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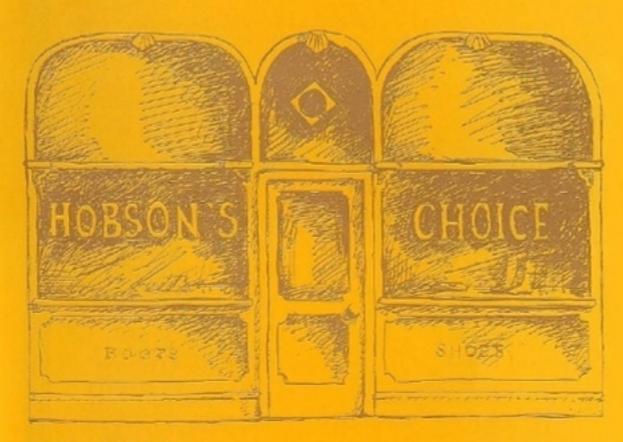
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QUESTORS HEATRE





by Harold Brighouse

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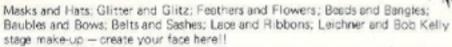


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Theatre Manager: Elaine Orchard

First Performance 11th March 1989

HOBSON'S CHOICE

By Harold Brighouse

Directed by Pat Gowman

Designed by Norman Barwick Lighting designed by Alan N. Smith Sound designed by Nigel Worsley

Sponsored by

THE STUDIO

43 Bond Street, Ealing W5.



The Author and his work

Harold Brighouse was born on 26 July 1882 at Eccles, near Manchester. His mother, before her marriage, had been a headmistress, and his father was in the cotton business. He won a scholarship to Manchester Grammar School, partly as a result of his mother's coaching. At school, he was lazy; he tolerated Latin, disliked Greek; and it soon became obvious that he was not going to gain academic distinction. He left school in 1899 to become a learner at a textiles export merchant's in Whitworth Street, Manchester. During this time he became an enthusiastic attender at the Royal Theatre. He was sent to his firm's London Office in 1902 and moved into Mecklenburgh Square. Again he spent much of his time at the theatre as a 'first-nighter' in the gallery. His salary at the age of twenty was £150 a year: the cost of a seat in the gallery was one shilling.

Brighouse wrote a play in five acts which he sent to one of the great actors of the day, Sir Johnston Forbes-Robertson (1853-1937) who, however, returned it, pointing out that its acting time was less than an hour. Brighouse rewrote it as a one-act play, Lonesome-like, which he regarded as his best play of this type. He sold it for five pounds in 1911, an unhappy step since it ran to over three thousand performances. At this time he was still working. All his writing was done in the evenings and on Saturdays and Sundays; and though he possibly did not realize it at the time, he was later to admit that it was through this early constant play-going that he learned the elements of his 'trade'.

Though he continued to live in London, Brighouse remained all his life closely connected with his native Lancashire: from 1913 to 1945 he was a regular contributor to the Manchester Guardian. Another great

influence was Miss Annie Horniman, who had been connected with the Abbey Theatre in Dublin. In 1908 she bought the Comedy Theatre in Manchester, renamed it the Gaiety, and opened it as a repertory theatre. Miss Horniman was an eccentric spinster whose richly embroidered evening clothes attracted much attention. She considered that a city that could support a weekly concert by the Hallé Orchestra could also support a theatre given over to serious plays. There she established what became known as the 'Manchester school' of playwrights. Of these Brighouse and Stanley Houghton (author of Hindle Wakes) were the most famous. Allan Monkhouse was another. Under Annie Horniman's rule the theatre in Manchester became a significant influence on English drama. Some, although by no means all, of the plays were based on Lancashire life and habits; The Gaiety survived as a theatre until 1921.

Brighouse also wrote a number of novels, one in collaboration with Charles Forrest, based on *Hobson's Choice*. He also turned Stanley Houghton's *Hindle Wakes* into a novel.

He did not revolutionize the drama of his day; he was a workmanlike rather than an inspired writer. He confessed that he had no 'lust for self-expression', and that if that was what art was about he was no artist. 'We were of our time,' he wrote, 'influenced by Shaw and by Ibsen's social plays'. His important contribution to the theatre is *Hobson's Choice*, with its Lancashire background, its rich characterization and its humour.

Brighouse considered that, in the words of the Lancashire song, he had reason to be thankful 'for what A've 'ad'. He died in London on 25 July 1958, on the day before his seventy-sixth birthday. And, though *Hobson's Choice*, for example, dwells much upon the subject of marriage, Brighouse himself remained a lifelong bachelor.

