

THE QUESTORS THEATRE

Its easy to join...

- Come to the main office during office hours.
- Join us in the Grapevine Bar at The Questors Theatre on any Wednesday at 8pm for a free guided tour and a drink on us.
- Pick up a membership form from the foyer.
- Call **020 8567 0011** during office hours.
- Find out more at www.questors.org.uk.

Questors membership gives you...

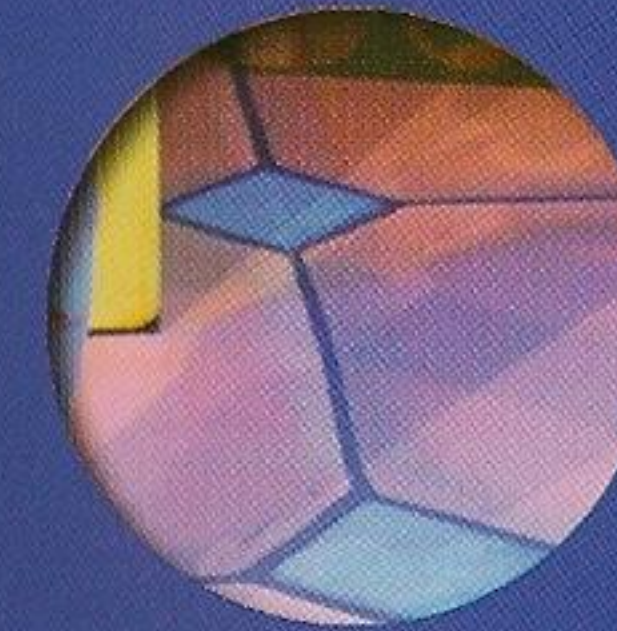
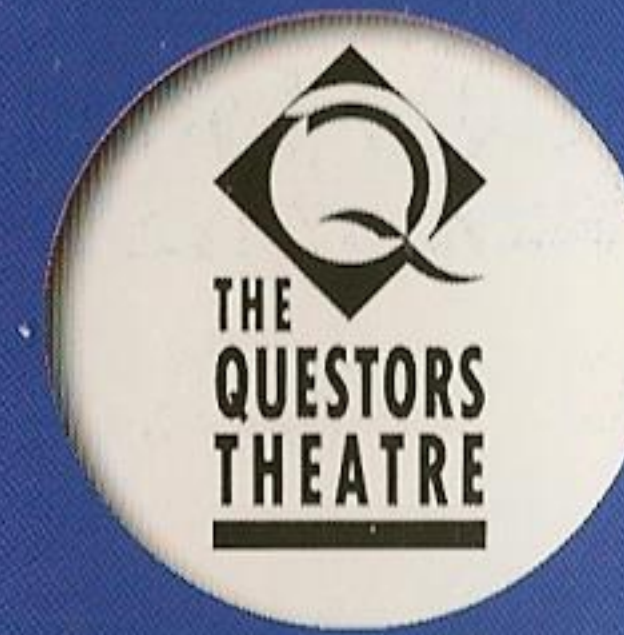
- Free tickets to at least 8 productions a year.
- Access to over 20 productions a year - classic, contemporary, international and new plays, from just £6.50 a ticket.
- Membership of the Grapevine Bar
- Questopics, our club magazine.
- The chance to act, direct, or get involved backstage.
- Discounts at: Holmes Place, Butlers restaurant, Ealing Dance Centre, Monty's Tandoori, Près de Lós exclusive lingerie.

Three ways to book tickets:

- Ring our Box Office on 020 8567 5184
Open Mon - Fri, 11.00am-12 noon, Show nights and Wednesdays 6.45pm - 8.30pm, Sunday Matinee 2.00pm - 2.30pm.
- Fill in a booking form (inside Questopics) and return to the Box Office.
- Book online at www.questors.org.uk.

