

**COMING SOON**

**STEEL MAGNOLIAS** by Robert Harling

**In the Studio,** 18<sup>th</sup> January - 1<sup>st</sup> February

In the setting of a beauty parlour in Louisiana, six women gossip, fight, hug, cry and have their hair done. The banter between them is hilarious, as are the offstage situations they describe as they face life's changes and challenges together. Their husbands are absent (being depressed, imprisoned, or dead) and they rely on each other for support, even more necessary as time goes by and tragedy strikes.

**DESIGN FOR LIVING** by Noël Coward

**In the Playhouse,** 8<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> February

This is the closest that Coward came to writing a black comedy. It has all the brittle, sparkling wit that one would expect, but with a modern, sexy twist. A menage a trois of decadent artists in a flat in Paris - a design for living, or a recipe for hilarious disaster? Coward's play has much to tell us about sexual mores, the nature of fidelity and the difficulty of trying to live an alternative lifestyle.

**THE QUESTORS YOUTH THEATRE PRESENTS**

**ERNIE'S INCREDIBLE ILLUCINATIONS** by Alan Ayckbourn

**In the Studio,** 19<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> February

Ernie is a girl with an incredible imagination - everything she imagines becomes real, much to the consternation of her parents. They take Ernie to the doctor's in search of a cure but things don't go exactly as planned. Secret agents, a boxing granny and mountaineering in the local library make this a hilarious story and fun for all ages.

and

**THE CHRYSALIDS** by David Harrower from the novel by John Wyndham

**In the Studio,** 19<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> February

Set in a post apocalyptic future, The Chrysalids deals with issues of prejudice and narrow-mindedness. It tells the story of David, who lives in a world where those who consider themselves normal, the 'Norms' rule, and try to destroy anyone they see as different, the 'Mutants'. David is different, he is telepathic, but how can he hide this difference and avoid a terrible fate?

**A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE** by Arthur Miller

**In the Playhouse,** 15<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> March

This is a powerful drama about incestuous love, jealousy and betrayal from one of the twentieth century's most celebrated playwrights. It tells the story of Eddie, a longshoreman in 1950's New York, a decent, often loveable man, doomed to destroy himself because of a fatal flaw in his character - the nature of his love for his niece, Catherine.

