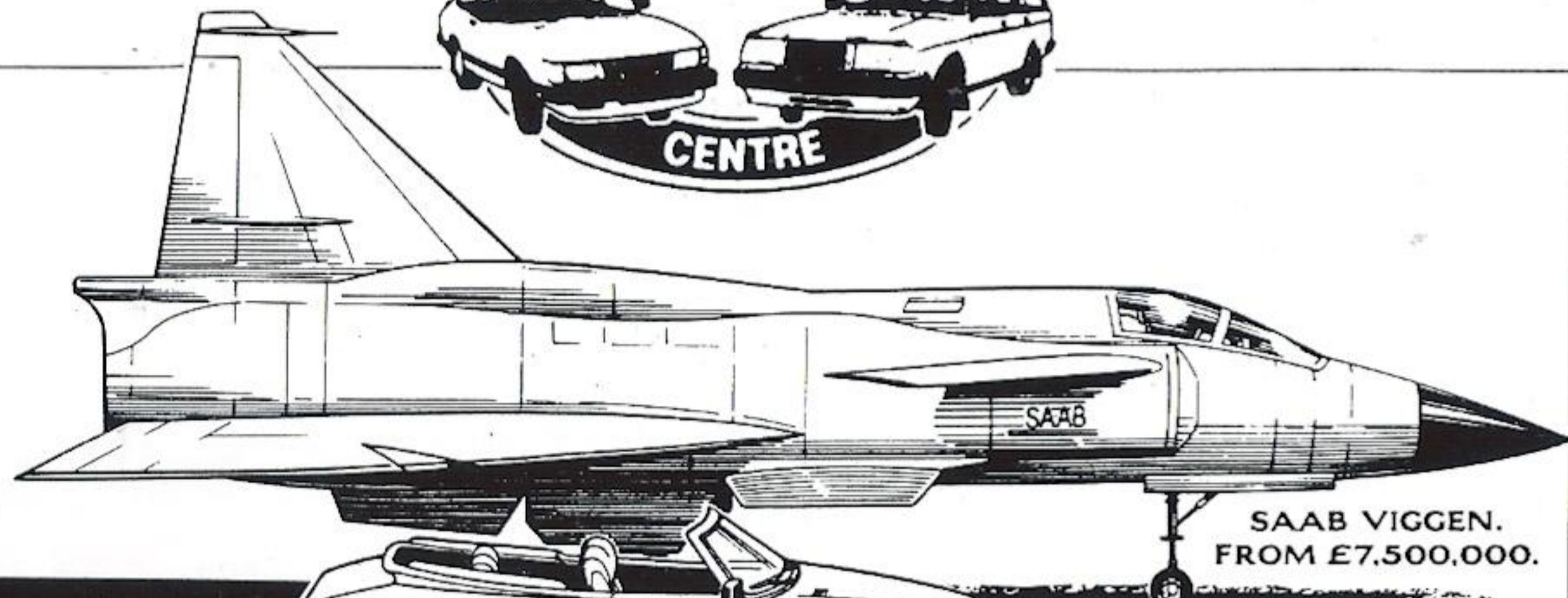


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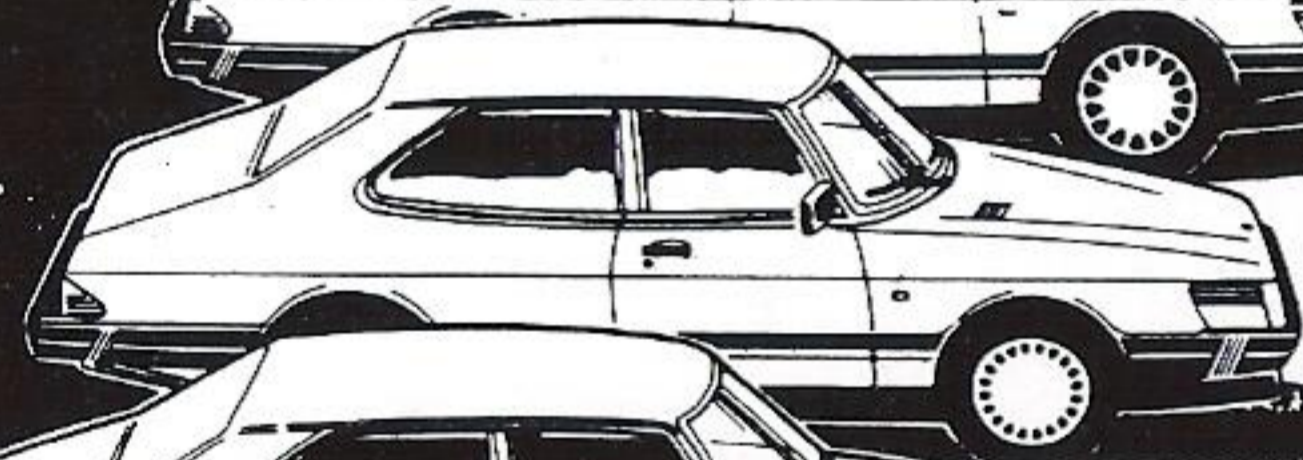
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