

# 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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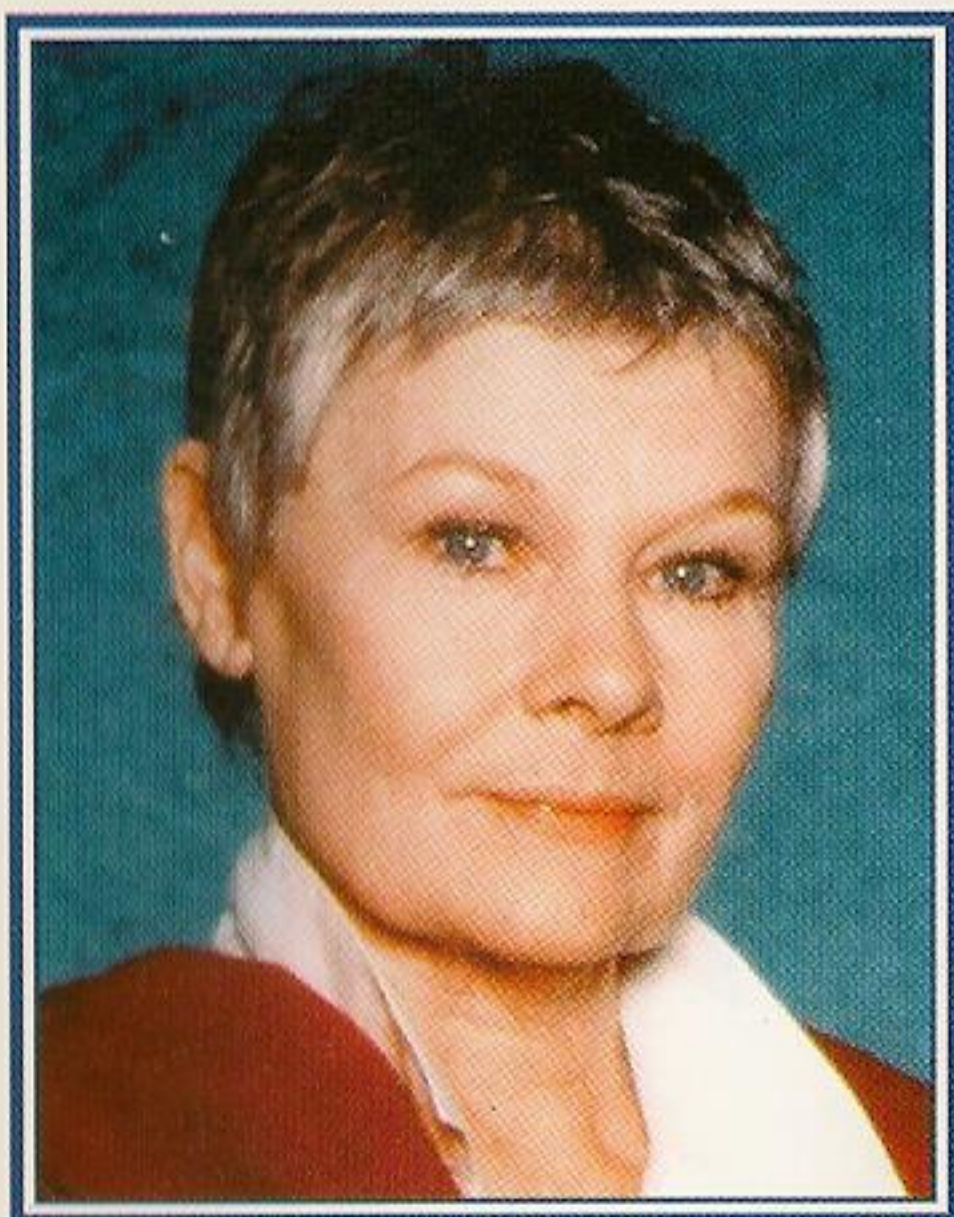
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# POPCORN

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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!

Dame Judi Dench  
President of The Questors Theatre



# POPCORN

by Ben Elton



## The Play

Popcorn was written in the mid 1990s as a satirical parody of the violent, "high-bodycount" movies coming out of Hollywood, such as *Natural Born Killers*, *Reservoir Dogs*, and *Pulp Fiction*. Associated with all these films as writer and/or director was Quentin Tarantino. Using almost farcical humour, absurdity, exaggerated visual detail, and soundtracks designed to appeal to young men, he managed to glamorise the depiction of extreme graphic violence, guns, and casual serial murders. The "anti-heroes" of these movies were inevitably seen as cool and sexy, adorning posters and T-shirts, and their release has helped to provoke debates around the world about whether such films stimulate copy-cat murders and a general numbing of audiences to the horror of real violence.

Popcorn is set within a modern world where no one takes responsibility for anything, where Hollywood excess is untempered, and television companies spend more time *making* the news than reporting it, while still claiming objectivity and rejecting responsibility for what they broadcast. It loosely takes the premise of *Natural Born Killers* – itself a parody of the media's relationship with violent crime – and twists the situation back on to Hollywood itself with a biting, cynical script and characters drawn from a range of familiar caricatures.

## Ben Elton

Ben Elton is a highly successful and prolific comedy writer and performer. He joined amateur dramatic societies as a child, wrote his first play at the age of 15, and wanted to be a stagehand at the local theatre. Instead he went to Manchester University where Rik Mayall and Adrian Edmondson were also studying, and after graduating, he joined forces with them at the Comedy Store in London. Originally, he performed only to showcase his own writing, but he soon became well known as a comedy performer and actor, famous for his energetic tirades against Thatcherism and world business.

