

Next Season at The Questors

The new season which opens on September 11th will include:

UBU by Alfred Jarry, translated with new songs by Chris Storer

THE KERRY DANCE by Tony Rushforth

VENETIAN TWINS by Goldini, translated by Ranjit Bhatt

THE WILD DUCK by Henrik Ibsen, translated by James McFarlane

BREAKING THE CODE by Hugh Whitmore

FROST AT MIDNIGHT by Andre Obey, translated by Warren Tate

CANTERBURY TALES by Phil Toots with Michael Bogdanov

THE ART OF SUCCESS by Nick Dear

THE BALCONY by Jean Genet

THE MINACK THEATRE

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In the interests of safety and comfort members of the audience are requested:

- Not to walk on the stage at any time and to keep to the paths and steps when in the Theatre.
- Not to smoke at any time in the areas where the audience is seated.
- To place all litter and especially cigarette ends in the bins provided

Next week at The Minack Theatre

The Beaufort Opera present

THE TALES OF HOFFMAN

by Offenbach.

The Minack Theatre

on the Cliffs at Porthcurno

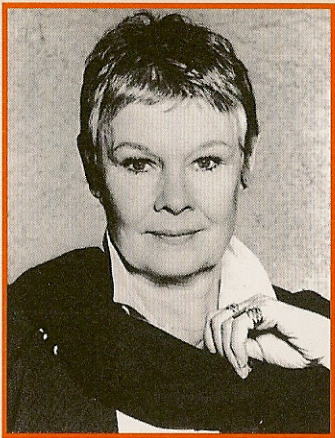
The Questors Theatre presents

The MERRY WIVES of WINDSOR

by William Shakespeare

**Fast-moving comedy
Fun for everyone**





The Questors Theatre
Mattock Lane, Ealing, London W5 5BQ
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Administration: 0181 567 0011
Box Office: 0181 567 5184
Membership/Fax: 0181 567 8736

I should like to introduce you to The Questors Theatre.

It is one of London's best kept secrets - except to its 3,000 members. How do I know about the Questors? Firstly because it is well respected by professional actors, but also because I have been President of The Questors for the last 25 years. The Questors was founded in 1929 and as such we are celebrating our 70th Anniversary this year. It is the largest non-professional theatre in the UK and has a reputation for the highest standards, not only in acting, but in direction and design as well. Luckily with so many members we have a wealth of talent to call on for all aspects of production and members are encouraged to be as actively involved as they would like. Alternatively they simply enjoy the social side of the club including the friendly and private Grapevine Bar (one of the many perks of membership) and of course, being part of the audience.

The 350 seater Playhouse was refurbished last year and both it and the more intimate Studio are superbly equipped to professional standards. So the next time you are in London why not join us at 8pm on any Wednesday evening in The Grapevine Bar where you can enjoy a drink on us following a free tour of the theatre. It's your chance to see the backstage workings of a theatre which continues today in the same innovative spirit on which it was founded.

I hope you enjoy this production of a much loved classic.

Yours sincerely,

Dame Judi Dench

President of The Questors Theatre

The cast and crew of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dame Judi Dench on winning the Best Supporting Actress Oscar for her role in *Shakespeare in Love*. "We are all absolutely thrilled that she won and we feel somehow more personally involved because she won it for playing Elizabeth I whose request led Shakespeare to write the very play you are about to see"

PROGRAMME NOTES

The popular story is that Queen Elizabeth I was so pleased with the character of Sir John Falstaff in Henry IV parts I and II that she commanded Shakespeare to write another play about him. She supposedly asked Shakespeare to write the play showing him in love and to do it in fourteen days. This, however, is probably a myth, for the first printed account does not occur until 1702. There is little doubt though that The Queen saw a version of the play, which was probably written in 1597 and may have been meant for the Garter Feast of that year. Whether she did or did not has not affected the popularity of the play. It was one of the first plays to be acted after The Restoration in 1660 when Pepys saw it and approved of the "humours of the country gentleman (Slender?) and the French doctor" but did not like the actor playing Falstaff or "the rest". It survived drastic "improvements" in the early seventeenth century and achieved great popular success in its own right in the 1720's. It was seen in America as early as 1770 and has hardly been absent from the repertoire ever since. The Victorians bowlderised it and several attempts have been made to modernise the setting, culminating in the famous Royal Shakespeare Company version where the Wives met under hairdryers. We have chosen to maintain the Elizabethan setting, believing that the essence of the play lies in its portrait of life in an English country town. To discuss the theme of the play might be to use a hammer to crack an egg, for this is the most light-hearted and sunniest of Shakespeare's plays. If the themes of a jealous husband and an honest wife have serious undertones, they are dissolved in a hilarious tangle of plot and counter-plot, which are themselves resolved when everyone goes home to "laugh this sport o'er, by a country fire".

For the technically minded; we have used the Penguin Shakespeare Edition based on the Folio Edition of 1623. We have also cut the whole of Act 3 Scene 2, Act 4 Scene 1 and about another 200 lines. The part of Nym has been amalgamated with that of Bardolph.

