

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.

The Questors Theatre

Mattock Lane
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Website: www.questors.org.uk



TARTUFFE

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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



TARTUFFE

by Molière

Molière

Molière was the stage name of Jean Baptiste Poquelin, the son of a wealthy merchant upholsterer. He was born in Paris in 1622. At the age of twenty-one he resigned the office at Court purchased for him by his father and threw in his lot with a company of actors, to found the so-styled 'Illustre Théâtre'. The nucleus of the company was drawn from one family, the Béjarts. Armande, the youngest daughter, was to become his wife.

Failing to establish themselves in Paris, the company took to the Provinces for twelve years. When in 1658 they returned to the capital it was with Molière as their leader and a number of the farces he had devised as their principle stock in trade. Invited to perform before Louis XIV, Molière secured his staunch patronage. In 1659 *les Précieuses ridicules* achieved a great success, which was confirmed by *L'École des femmes* three years later. With *Tartuffe*, however, Molière encountered trouble; it outraged contemporary religious opinion and was forbidden public performance for several years. *Don Juan* also had a controversial history. *Le Misanthrope*, first played in 1666, is generally accorded to be the peak of Molière's achievement. Among plays that followed were *L'Avare*, *Le Médecin malgré lui*, *Les Femmes savantes*, *amphytron*, and *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*, one of the comedy-ballets to which Lully contributed the music.

By 1665 the company had become *La Troupe du Roi*, playing at the Palais-Royal. While taking the part of Argan in *Le Malade imaginaire*, Molière was taken ill, and he died the same evening. The Troupe survived, however, to become one of the forerunners of the *Comédie Française*.

Richard Wilbur (translator)

Richard Wilbur was born in New York City in 1921. His books of poetry include *New and Collected Poems* (1988), which won the Pulitzer Prize; *The Mind-Reader; New Poems* (1976); *Walking to Sleep: New Poems and Translations* (1969); *Advice to a Prophet and Other Poems* (1961); *Things of This World* (1959), for which he received the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award; *Ceremony and Other Poems* (1950); and *The Beautiful Changes and Other Poems* (1947). He has also published numerous translations of French plays, two books for children, and a collection of prose pieces, and has edited such books as *Poems of Shakespeare* (1966) and *The Complete Poems of Poe* (1959). His *The Catbird's Song: Prose Pieces* is due this spring from Harcourt Brace. Among his honours are the Aiken Taylor Award for Modern American Poetry from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Gold Medal for Poetry from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Bollingen Prize, the T.S. Eliot Award, a Ford Foundation Award, two Guggenheim Fellowships, the Edna St. Vincent Monroe Poetry Award, the National Arts Club medal of honour for literature, two PEN translation awards, the Prix de Rome Fellowship, and the Shelley Memorial Award. He was elected a chevalier of the Ordre des Palmes Académiques and is a former Poet Laureate of the United States. A Chancellor Emeritus of The Academy of American Poets, he lives in Cummington, Massachusetts.

TARTUFFE

Tartuffe was first produced during the fêtes held at Versailles, nominally in honour of the queen and Anne of Austria, but really to please the maid of honour who had now become the king's mistress. It would be impossible to exaggerate the effect produced by this gruesome picture upon its first beholders - upon the mass of revellers who, resplendent in masquerade attire, filled the theatre in every part. Not only did the entertainment differ entirely from what they had expected, but the author, who seems to have been born to make the world laugh at itself, showed that he had also the power to confront them with one of the deepest mysteries of human existence.

The king at once perceived the genius displayed in *Tartuffe*, and was also clear-headed enough to see that it was aimed exclusively against hypocrisy; but from the moment it made its appearance in Paris another and heavier storm began to rage over the head of the dramatist. According to his assailants, he had at length thrown aside the mask altogether, and under the pretence of exposing hypocrisy was seeking to undermine the foundations of religion itself. Roullès, the curé of Saint Bartélemy, took upon himself to damn the author of *Tartuffe* on his own authority, and another virulent denouncer of the play was the bishop of Autun, supposed to be the original of the stage impostor. The agitation steadily increased until the king deemed it prudent to prohibit the performance in Paris of a play which he had unreservedly approved.