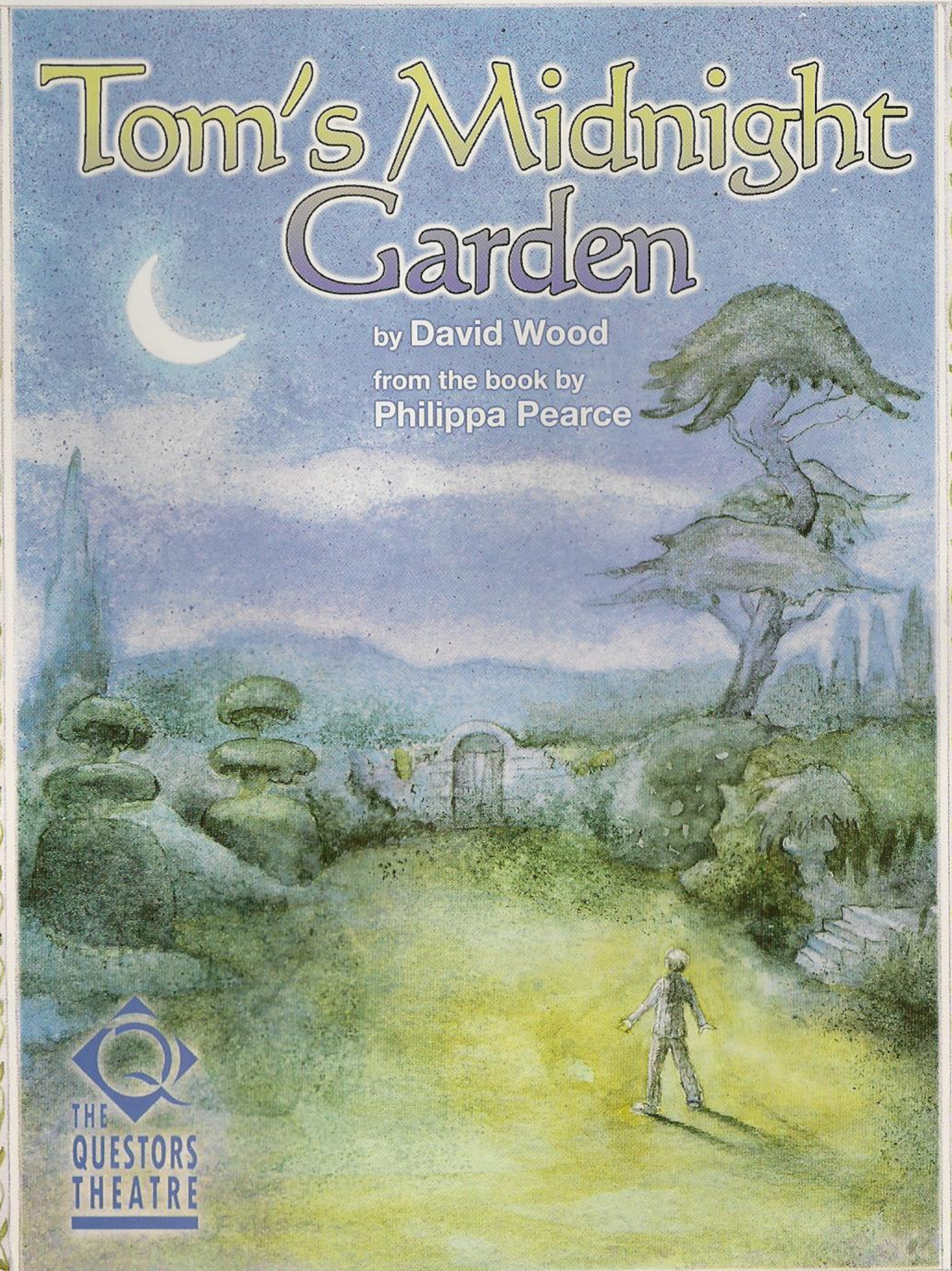
**BOX OFFICE 020 8567 5184**

**THE QUESTORS THEATRE** presents

# Tom's Midnight Garden

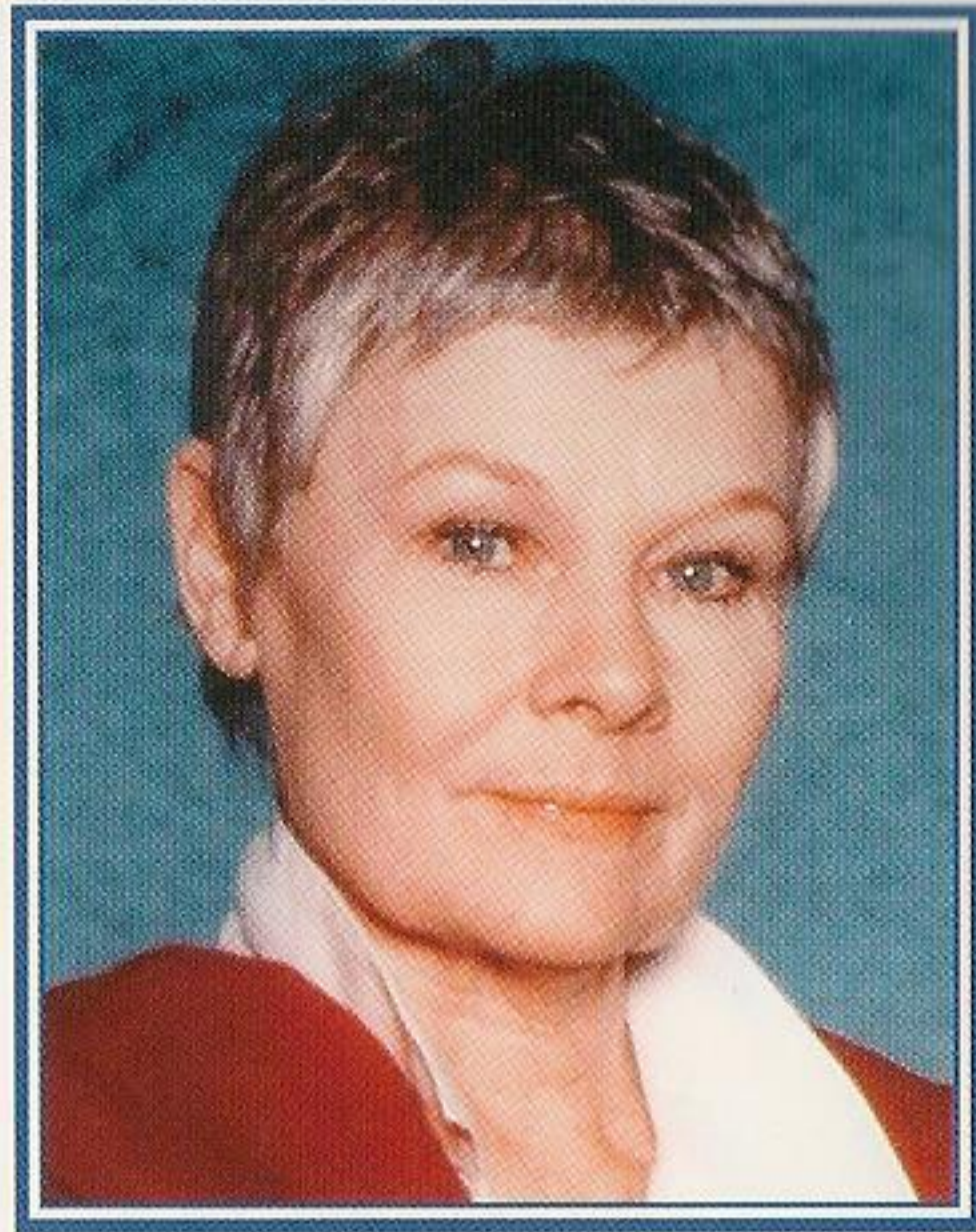
by David Wood

from the book by  
Philippa Pearce



