

# 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 Grapevine Bar, which is the hub of the theatre.

It has nearly 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 abroad.

In short, there is something for everyone at The Questors.

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## The Questors Theatre

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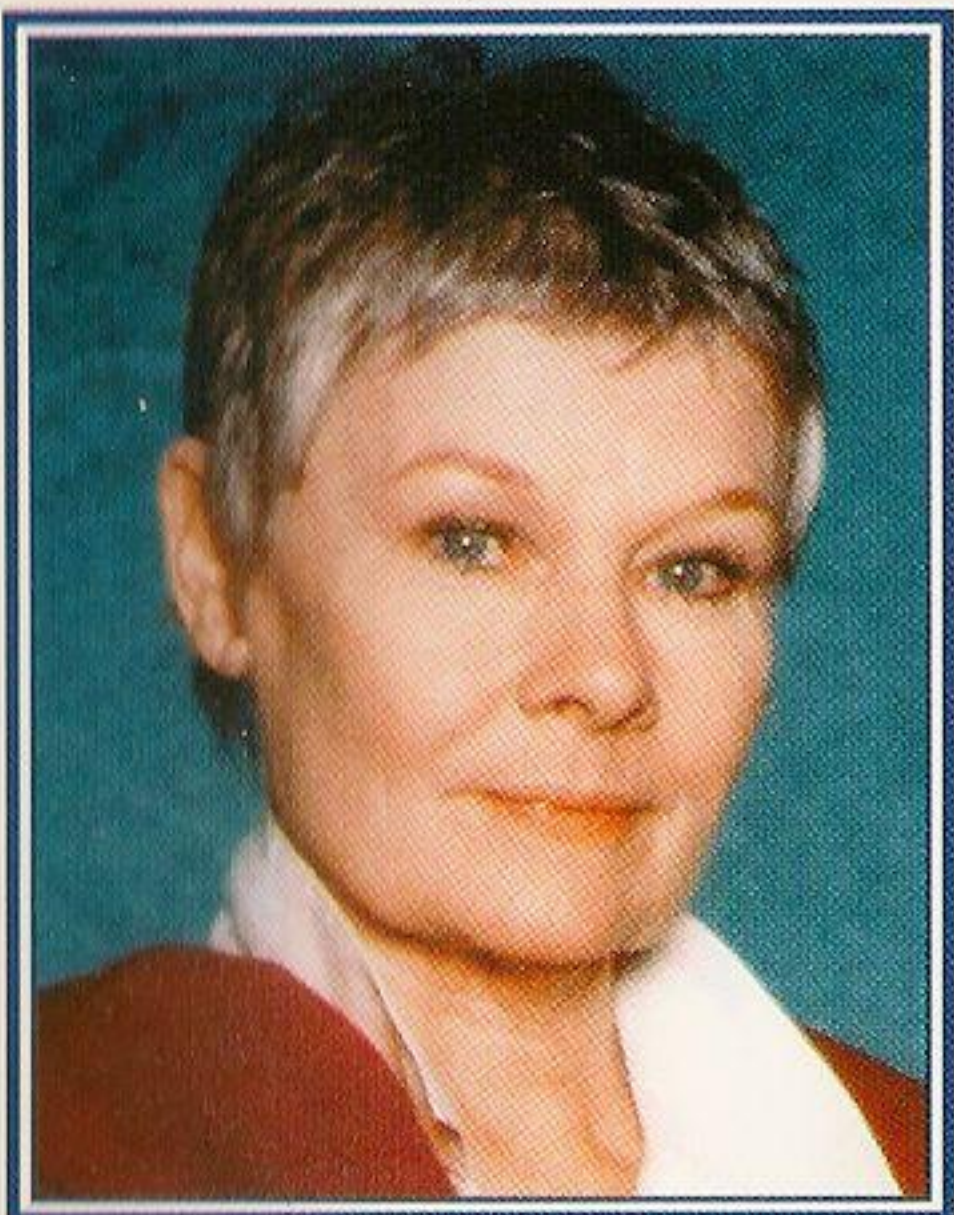
Website: [www.questors.org.uk](http://www.questors.org.uk)



## DOUBLE BILL

## THE QUESTORS THEATRE





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**Welcome** to The Questors Theatre, one of London's best kept secrets - except to its 3,000 members. How do I know about the Questors? I am proud to have been their President for over 16 years. Founded in 1929, it has since grown into the largest community theatre in Europe with 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 Grapevine Bar (one of the many perks of membership) and the many and varied shows in our newly refurbished 350 seater Playhouse Theatre and more intimate Studio Theatre.

