



 THE QUESTORS THEATRE

*presents*

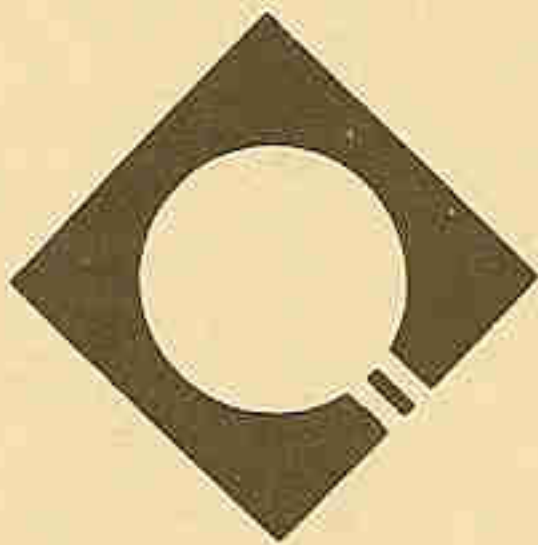
THE  
BIBLIOTHECA

RICHARD B SHERIDAN



The Minack Cliffside Theatre  
Porthcurno  
Cornwall





# THE QUESTORS THEATRE COMPANY

*First performance: 11th May 1991*

*First performance at the Minack Theatre:  
12th August 1991*

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## THE AUTHOR AND THE BACKGROUND TO THE PLAY

RICHARD BRINSLEY SHERIDAN was born in Dublin in 1751 and educated at Harrow. He was a young man of only twenty-three when he wrote *The Rivals*. The play was written in a hurry because he needed money urgently at the time. As a result of both his youthful inexperience and his hasty composition the original version of *The Rivals* was not entirely successful. Sheridan revised the play, however, and it became, and has remained to this day, one of the most popular comedies in the English theatre.

Sheridan was able to write his first play quickly because he had the advantage of having grown up in a literary and theatrical family. His mother Frances Sheridan was a playwright and novelist and he probably borrowed some ideas for *The Rivals* from her play, *A Journey to Bath*. His father Thomas Sheridan was an actor and theatre-manager who later became a teacher of elocution and the writer of an English dictionary. Sheridan was an intelligent, witty and fun-loving young man whose real ambition was to become a politician. After his success with *The Rivals* he wrote several more plays, including a comic masterpiece, *The School for Scandal* (1777) and a very funny burlesque of contemporary theatrical practices, *The Critic; or, a Tragedy Rehearsed* (1779). He also became manager of one of the two great London theatres of the time, the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, where he followed in the footsteps of David Garrick (1717-79), the greatest and most famous English actor in the eighteenth century. In 1780 Sheridan achieved his ambition and became a member of Parliament and thereafter concentrated his talents on writing political speeches instead of plays. Towards the end of his life he became a gambler and heavy drinker. In 1809 the Drury Lane Theatre, for which he was still responsible, was destroyed by fire; as a result of this disaster Sheridan was in severe financial difficulty for the rest of his life. He lost his seat in Parliament in 1812. His last few years were miserable as he suffered from both poverty and bad health and he died in 1816 a sadly disillusioned man. He was given a splendid public funeral and is buried in Westminster Abbey.

### *Bath: city of pleasure*

*The Rivals* is entirely set in the city of Bath. Sheridan knew Bath well, having lived there, and probably many of those in the first audience of *The Rivals* would have been there too, as visitors, for, in Sheridan's lifetime, Bath was one of the most fashionable and popular resorts in the country. The city, however, provided more than a mere geographical and physical setting for the play. Bath had a strong hold on the imagination of the time as a place of pleasure and romance. Young people longed to go there because of the many opportunities Bath offered for meeting members of the opposite sex, for dancing, flirting and perhaps falling in love. By setting his play in Bath, Sheridan creates a world very familiar to his eighteenth-century audiences as a world of both reality and illusion.

# THE RIVALS

by Richard Brinsley Sheridan

*Cast in order of appearance*

Fag .....	PETER JAMES
Coachman .....	RICHARD SHELTON
Lucy .....	SARAH MORRISON
Lydia Languish .....	ANNA MACREADY
Julia .....	CAROLINE BLEAKLEY
Mrs. Malaprop .....	JANET EGAN
Sir Anthony Absolute .....	NORMAN WILKINSON
Captain Absolute ( <i>Beverley</i> ) .....	DAVID HOVATTER
Faulkland .....	NICK HARDING
Acres .....	KEITH PARRY
Sir Lucius O'Trigger .....	JOHN TURNER
David .....	RICHARD SHELTON
Servants .....	JO GATTENBURG NIGEL WORSLEY MARK BURTON HELEN HEAP

The entire action takes place in the City of Bath within the space of one afternoon.