**SOUVENIR PROGRAMME**





Enquiries: 020 8567 0011  
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Web site: www.questors.org.uk

**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 17 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 8 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

# Tom's Midnight Garden

by David Wood



sponsored by  Merchant & Co.





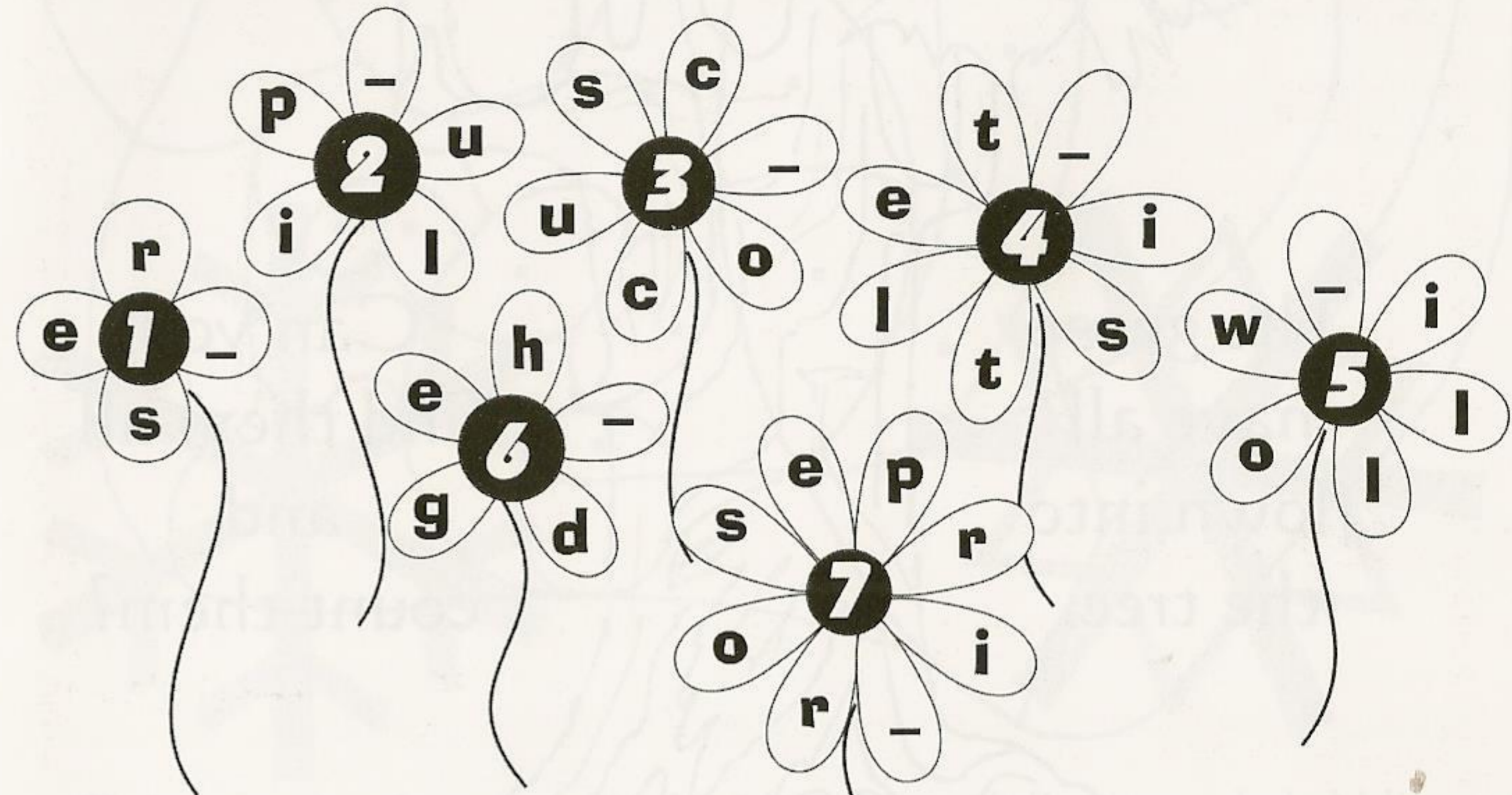
Can you help Tom through the maze to find Hatty?