The Questors runs a professionally recognised two-year acting course in conjunction with Kingston College. There are also acting courses for beginners, free backstage training courses, visiting companies from home and abroad, regular art exhibitions, and workshops and clubs for young people. In short, there is something for everyone and with annual membership costing as little as £23.50 (including up to 10 free shows) it's great value for money as well.

But don't just take my word for it, the next time you're in West London call into The Grapevine Bar on any Wednesday evening at 8pm for a free tour of the theatre and a drink on us!

Worth looking into?

Definitely!

*Judi Dench*

Dame Judi Dench  
President of The Questors Theatre



## CARRYING ON

by Roy Hyams

## A TOUCH OF ROSE MADDER

by Jim O'Connor



## DOUBLE BILL



## CARRYING ON

Roy Hyams' play is a comedy, so why is it sad? It's old fashioned, so why does it seem so modern? This short play takes a humourous look at a perennial situation - the marriage, the lover and gossip. It is set in the thirties in Devon and shows us the life of Doris, Ted and Tim in their neat cottage, and that of Herbert the eclectic collector of clocks, cats and art who is also the village cobbler.

These lives are intertwined and the story is told to us by a narrator who moves from cobbler's shop to cottage highlighting the action and drawing a veil where necessary. It offers a balance between comedy and pathos, some lyrical narration, rustic dialogue and good old fashioned laughter.

The experienced cast includes Margaret Turner as Doris, Ken Ratcliffe as Herbert the cobbler, Gareth Bevan and Richard Brown as brothers Ted and Tim, and last, but by no means least, Gary Tapley as the ubiquitous narrator.

## A TOUCH OF ROSE MADDER

John Dobson talks to writer/director Jim O'Connor

**J.D.** Jim, I know you've written several other plays but is 'A Touch Of Rose Madder' the first that's based on your own experience?

**J.O'C.** *It's certainly the most autobiographical piece I've written, in so far as it uses circumstances relating to my own family and in particular to my mother, who did have a lengthy spell in hospital recovering from a stroke and eventually returned to her own home very reliant on Social Services.*

**J.D.** How closely does Rose, your feisty central character, resemble your mother?

**J.O'C.** *They share the frustration that dependency creates and the same resentment at having their homes and privacy invaded by strangers, albeit well meaning ones.*

**J.D.** What about personality?

**J.O'C.** *I've given Rose something of my mother's sense of humour and devotion to her family but the resemblance ends there. Mum loved knitting but wouldn't have known one watercolour from another.*

**J.D.** I take it the son Danny is really you.

**J.O'C.** *To a large extent. Although I was a teacher, not a car salesman and only lived forty minutes away, the dilemma confronting Danny is more or less what I experienced.*

**J.D.** And Leslie, the Home Help?

**J.O'C.** *Completely invented. Mum did have a succession of female Home Helps and I was half-way through the first draft when I realised it would be more fun and allow more dramatic scope to have Leslie a man.*

**J.D.** I see you refer to the play as 'drama comedy'.

**J.O'C.** *I'm hopeful that it will move people in various ways and I'll be disappointed if we don't get a few chuckles.*

**J.D.** Finally, have you enjoyed directing 'Rose Madder'?

**J.O'C.** *It's great to have some control over your own work and exciting to have a company breathing life into it. I'm very fortunate to have such a quality cast. There's always the danger they'll become parrots on the writer/director's shoulder, but each of them has brought a real individual quality and insight to their role.*



# CARRYING ON

by Roy Hyams

First performance of these productions: 17 November 2001

DIRECTOR  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Bernice Wolfenden  
Louise Tasker

