visit to our theatre as much as we shall enjoy having them".

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

June 27th. STUDENTS AT WORK. A demonstration-performance of the work of the First and Second Year Groups:

In the Theatre, commencing 7.30 p.m.

Tickets at 2s. 6d. each may be obtained from the theatre or during the run of *She Stoops to Conquer* from the programme-sellers.

June 30th. BARBECUE NIGHT. Wet or fine we shall be grilling juicy steaks over the Barbecue Grill:

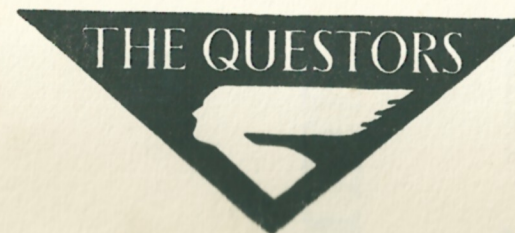
In the Theatre and Grounds, from 7 p.m.

Tickets at 5s. 0d. each, including your garnished steak with Barbecue Sauce, available from programme-sellers during the interval.

July 14th. FIRST NIGHT of Andre Obey's "NOAH".

DISCUSSION NIGHT

The discussion of "She Stoops to Conquer" will take place in the theatre on Thursday, June 21st. All members and friends welcome.



present

She Stoops to Conquer

by

OLIVER GOLDSMITH

AT THE QUESTORS THEATRE
MATTOCK LANE, EALING, W.5
JUNE 9TH TO 20TH 1956

SEVENTH PRODUCTION
TWENTY-SEVENTH SEASON
1955-56

PROGRAMME
SIXPENCE

The Seventh Time of the Company's performing this Season.

By the QUESTORS COMPANY,
At the Questors Theatre, in Mattock Lane, Ealing,
This present SATURDAY, June 9th 1956,
(and thereafter for NINE more nights);
When will be performed, Mr. Goldsmith's Comedy
SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER;

Or, The Mistakes of a Night.

Sir Charles Marlow, Mr. DRAKE,
Young Marlow, Mr. CHEFFINS,
Hardcastle, Mr. HEILPERN,
Hastings, Mr. BRADBURY,
(his first appearance in that character)
Tony Lumpkin, Mr. WHELAN,
(his first appearance at this Theatre)
Diggory, Mr. WORTH; Roger, Mr. DRAKE,
The Landlord, Mr. WORTH,
Mrs. Hardcastle; Miss OGDEN,
Miss Hardcastle, Miss PRICE,
(her first appearance in that character)
Miss Neville, Miss ANDREWS,
Maid, Miss ARUNDEL; Cook, Miss HOWSE.

Ladies are desired to send their servants a little after 6.30 to keep Places, to prevent confusion.

The Doors will be open at SEVEN o'CLOCK

To begin exactly at HALF after SEVEN o'CLOCK,

NO MONEY TO BE RETURNED,

And by Command, No Person to stand upon the stage.

Vivat Regina.

The Grand Entertainment PRODUCED by Mr. UNNA.
The Several Settings DESIGNED by Mess. FARR & TOPLIS;
Stage MANAGEMENT under Mr. CARR,
who will be Assisted by
Mesdames DIGBY, CULLINGHAM, & INNES,
Costumes under the supervision of Mr. ABEY,
Wardrobe Mistresses, Mesdames FISHER & WOODEY,
Scenery Constructed under the Direction of Master Carpenter JONES.
Illuminations by Mr. FISHER; Sound by Mr. GAMBLE;
Sound Technical Adviser Mr. WEARE,
Properties by Miss ROBERTS; Wigs by NATHANS.
Costumes by NATHANS and The QUESTORS,

Incidental Musick and Alehouse Song Specially Composed by

Mr. Wm. SKINNER,

Gavotte Coached by

Miss HUTCHINS,

Overture & Entr' acte Musick by

Mess. HAENDEL & RANISH;

Soloists; Mr. Jon Manchip WHITE (flute) & Miss HUTCHINS (pianoforte),

The Profits of the Last Night, WEDNESDAY, June 20, being appropriated to the Benefit of the New Theatre Building Fund, there shall be no Free Places reserved for Members, as Usual upon that Occasion.

The action of the Comedy, which shall be played in two ACTS, is laid in Mr. Hardcastle's HOUSE, his Garden, and an Alehouse.

There will be an interval of a quarter of an hour when teas and refreshments may be had in the Theatre or at the Lodge Coffee House.