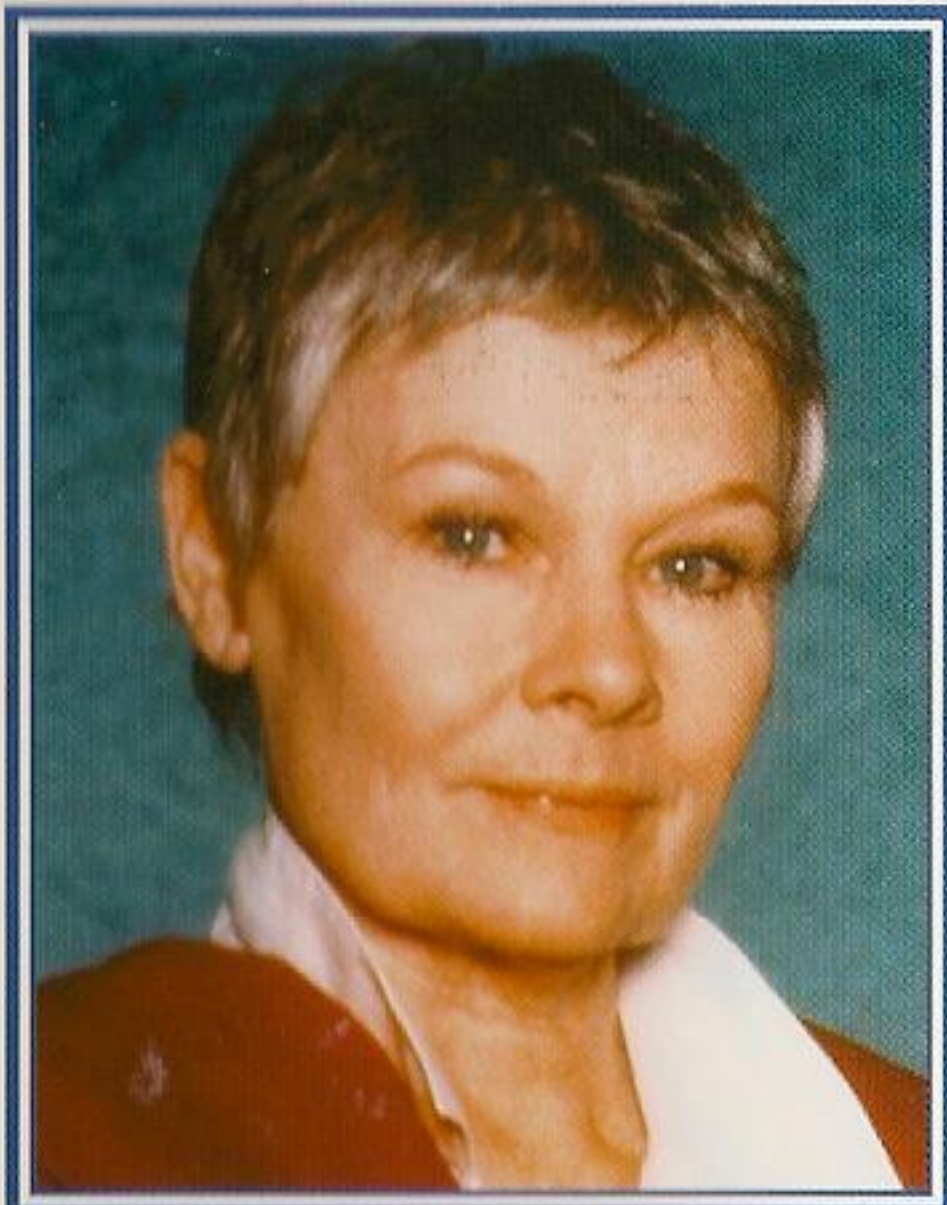
Box Office: 020 8567 5184
Admin: 020 8567 0011
Fax: 020 8567 8736
Email: enquiries@questors.org.uk
Website: www.questors.org.uk

The Questors Theatre
 Mattock Lane
 Ealing
 W5 5BQ



This Happy Breed





Welcome to The Questors Theatre, one of London's best kept secrets - except to its 3,000 members. How do I know about the Questors? I am proud to have been their President for over 18 years. Founded in 1929, it has since grown into the largest community theatre in Europe with a reputation for the highest standards, not only in acting but in direction and design as well. Luckily, with so many members, we have a wealth of talent to call on for all aspects of production and members are encouraged to be as actively involved as they would like. Alternatively, they simply enjoy the social side of the club, including the friendly Grapevine Bar (one of the many perks of



membership) and the many and varied shows in our newly refurbished 350 seater Playhouse Theatre and our more intimate Studio Theatre.

The Questors runs a professionally recognised two-year acting course in conjunction with Kingston College. There are also acting courses for beginners, free backstage training courses, visiting companies from home and abroad, regular art exhibitions, and workshops and clubs for young people. In short, there is something for everyone and with annual membership costing as little as £27.00 (including at least 8 free shows) it's great value for money as well.

