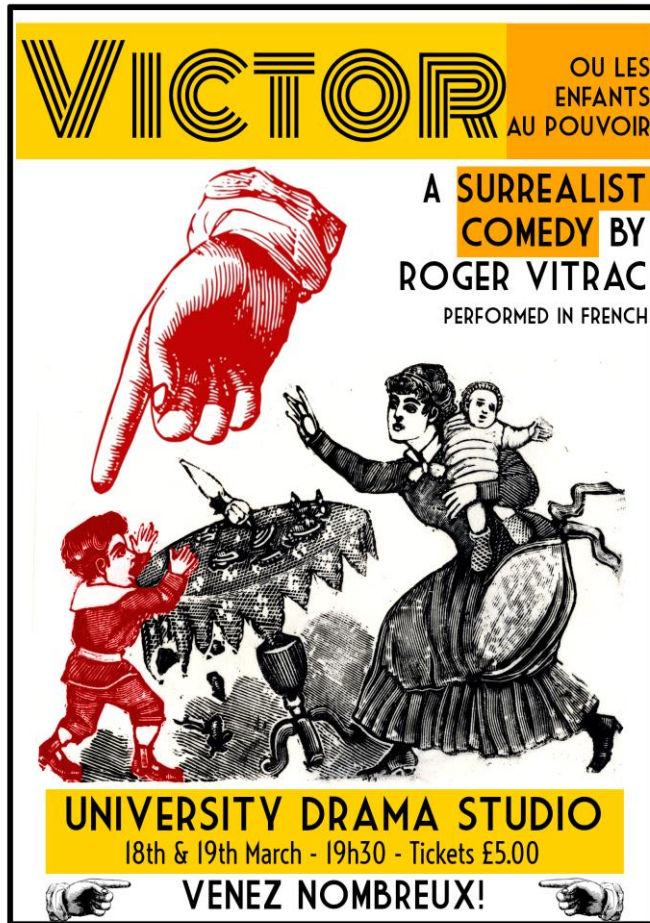


*SLC and the Cercle Français proudly  
present*



**VICTOR OU LES ENFANTS AU POUVOIR**  
by Roger Vitrac

[Performed in French, approx. 1h 15 mins]

DRAMA STUDIO, 7.30pm  
Tues 18<sup>th</sup> & Wed 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Cast:

**VICTOR**, nine-years-old – Gabriela Garcia Rodriguez  
**CHARLES PAUMELLE**, his father – Alex Judkins  
**ÉMILIE PAUMELLE**, his mother – Sophie Maddison  
**LILI**, their housemaid – Inga Kuliabina

**ESTHER**, six-years-old – Evie Mills  
**ANTOINE MAGNEAU**, her father – Ocean Jaques  
**THÉRÈSE MAGNEAU**, her mother – Sophie Sanganee

**LE GÉNÉRAL ÉTIENNE LONGSÉGUR** – David McCallam  
**MADAME IDA MORTEMART** – Ellie Turner  
**LE DOCTEUR** – David McCallam

*Backstage:*

Stage Manager – Sophie Moss

Lights – Kate Blowers

With the kind support of Le Cercle Français

Setting: *Paris, March 1909, in the Paumelle family apartment*

## **ACT 1**

9-year-old Victor pesters the housemaid Lili, insulting her with sexual innuendo. Lili hits back. Victor breaks a vase and blames her for it. He then imitates his father seducing Lili and she flees. Enter 6-year-old Esther who tells Victor about his father and her mother's affair, giving a nonsense version of their lovers' exchanges. When Charles, Émilie and Thérèse enter, Victor says Esther broke the vase. Her mother punishes her for it. It's revealed that Thérèse's husband, Antoine, has gone mad. Émilie says this couldn't happen overnight, inspiring Victor to a surreal speech, later claiming it's just his jumbled-up French homework. Enter Antoine, agitated, not least when Victor asks him about Bazaine, his pet hate, since Bazaine betrayed the French during the war. Esther cops the blame for Victor's question. The General enters; the children offend him. Called to the table, they toast Victor's birthday and he recites a poem about the army, setting Antoine off again. Then Esther delivers a strange nursery rhyme. At the suggestion the children will marry one day, they act out Charles and Thérèse's sexual encounter – to much confusion. To relaunch the party, the General asks Victor what he'd like for his birthday. He wants the General to be his horse, getting the General to act out his wish.

## **ACT 2**

Charles and Thérèse confide: everyone's mad and the children have betrayed them. Victor surprises them and is punished. Esther, Émilie and the General arrive. When Charles tells Victor to go to bed, he asks who with. Consternation. But his mother defends him. Charles gets angry and asks for a miracle. Enter Ida. And old friend of Émilie, she has found her when looking for her namesake in the same street. At this point, she farts loudly. Shock gives way to laughter as the farting continues. Ashamed, Ida wants to leave. Victor makes a tasteless joke and Esther runs off,

frightened of Ida. The adults follow her, fearing an accident. Victor tells Ida he's in love. She can't believe it. Victor asks her how one makes love. She whispers an answer and Victor asks for one more favour: that she fart again. The others bring Esther back, passed out. Lili brings her round. Victor tells Esther he's killed Ida and eaten her ears. Antoine bursts in, furious and threatening Charles. He then says it was all a prank. Unsettled, the guests leave the Paumelle family alone.

## **ACT 3**

Charles and Émilie can't sleep. Victor can't sleep either because of stomach pains. Émilie is concerned; Charles sends him back to bed. Charles recounts his affair with Thérèse while Victor groans next door. Victor comes back, still ill. When Charles storms off, Émilie consoles her son and sends him back to bed. Charles, called back inside, says they are all ruined. Thérèse enters in a panic, looking for Esther. Émilie and Charles deny having seen her. Thérèse claims Émilie has kidnapped her daughter in revenge for her affair with Charles. Antoine has thrown her out and, losing her mind, she cries murder. Enter Esther who had come to see Victor. Émilie has a religious revelation, forcing everyone to repent their sins. Victor's stomach pains worsen. Thérèse gets a letter telling her Antoine has hanged himself and that Charles is Esther's real father. Victor yells. Émilie tells Charles to escort Thérèse and Esther home and bring a doctor. Émilie frets over Victor, then gets impatient with him. Victor forgives her, announcing that he's a child genius destined to die on his 9<sup>th</sup> birthday – according to the laws of the mysterious 'Uniquat'. Charles and the Doctor arrive while Victor, in increasing pain, raves about the 'Uniquat'. Charles sneaks out with a pistol but Lili spots him and Émilie disarms him. Victor has a dangerously high fever. As the exact time he was born approaches, Victor dies. Grief and the Doctor's indifference. Shots ring out. Lili sums it all up.