My first is in Hatty and also in Tom,  
 My second's in windy but isn't in storm.  
 My third is in midnight but never in noon,  
 My fourth is in ever but isn't in soon.  
 My fifth is in garden but isn't in flower,  
 My sixth's not in minutes but is in an hour.  
 My seventh's in lasting but isn't in end,  
 My eighth is in postcard but isn't in send.  
 My ninth is in linger but isn't in stay,  
 My tenth is in going but not in away.  
 My eleventh's in lonely but not in apart,  
 My twelfth is in friendships ready to start.  
 My whole is a riddle that Tom must explain  
 Or else his adventures will all be in vain.



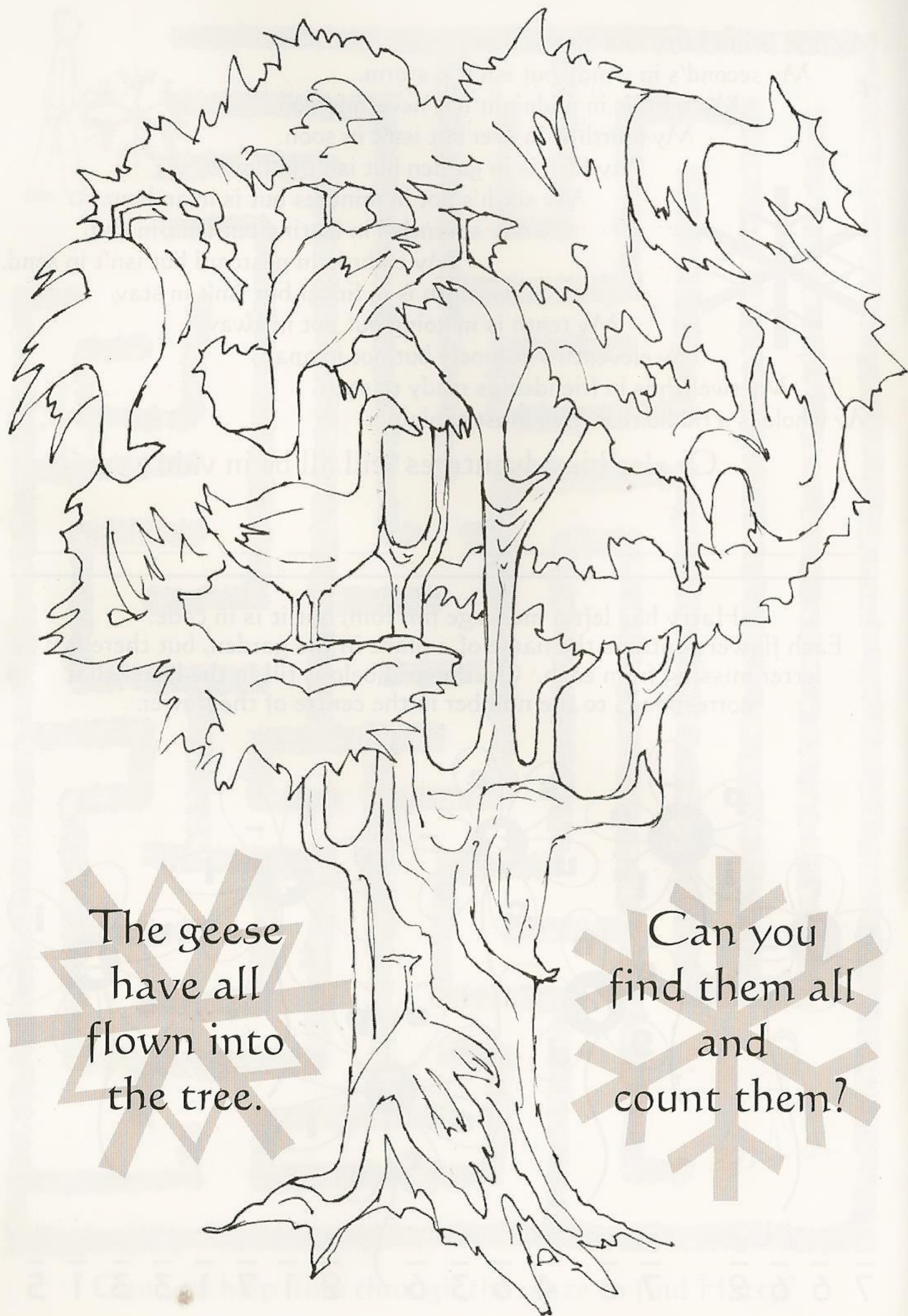
\_\_\_\_\_

Hatty has left a message for Tom, but it is in code. Each flower contains the name of a plant in the garden, but there is a letter missing from each. On the grid below, fill in the letter that corresponds to the number in the centre of the flower.



