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By James  
Saunders

Ⓢ The Question's  
Theatre  
1983





# THE QUESTORS THEATRE COMPANY

*First performance November 27th 1983*

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## THE AUTHOR – JAMES SAUNDERS

James Saunders was born in London in 1925. His stage plays include *Alas Poor Fred* (1959); *Next Time I'll Sing to You* (which won the Evening Standard Award for the Most Promising Play in 1963); *A Scent of Flowers* (1964); *The Italian Girl* (1967); *The Travails of Sancho Panza* (1969); *Games and After Liverpool* (1971); *Hans Kohlhaas* (1972); *Bye Bye Blues* (1973); *The Island* (1975); and *Bodies* (1977). For television he wrote six adaptations of stories by D.H. Lawrence for Granada in 1965; three plays for the series *Country Matters* for Granada in 1971/2, and four episodes of *The Avenue* based on a novel by R.M. Delderfield for London Weekend Television in 1978. He also wrote a BBC comedy series, *Bloomers*, which starred the late Richard Beckinsale. He wrote the screenplay of *The Sailor's Return*, directed by Jack Gold and starring Tom Bell. He has also written a number of plays for radio.

He has been a Questors Member for many years and plays he has specially written for The Questors are *Next Time I'll Sing to You*; *The Pedagogue*; *Neighbours*; *Hans Kohlhaas*, and *The Island*.

Other plays first performed at The Questors: the trilogy *Ends and Echoes*; *Alas Poor Fred*; *After Liverpool*; *The Borage Pidgeon Affair*, and *The Girl in Melanie Klein*.

## THE DIRECTOR – LARRY IRVIN

Larry Irvin has been a member of The Questors since 1957. His long association with the plays of James Saunders started in 1962 when he created the part of Meff in *Next Time I'll Sing to You*. The following year he played *The Pedagogue* which was specially written for him, and in 1969 Sear in *The Borage Pidgeon Affair*. He has also acted in *A Scent of Flowers* and *Alas Poor Fred* and in 1977 he adapted and directed James Saunders's radio play *Random Moments in a May Garden* which had its first stage production in The Questors Studio.

Other Saunders plays he has directed are *The Girl in Melanie Klein* which had its World Première at this theatre. Last year his production of *Hans Kohlhaas* represented The Questors at the Edinburgh Festival. His most recent stage appearances for The Questors were as Archie Rice in *The Entertainer* and Lord Brockhurst in *The Boy Friend*.



# BODIES

*by*  
JAMES SAUNDERS



*Cast in order of appearance*

ANN ..... JO ARUNDEL

HELEN ..... JILLYANN HEALY

DAVID ..... MICHAEL HEALY

MERVYN ..... PETER HEALY

The action takes place in the living-rooms of Anne and Mervyn, and Helen and David.

Time — the present.



*Directed by* LARRY IRVIN

*Set designed by* DAVID GILBERT

*Costumes designed and made by* ANNA PIET

*Lighting designed by* MIKE GRAHAM



There will be one interval of fifteen minutes



Stage Manager. . . . . Douglas Arundel  
 Deputy Stage Manager . . . . . Ric Sowood  
 Assistant Stage Managers. . . . . Patti Arundel  
    Penny Morris  
    Hattie Nicholson  
 Wardrobe. . . . . Anna Piet  
     assisted by . . . . . Anne Gilmour  
 Properties . . . . . Joan Curry  
 Lighting operated by . . . . . Chris Shaw  
 Lighting Assistants. . . . . Tim Bourne  
    Miranda Parsons  
    Bridie Rodgers  
 Sound operated by . . . . . Grace and Charles Lacaille  
 Construction by . . . . . Gordon Miller  
 Furniture. . . . . The Questors Workshop



## THE PLAYERS

### JO ARUNDEL

Since joining The Questors in 1950, she has played many leading roles, appearing in *The Birthday Party*, *Old Times*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *Venus Observed*, *Hay Fever*, *The Entertainer* and *Sisters*, which was her last appearance here.