## PART 1

- Scene 1.* A street in Bath.  
2. A dressing-room at Mrs. Malaprop's lodgings.  
3. Captain Absolute's lodgings.  
4. The North Parade.  
5. Julia's dressing-room.  
6. Mrs. Malaprop's lodgings,  
7. Acres' lodgings.

THERE WILL BE ONE INTERVAL OF TWENTY MINUTES

## PART 2

- Scene 1.* Acres' lodgings.  
2. Mrs. Malaprop's lodgings.  
3. The North Parade.  
4. Julia's dressing-room.  
5. The South Parade.  
6. Kingsmead Fields.

The play (including the interval) lasts approximately 2½ hours.

*Production*

Director ..... PETER FIELD  
Set Designer ..... TESSA CURTIS  
Lighting Designer ..... MARTIN STONER  
Costume Designer ..... ANNE GILMOUR  
Sound by ..... ALAN N. SMITH

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Stage Managers ..... TINA HARRIS  
CHRIS SYDENHAM  
Deputy Stage Manager ..... CORINNE TITE  
Assistant Stage Managers ..... GEOFF MOORE,  
TRISH KNIGHT  
Prompter ..... BRIDGETT STREVENS  
Properties ..... KRIS COLLIER  
Wardrobe Staff ..... JANE ALLEN,  
MARY ANDERSON, MARY ANGUS,  
ANDREA FRANKHAM, ANNE GILMOUR, JOAN GRIFFIN,  
JEAN DERBY, VAL MORAN, ELIZABETH PRITCHETT,  
ANNE TOWNLEY, SYLVIA WALL, LAURA WARD  
Lighting Operator ..... NIGEL BAMFORD  
Sound Operator ..... GUY MORROGH  
Hair and Make-Up ..... PAIGE BELLE  
of GREASEPAINT  
Poster Design ..... PHIL PINKHAM

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Tour Manager ..... JEANETTE WILLIAMS  
Publicity ..... SAM JENNINGS,  
ANDREA FRANKHAM, ROB HUGHES  
Treasurers ..... BRIN PARSONAGE  
JON WEBSTER

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*With thanks for assistance with various aspects of the tour:*  
ALEC ATCHISON, RAQUEL FARRINGTON,  
JOHN JOHNSON, GEOFF MOORE, PAUL MOORE,  
MARK MORAN, BARBARA MORRIS, DOUG PARNHAM,  
KEN RATCLIFFE, MARTIN UDALL

# THE QUESTORS THEATRE — APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

## IT'S EASY TO JOIN

Because The Questors is a Theatre Club, only members can buy tickets, for themselves or for their guests. To become a member, simply fill in the form below and send it back with your payment or credit card details.

If you're just interested and want to know more, phone 081-567 0011 or come along any Wednesday at 8.00pm for a free drink and a tour of the theatre.

NAME (BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership (tick box)

Individual £27.50        Joint £47.00   

*Concessionary membership rates are available upon production of NUS card, UB40 or Leisure Pass.*

Student £11.00        Concessionary £11.00      
Senior Citizen £15.50        Joint Senior Citizen £26.50   

TYPE OF PAYMENT (tick box)

Cheque or P.O.        Access or Visa   

Credit card number    Expiry date \_\_\_\_\_  
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Name and Address of Cardholder  
(if different from above).

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

# NEXT WEEK AT THE MINACK

Romsey Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society

*present*

## ***Lock Up Your Daughters***

***Henry Fielding***

*adapted by Bernard Miles*

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The Questors Theatre is one of the leading amateur theatres in Great Britain. The company has over 4,000 members and its own premises in West London including a modern, flexible playhouse, a Studio theatre, rehearsal rooms and workshop. Each season, thirteen productions are presented in the playhouse and some eight in the Studio theatre.

As well as presenting a wide variety of plays, The Questors runs a two-year training course for actors and an annual Student Playwriting Competition. The Company also plays host to visiting companies from home and abroad, mounts regular art exhibitions, runs workshops and clubs for young people and regularly tours productions in this country and overseas.

For further details contact:

The Questors Theatre, Mattock Lane, Ealing W5 5BQ.

Tel: 081-567 0011. Membership secretary: 081-567 8736.

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## **Beginning next season at The Questors:**

<i>September</i>	<b>THE SECRET RAPTURE</b> by David Hare
<i>October</i>	<b>HAPPY FAMILIES</b> a new play by John Godber
<i>November</i>	<b>PERICLES</b> by William Shakespeare
<i>December</i>	<b>MEN SHOULD WEEP</b> by Ena Lamont Stewart

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*The Company would like to express its sincere thanks to the Management of The Minack Theatre for its help.*

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