

THE QUESTORS THEATRE

2nd year
student
group
presents

THE MAN *who came* TO dinner

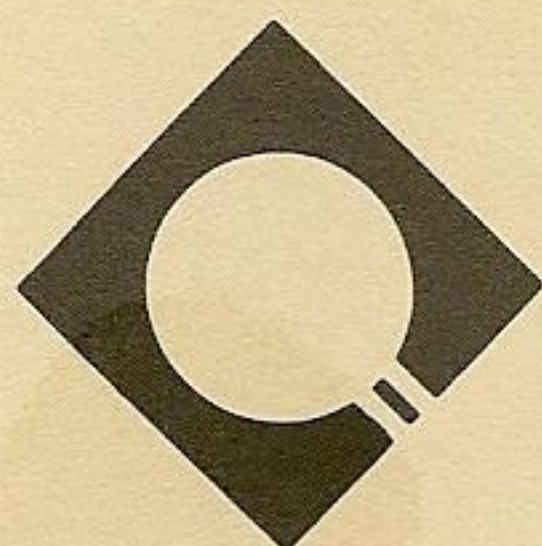
by
MOSS HART
and
GEORGE S. KAUFMAN



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THE QUESTORS THEATRE COMPANY

PRESIDENT: JUDI DENCH OBE

VICE-PRESIDENTS: SIR BRIAN BATSFORD, ALFRED EMMET OBE,
ROGER REES, MICHAEL WILLIAMS

SECOND YEAR STUDENT GROUP

First performance: 10 July 1987

THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER

It may be that posterity will best remember Alexander Woollcott as *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, for Woollcott was the prototype for Sheridan Whiteside in the play. This year marks the centenary of Woollcott's birth; he died in 1943, four years after the play was written. It is likely that many, if not most, modern theatre-goers have never heard his name. So who was the man who came to dinner?

Alexander Woollcott first worked as a police reporter on *The New York Times*, but graduated to the position of dramatic critic in 1914, when he was only 27. After serving in the First World War, he had spells as dramatic critic on *The New York Herald*, *The Sun* and *The New York World* before retiring from active newspaper work in 1928 to devote himself to broadcasting, lecture tours and magazine articles.

His judgements were notoriously capricious: he pronounced Wilder's *The Skin of Our Teeth* to be 'head and shoulders above anything else ever written for our stage', but dismissed O'Neill's *Mourning Becomes Electra* as completely worthless. He seems to have been more interested in players than in plays, however, and wrote biographies of Irving Berlin, Charlie Chaplin and the Marx Brothers. Thomas Quinn Curtiss says of him: 'A fat, owlish man, both sharp-tongued and sentimental, he cut a colourful figure on the Broadway of his period. His criticism was of the ephemeral variety, but he wrote in a bright manner with a shrewd understanding of popular taste.'

He collaborated with George Kaufman on two plays and acted in three others — including playing the part of Sheridan Whiteside in a touring production of *The Man Who Came to Dinner*.

Part of the original fun for a Broadway audience in watching the play would have been to spot the affectionate parodies of well-known characters (like Woollcott) appearing in thin disguises. Modern theatre-goers might like to speculate about the originals for Beverly Carlton, Professor Metz, Lorraine Sheldon and Banjo. Had the play merely been a Hollywood in-joke, however, it would long since have disappeared without trace. What gives it its enduring quality is the sound theatrical sense of its authors and their ability to transcend their own time by portraying characters whose lives do not depend on those of

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THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER

by

MOSS HART and GEORGE S. KAUFMAN

CAST

MRS ERNEST STANLEY	JENNIFER FOY
MISS PREEN (<i>Whiteside's nurse</i>)	DAVINA SPENCER
RICHARD STANLEY	SIMON BOSSELL
JUNE STANLEY	PAULA RODNEY
SARAH } (<i>the Stanleys'</i>	TORY MARGRIE
JOHN } <i>servants</i>)	STUART RHODES
MRS McCUTCHEON	KERRY DRURY
MR ERNEST STANLEY	ANDY PARK
MAGGIE CUTLER	{ MARY DRAKE *
	{ SUE GASSER **
DR BRADLEY	PAUL MOREL
SHERIDAN WHITESIDE	NIGEL LAWRENCE
HARRIET STANLEY	{ SUE GASSER *
	{ MARY DRAKE **
BERT JEFFERSON	PAUL JIGGINS
PROFESSOR METZ	KERRY DRURY
THE LUNCHEON GUESTS	{ PATRICK McQUILLAN
	{ EDDIE CULLEN
BAKER	NEIL GOODWIN
EXPRESSMAN	CHRIS WALDOCK
LORRAINE SHELDON	TANYA SCOTT-WILSON
SANDY	ANDY PARK
BEVERLY CARLTON	PAUL MOREL
MISS WESTCOTT	KERRY DRURY
RADIO TECHNICIANS	{ CHRIS WALDOCK
	{ PATRICK McQUILLAN
CHOIR	from { CELIA AMERY
	{ CATHERINE COPENHAGEN
	{ MATTHEW McNEANEY
	{ GEORGIA REID
BANJO	SIMON BOSSELL
DEPUTIES	EDDIE CULLEN
	PATRICK McQUILLAN

The play takes place in the home of Mr and Mrs Stanley in Mesalia, a small town in Ohio, in the 1930s.

ACT 1: *Scene 1*: A December morning.

ACT 1: *Scene 2*: A week later.

ACT 2: Christmas Eve (a week later).

ACT 3: Christmas morning.

THERE WILL BE TWO INTERVALS OF FIFTEEN MINUTES

Stuart Rhodes and Chris Waldock are former members of the Student Group.
Patrick McQuillan is a member of the First-Year Student Group.