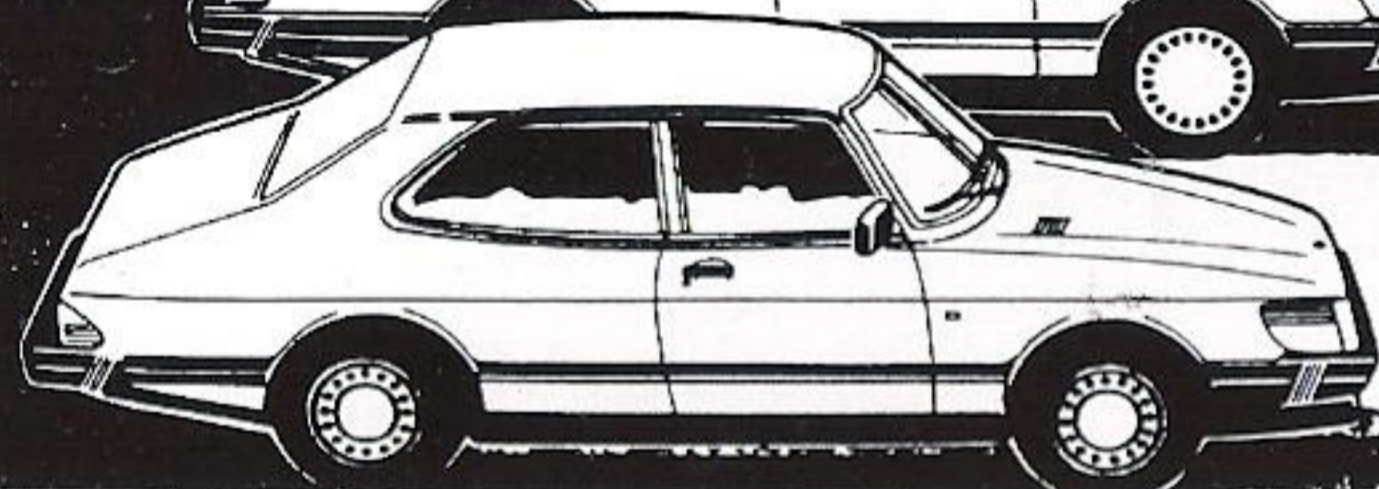
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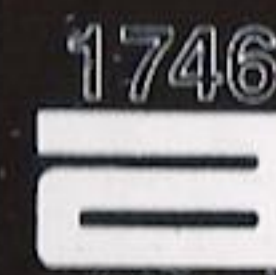