In plays by James Saunders she has appeared in *Barnstable*, *Alas Poor Fred* and created the roles of Lizzie in *Next Time I'll Sing to You* and Jo in *The Island*.

### JILLYANN HEALY

Her roles at The Questors have included Lady Macbeth, and Hedda in *Hedda Gabler*. Other appearances have been in *As You Like It*, *Cymbeline*, *Present Laughter*, *Mother Courage*, *What The Butler Saw* and *The Ride Across Lake Constance*. She has been with the company since 1960.

### PETER HEALY

With The Questors he played the title role in *Macbeth* and has been with the company since 1962. Other appearances were in *Henry Fourth* by Pirandello, *Big Soft Nelly*, *What The Butler Saw*, *Equus*, *No Man's Land* and *The Ride Across Lake Constance*.

### MICHAEL HEALY

His appearances since 1966 have included Pirandello's *Henry Fourth*, *Othello*, *Betrayal* and *Hedda Gabler*.



## SET DESIGNER

### DAVID GILBERT

A member of The Questors for the past five years during which time he has designed for the productions of *Home, A Man for All Seasons, Playground, Orestes, Pygmalion, Separate Tables*, and *The Accrington Pals*.

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*Bodies* was first commissioned and premièred by The Orange Tree, in Richmond, in 1977. A year later, a revised version was produced at the Hampstead Theatre, and it was this production which opened some months later in the West End, to wide acclaim.

Bernard Levin, then critic at *The Sunday Times*, returned to the production again and again in his column. In Saunders's writing Levin perceived hope and optimism and faith in the human spirit.

The public Discussion on *Bodies* will take place on Tuesday, 6th December at 7.45 pm in The Shaw Room. Admission Free. Everyone is welcome. Why not come along and express your views?

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## CAN YOU HELP?

The smooth running of the Theatre complex relies on the work undertaken by members.

At the present time assistance is needed in

THE PRINT ROOM — contact Steve Shadlock

PUBLICITY — contact George Benn

Sunday afternoon TEAS — contact Gwen Taudevin

ALL DEPARTMENTS can always do with additional help and opportunities exist for work to be undertaken in the daytime as well as the evening.

Why not visit the office or telephone during the day to find out where you could help?

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## OLD MEMBERS' REUNION: JANUARY 7th 1984

Questors who have already been invited to this event are urged to reply to the invitation as soon as possible, as tickets are going fast. The price, £5.00, is inclusive of supper and a seat for the last night of *The 3rd Great Coarse Acting Show*. Any member with a membership number below 7500 is also invited to apply. Applications (with cash) to Doreen Coates, or Wilf Sharp at the theatre.

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PATRONS ARE RESPECTFULLY ASKED TO REFRAIN FROM  
TAKING REFRESHMENTS INTO THE AUDITORIUM.



# ***Forthcoming Attractions***

## **IN THE STUDIO**

**15 – 18 DECEMBER at 7.45 pm**

### **LITTLE EYOLF**

by Henrik Ibsen

translated by Michael Meyer

directed by Peter Field

**14 – 21 January at 7.45 pm**

### **JULIUS CAESAR**

by William Shakespeare

directed by David Fletcher

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## **IN THE THEATRE**

**29 DECEMBER – 7 JANUARY at 7.45 pm**

### **THE THIRD GREAT COARSE ACTING SHOW**

directed by Michael Green

**and for MATINÉES ONLY**

### **WALDO AND THE WONDERFUL WEB**

by Jane Dewey

based on a Hans Christian Andersen story

**31 DECEMBER at 2.30 pm**

**1 JANUARY 2 pm, 2 JANUARY 2.30 pm**

**7 JANUARY 11 am and 2.30 pm**

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**21 – 28 JANUARY at 7.45 pm**

### **THE PHILANTHROPIST**

by Christopher Hampton

directed by John Wilson

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New and Prospective Members evenings are held every Wednesday, commencing at 7.45 pm in the Grapevine bar.

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## **HOTPLATE**

Delicious food is available in the Upper Foyer from 6.30 pm during the run of theatre productions.

Interval refreshments and drinks will also be available.

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