But don't just take my word for it, the next time you're in West London call into The Grapevine Bar on any Wednesday evening at 8pm for a free tour of the theatre and a drink on us!

Worth looking into?

Definitely!

Judi Dench

Dame Judi Dench
President of The Questors Theatre



This Happy Breed

by Noël Coward

Noël Coward

Famed voice of the cocktail era's Bright Young Things, Noël Coward was in fact born into the "refined suburban poverty" of Teddington, Middlesex in 1899, son of a piano salesman.

He began acting in school and made his first professional appearance at age 12, after his family moved to Battersea (and later Clapham) to open a boarding house.

After playing the "boy pushing barrow" in a D.W. Griffiths film and producing his first one act-play, Coward was called to army duty in 1918 but received a medical discharge after 9 months.

In 1925 he hit it big with ***On With The Dance, Fallen Angels*** and ***Hay Fever***. A director, actor, singer, songwriter, screenwriter and novelist, his other works include: ***Cavalcade, Design for Living, Private Lives, Present Laughter, Blithe Spirit*** and ***In Which We Serve***.

1920 *I'll Leave it to You*
1924 *The Vortex*
1925 *Fallen Angels, Easy Virtue, Hay Fever.*
1927 *The Queen Was In The Parlour, Sirocco*
1930 *Private Lives*
1931 *Cavalcade*
1933 *Design for Living*
1936 *Hands Across the Sea*
1941 *Blithe Spirit*
1942 *In Which We Serve*
1943 *This Happy Breed, Present Laughter*
1952 *Tonight at 8.30*
1955 *Point Valaine*
1956 *Nude With Violin*
1956 *Volcano* (first performed in 2000)
1960 *Waiting in the Wings*
1966 *A Song at Twilight*

During World War 2 he worked with the Bureau of Propaganda in France and later in liaison in propaganda work in the United States, also on tours for troops, hospitals, factories and for war charities.

Noël Coward died on the 26th March 1973 in St Mary, Jamaica.

This Happy Breed

Rehearsals for *This Happy Breed* stopped at the outbreak of war in 1939 and it was not produced until 1942. Of the show Coward said:

"This may be sheer escapism, but if I can make people laugh etc, maybe I am not doing so very badly...this is my job really, and will remain so through all wars and revolutions and carnage."

Coward's title comes from one of many literary sources to make much of England's island status, an image pointed to in the period "between the wars" as a symbol of isolation and status -The "Island at the End of the World"

"This royal throne of Kings, this scepter'd isle,
This earth of majesty, this seat of Mars,
This other Eden, demi-paradise,
This fortress built by Nature for herself
Against infection and the hand of war,
This happy breed of men, this little world,
This precious stone set in the silver sea,
Which serves it in the office of a wall,
Or as a moat defensive of a house,
Against the envy of less happy lands,
This blessed plot, this earth, this realm, this England.

Richard II William Shakespeare

This Happy Breed

by Noël Coward

First performance 13 May 2005

Cast in order of appearance

Mrs Flint	Dorothy Boyd Taylor
Ethel Flint	Sarah Morrison
Sylvia Gibbons	Louise Kavanagh
Frank Gibbons	Duncan Alldridge
Bob Mitchell	Richard Brown
Reg Gibbons	Tom Piccin
Queenie Gibbons	Izabella Urbanowicz
Sam Leadbitter	Paul Whiting
Vi Gibbons	Holly Walters
Phylis Blake	Sam Aguilar
Edie	Karen Singer
Billy Mitchell	Robert Hall

*All of the action takes place in the dining room of
17 Sycamore Road, Clapham Common*

Act 1

Scene 1	June	1919	Moving in.
Scene 2	December	1925	Christmas Day.
Scene 3	May	1926	The general strike.

Act 2

Scene 1	October	1931	The wedding day.
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Interval of fifteen minutes

Scene 2	November	1931	The runaway.
Scene 3	May	1932	Things change.

Act 3

Scene 1	December 10 th	1936	The abdication of Edward VIII.
Scene 2	September 30 th	1938	Peace for our time.
Scene 3	June	1939	New beginnings.