## CAST

NARRATOR  
HERBERT  
DORIS  
TED  
TIM

Gary Tapley  
Ken Ratcliffe  
Margaret Turner  
Gareth Bevan  
Richard Brown

*The play is set in the Devon village of Banston in 1932.*

DESIGN  
LIGHTING DESIGN  
SOUND DESIGN  
WARDROBE  
CONSTRUCTION  
STAGE MANAGERS

ASMS

John Rolfe  
Terry Mummery  
Nigel Worsley  
Sarah Andrews  
Jim Craddock  
Eric Lister  
Marguerite Minster  
Michael Dubes  
Jude Goode  
Jacqueline Hickey  
Tim Samuels  
Ruth Simpson

# A TOUCH OF ROSE MADDER

by Jim O'Connor

DIRECTOR

Jim O'Connor

## CAST

ROSE  
LESLIE  
DANNY

Jo Irvin  
Chris Storer  
Richard Brown

*Flute played by William Morton*

## CREW

PROMPTERS

Pam Smith  
Bridgett Strevens

HAIR AND MAKE-UP  
LIGHTING OPERATORS

Daisy Ascencion (for Greasepaint)  
Jason Armstrong  
Luke Green  
Woody Hughes  
Paul Wilson

SOUND OPERATOR

THANKS TO:

Alec Atchison, Jonathan Bailey,  
Maire Gartland, Jess Johnson,  
Valerie Moss, Sally O'Connor,  
Catherine Pengelly, Jo Perse,  
Jenny Richardson.

*There will be an interval of 20 minutes between the two plays*



# FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS

## THE QUESTORS FAMILY CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION OF THE SNOW QUEEN

by Stuart Paterson, from the story by Hans Andersen

In **The Playhouse**, 8th December - 5th January

The Snow Queen will rule the world when a splinter of her evil mirror penetrates the heart of a child and turns it to ice. 'Give me a child with a heart of ice and you give me power over all the good magic in the world.' Join Gerda on a thrilling journey to rescue her best friend Kay from the clutches of the wicked Snow Queen and save the world from being frozen. Follow her in her perilous quest and meet a host of amazing characters along the way. Hans Christian Andersen's classic tale has enchanted children and adults alike for generations and will continue to do so in this stunning Christmas production. Tickets are selling fast so book now to avoid disappointment!

## SOMEONE WHO'LL WATCH OVER ME

by Frank McGuinness

In **The Studio**, 5th - 19th January

An Englishman, an Irishman and an American are locked up together in a cell in the Lebanon. Their story is a celebration of the humanity they discover in themselves as they confront their deepest fears. This thought-provoking drama crackles with emotion, wit and intelligence. McGuinness explores the daily crisis endured by hostages, suppressed for the main part, but which explodes when the situation in which they find themselves threatens to break their sanity.

## POPCORN

by Ben Elton

In **The Playhouse**, 19th - 26th January

Set in the Beverly Hills home of Tarantino-style movie director Bruce Delamitri, this is a satirical comedy thriller with the firing capacity of a hit squad. When notorious killers Wayne and Scout interrupt Bruce's passionate introduction to Brooke Daniels (nude model and actress), Wayne intends to use Bruce's "art" as justification for murder. Things don't go smoothly but Wayne means to succeed - whatever the cost.

## THE MEMORY OF WATER

by Shelagh Stephenson

In **The Studio**, 9th - 23rd February

This touching and hugely entertaining comedy provides an insight into the lives of three sisters who are re-united for their mother's funeral and soon fall into their old roles. They embark on an edgy, often hilarious, confrontation with their pasts and each other. As skeletons explode from the cupboard, and romances and marriages teeter precariously, the sisters rediscover the truth about their family and their places in it.

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

I/we wish to apply for membership of The Questors Theatre  
BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

Full Name/s .....

Address .....

.....

.....

Telephone No. .... E-mail .....

Date/s of Birth .....

### Membership Type: (please tick one)

- |                          |   |   |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Individual  | £39.50  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Joint   | £71.50  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Concessionary   | £23.50 Senior Citizens, UB40s, Leisure Pass Holders                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Joint Concessionary   | £39   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Single Family   | £47 one adult and all children under 17   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Joint Family  | £81.50 two adults and all children under 17                                     |
|                          | Please include names and dates of birth of all children for both types of family membership |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Student   | £13 All tickets at half price - on production of NUS card - no free shows       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Associate   | £15 For those residing outside a 25-mile radius of The Questors - no free shows |

Life membership is available - please ask for details

Where did you hear about The Questors? .....

