

THE MASKERS THEATRE COMPANY

The Maskers Theatre Company was formed in 1969 by a small group of enthusiastic amateur actors. Since then membership has swelled to over eighty and the company has become well-known for producing a wide variety of productions to a high standard. Maskers are based in Southampton at the Eastpoint Centre.

The Maskers perform several major productions in each season. These usually include two productions at the Nuffield Theatre, an open air production at Mottisfont Abbey and several shows at other venues. Successful shows at the Nuffield include *Rebecca*, *When The Wind Blows*, *The Servant of Two Masters*, *The Dresser* and *Lock Up Your Daughters*.

The Maskers Youth Theatre is a new group within Maskers for members aged 15 - 25. They perform separate shows as well as taking part in the main company productions.

If you would like to receive regular details of Maskers productions, please write to:-  
The Maskers Theatre Company, 10, Rose Road, Southampton SO2 1AE.



FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS

**THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE**

by C.S.Lewis adapted by Irita Kutchmy

The Maskers Youth Theatre present their musical interpretation of C.S.Lewis' famous tale. Four children pass through the wardrobe into the fabulous land of Narnia - can they reach Aslan before the White Witch captures them? A delight for children and adults alike.

The Plaza, Romsey                   MAY 11th-13th  
  (matinée Sat)

The Gantry, Southampton    MAY 17th-20th  
  (matinées Fri/Sat)

Advance Bookings for both venues :  
Soton 225677

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**ON GOLDEN POND**

by Ernest Thompson

Best known for the film version starring the Fondas and Katherine Hepburn, this is a gentle, funny play about an elderly couple coming to terms with their own mortality.

Nuffield Theatre    JUNE 13th-17th  
Box Office : Southampton 671771

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**MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING**

by William Shakespeare

The Maskers 21st Anniversary production! *Much Ado* was the first play performed by the Maskers so it has been chosen for this special anniversary production in the open air at Mottisfont Abbey. Shakespeare's much-loved comedy of the mating of Beatrice and Benedict sizzles with life and wit.

Don't miss the celebrity CHARITY GALA NIGHT - SUNDAY 23rd JULY Full details available from the Box Office.

JULY 20th-29th inclusive

Mottisfont Abbey, Mottisfont (near Romsey)

Box Office : Lockerley 40210

# maskers theatre company

# A day in the death of Joe Egg



by

**Peter  
Nichols**

## PETER NICHOLS

Peter Nichols was born in Bristol in 1927 and educated at Bristol Grammar School and Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. After National Service in India, Malaya, Singapore and Hong Kong, he was an actor, then a teacher in London junior and secondary schools.

He has written some twenty original plays and adaptations for television, several feature film scripts and the following stage plays: *A Day in the Death of Joe Egg* (1967) and *The National Health* (1969), both winners of the Evening Standard Best Play Award; *Forget-Me-Not Lane* (1971); *Chez Nous* (1974); *The Freeway* (1974); *Privates on Parade* (1977), which won best comedy awards from both the Evening Standard and the Society of West End Theatre, and the Ivor Novello Award for the Best British Musical; *Born in the Gardens* (1979); *Passion Play* (1981); *Poppy* (1982), which won the Society of West End Theatre Award for the Best British Musical and *A Piece of my Mind* (1987), which ran at the Nuffield Theatre before transferring to the West End.

He was resident playwright at the Guthrie Theatre, Minneapolis, where he co-directed a production of *The National Health* on the thrust stage. He has also directed a revival of *Joe Egg* at Greenwich and the first production of *Born in the Gardens* at Bristol. The 1985 Broadway revival of *Joe Egg* won two Tony Awards. In 1984 he published his autobiography, *Feeling You're Behind*.

### A DAY IN THE DEATH OF JOE EGG

*Joe Egg* is an autobiographical play based on Nichols' experience of caring for a severely disabled child; his eldest daughter Abigail was the model for Joe Egg. Nichols makes unusual use of the actors directly addressing the audience and acknowledging that they are performing a play. He said of the play "if *Joe Egg* is a problem play, the problem is not only how to live with a handicapped child but how to describe that life (as Bri says) 'in a way that will prevent a stampede to the exit-doors.'" He succeeds by making us laugh, through the pain, with Bri and Sheila.

## THE MASKERS THEATRE COMPANY

presents

### A DAY IN THE DEATH OF JOE EGG

by Peter Nichols

#### CAST in order of appearance

Bri	<i>Peter White</i>
Sheila	<i>Fran Morley</i>
Joe	<i>Emily Tuff</i>
Pam	<i>Meri Lawther</i>
Freddie	<i>Malcolm Brown</i>
Grace	<i>Julie Baker</i>

1967. The action takes place in the living-room of Bri and Sheila's home during an evening in winter.

There will be one interval of 15 minutes.

#### FOR THE MASKERS

Director	<i>Ros Liddiard</i>
Stage Manager	<i>Angela Barks</i>
Assisted by	<i>Julia Campone</i>
Properties	<i>Ella Lockett</i> <i>Jan Ward</i>
Lighting	<i>Clive Weeks</i> <i>Sue Cunningham</i> <i>Wendy Hall</i> <i>Helen Olden</i>
Sound	<i>Tony Lawther</i>
Set Design	<i>Peter Liddiard</i>
Set Construction	<i>Larry Bartell</i> <i>Peter Liddiard</i> <i>Roger Lockett</i> <i>John Riggs</i> <i>Brian Stansbridge</i>
Set Dressing	<i>Hazel Burrows</i>
Wardrobe	<i>Siân Turner</i>
Paintings	<i>Edwin Beecroft</i>
Photography	<i>Malcolm Brown</i> <i>Tony Collier</i>

The Maskers thank all who have contributed towards this production and most especially :

**Elaine Cronk, the Staff and children of The Rose Road Centre, Southampton**

**Mark Mitchener and the pupils of Crestwood School, Eastleigh**

King Edward's School, Melchet Court  
Roya Waters  
Oxfam  
Pinecrafts of Bishop's Waltham  
Platt and Knight of Totton

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