Production Team

Director	Mark Fitzgerald
Designer	Peter Collins
Costume Designer	Nichola Thomas
Assisted by	Susan Millhouse, Raymond Childe
Lighting Designer	Andrew Dixon
Sound Designer & Operator	Colin Horne
Stage Manager	Adrienne Talbot
Deputy Stage Manager	Jennifer Reid
Props	Peter Salvietto, Penny Letham
Make-Up & Hair	Susie Lowe, Amanda Hardcastle, Rachel Jeffery
Scenery Artists	Cathy Kelleher, Emily Askins
Lighting Operators & Assistants	Kathryn Ruthven, Alun Jones
Construction	George Stidolph, Jim Craddock Mike Hagan
Assistant Stage Managers	Liz Cooper, Alasdair Graebner, Rachel Griffiths, Debbie Jones, Catherine Pengelly, James Varley, Jacqui Wells
Set Dressing	Jenny Richardson, Bron Beckford
Photography	David Mosby, Martin Sapsed, Cathy Kelleher
Thanks to	Dorothy Wood, Alec Atchison, Hainsley Bennett, Bernard Brady, Joe Brown, David Bunn, Jane Dewey, Emma Howe, Doug King, Gregory Langola, Guy Middlemiss, Helen Therman, Sean Thomas, Louis Tonner, Students from Kingston College.

*Helen Fowler will be playing the piano in the foyer in the interval
Her Art Exhibition is in the West Foyer and the Grapevine Bar*