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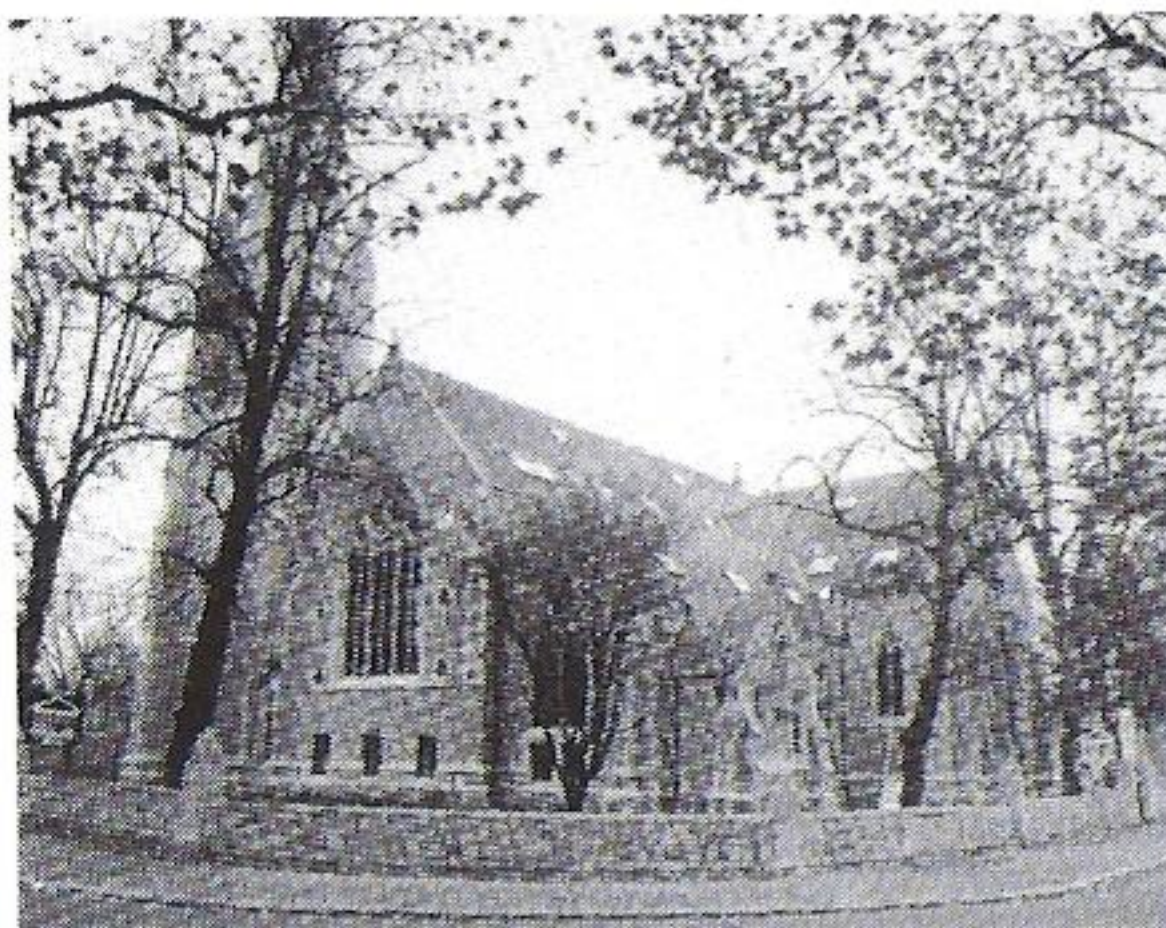
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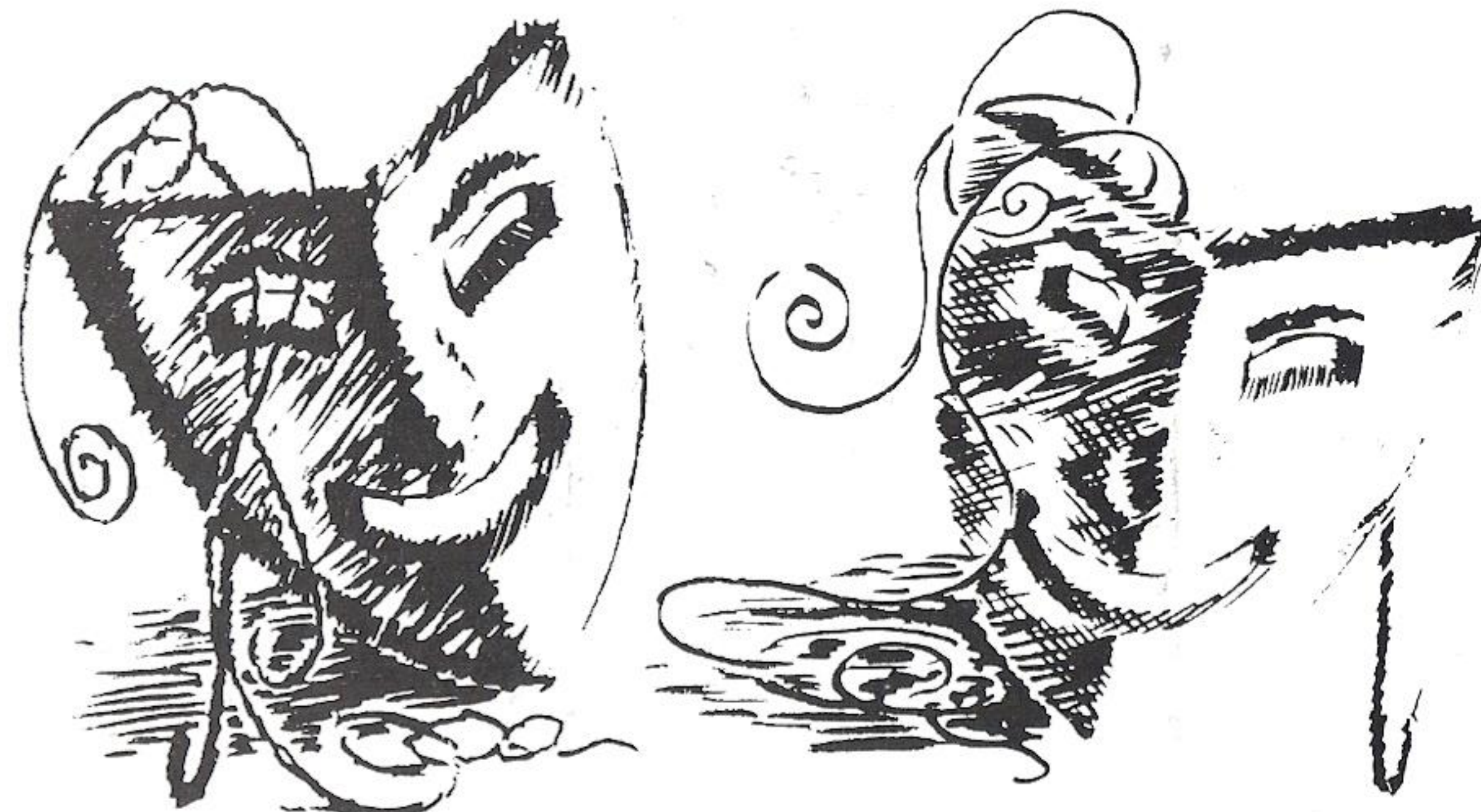