- I enclose a cheque/postal order payable to The Questors Ltd for £ .....
- I would like to pay by Credit Card - Mastercard/Visa

Card No. .... Expiry Date .....

Cardholder's Name .....

Address (if different from above) .....

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Signed ..... Date .....



## NEW MEMBERS' TICK SHEET

Many members join just to see the shows.

However, if you want to get more involved, please tick the areas you are interested in below. Remember, experience isn't always necessary (except for acting, for which you must audition).

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acting                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Stewarding                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Directing                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Box Office                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Set Design                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Photography                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Costume Design                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stage Management                | <input type="checkbox"/> Printing                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Set Construction                | <input type="checkbox"/> Envelope Stuffing (daytime)    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lighting                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Grapevine Bar                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sound                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Props                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Stage and Seating Construction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prompting                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Wardrobe                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PlayBack (Reminiscence Theatre) |   |

Details of previous theatre experience:

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## Questors Membership Gives You...

- Access to over 20 productions a year - classic, contemporary, international and new plays. From just £6.00 a ticket.
- Free ticket to up to 10 shows each year.
- Membership of the exclusive Grapevine bar.
- Questorics, our lively monthly magazine.
- The chance to act, direct or get involved backstage.
- Discounts at: Holmes Place, Café Uno, Café Cyberia, Ealing Dance Centre, Elegance Dry Cleaners, House of Colour, Art Bar and Grill at Jarvis International Hotel, Snappy Snaps.

For membership call 020 8567 0011, Mon - Fri, 9.30am - 5.30pm or join us in the Grapevine bar at The Questors Theatre on any Wednesday at 8.00pm for a free guided tour of the theatre and a drink on us.

## Orchard Travel

We will turn your dream holiday into reality. We can arrange all aspects of your vacation whether it be total relaxation on a beach, an adventure holiday or a city break...and at competitive prices.

Just call or E-mail us for information.

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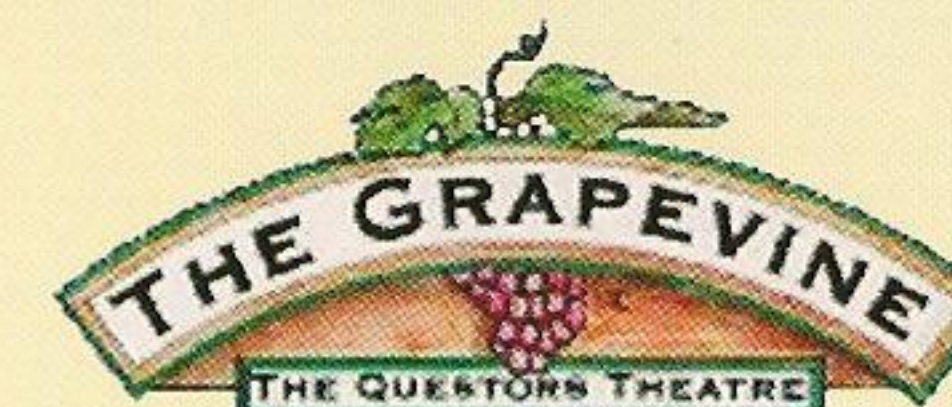
•  
Worldwide Flights

•  
Late Deals

•  
Hotels

•  
UK Breaks

£25 off every booking  
over £500 for  
Questors Members



## WORTH CROSSING EALING FOR!

For your interval or after show drinks visit the friendly and comfortable Grapevine Bar. It's open seven nights a week and Sunday lunchtimes. We pride ourselves on the quality of our cask ales, which usually include Fuller's London Pride, Fuller's Chiswick Bitter and a guest ale. We also provide a range of draft lagers and ciders as well as wines and spirits - all at very reasonable prices.  
[www.myfavouritepub.com/questors](http://www.myfavouritepub.com/questors)