7 6 6 2    7 6    4 6 3 6    2 1 7 1 3 3 1 5

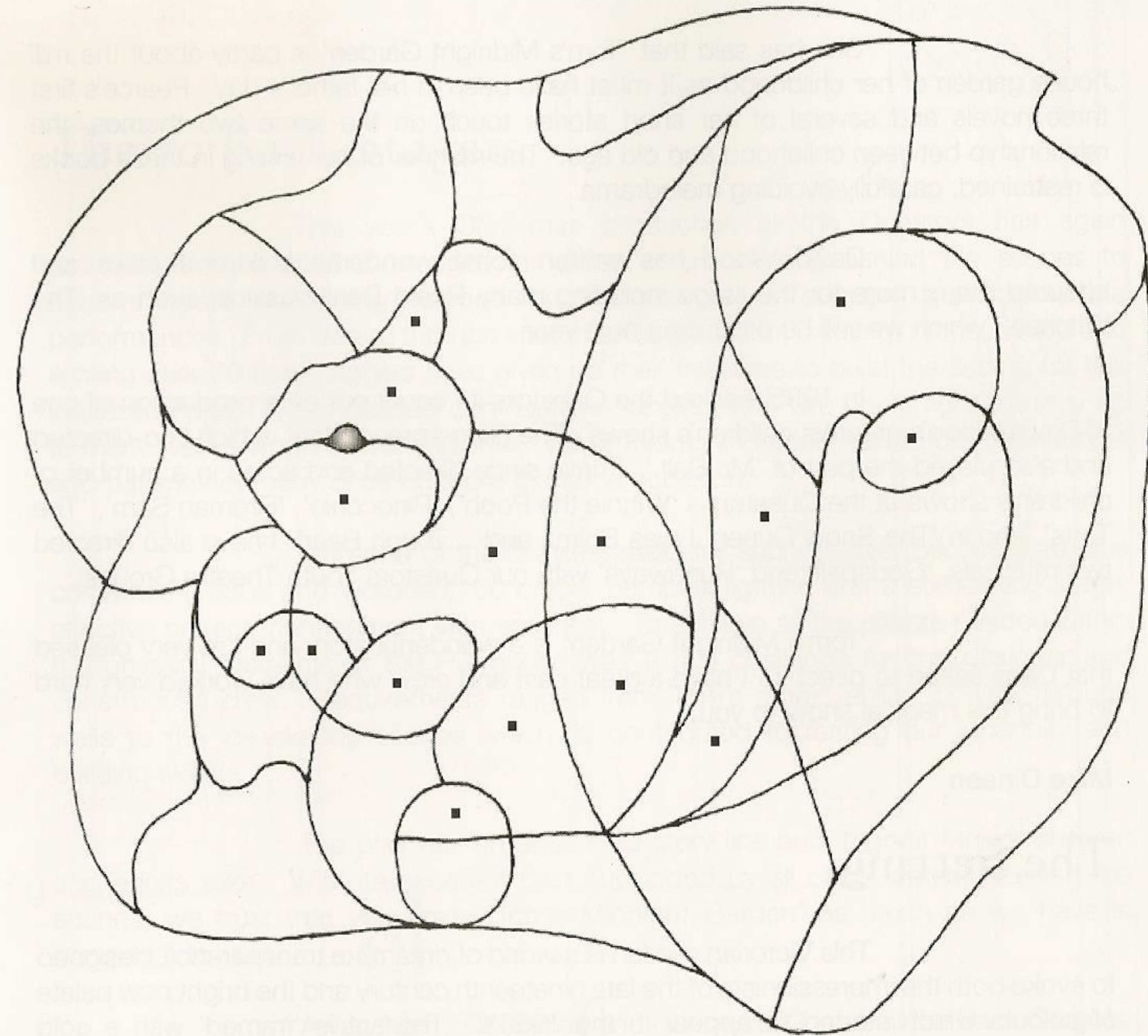




The geese  
have all  
flown into  
the tree.

Can you  
find them all  
and  
count them?

1. What comes once in a minute, twice in a moment, but never in a thousand years?
2. What goes through a door but never goes in and never comes out?



Colour in the shapes marked with a dot and discover who's hiding.



## The Play

'Tom's Midnight Garden' has many similarities to other great children's novels such as C.S. Lewis' Narnia books and Frances Hodgson-Burnett's 'The Secret Garden'.

Philippa Anne Pearce was born in 1920 in Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire. She is one of the leading British children's writers of the twentieth century. 'Tom's Midnight Garden' is regarded by many to be one of the outstanding children's novels of all time in any language. It won the prestigious Carnegie medal in 1958 and her first novel was also a runner-up in 1955.

She has said that 'Tom's Midnight Garden' is partly about the mill house garden of her childhood as it must have been in her father's day. Pearce's first three novels and several of her short stories touch on the same two themes, the relationship between childhood and old age. The manner of her writing in these books is restrained, carefully avoiding melodrama.

David Wood has written some wonderful children's plays and adapted many more for the stage including many Roald Dahl classics, such as 'The Witches', which we will be producing next year.

In 1995, I asked the Questors if I could put on a production of one of David Wood's greatest children's shows, 'The Gingerbread Man', which I co-directed and also played the part of 'Mr. Salt.' I have since directed and acted in a number of children's shows at the Questors - 'Winnie the Pooh', 'Pinocchio', 'Fireman Sam', 'The Twits', and in 'The Snow Queen' I was Bhima and ...Tough Bear! I have also directed two musicals, 'Godspell' and 'Runaways' with our Questors Youth Theatre Groups.

'Tom's Midnight Garden' is a wonderful story and I'm very pleased that I was asked to direct it. I have a great cast and crew who have worked very hard to bring this magical show to you.

Mike Dineen

## The Setting

This Victorian garden is a world of dreamlike transparency, designed to evoke both the impressionists of the late nineteenth century and the bright new palate of colours which started to appear in the 1950's. The set is 'framed' with a gold proscenium arch which, combined with the two-dimensional scenery used in the garden, echoes traditional Victorian style sets.

Alex Marker

## Costume Design - Teresa Jenkins

Working with costume design from two of my favourite periods has been very interesting for me. Dressing the character of each of the cast was another level of the challenge that I enjoyed. Thank you to Jenny Yates for designing and making Aunt Gwen's dress and to Bridgett Strevens for designing and making Abel's apron.

EXIT. She'll's over to the cast now and my fantastic wardrobe team - from me - I hope you enjoy the play!

"veni, vidi, vici."

## The 70 Back-Stagers

This year's Christmas production at the Questors has again provided the expected challenges for those of us working behind the scenes to accommodate everything needed by the players to support their admirable performances. From design through costume, construction, painting, props, sound and lighting over 70 back-stagers have given up their free time to build the setting for this interesting play. With individual contributions ranging from two hours right the way up to many weeks worth of working time, 'Tom's Midnight Garden' tested both the nerves and patience of many of us on more than one occasion.