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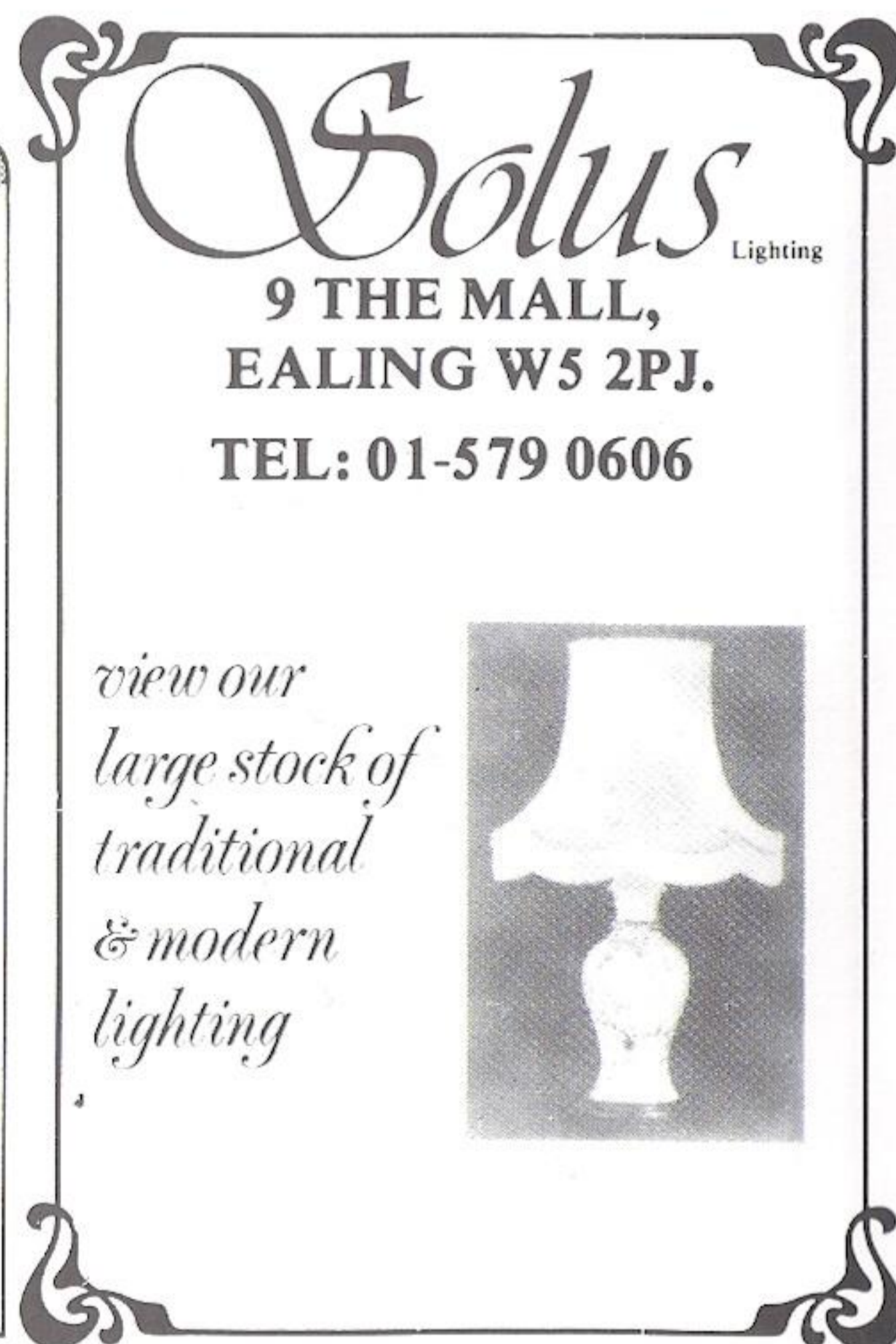
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THE QUESTORS THEATRE