The Cast of This Happy Breed



COMING SOON

The *PEACE FOR OUR TIME*

Mini-Season Continues with

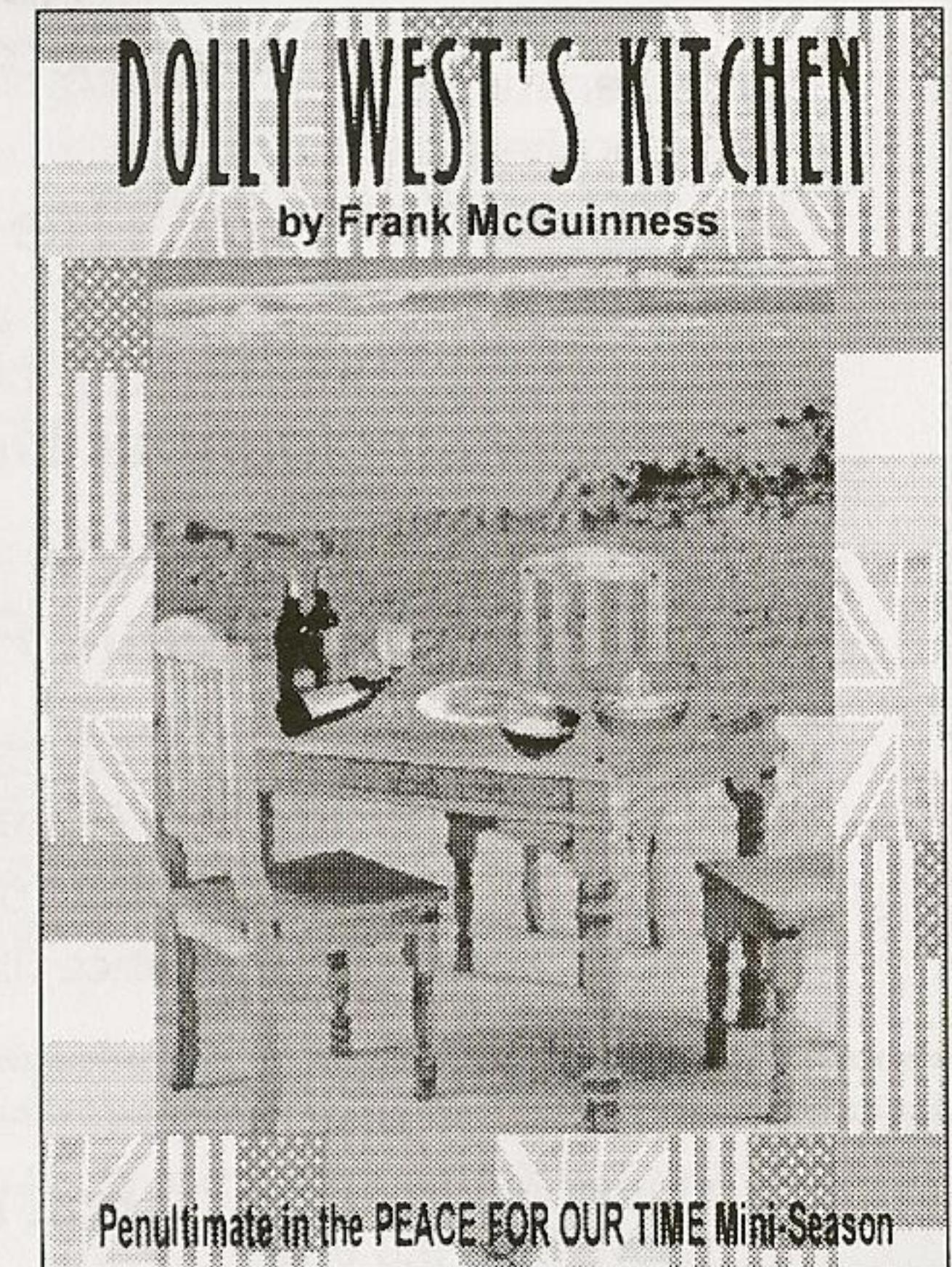
DOLLY WEST'S KITCHEN

by Frank McGuinness

In The Studio 21 - 28 May

Dolly West's Kitchen is all Ireland. The kitchen table is a place of welcome and a negotiating table.

The play takes the overwhelming feelings of war and pinpoints them through the eyes of one Irish family. It's about love, politics, war, the amazing ability of a human being to love, the power that love can give you in the horrific theatre of war, and the fear and pain that are a part of loving someone. The play is touching in ways that often take your breath away. Share the intimacy and emotion, the tears and laughter - sit with us around the table in Dolly West's Kitchen, it will affect the heart, the head and the gut. You'll want to cry, to laugh and to cheer.