With one of the heaviest need for sound - over 60 cues, 40 plus costumes (1950s and Victorian), 60 props, complex lighting and a stimulating stage, effective project management was essential. To achieve all the effects needed within the physical restraints of the Playhouse was a real challenge for the designer and construction crew. Requirements ranged from Tom's magic ability to walk through walls to the ice skating scenes which all contributed to testing our ingenuity and building skills.

The play has an absorbing story line and is great fun for children and adults alike. With its excellent cast supported by all of us working behind the scenes, we trust that you enjoy 'Tom's Midnight Garden' as much as we have in bringing it to you.

A very Merry Christmas and Happy 2003 from all the Back-Stagers.

Guy Adams - Stage Manager

set drawings by Alex Marker



## CAST

## Tom's Midnight Garden

## PRODUCTION

Mrs Bartholomew	Julia Cooke
Tom	Joe Wood* & William Able*
Uncle Alan	Mark Redrup
Aunt Gwen	Caroline Nagle
Peter, Tom's brother	Sam Murray* & Mark Harrod*
Susan, the maid	Kate Harper^ & Anne Harris^
Hatty	Kim O'Donnell
Aunt Grace	Barbara Marker
Abel, the Gardener	Alan Chambers
James	Ian Stirling
Edgar	Alex Janson
Hubert	Owen Coupe+
Small Hatty	Heidi Lowry* & Bethan Lewis*
Barty	Christian Ani+
Ely Cathedral Tower Guide	Guy Adams
Skaters, Sightseers and Voices of the House	Members of the Cast

Most of the play takes place in a Victorian house and garden in East Anglia.

The action moves between the 1880s/1890s and the 1950s.

The first act lasts about 50 minutes and the second act is about 40 minutes.

There will be a 15 minute interval.

\* Members of the Questors Youth Theatre

+ First year students on the two-year part-time Foundation and  
Performance Course in Acting

^ Members of the Acting for All course

Director	Mike Dineen
Designer	Alex Marker
Stage Manager	Guy Adams
Assistant Designer	Jenny Rawlings
Deputy Stage Managers	Bernice Wolfenden, Amy Dunning
Assistant Stage Managers	Eirin Taraldsvik, Daniel Bradley, Lakin Mors, James Lewis, Zoe Parkinson, Jie Zhou, John Southan, Gavin Williams
Properties	Marc Golland
Puppets	Jennie Rawlings, Daniel Bradley
Prompter	Pam Smith
Master Carpenter	Mike Hagan
Deputy Master Carpenter and Specialist Rigger	Colin Horne
Construction	John Horwood, Richard Williams, Karen Tollady, Nigel Bamford, Mark Ayres, Catherine Pride
Get-in Construction	Chris Sydenham
Set Painting	Alex Marker, Elaine Hagan, Cathy Kelleher, Jenny Rawlings, John Rolfe, Wanda Duszynska, Teresa Jenkins
Costume Designer	Teresa Jenkins
Dress Maker	Jenny Yates
Wardrobe Assistants	Samantha Tolhurst, Bridgett Strevens
Lighting Designer	Martin Stoner
Lighting Operators	Sally Milton, Charlie Lucas, Luke Green
Lighting Crew	Chris Newall, Damien Lazell
Sound Designer	Joel Schrire
Sound Operators	Francesca Apprich, Mike Caddy
Music	Mark Rose
Make up	Julia Cruttenden, Jacy Cleal, Amy Drummond, Lucy Gallimore, Lesley Henri, Laura Hunt, Wendy Montague, Shari Rendle, Alexis Slaybaugh, Karen Werther
Story Continuity	Tim E. Knolonga

With thanks to

Brin Parsonage, Hazel Ashworth, Nigel Worsley, Mel Pereira, Richard Mead, Tim Edwards,  
Mark White, Hugh Davies-Webb, Alexandra Houston, Tim Hayward, Jim Craddock,  
Edward Parkinson, Chris Bennett, Guy Morrogh, Richard Lewis, Jon Webster, Kirsty Packham,  
Tina Harris, Gordon Miller, Jenny Bunn, Richard Bunn, Peter Collins, Sylvia Wall,  
Kate Morton, Alice Pennicott, High End Systems.