He was only 22 when he co-wrote *The Young Ones*, which amused and disgusted television audiences in equal measure, and reshaped British comedy as surely as Monty Python had done a decade earlier. He has since proved unstoppable. By his 40th birthday, he could boast seven novels, four plays and 11 television series as a writer.

His early writing, in particular, is often dark and violent. His first novel, *Stark*, deals with the end of the world, and though funny is also brutal and disturbing, with a truly pessimistic ending. His writing, as with his stand up routines, often deals with topical issues: ecological destruction in *Stark*, consumerism and big business in *Gasping*, pollution and over use of cars in *Gridlock*. *Silly Cow* in 1993, which satirised a tabloid television critic and *This Other Eden* in 1993, which deals with Hollywood versus the environment are obvious predecessors to *Popcorn* in that they deal with the sometimes devastating effect that the media has on societies or individuals.



# POPCORN

by Ben Elton

First performance of this production 19<sup>th</sup> January 2002

## CAST

BRUCE	Max Fisher
VELVET	Jolene Paterson
KARL	Leigh Scheindlinger
FARRAH	Lucy Rathbone
WAYNE	Reece De Ville
SCOUT	Liz Fowler
BROOKE	Sara Pruce
TV NEWS REPORTER	Tanya Winsor

The play is set in the Beverley Hills home of  
renowned film director Bruce Delamitri

Time – The Present.

*There will be an interval of 15 minutes between Acts 1 and 2*

## PRODUCTION

Director and Set Designer	Nick Murza
Lighting Designer	Richard Bunn
Lighting Operator	Sally Milton-Schrire
Sound Designer	Alan Smith
Sound Operator	Sue Crowson
Stage Manager	Martin Stoner
Deputy Stage Manager	Liz Averill
Assistant Stage Managers	Patrick Smart, Kruti Sharma, Veenu Jain, Andrew Welding, Falko Dos Santos, Stuart Burns
Prompt	Gordon Miller
Properties	Annabel Morris
Guns and Blood	Nigel Worsley
Projections	Ellis Pritchard
Construction	Andrew Welding, Gordon Miller, Mark Ayres
Fight Adviser	Peter Kennedy
Oscar replica made by	John Rolfe
Lighting Riggers	Andrew Macdonald, Jenny Bunn, Nick Nurock

*With thanks to*

Mark Hamilton and the Sofa Workshop, Ealing Broadway Centre, for loan of the  
sofas, Spencer Butler for staging advice, The House Services Team



# COMING SOON

## 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.

## THE WINTER'S TALE by William Shakespeare

In **The Playhouse**, 22nd February - 2nd March

A perfect tragicomedy, set in an imaginary world where Bohemia has a seacoast, and where ancient Greek oracles coexist with Renaissance sculptors. The first half is set amidst gloomy winter, illustrating the destructive power that mistaken jealousy exercises over the family of Leontes, King of Sicilia. Then in the second half, flower-strewn spring arrives and all the damage that the King's folly made is undone - through coincidence, goodwill and finally through miracle.

The 55<sup>th</sup> Student Group Presents:

## TARTUFFE by Molière

In **The Studio**, 13th - 23rd March

Masquerading as a holy man, Tartuffe wins his way into the home of wealthy Orgon, then tries to marry his daughter, seduce his wife and steal the deed to his property. As humorous as it is stingingly relevant, *Tartuffe* unveils the actions and motivations behind religious counterfeits manipulating the timid and insecure. Join Molière and the Student Group as they poke fun at the aristocracy and unmask the audacious villain in this 17th Century comedy.

## 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 or four conventional comedies. But however much the six characters lose the plot, their wits or their clothes, their verbal self-possession never deserts them.

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

Name/s .....

Address .....

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

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) .....

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**  
'The real heart of the theatre'.
- ☐ **Envelope Stuffing**  
Daytime - including general office help.
- ☐ **Maintenance**

Details of any relevant experience:

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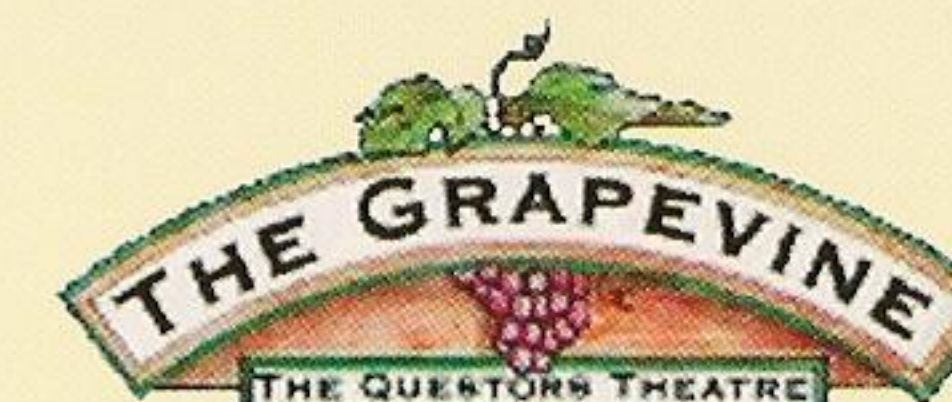
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UK Breaks

£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)