



A scene from The Cherry Orchard

A double bite of the cherry

TWO bites are taken of a Chekhov cherry courtesy of the Questors Theatre this month.

Founder member and guiding force of the players since 1929, Alfred Emmet, plays Firs, the ancient 87-year-old retainer in The Cherry Orchard — Chekhov's classic which takes the Questors stage from tomorrow.

David Pearson, whose production of Bedroom Farce was a great success, plays Pishchik, a landowner, and Geoff Webb, who devised and directed the Questors' Fair Play, trebles up as a passer-by, a guest and a servant.

The Cherry Orchard describes the forced sale of a great estate and the consequent eviction of the hereditary-owners by the son of one of their former serfs. Chekhov captures with understanding and sympathy the comic and at time farcical antics of the Russian landowners doomed to be crushed by the lately arrived 20th century. The play has been described as gentle and affectionate comic masterpiece.

David Emmet makes up the quartet of Questors' directors who appear in the prod-

uction, which runs until June 29.

The Cherry Sisters, a Chekhovian spoof which formed part of the Course Acting Show Two when it transferred from the Edinburgh Festival to the Shaftesbury Theatre in 1979, is also being revived at the Questors.

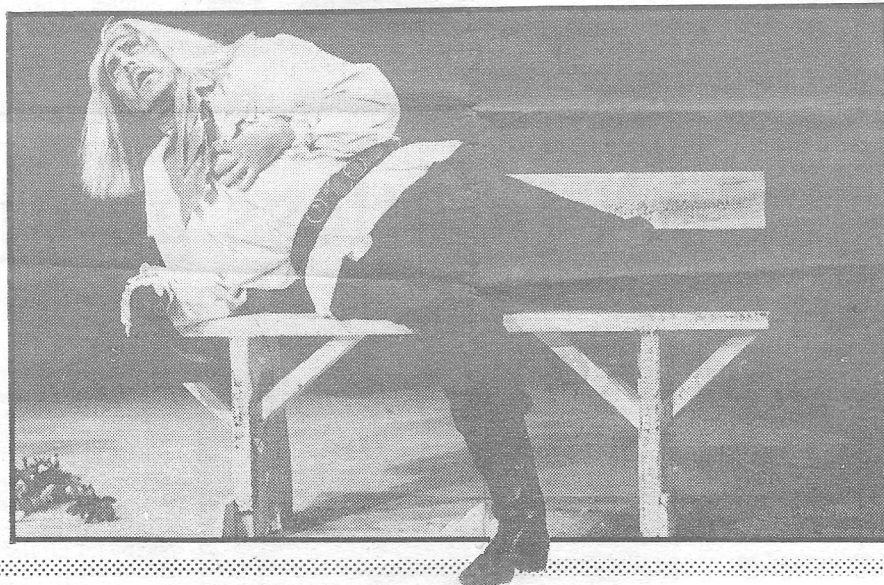
It will boast its original West End cast for the two performances which will run as late night additions on June 28 and 29 after The Cherry Orchard.

The idea was suggested by Tony Rushforth, director of The Cherry Orchard, who thought audiences would like to compare a serious, though comic production, with its spoof version.

Prince Charles, took a party to see the West End production and spoke to the cast afterwards. He attended the Third Great Course Acting Show at the Questors last year.

Since the Shaftesbury performance, The Cherry Sisters has been published and performed all over the world. It has just finished a three month run in Santa Monica, California and the theatre there has written to the Questors saying how successful the show was.

A comic cut from The Cherry Sisters



Cherry Orchard

28 JUN 1985



Folk pick their way through trouble down at the orchard

THOSE who have suffered revolutionary winds of change may feel a sympathetic sadness for the evicted family in Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*.

Nevertheless, this well-known classic is accepted generally as a comic masterpiece and there is no doubt that a mostly experienced cast directed by Tony Rushforth at The Questors, enables a light-hearted view to be taken of the plight of the unfortunate Russian landowners.

There are many splendid indi-

The Cherry Orchard Questors Theatre

vidual performances and a special mention must be made of Alfred Emmett's elderly footman Firs, who frequently causes ripples of laughter.

Phillip Clayton-Gore and Sheila Tiffany expertly exploit the effective farcical content of the comedy.