Irritated by his disappointment, Molière registered a vow that, sooner or later, the interdiction should be set aside, and before long awakened such a friendly interest in his drama among the leaders of society as to induce the king to withdraw his prohibition. This was made the more easy by the anxiety of the fashionable world to taste the forbidden fruit, the salons competing with each other in their inducements to have *Tartuffe* read in the presence of a select audience, for 'no greater pleasure', they said, 'could be afforded them'. Molière complied with many of these requests, inasmuch as they gave him an opportunity of dispelling the numberless misapprehensions in regard to his play, and of inspiring a wish to see it performed on the stage. His first private reading was before the pope's legate and a party of prelates, who, imagining *Tartuffe* to be a covert satire against the Jansenists - an idea which, however erroneous, the author took no pains to dispel - decided very strongly in its favour. The Jansenists placed on it an entirely different construction, while Molière, adroitly answering the questions put to him, managed to win over both sides, and that without suffering any twinges of conscience.

TARTUFFE

by Molière

First performance of this production 13 March 2002

CAST

ORGON	Laurence Vernon
MME. PERNELLE , Orgon's mother	Anna Warburton
FLIPOTE , Mme. Pernelle's maid	Natasha Meadmore *Katherine Pagon
ELMIRE , Orgon's second wife	Alison Winter *Kerry-Ann Ladwa
MME. CLÉANTE , Orgon's sister-in law	Kate Forrester
DAMIS , Orgon's son	Patrick Doherty
MARIANE , Orgon's daughter	Katherine Pagon *Natasha Meadmore
DORINE , Mariane's lady's-maid	Aviva Treger
VALÈRE , in love with Mariane	Danny Vardanian
TARTUFFE , a hypocrite	Tom Begley
MME. LOYAL , a bailiff	Kerry-Ann Ladwa *Alison Winter
A POLICE OFFICER	Natasha Meadmore *Katherine Pagon

There will be one fifteen minute interval

** Performances 13th, 15th, 16th, 20th, 22nd March*

PRODUCTION

Director/Designer	John Horwood
Lighting Designer	Charlie Lucas
Sound Designer	Joel Schrire
Costumes	Elizabeth Bisinotto, Amanda Rijlaarsdam, Ruth Jackson
Stage Manager	Luke Green
Assistant Stage Managers	Michael Dubes, Charlotte Ferguson, Jessy Sangha, Natalie Weekes, Trevor Bondoro, Heather Stamford
S.M Coordinator	Adrienne Talbot
Lighting Operator	Jason Armstrong
Lighting Rigging	Damien Lazell
Wigs and Make Up	Lucy Bonamy, Caroline Dent and Lindsey Poole of Greasepaint
Set Construction	John Horwood, John Rolfe, John Wibberley, Jim Craddock, Luke Green, Charlotte Ferguson, Jason Armstrong, Group 55
Speech Tutor	Victoria Fairbrother
Movement Tutor	John Wilson

COMING SOON

WHAT THE BUTLER SAW by Joe Orton

In **The Playhouse**, 23rd - 30th March

Libidos run wild in this breakneck farce about licensed insanity, from the moment when Dr. Prentice, a psychoanalyst instructs a prospective secretary to undress. The plot contains enough twists and turns, mishaps and changes of fortune, coincidences and lunatic logic to furnish three of four conventional comedies. But however much the six characters lose the plot, their wits or their clothes, their verbal self-possession never deserts them.

THE BACCHAE by Derek Mahon, after Euripides

In **The Playhouse**, 13th - 20th April

This is the British premiere of a startling new translation by the well-known Irish poet, Derek Mahon. This ancient play has echoes in recent events, dealing as it does with the search for faith and how it confronts both hope and terror. This short, sharp production of a very modern play has been relocated from Ancient Greece to late 20th Century America and with dynamic music throughout, you'll definitely have seen nothing like it before!

HEDDA GABLER by Henrik Ibsen, translated by Christopher Hampton

In **The Studio**, 20th April - 4th May

This is an explosive theatrical masterpiece from one of the world's greatest dramatists. Hedda is a passionate and manipulative woman trapped in an unfulfilling marriage and frustrated by the bourgeois world in which she finds herself. Unable to exert a positive influence, she toys destructively with the lives of others and her need for power leads to the disturbing and tragic climax.

