

9-11-75

THE QUESTORS 2ND WORLD COARSE ACTING CHAMPIONSHIP



THE ART OF COARSE ACTING

The first Coarse Acting championship at The Questors (or anywhere else for that matter) was four years ago, during an all-day fund-raising festival called the Drop in. But the first full-scale festival was in 1972 and as it proved very popular we are repeating it tonight.

Anyone who has seen a Coarse Acting Championship before will need no introduction. For the benefit of those to whom it may all be a mystery, here is a brief guide: the contest is based upon my book 'The Art of Coarse Acting' in which a Coarse Actor is defined as 'one who can remember the lines but not the order in which they come'. A Coarse Actor is not only incompetent but he tries to outshine the others. *His* spear is always a little higher than the rest, *his* walk a trifle more exaggerated, *his* make-up far more senile. Put them together and you have a Coarse Production. We even have some at Questors.

In the championship, teams compete in demonstrating various facets of the Art in short pieces of about a quarter of an hour. They may either write their own script or ruin someone else's (preferably Shakespeare's). But they must be Coarse and the result ought to be funny to win.

For tonight's show we welcome back old friends in Rose Bruford College (a very impressive entry last time) and, of course, the Questors side who, billed as The Mike Langridge Anti-Theatre, won the last Championship and who still hold the unique trophy. We are also extremely pleased to see the Salisbury Playhouse team. Earlier this year Questors competed in a festival at Salisbury Playhouse organised by our former house-manager Denys Nelson, and we are happy to welcome the winners of that competition, The Maskers of Southampton.

And finally a word of thanks to our adjudicator, Barry Took, the scriptwriter and broadcaster, for so kindly coming along to judge the competition and to present the prizes.

Thank you one and all – and may the worst team win!

Mike Green

ORDER OF PLAY

1. **THE MASKERS**, Southampton
in *Hamlet*.
2. **ROSE BRUFORD COLLEGE**
in *Snap, Crackle & Death or It's All in the Fist* by Robert Pugh.
3. **NEW COLLEGE OF SPEECH & DRAMA** (as 'The Orb & Sceptre Masqueraders')
in *Women Beware Women* by Thomas Middleton.

INTERVAL

4. **THE TOWER THEATRE**, Canonbury.
5. **SALISBURY PLAYHOUSE** (as Tenby Operatic & Dramatic Society, the T.O.A.D.S.)
in *The Seagull*, after Chekhov—more or less.
6. **THE NEW BUNNY LANGRIDGE PLAYERS** (formerly Mike Langridge Anti-Theatre)
in *A Collier's Tuesday Tea* by David Herbert Galsworthy.

After the final entry you are asked to remain seated for the adjudication and presentation of the World Coarse Acting Trophy by Barry Took.

STAFF

Director of Championships	—	MICHAEL GREEN
Stage Manager	—	DOUG BROWN
Lighting	—	RICHARD BROADHURST
Sound	—	JOHN STOTHART
Wardrobe	—	VAL MORAN
Props	—	IRIS PHELPS
Construction	—	RICHARD LEWIS
Production Assistant	—	RITA FENOUGHTY

EXHIBITION

The current exhibition of paintings in the Foyer is by John Stacey.

REFRESHMENTS

Sandwiches and coffee are available in the Foyer before performances, and refreshments will be served during the interval.

FOYER BAR

The Foyer Bar is open on performance evenings from 7.00 p.m. to 7.45 p.m. and during the interval. It operates on a theatre licence and anyone attending a performance may use it, including guests. No bar membership is involved. Interval drinks may be ordered at the bar before the performance commences. The Grapevine continues as a private bar.

DISCUSSION

A discussion is held after each production by The Questors to which all members are invited. The discussion on *Coriolanus* will be held after the performance on Saturday November 15th in the Foyer.

PLEASE DO NOT SMOKE IN THE AUDITORIUM.

PLEASE DO NOT TAKE DRINKS INTO THE AUDITORIUM.

The Questors is a Club Theatre

Only members may book tickets and membership cards **MUST** be produced at the box-office. Full details on membership are available from the Administrator, on request.

For The Questors Theatre: ARTISTIC DIRECTORATE

Director of Productions	...	...	...	NEVILLE CRUTTENDEN
Head of Design	...	...	...	BRIAN RICH
Plays Adviser	...	...	...	DAVID GOWER
Studio Theatre Director	...	...	...	SPENCER BUTLER
Productions Manager...	...	...	...	ROBERT PORTEOUS
Stage Director	...	...	...	ADRIENNE TALBOT

ADMINISTRATION

Administrator	...	...	...	GORDON CALEB
House Manager	...	...	...	STAN EAMER
Box Office Manager	...	...	...	WIN WRIGHT

The Questors wish to thank OXLEY DEVELOPMENTS for their generous help with the new Stage Lighting System.

Next Production November 29th to December 6th

STAIRCASE

by CHARLES DYER

Members: FREE

Guests: 60p & £1