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Vice-Presidents: Sir Brian Batsford, Alfred Emmet, OBE, Roger Rees, Michael Williams
Theatre Manager: Elaine Orchard

The Questors presents

RIGHT YOU ARE!

(If you think so)

by **LUIGI PIRANDELLO**

Translated by **FREDERICK MAY**

Director **TONY RUSHFORTH**

Set Design **RAY DUNNING**

Lighting and Sound **STEVE HAMES**

Costumes **LINDSAY UDELL & MARY ANDERSON**

Movement **SUSAN WORMLEIGHTON**

This production is sponsored by

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"Mine is a serious theatre. It requires the total participation of that moral entity—man. It is not a comfortable theatre. It is a difficult theatre, even a dangerous one."

Luigi Pirandello in interview (1935)

"Right you are! (If you think so) is one of Pirandello's two finest plays . . . it is a searing protest against stripping people of their defensive fantasies.

The power of Pirandello's theatre depends on the tug between the intellectual comedy and the passionate tragedy set in it like a

burning scar. The struggle between these elements is Pirandello's theatre."

Twentieth Century Drama—Bamber Gascoigne

"Right you are! (If you think so) is, by virtually unanimous agreement, the most important turning point in Pirandello's career, his abandonment of realism in the theatre."

An Approach to Pirandello's Theatre—Olga Ragusa

"Right you are! (If you think so) can be seen as a play that is self-consciously about itself, where the deliberate structuring of the scenes is not meant to create an illusion of verisimilitude but is meant to deliberately draw attention to the artifices of the processes of theatre."

Luigi Pirandello—Susan Bassnet-McGuire

"It is easy to see why so many critics have seen Amalia's brother in **Right you Are!** as Pirandello's own mouthpiece, a view reinforced by the fact that the figure of the compassionate ironist recurs so frequently in Pirandello's work"

Luigi Pirandello—Susan Bassnet-McGuire

"Right you are! (If you think so), with **The Rules of the Game, Naked** and **The Life I gave you,** typifies the use of the favourite Pirandellian metaphor of life as a grotesque game being played for real by deluded mankind."

Luigi Pirandello—Susan Bassnet-McGuire



The Questors cast in rehearsal for this production

Robert Brustein considers Pirandello "the most seminal dramatist of our time — anticipating the existential anguish of Sartre and Camus, and Beckett's portrayal of the isolation of modern man". He sees him as "preshadowing O'Neill, Pinter and Albee in their approach to the conflict of truth and illusion and Jean Genet in his concept of man as a role-playing animal." Pirandello's contribution to the development of twentieth century theatre is considerable. As this is the centenary year of his birth it is particularly appropriate that the Questors should present **Right You Are!** The play has not had a major professional production in London for nearly thirty years and it is ripe for reappraisal.