HAPPY DAYS by Samuel Beckett

In **The Studio**, 18th May - 1st June

Winnie is buried up to her waist, and later her neck, in a huge pile of earth. Day after day a bell wakes Winnie and sends her to sleep. She is an eternal optimist, facing the harsh realities of life with impenetrable cheerfulness. One of the most unique and powerful voices of the Twentieth Century, Beckett conjures up a bizarre world where tragedy and comedy collide in a bleak illustration of the human condition and the absurdity of existence.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

Name(s)

Address

.....

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Tel. no.

e-mail

Date of Birth

Membership Type *(please tick one)*

- | | |
|---|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | £39.50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joint | £71.50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concessionary
Senior Citizens, UB40s, Leisure Pass holders | £23.50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joint Concessionary | £39.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single Family
One adult and all children under 17 | £47.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joint Family
Two adults and all children under 17
<i>(please include names and dates of birth of all children for both types of family membership)</i> | £81.50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student
All tickets at half price on production of NUS card - no free shows | £13.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Associate
For those outside a 25-mile radius of The Questors - no free shows | £15.00 |

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.

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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 that experience isn't always necessary.

- Acting**
You will need to take an audition to join the acting company.
Please fill in a form (available from the office).
- Directing**
You will need either a proven track record or hands-on theatre experience for this.
- Backstage**
Including stage management, construction, lighting, sound, props, and wardrobe.
- Design**
Set and/or costume design
- Front of House**
Including stewarding, box office, programme selling, Questors café.
- Publicity**
Leaflet distribution, open day etc.
- Photography**
Experience and own camera required.
- Grapevine Bar**
Bar staff.
- Envelope Stuffing**
Daytime - including general office help.
- Maintenance**
Any + every odd job.

Details of any relevant experience:

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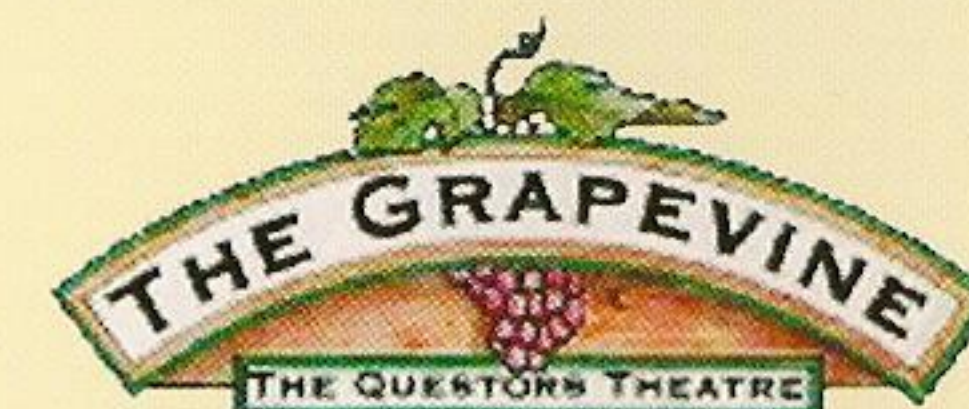
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£25 off every booking
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WORTH CROSSING EALING FOR!

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

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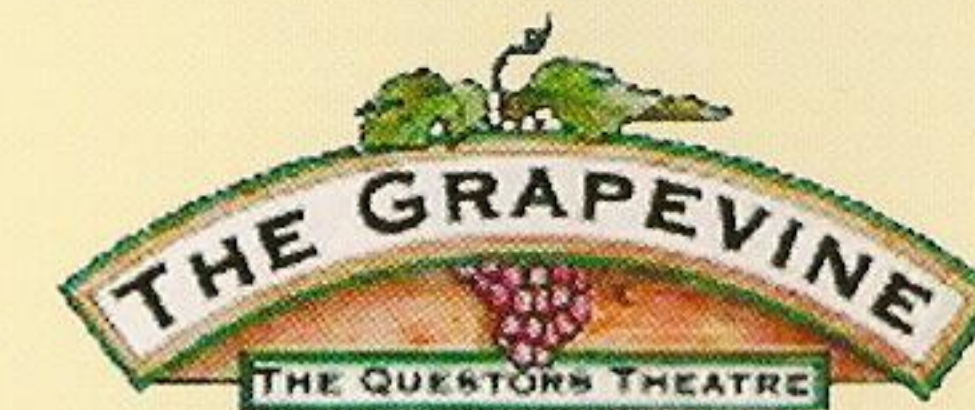
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