HOBSON'S CHOICE

HAROLD BRIGHOUSE

CAST

*** ** 1	*** * * * * *
Alice Hobson	Wendy Smith
Maggie Hobson	
Vickey Hobson	
Albert Prosser	
Henry Horatio Hobson	
Mrs Hepworthl	•
Timothy Wadlow (Tubby)	Simon Roberts
William Mossop	
Jim Heeler	Barrie Blewett
Ada Figgins	Caroline Young
Fred Beenstock	_
Dr Macfarlane	Neville Bradbury

The play is set in Salford, Lancashire in 1880

ACT 1	Hobson's Boot Shop - mid-day.
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- **ACT 2** The same, mid-day one month later.
- ACT 3 Will and Maggies' home same evening.
- ACT 4 Hobson's living room early morning one year later

There will be an interval of fifteen minutes between Act 2 and Act 3

PRODUCTION

		Pat GowmanJean Foad
		Norman Barwick
		Alan Smith
		Nigel Worsley
Costume D	esigner	Janice Boot
Stage Mana	ger	Gordon Miller
Stage Crew		Fawaz Atturkey
		Clair Broughton, Jim Caithness
		Peter Collins, Susan Jagger
_		Harriet Simon
Properties .		Joan Curry
		Margot McCarthy
Wardrobe .		Grace Craddock
		Julie Mitchell, Val Moran
		Carlene Pence, Anne Turner, Lindsay Udell, Sarah Andrews
Constructio	NO.	Arthur Boardman
Constructio	m	Andrew Branscombe, Tina Harris,
		Norman Hill, Sabine Manthey,
		Tom Morton, Chris Sydenham
Lighting Op	erators	Anne Rice
-55		Jan Wawrzynowicz
Sound Oper	rator	Jan Wawrzynowicz
Prompters.		Jean Kolbe
		Peter Gardiner
Make-Up ar	nd Hair	Michel Amir
		Amanda Barker, Loiuse Young
10%	Laboration	GREASEPAINT
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		Norman Holford, Steve Anderson
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		Doug King



Saturday, April 1st 1989

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. THE QUESTORS THEATRE _ COMING EVENTS

25th ANNIVERSARY of the PLAYHOUSE

Tony Shipley will give an illustrated lecture on the background of the building. The Questors Theatre, opened by H.M. The Queen Mother on 22nd April 1964. Included in the lecture will be a showing of the film "This is the Beginning." There will be a cake and the odd complimentary glass of wine to toast the anniversary.

Tickets can be obtained at the Box Office. Members and Guests £1.

The occasion is sponsored by the building firm of BAMFORD AND BRIERLEY.

Sunday 16 April at 7.45pm in the PLAYHOUSE.

Next in the Playhouse

LONDON ASSURANCE

by Dion Boucicault

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Directed by Roberta Green and designed by Julian Dowson the cast includes: Mary Davies, Gillian Kerswell, Simon Higginson, Derek Bullock, Ken Ratcliffe and Piers Whibley.

Performances 15 - 22 April at 7.45pm 16 April at 3.00pm

Tickets: Members and Guests £3.00 and £3.50 Sponsored by FIELD AVIATION LTD.

Next in the Studio

HAMLET - WHAT DREAMS MAY COME?

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Cast includes: Caroline Bleakley, Phillip Clayton-Gore, John Dobson, Denys Gaskill, Chris Haddock, Monyene Kane, Annie Kimber, Nigel Lawrence, Jonathan Plunkett and Vic Pompini.

Performances: 8 - 15 April at 7.45pm Tickets: Members and Guests: £2.50

Rehearsed Playreadings

THE MEMORANDUM by Valclav Haval

Translated by Vera Blackwell Directed by Renata Nash

Note the venue for this reading will be in the WORKSHOP Sunday March 12th at 7.45pm

THE TOWN FOP by Aphra Behn

In the Foyer Sunday April 9th at 7.45pm

Admission to both is free and refreshments are available.



For The Questors Theatre

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Geoff Webb Paddy O'Connor Martin Bowley Roger Kelly **Gwenan Evans** Michael Vadon Lucille Terry Doug King Elaine Orchard Jill Gee Lindsay Udell Elaine Orchard Ken Ratcliffe Simon Higginson Geoffrey Sellman Ken Parker **Douglas Thomas Dorothy Dent** Barralets of Ealing Gutermann Wilkinson Sword Persil, Comfort, Stergene

ADMINISTRATION

The Questors office is open from 9.30 a.m. until 5.00 p.m. every weekday. If you wish to make contact for details of membership, or hiring the Theatre and rehearsal rooms, telephone the office on 01 567-0011.

MEMBERSHIP

If you wish to become a member you can use the form on the page opposite; just send it to the Theatre with the appropriate subscription.

BOX OFFICE

For personal callers the box office is open evenings only from 6.45 p.m. to 8.45 p.m. on days of performance and five days prior to each Playhouse production.

THE STUDENT GROUP

Wardrobe Care

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

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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.

NEW MEMBERS EVENINGS

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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 6.30 p.m. and 8.00 p.m. 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 matinees.

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 this is possible.

THE QUESTORS THEATRE

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