Tony Rushforth

CAST

LUIGI

MRS FROLA

MR PONZA, her son-in-law

MRS PONZA, his wife

COUNCILLOR AGAZZI

AMALIA AGAZZI, his wife, Luigi's sister

DINA, their daughter

MAGDA, their housekeeper

MRS SIRELLI

MR SIRELLI

MRS CINI

MISS NENNI

MR CENTURI,

Commissioner of Police

THE PREFECT

COLIN PRONGER

MARY DAVIES

ROBIN INGRAM

LESLEY BILTON

KEN RATCLIFFE

GILLIAN KERSWELL

CAROLINE BLEAKLEY

DOROTHY WOOD

RUTH LISTER

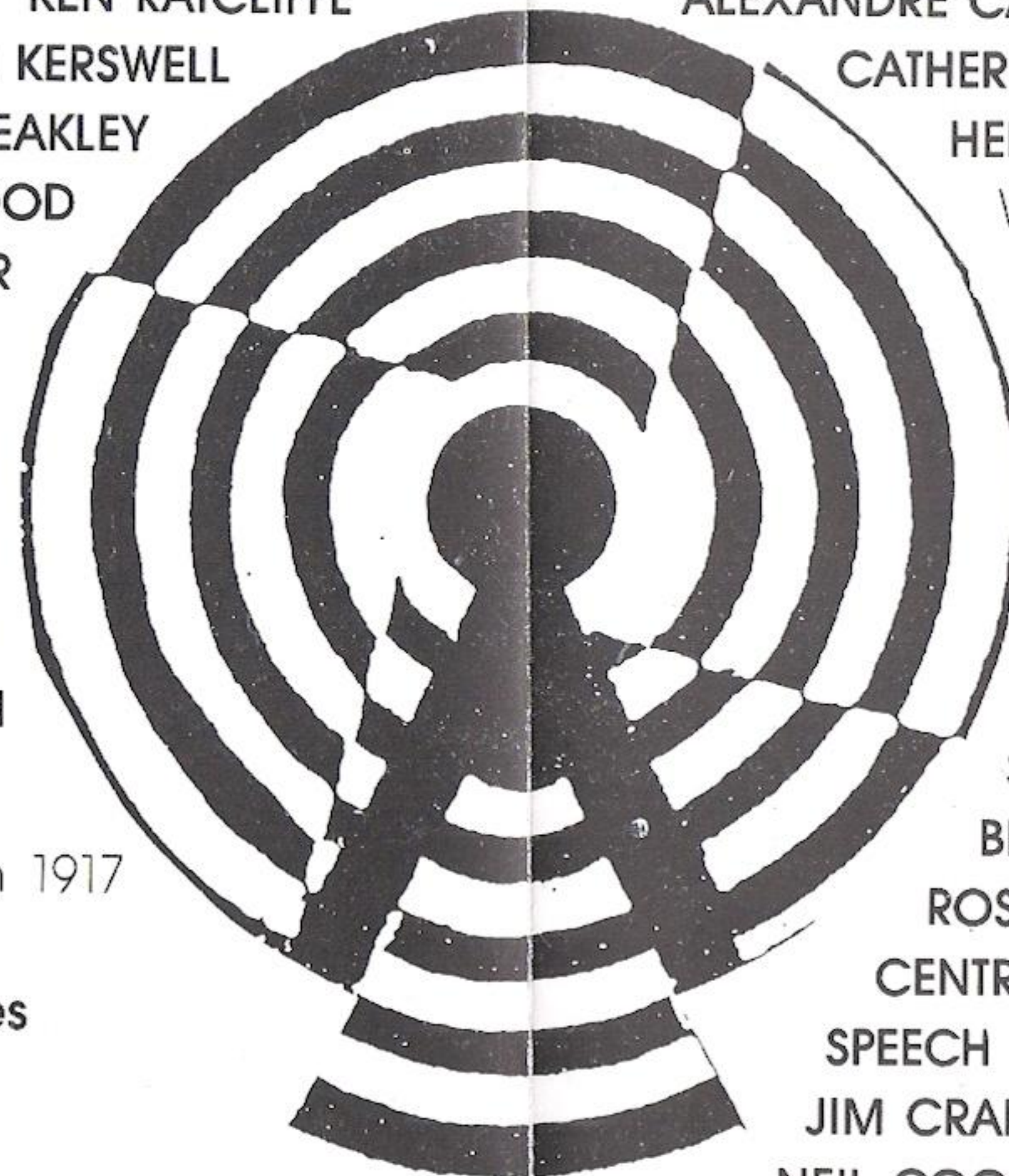
JACK WOOD

MARY HODLIN

FRANGCON WHELAN

DAVID PEARSON

VINCENT McQUEEN



Stage Manager **SALLY LISTER**

Deputy Stage Manager **WENDY HUTCHINSON**

Assistant Stage Managers **ISHAI GASTER**

Properties **ARUNA REDDY**

Assisted by **FRANCINE BROWN**

Make-up Supervision **JULIE CRUTTENDEN**

Assisted by **CHARLIE BRADLEY DEBRA COBB**

ALEXANDRE CAWDRON JANITA DOYLE JENNIFER GADES

CATHERINE HARRIS ELENIA KELLY SARAH PLUMMER

HENRIETTA PRYOR SUSAN SHAMASH

Wardrobe **PAULINE NIXON MARY ANGUS**

Construction **SEAN GRAHAM**

Assisted by **PETER TERRY**

Lighting Operator **PHILIPPA FORSTER**

Sound Operator **JOHN CLOAD**

Prompt **SHARON COLLIS**

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TIM CURTIS

CHRIS SYDENHAM

GABRIEL FARRELL

DAVID WHEATLEY

MAURY HORWICH

NIGEL WORSLEY

JENNIFER GRIFFITHS

The play is set in a provincial town in ITALY in 1917

There will be one interval of fifteen minutes

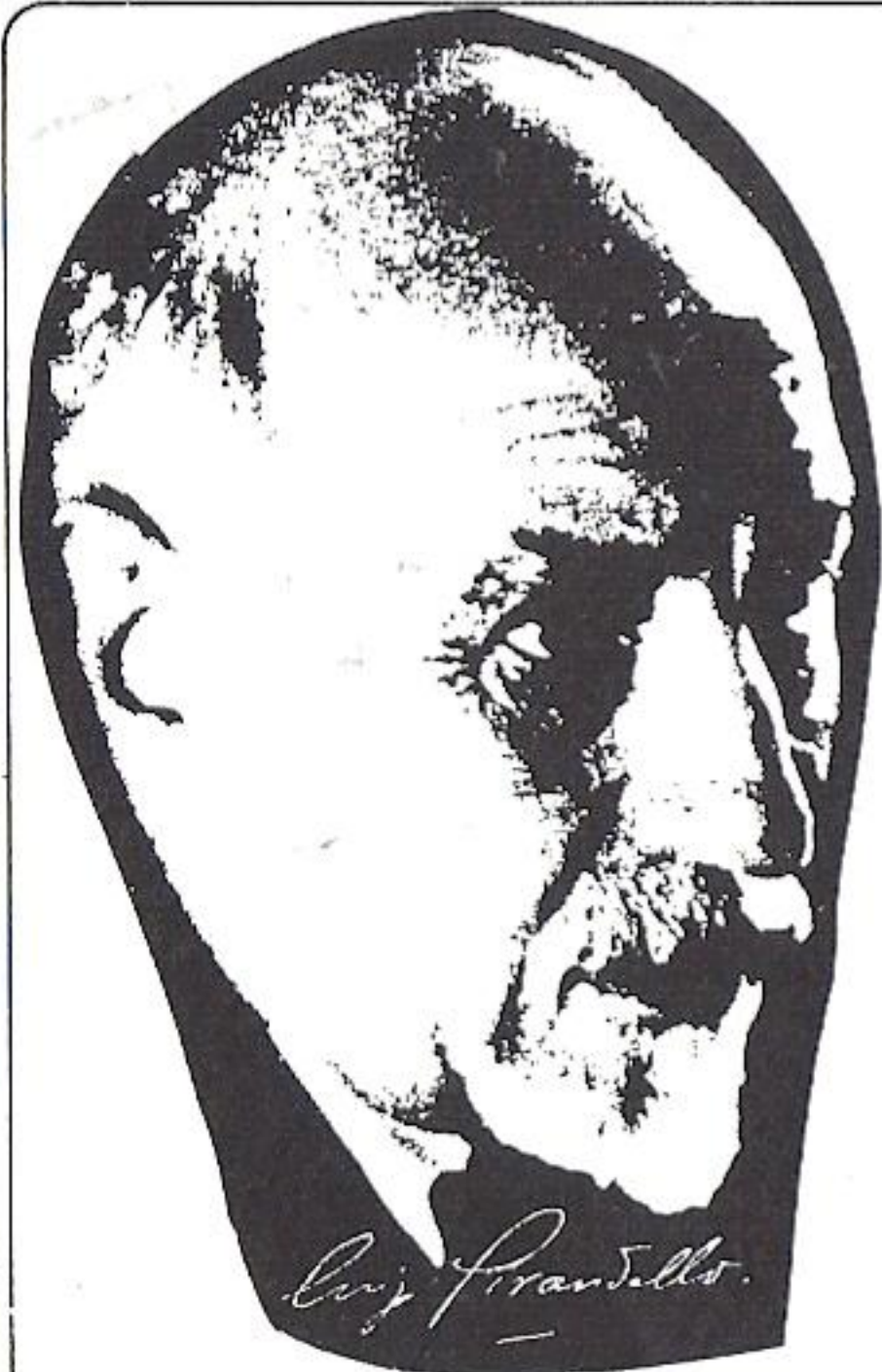
Director **TONY RUSHFORTH**

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LUIGI PIRANDELLO (1867-1936)

1867: 28 June. Luigi Pirandello is born in Agrigento Sicily, the son of Stefano Pirandello, owner of sulphur mines.

1886: Starts to study law and philosophy at the University of Palermo. Later goes on to universities in Rome and Bonn.

1892: Settles in Rome and devotes himself to writing.

1894: Marriage arranged with Antonietta Portulano, daughter of his father's business partner. (Two sons and a daughter are born of the marriage). Begins publishing short stories.

1903: The sulphur mines are flooded and the fortune of both families is lost. Antonietta suffers a nervous breakdown. Writing, with teaching, becomes Pirandello's means of making a living.

1910: **Sicilian Limes** and **The Vice** are premiered in Rome — Pirandello's first plays to be staged. Between now and his death he writes 41 more.