Talented Giles Emerson work-

ed well with Ruth Lister who is outstanding throughout. Her poise and graceful movement epitomised the manners and modes of upper-class Russians at the turn of the century. Her grief on learning of the loss of her beloved orchard is most moving.

Colin Pronger, Norman Wilkinson and David Pearson all present their characters with authority.

Nigel Cowell deserves praise for an imaginative set.

Jack Hurlstone

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& Wembley News
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20 JUN 1985



Drama the natural way

Drama

CHILDREN have the chance to commune with nature, learn the classics and study drama in a Summer Naturama course being run at Pinner Memorial Park.

Games, improvisation, exercises, dance and drama, mime, story telling, pictures, posters, puppets and plays will act as springboards into such stories as *Jungle Book*, *Robinson Crusoe*, *Treasure Island* and *Wind In the Willows*.

The June series of classes for seven to nine-year-olds and 10 to 12-year-olds ends on Saturday with following four-week courses for the same age groups in July and August arranged.

The one-month course, on each Saturday from July 6 to July 27 or August 3 to August 24, is £8 per child. Attendance to both courses is £14.

Both classes meet at West House, in the park. The younger class from 10 am to 11.30 am; the older children 11.30 am to 1 pm.

Places can be booked on 866

5046 on Saturdays; 10 am to 2 pm before course starts, 2 pm to 4 pm after course starts.

TODAY (Thursday)

The Aquarius Theatre Company perform the Neil Simon comedy *California Suite* at the Beck Theatre, Hayes, 8 pm. Until Saturday. Tickets, £3 tonight; £3.50 other nights, available on 868 5257 and 561 8371.

SATURDAY

Chekhov's masterpiece *The Cherry Orchard* is performed at the Questors Theatre, Mattock Lane, Ealing, until June 29.

Performed by the theatre's own drama group, the translation is by Michael Frayn.

The Questors is a club theatre and only members are allowed to buy tickets for guests (£2.30 Sunday to Thursday, £2.70 Friday and Saturday).

A free introductory tour is offered every Wednesday night, 7.45 pm. Membership details on 567 8736.

Richmond & Twickenham
Times
Planner No. 72A-420
Weekly

Cherry Orchard
21 JUN 1985



From the bedroom to the cherry orchard

DESCRIBED by Peter Hall of the National Theatre as "the most wonderful play ever," The Cherry Orchard by Chekov is being presented at the Questors Theatre in Ealing from tomorrow until the following Saturday in a production directed by Tony Rushforth.

Founder member of the theatre, since 1929, Alfred Emmet, plays Firs, the 87-year-old retainer, forgotten and left behind at the end of the play as the cherry trees fall to the axe.

David Pearson, whose production of Bedroom Farce was the hit of the season, plays the landowner Pishchik, Geoff Webb, who devised and directed Fair Play in the Studio, plays passer-by, ubiquitous servant and guests while other bit parts are taken by David Emmet as relaxation after his epic production of Henry IV.

Ruislip & Northwood Gazette
Planner No. 72A-310
Weekly

Cherry Sisters
20 JUN 1985



Cherry cocktail

THE Cherry Sisters, a Chekhovian spoof, is to be revived at the Questors Theatre, Ealing, with its original West End cast on Friday and Saturday June 28 and 29.

It will be presented as a late-night piece to follow The Questors production of Chekov's The Cherry Orchard so that audiences can compare a serious, though comic, production with its spoof version.

The Cherry Orchard runs from June 22 to 29 at 7.45 pm at the Questors in Mattock Lane, price £2.30-£2.70. Box office 01-567 5184.

Ruislip & Northwood Gazette
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CHERRY ORCHARD
4 JUL 1985



Laughter ripples round orchard

The Cherry Orchard at
The Questors, Ealing

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Nevertheless, this well-known classic is accepted generally as a comic masterpiece and there is no doubt that a mostly experienced cast enables a light-hearted view to be taken of the plight of the unfortunate Russian landowners.

There are many splendid individual performances and a special mention must be made of Alfred Emmet's elderly footman Firs, who frequently caused ripples of laughter.

Talented Giles Emerson worked well with Ruth Hester who is outstanding throughout, her poise and graceful movement epitomised the manners and modes of upper-class Russians at the turn of the century.

Jack Hurlstone