

Coming productions

In the Studio

A Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen

A deeply moving and powerful play, retaining much of the poetic vision of Ibsen's earlier works, it tells us a great deal about the oppression we force on ourselves and others. It is a call to break free from our imaginary claims and to live our lives to the full.

27 September - 18 October at 7.45pm; 28 September at 2.30pm

Excluding Mondays: 29 September and 6, 13 October

In the Playhouse

She Stoops to Conquer by Oliver Goldsmith

Perhaps the most good-hearted play in the English language, this is a highly serious farce about a young man who can talk to tarts but is reduced to stuttering incoherence by women of his own class. Written in 1771 *She Stoops to Conquer* tells the story of young Marlowe's wooing of Kate Hardcastle while her mischievous half brother, Tony Lumpkin, cleverly manipulates all the other characters.

18 - 25 October at 7.45pm; 19 October at 2.30pm

In the Studio

Mrs Klein by Nicholas Wright

A unique opportunity to view this powerful drama, which centres on an episode in the life of the controversial child-psychoanalyst Melanie Klein, following the death of her son. It's chief concern is with the mother-daughter relationship, as conducted by two highly articulate women, linked by strong feelings and emotions.

1 - 8 November at 7.45pm; 2 November at 2.30pm

In the Playhouse

Lettice and Lovage by Peter Shaffer

Lettice and Lovage is a comedy whose main protagonists are women in their middle life. The play centres on the individual conflict which ensues when two diametrically opposite characters meet. This is a funny, witty, warm-hearted play that engages its audience on many levels.

15 - 29 November at 7.45pm; 16 November at 2.30pm

little women

by

LOUISA MAY ALCOTT

adapted by

PETER CLAPHAM



Little Women

Louisa May Alcott's most famous book, *Little Women*, was written during the summer of 1868 at the family home in Concord, Massachusetts. It was an immediate success and has been constantly in print ever since. Generations of children and adults all over the world have taken the March family to their hearts. The version presented here is sensitively adapted for the theatre and captures the warmth of emotion and the close family bonds of the original novel.

Into this story of a year in the life of the March family, Louisa Alcott has woven so much of her own young life and that of her family that fact and fiction merged to create a domestic novel with universal appeal.

In this tale a mother's love for her four daughters and their appreciation of her care and guidance is the background to the hopes and disappointments of the four sisters as they grow up to find love and their place in the world.

Louisa Alcott would have been delighted by a stage version of her most famous book. From childhood she was a keen amateur actress and stage director and wrote many plays for the family and for the various amateur dramatic societies with which she worked. The plays were mainly melodramas if we can judge from the titles such as *Norma*; or *The Witch's Curse* (a sub-title which she later used for one of Jo's plays in *Little Women*) or *The Captive of Castile*. She also recognised the theatricality of much of the output of Dickens from whose work she dramatised many episodes which she called *Scenes from Dickens*.

As an actress her forte seems to have been broad comedy roles including Mrs Malaprop in *The Rivals* and Mrs Jarley in *The Old Curiosity Shop* from which she dramatised the waxworks episode to make a monologue which she performed at a number of charity performances.

In later life, when the great success of *Little Women* had brought her fortune and international prestige, she was a guest in fashionable drawing rooms everywhere. Here she was able to meet some of the theatrical personalities she had earlier been able to admire only from a distance, including Ellen Terry and the young Oscar Wilde.

A Girl's Story

In 1868, Louisa May Alcott's publisher asked her to write "a girl's story". She worked furiously for two and a half months and came up with a story packed full of her experiences of growing up with three sisters.

She published her first poem at the age of 20, and wrote *Hospital Sketches* about her experiences as a Civil War nurse. But it was *Little Women*, and its sequels *Little Men* and *Jo's Boys*, that brought her fame and fortune.

Hollywood was drawn to the book as early as 1918. But most of us will either remember Katherine Hepburn (1933) or June Allyson (1959) as the character of Jo March. In the film Elizabeth Taylor played Amy. The recent Columbia Picture (1994) starred Winona Ryder as Jo, and in which Susan Sarandon scored a great success as Marmee, won the hearts of audiences all over again.

Our own production has just returned from a run at the famed Minack Open Air Theatre in Cornwall where it played to full houses for a week (although one performance was rained off!). Director Renata Nash says that directing a play for two such different venues as the cliff-top Minack and our own Playhouse "is like directing two different shows". The Minack playing area is approximately 100 ft. wide and with a minimal set the onus was on actors, props and costume to create the mood and period of 19th century America. "Our playhouse production" says Renata, "will have a much more intimate feel".

little women

by

Louisa May Alcott

adapted by Peter Clapham

First performance at The Minack Open Air Theatre, Monday 18th August 1997

First performance at The Questors Theatre, Saturday 20th September 1997

Cast

Amy March ROSIE ALLEN
Beth March DONNA SHILLING
Jo March MELISSA REMUS
Meg March BELLE PERERA
Hannah BRENDA GOTTSCHKE
Marmee LINDA SHANNON
Aunt March SIBEAL McGUINNE
Laurie NICK MINARDI
John Brooke MARK REDRUP
Mr. Laurence KEN RATCLIFFE
Mr. March MICHAEL DINEEN

The home of the March family in Concord, Massachusetts during
the American Civil War, 1861.

Act 1 – Winter 1861
Act 2 – Summer 1862
Act 3 – Winter 1862

There will be one interval of fifteen minutes between Acts 2 and 3.