1915: Italy enters the war. Pirandello's eldest son, Stefano, joins up and is later captured by the 'Austrians.

1917: **Right You Are! (If You Think So)** first performed in Milan and published in 1918.

1918: **The Rules of the Game** premiered in Rome to tremendous controversy: it is considered anti-heroic and ambiguous.

1919: His wife is committed to an asylum.

1921: 10 May. **Six Characters in Search of an Author** premiered at the Teatro Valle in Rome. The sight of a bare stage, of a seemingly unplanned-rehearsal, provokes outrage in the audience. At the end, some chase him to his taxi, shouting abuse.

1922: **Henry IV** premiered in Milan, and **To Clothe the Naked** in Rome. After initial opposition from the Lord Chamberlain, and following support from Bernard Shaw, **Six Characters** has its London premiere at the Kingsway Theatre, 27 February, performed by the Stage Society, a private theatre club.

1924: **Each In His Own Way** premiered in Milan. Pirandello becomes a formal member of the fascist party.

1925: Begins his own theatre company, the Teatro d'Arte in Rome, with a subsidy from the state. Meets and falls in love with the actress Marta Abba. Pirandello tours with his company to England, France, Germany and America, and later to South America. First English performance of **Right You Are! (If You Think So)** at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith directed by Nigel Playfair with Claude Rains, Nigel Playfair and Nancy Price in the cast.

1928: The troupe breaks up because of lack of money. Pirandello goes to live in Berlin.

1929: Becomes a member of the newly-established Italian Academy.

1930: **Tonight We Improvise** premiered in Königsberg, Germany, and seen later in Berlin where it flops. He moves to Paris.

1932: Hollywood film made (starring Greta Garbo and Erich von Stroheim) of his play **As You Desire Me**. He moves back to Rome.

1934: His opera, **The Changeling**, premiered in Braunschweig, Germany, attended by Hitler. Pirandello awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature.

1935: His play **No One Knows How** opens in Italy and is hissed at at every performance.

1936: Plans a film adaptation of **Six Characters** with Max Reinhardt as director. 10 December dies of pneumonia. His last play, **The Mountain Giants**, is published posthumously, unfinished.