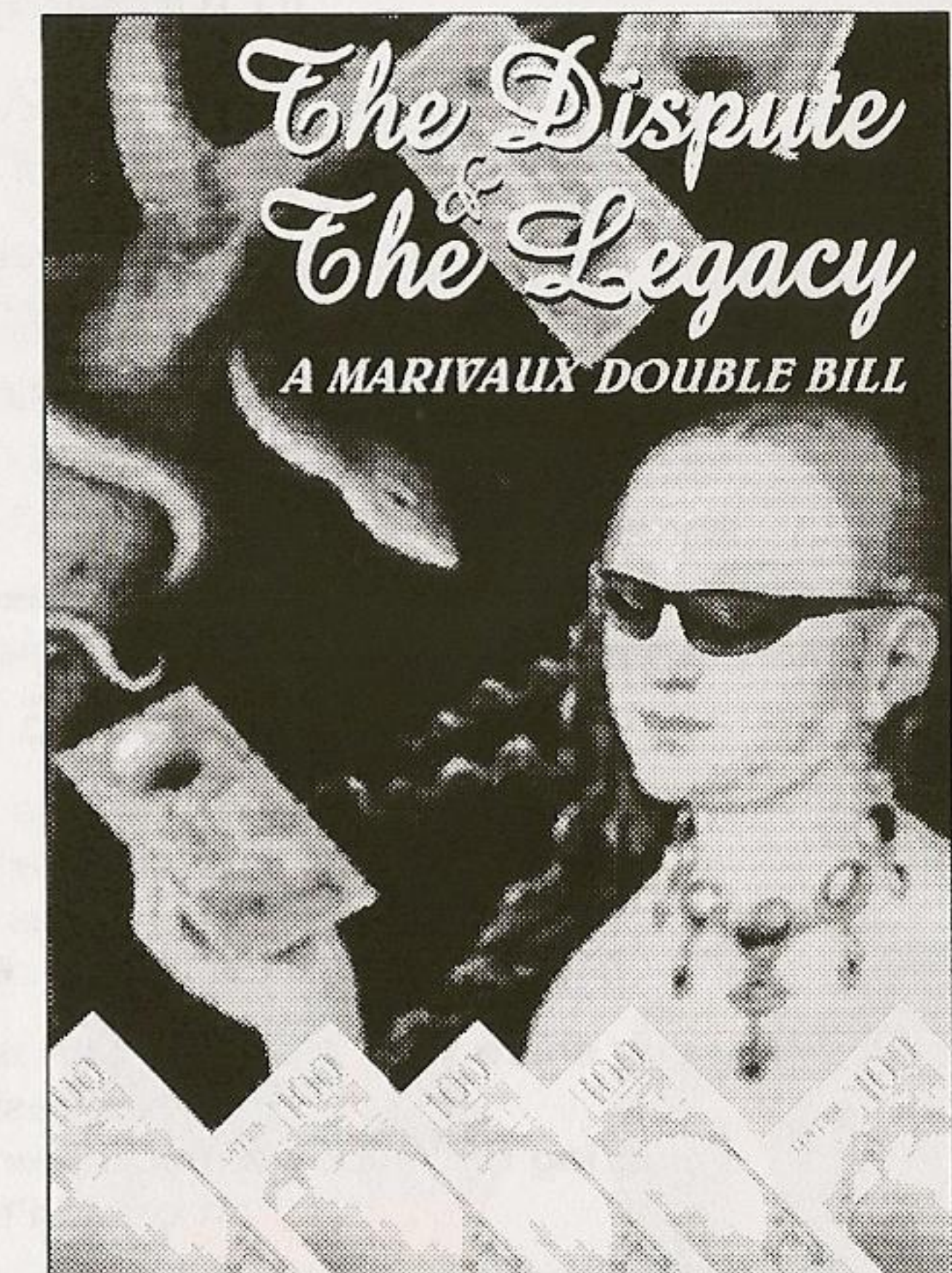
The Dispute and The Legacy

A Marivaux Double Bill

In The Studio 11 - 18 June

Sexy, satirical and psychologically acute, the comedies of Pierre Marivaux seem very 'modern' to 21st century audiences. Our double bill presents two very contrasting plays, representing the two poles of his genius, both in their different ways comic, but also with rather disturbing aspects to them. In *The Dispute* an unusual, and sinister, experiment confronts four young innocents with the discovery of the opposite sex and the consequent emotional entanglements of love and betrayal.

The Legacy is a complex intrigue in which the characters vie with each other over love, sex and money and find the task fraught with unexpected difficulties.



In The Playhouse

June 1, 2, 3, 4 at 7.45pm, GLOC Theatre Presents

Honk!

Box Office 020 8572 0475

in The Studio

May 29 at 6.30pm

Free Questors Theatre Play Reading

Incident at Vichy by Arthur Miller

June 12 at 6.30pm

Free Questors Theatre Play Reading - New Work

July 20, 21, 22, 23 at 7.45pm

Ealing Shakespeare Players present

Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare

Box Office 020 8933 0252

Art Exhibitions

in the Grapevine Bar

10 June - 28 June 2005 **Nadia Maanani**

A photographic exhibition of the French island of Mayotte.

Abstract poems - a combination of abstract art and poetry,
using graphics and digital technology

If anyone is interested in holding an exhibition at Questors and would like further details,
please contact Jane Mason on 020 8567 0011 on Tuesdays,
Wednesdays or Thursdays.

BECOME A CRITIC!

Did you like the Questors show you have just seen?
Did you hate it, or did it raise some interesting issues?
Did you think the acting was brilliant or the set surprising?
Did you enjoy the play or did you find it hard to follow?

You can share your thoughts with us, or read what others have said, at
www.questors.org.uk

Just log on - type your comments - and click the SEND button.
It couldn't be easier.

Get the most from your membership

Many members join just to see shows, but there is so much else you can do, why not get involved?

Front of house is a great place to start. For programme selling, stewarding or serving in the Café you don't need any experience, and training can be given for anyone who fancies working in Box Office. If you want to meet people and have a good time, then the best place to be is behind the Grapevine Bar - you can volunteer for just one night or many.

Backstage staff, including stage managers, prop makers painters and wardrobe staff, are always welcomed and whatever your skills we'll find a place for you. If you have some experience then The Questors is a wonderful place to be a designer, but even if you don't you can help out on shows and you're sure to get some hands-on experience. The same goes for lighting and sound - the theatre is well equipped and a good place to learn.

You can direct if you have some experience or training, but if not then you can always look out for our training opportunities. The Questors has a high standard of acting and to maintain this anyone wanting to act will need to take an audition. These are held every month - please call the main office for details.

There are numerous other things you can do to help out. If you're free in the daytimes you can help out with envelope stuffing or delivering leaflets, and if you're a bit of a handy man or woman then there are always little jobs to be done.

If you'd like more information about active membership, you can ring the office on 020 8567 0011, Mon - Fri, 9.30 - 5.30, email us on active@questors.org.uk, or come along to the lower foyer at 8.00pm on the first Thursday of every month for an active members get together.