Production

Director RENATA NASH
Set Designers ALEX MARKER, NICK HAWKER
Costume Designer AMBER SMIT
Lighting Designer DWAYNE DAWSON
Lighting Rigger DAMIEN LAZELL
Sound Designer NIGEL WORSLEY

Stage Management ALISON MEIK, JACKIE TOWNSEND,
STEVE MALLET, JULIA RUSSELL,
EDDIE TOLLAND, DAVE CHAPMAN
Wardrobe BRYANNE MELVILLE, DEBBIE HARTE,
CORINNE NIELD, SIMON REEVES, JANE BRODIE
Construction ALEX MARKER, NICK HAWKER,
CHRIS BENNET, JOHN WEBSTER
Make-up & Wigs KATY THOMPSON, GABRIELLE WHITEHEAD
of GREASEPAINT

With thanks to:

JULIE CRUTTENDEN, HELEN BENNETT, LAURA MARKER



THE PLAYHOUSE IS EQUIPPED WITH AN INFRA-RED SOUND TRANSMISSION SYSTEM FOR USE BY PEOPLE WITH HEARING DIFFICULTIES. IT IS NOW POSSIBLE TO USE THIS SYSTEM WITH PERSONAL HEARING AIDS SWITCHED TO THE T POSITION. To obtain the appropriate receiver please contact the Duty House Manager.



THE PLAYHOUSE IS EQUIPPED WITH A LIFT WITH ACCESS TO THE BAR AND UPPER FOYER LEVELS FOR THOSE WITH MOBILITY PROBLEMS.

1. The taking of food and drink into the auditorium is NOT permitted.
2. The use of cameras, video-cameras or tape equipment during the performance is also prohibited.
3. Patrons are requested to turn off portable telephones and beepers in the auditorium, since the activation of these during a performance is offensive to audience and actors alike.

Art exhibitions

Upper Foyer Gallery

20 September - 11 October

RICHARD BARNES

Richard Barnes, born 1960, studied Fine Art BA at Reading 1978-82, MA at Leeds University 1992-94. During the 1980's made mainly abstract paintings exhibiting in the UK and Europe.

"Since 1990 I have been involved with using simplified symbols and figures. I have just returned from a year in Tasmania where I took up landscape painting. Also became very involved in researching the early days of white rule, and the tragic story of the original people of the island. In Northern Australia I studied the rock art of the hunter gatherer clans. These are the recent big events that shape this present exhibition."

In the Grapevine Gallery

20 September - 11 October

KEITH ADAMS

Keith Adams is an Ealing photographer, who has been resident in Greenford for over twenty-five years. Since taking early retirement from his job as a local government officer, he now runs a small photographic library that represents his and three other photographers work.

This exhibition represents only a small fraction of Keith's photographic archives which number in the region of twenty-five thousand transparencies and is designed to try to show just a few categories from this extensive list instead of trying to include too many different subjects.

The music in this production

Pianist

PAUL CLARK

Kinderszenen – Schumann
 Faschingschwank – Schumann
 Seit Ich ihn Gesehen – Schumann
 Waltz No 15 – Brahms
 Cradle Song – Brahms
 Scherzino – Schumann
 Intermezzon – Schumann

Dialect Coach

JESSICA FREELS

Questors Information

THE GRAPEVINE CLUB

The Questors has a fully licensed Bar which is now open to all members. The Bar is open every evening plus lunchtimes on Sundays. Questors members are requested to sign in their guests when entering the bar.

THE HOTPLATE

Delicious hot and cold food is available in the upper Foyer between 6.30pm and 8.00pm during the run of Playhouse productions, and coffee, tea and cakes are served during the interval. No hot food will be provided at the Sunday matinées.

NOTE

The Hotplate is not open for Studio productions, but when Studio performances coincide with those in the Playhouse, it will endeavour to serve those audiences whenever it is possible.

NEW MEMBERS EVENINGS

Why not attend one of our new, or prospective members evenings, and have a conducted tour of the Theatre complex. Tours start and finish at the Grapevine Bar, 8.00pm every Wednesday.

THE STUDENT GROUP

The Questors runs a two-year part-time student course in Acting; details can be obtained from the office.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S GROUPS

There are a number of groups for younger members. These cater for all age groups, from 5-17. The classes are intended to create awareness of the theatre and provide a stimulating channel for imagination.

For The Questors Theatre

President	Dame Judi Dench
Artistic Director	Spencer Butler
Artistic Directorate	Anne Gilmour, Norman Wilkinson
Director of Studies	David Emmet
Chair	John Davey
Vice-Chairman	Steve Hames
Company Secretary	Sue Blake
Club Secretary	Christine Garland
Finance Director	Ken Kettle
Stage Director	Nick Hawker
Marketing Director	Sonja Garsvo
Theatre Manager	Elaine Orchard
Productions Secretary	Christine Greening
Membership Secretary	Alice Pennicott
Marketing Officer	
Programme Editor	Vincent McQueen
Questopics Editor	John Dobson
Sponsorship	Alan Drake
Box Office Management	Bridgett Strevens
Programme Sales Organiser	Val Blaxland
Front of House Manager	Eric Lister
Press Relations	Sandra Hutchinson
Wardrobe Care	Persil, Comfort and Stergene
	Courtesy of Lever Bros.
	Dry-cleaning by C.D.S.

Administration

The Questors office is open from 9.30am until 5.30pm every weekday.

If you wish to make contact for details of membership, or hiring the Theatre and rehearsal rooms, telephone the office on 0181 567 0011.

Membership

If you wish to become a member please fill in the application form (copies in the Foyers); just send it to the Theatre with the appropriate subscription. 0181 567 8736.

Box Office

For personal callers the box office is open every Wednesday evening 6.45pm to 8.30pm; Monday to Friday 11.00am to 12 noon; during productions 6.45pm to 8.30pm; Sunday matinées 2.00pm to 2.30pm;

Members of The Little Theatre Guild of Great Britain and The International Amateur Theatre Association.