* 10, 11, 12 July

** 16, 17, 18 July

DIRECTED BY **JOHN DAVEY**
DESIGNED BY **RAY DUNNING**
COSTUME DESIGN BY **JACKIE TYE & THÉRÈSE GILLEN**

STAGE MANAGER	:	REBECCA MILLARD
ASSISTANT STAGE	:	EDDIE CULLEN
MANAGERS	:	NEIL GOODWIN
LIGHTING DESIGNER	:	ANDREW MILLARD
LIGHTING ASSISTANTS	:	AUSTIN O'HARA
		DENYS GASKILL
SOUND	:	NIGEL WORSLEY
WARDROBE MISTRESSES	:	JANE DEWEY
		CLAUDINE MURPHY
COSTUMES MADE BY	:	JACKIE TYE
		THÉRÈSE GILLEN
		CLARE COLE
		JEAN DERBY
		KATY WINKWORTH
PROPS	:	ANNE GILMOUR
assisted by	:	KATHLEEN HUMPHRIES
		SHARON COLLIS
PROMPT	:	BARRIE BLEWETT
CONSTRUCTION	:	DOUG KING
		PETER TERRY
		GORDON MILLER
		SEAN GRAHAM

MUMMY CASE AND 'ROACH CITY' MADE BY **JOHN ROLFE**
THANKS FOR THE LOAN OF COSTUMES TO: **ANNIE O'BRIEN, ROY LAW,**
ERIC KIRBY and **BILL RUDDERHAM**

PIANO PLAYED BY **MICHAEL CARVER**

MAKE-UP BY	:	JULIA CRUTTENDEN
		CATHERINE BASSETT
		ANGELIKA BIRNSTEIN
		ALEX CAWDRON
		KATE JAY
		NICOLA MATTHEWS
		IVANA PRIMORAC

THANKS TO: **BENTALLS** FOR THE TREE
BARRALETS FOR THE PLANTS
THE AMERICAN EMBASSY FOR *TIME* COVER

SPECIAL THANKS TO: **NORMAN BARWICK, JIM CRADDOCK, NIGEL BAMFORD, RICHARD HETHERINGTON, MAURY HORWICH, MARK JONES, NICK PITT, MIKE WILMOT-DEAR**

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their originals. In any case, the play boasts numerous characters — Jefferson, Dr. Bradley, Miss Preen and the Stanleys, for example — for whom there is no obvious prototype.

The play first appeared in New York in 1939, with Monty Woolley as Whiteside, a performance he repeated in the celebrated 1941 Warner Brothers film, with Bette Davis (Maggie), Ann Sheridan (Lorraine), Jimmy Durante (Banjo) and Reginald Gardiner (Beverly). 1941 also saw the London première with Robert Morley in the title rôle.

Hart and Kaufman both died in 1961, but most of their collaboration took place in the 1930s. As well as this play, they scored notable successes with *Once in a Lifetime*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, and *You Can't Take It With You*.

THE QUESTORS STUDENT ACTORS GROUP — 40th YEAR

The first Questors Student Training Course for Actors was started in 1947. A new Group has been formed every year since then, to run under the same direction. This is a 2-Year Course, aimed at giving preliminary training for amateur actors and preparing them for membership of the main acting group of The Questors Theatre. Tonight's performance is the final production of the present 2nd Year Group.

The Training Course is run under the auspices of the Ealing Education Committee. A new Second Year Course is now being formed from those who have just completed their first year and applications are being invited for the new First Year Course to start in September.

The minimum age for the Student Course is 18. The Questors also run an 'Introductory Group' for 17-year olds, likewise selected by audition. For this, the class time is only 3 hours per week, but the personal commitment to the Group is just as high.

For further information, or a copy of the Prospectus of the Course, apply to the Theatre Manager.

The existence and success of the Student Group is the foundation of The Questors Theatre. This was the vision of its founder, Alfred Emmet, just after the Second World War and is as true today as then.

Its contribution to the theatre is immeasurable; out of Questors 300 acting members, 100 are former students and they play over 40% of acting roles in the theatre's productions. Many go on to act professionally. From the students' point of view, it is a rare personal opportunity. It requires a high degree of commitment but this is amply rewarded by the fulfilment of performing both during and long after completing the course.

STUDENT GROUP STAFF 1987/88

Director of Studies

and Acting Tutor (1st Year)

DAVID EMMET

Acting Tutor (2nd Year)

JOHN DAVEY

Movement Tutor

JOHN WILSON

Speech Tutor

PENNY DYER

Make-up Tutor

JULIA CRUTTENDEN

Tutor to Introductory Group

CORNELIA CARDEW

Next Season's Attractions

IN THE PLAYHOUSE

September **EDUCATING RITA**

by Willy Russell

sponsored by Whitman Porter

October **CANDIDA**

by Bernard Shaw

sponsored by Midlands Bank plc

November **THE LADY'S NOT FOR BURNING**

by Christopher Fry

sponsored by Barralets of Ealing

December **RIGHT YOU ARE (if you say so!)**

by Pirandello

Christmas **DANGEROUS CORNER**

by J B Priestley

sponsored by Greene King

1988

January **THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE**

by Bertolt Brecht

sponsored by Stephen Bland & Co.

February **A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM**

by William Shakespeare

March **THE BED BUG**

by Mayakovsky

April **CANDLEFORD**

by Keith Dewhurst

May **BORN IN THE GARDENS**

by Peter Nichols

May IBM Student Play Competition winner

June **GUYS 'N' DOLLS**

by Jo Swerling & Abe Burrows, with songs

by Frank Loesser

Plus a children's play at Christmas, the 2nd Year Student Group production in July, and a FULL SEASON OF STUDIO Productions.

Printed and published by The Questors Limited

Theatre Manager: Elaine Orchard

Programme Editor: Peter Knight