THE QUESTORS THEATRE EXHIBITION

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SARAH GODSILL born London 1965 studied at Kingston Polytechnic 1983 Foundation Art Course. Part-time drawing and painting at Chelsea and Putney Schools of Art 1984-86. Newcastle upon Tyne Polytechnic BA (Hons) Fine Art Degree 1986. Mixed group exhibitions at Kingston and Bayswater 1981-87. Royal Society of Portrait Painters, Mall Galleries, London, 1983. Stable Gallery, London 1983-87. Book illustrations for dual-text books, 'Soma goes to Market', 'Soma goes to School'. Suhada Press 1984.

Her work is in public and private collections in Europe, USA and UK.

VERNON GODSILL was born in London in 1934. He studied at Ealing Art School 1956-62 and Putney School of Art 1973-80. Exhibitions in London and Surrey 1978-85. One Man Exhibitions at Questors Theatre, Ealing 1981, The Farrington Gallery, Holland Park 1981, and The Royal Society of Painters in Water Colours, Contemporary Water Colours at the Bankside Gallery, London 1982/83/84/85/86/87

His work is in public and private collections in Europe, USA, Australia and UK.

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Tuesday the 15th December in the Upper Foyer our guest speaker will be

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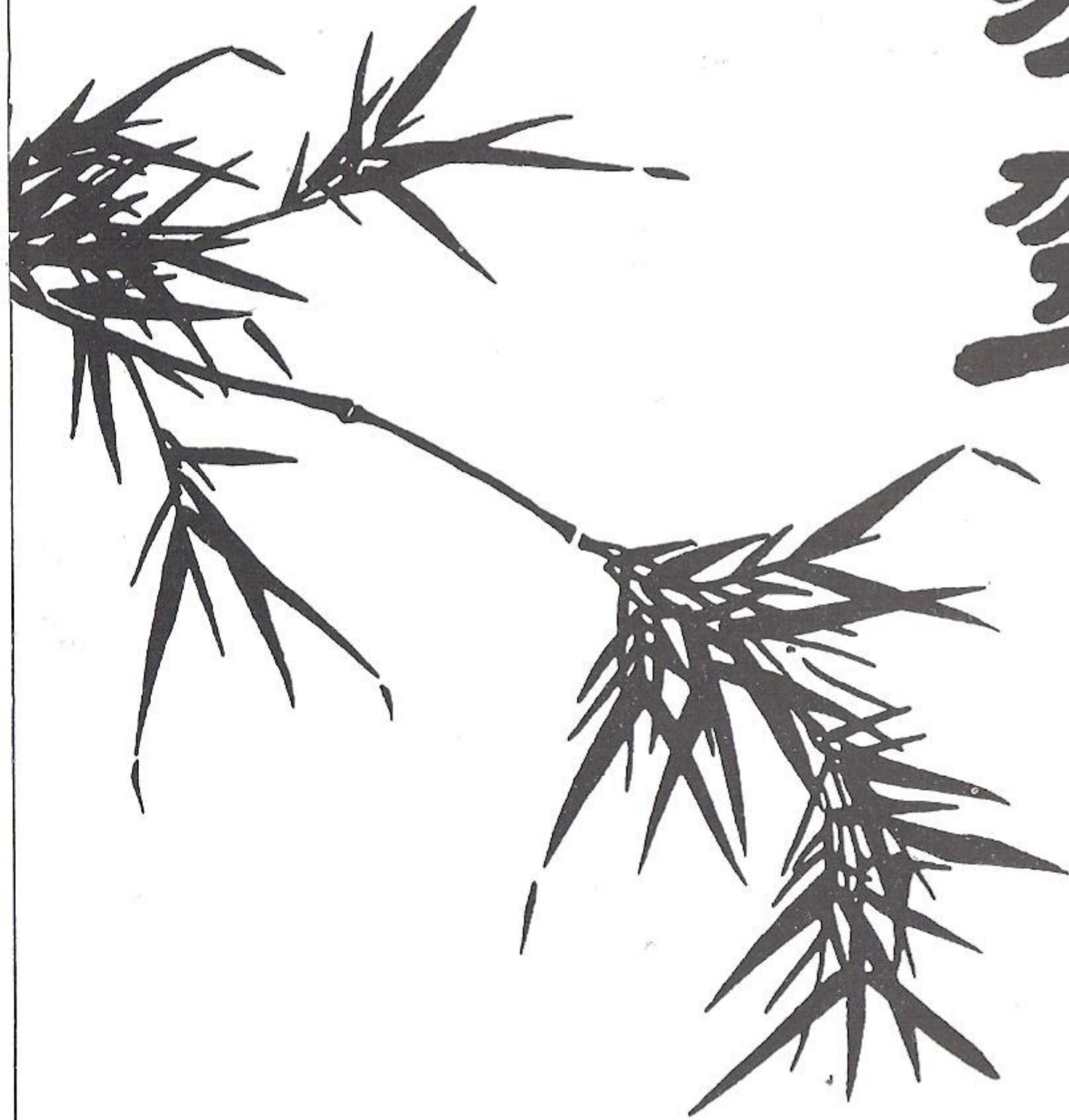
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