Alan Chambers

The MERRY WIVES of WINDSOR

by William Shakespeare

First performance 12 July 1999

Cast

in order of appearance

Justice Shallow
Slender
Sir Hugh Evans
George Page
Sir John Falstaff
Bardolph
Pistol
Anne Page
Mistress Ford
Mistress Page
Peter Simple
Host of the Garter
Mistress Quickly
John Rugby
Doctor Caius
Fenton
Frank Ford
Robert
John

John Davey
Mark Redrup
Phillip Sheahan
Michael Gerrard
Ray Orley
Barry Jones
Michael Hislop
Lynn Scrivener
Melanie Sarah Morrissey
Cathy Wallace
Gary Smith
Vincent Wood
Vivien Kerr
Nigel Worsley
Ian Buckingham
Nick Petrou
John Dobson
Martin Stoner
Ron Roberts

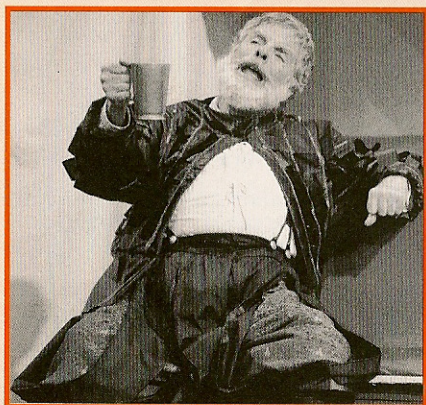
Crew

Director
Designer
Costume Design
Music Devised by
Played by
Sound Designer
Lighting Designer
Stage Manager
Deputy Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Managers

Properties
Prompter
Lighting Operator
Sound Operators
Costume Department

Masks
Hair and Makeup

Alan Chambers
Norman Barwick
Julia Bradley
William Morton
William Morton, Frank Watson
Nigel Worsley
Martin Stoner
Jo Booth
Bridgett Strevens
Helen Carter, Alec Atchinson,
Eddie Toland, Kate Smith
Harriet Simon
Sue Oliver
Dwayne Dawson
Lizzie Averill, Kris Collier
Bryanne Melville, Tim Haywood
Grace Craddock
Bron Beckford, Gerry Blake
Hannah Tilley, Deborah Tilley



Tour

Tour Managers
Front of House Manager
Front of House Team

Publicity

Nigel Bamford, Anne Gilmour
Jon Webster
Adrian Asher, Christian Blood,
Sarah Fink, Linda McDonald,
John Moore, Brian Parsonage, John Rolfe
Jim Craddock, Katy Gallentry

Thanks to:

Tony Hill, Antony Bridges, Margaret Wood, Julie Cruttenden,
Pam Smith, Mel Pereira, Katrina Plumb, Catriona Smith
and The Minack Theatre

HOW TO MAKE A MASK



The masks used in this production were made by Bron Beckford and Gerry Blake using the following simple ingredients and techniques.

You will Need:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1) Large Balloon | 2) Paste Brush |
| 3) Large flower Pot | 4) String & Weight (a stone will do) |
| 5) 2" Strips of Newspaper (lots) | 6) Wallpaper Paste |
| 7) Evostick & Copydex | 8) Emulsion Paint & Brush |
| 9) String, Foam Cardboard & Netting | 10) Masking Tape |
| 11) Paints & Varnish | 12) Scissors & Craft Knife |

Instructions:

- 1) Blow up the balloon as big as you can without bursting it & tie the end securely.
- 2) Tie one end of a length of string to the balloon & the other end to a weight.
- 3) Rest the balloon in the flower pot with the weight dangling into the pot. (This will hold the balloon steady while you work on it).
- 4) Paste the balloon with wallpaper paste & paste on the strips of paper overlapping them. Do three layers first & leave to dry for 24 hours before putting another two layers on.

- 5) Meanwhile you can make the features (eyes, nose, mouth, fat cheeks, warts, boils) from foam, cardboard or egg boxes etc. You will need to use a lot of glue and your imagination for this!
- 6) Stick the features to the base with masking tape & then paste more strips of paper over the joins to make them strong. Evostick over the masking tape will make the paper stick more easily. Do not stick features down the back of the balloon or more than half way down the sides as you will need to cut a hole out later.
- 7) Let the mask dry completely.
- 8) Paint the mask with emulsion paint & leave to dry. This will provide a good base for the artistic bit.
- 9) Paint the mask as you like in either water based or acrylic paint & leave to dry.
- 10) Burst the balloon by pricking it near the knot & then cut a hole in the lower back part of the mask big enough to allow you to get your head inside. Paste more paper over the cut edge.
- 11) To fit the mask to the head make a cap from strips of corrugated cardboard taped together & then attach it to the inside of the mask with wire through the top of the mask.
- 12) Cut out eye & breathing holes. These do not have to be in the eyes & mouth if it doesn't suit but you should ensure that you have a good field of vision and can breath easily. (Eye holes can be made at the sides of the nose under the mask's eyes &/or the mouth can be cut extra large)

Good Luck!

THE QUESTORS THEATRE is based in West London where it has its own premises including a modern flexible Playhouse, a Studio theatre, three rehearsal rooms, a workshop, an extensive wardrobe department and of course, The Grapvine Bar which is the hub of the theatre.

It has over 3,000 members all of whom get involved in one way or another either in the 20 plus productions that are staged each year, in the day to day running of the theatre, or as members of the audience. As well as presenting a wide variety of plays, The Questors runs a two-year course for actors, plays host to visiting companies from home and abroad, mounts regular art exhibitions, runs workshops and clubs for young people and tours productions in this country and overseas. In short, there is something for everyone at The Questors.

For further details contact;

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London W5 5BQ
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