# The Characters

## Tom

There are two important things I had to keep in mind when acting as Tom. The first was that Tom is from the 1950's and that he doesn't act like kids today and the other thing is that he is four years younger than me. Because of this I had to remember constantly what it was like being ten. Tom, although being hard to act, was an interesting character and I had lots of fun being him. *William Able*

## My opinion of Tom by Joe Wood

I quite like Tom. He has an amazing insatiable curiosity. I like the way that he takes most things in his stride. I like his practical skills in archery and tree-house building. He is brave and doesn't worry about consequences. My only comment would be that occasionally he jumps to conclusions too swiftly.

## Hatty

Hatty is a lonely child, robbed of her parents at a formative age and sidelined by her cousins. Her Aunt feels her a burden encumbered upon herself through the untimely death of her parents, she sees herself in a saintly light doing her duty by the girl but is incapable of seeing that she is withholding the most important things in a child's life, love and acceptance. In her contemptuous attitude towards Hatty, she sets the example that her children will follow, making Hatty's life a difficult one, devoid of love and kindness, although she receives some solace through Abel, Susan and James.

Hatty finds the garden a retreat, somewhere where she is not always under the watchful and disapproving eye of her Aunt, she spends many solitary hours there and has learned to be alone from a very young age, remaining childlike through lack of interaction with her peers - her cousins find her irritating and amusing in turns - they enjoy baiting her and using her as the butt of their jokes or ill humour - all except for James, who has a kindly disposition and tries to shield Hatty from harm, although often failing, or bowing to pressure from his brothers.

When Tom enters her life, it is the first time she is important to someone else, he is her first and only real friend with whom she can let her imagination fly, tell her stories and not be 'jeered at'. There is a sense of comradeship from the beginning, they are both alone, in need of a friend and eager to explore together and the friendship is cemented through their shared secret - only Hatty can see and talk to Tom, he is her special, secret, friend - this sets the scene for their shared adventures. *Kim O'Donnell*

## Small Hatty

A joyful little tomboy of a girl. But at the moment she is sad and lonely as the result of a tragic loss of her mother and father. She is in tears and has had to move away from the home she loved so much.

## Peter

Throughout the story, Peter receives postcards from his brother Tom telling him about his adventures. Peter would love to be able to join Tom and meet Hatty. Peter is lonely and fed up. I enjoyed playing Peter very much. *Mark Harrod*

## Peter

I have enjoyed playing Peter because he is involved in recounting all of Tom's thought of his exciting adventures. It's been great fun working with the cast and getting to know everyone and the show should be really good!! *Sam Murray*

## Aunt Gwen

Domestic goddess to her husband Alan. Having no children of her own to spoil and look after (except Alan!), she is excited to have Tom stay. Her hobbies include shopping, spending Alan's money and baking great cake. *Caroline Nagle*

## Uncle Alan

Alan Kitson is Tom's uncle. A jolly decent chap with a sense of fair play; happily married to the lovely Gwen, his domestic goddess. Despite having no children, he's read the latest theories on childrearing and has clear views on the subject. He's always happy to share his moral views and his understanding of scientific theories. A rationalist with a dislike of fantasy, he likes to live a calm, orderly life and is irritated by anything that may disrupt it. *Mark Redrup*

## Able

Abel the gardener is a god-fearing character who is very fond of Hatty and is unhappy about the treatment she receives from her Aunt. You must make your own minds up about how much he is aware of Tom.

## Aunt Grace

Aunt Grace believes that children should preferably be neither seen nor heard and little girls in particular should be dutiful and decorous. *Barbara Marker*

## James

James is a dutiful son but his soft spot for Hatty puts him at loggerheads with his unforgiving mother Aunt Grace.

## Hubert

Hubert is an uncouth, snotty-nosed little hooligan. He is the brother of Edgar and James and the ever so proud owner of 'Pincher' the barking spaniel. Bright-eyed and chirpy, he has loads of energy which he exerts teasing his poor little cousin Hatty. *Owen Coupe*

## Edgar

Edgar is the more aggressive of the three and takes after his mother Aunt Grace in bullying Hatty any chance he gets. *Alex Janson*

## Susan

Susan the maid comes from a humble background - she is a loyal member of the household and a caring, good-natured housekeeper who may be finding happiness with somebody who will be by her side.



Join us at  
The Questors Theatre  
next Christmas for

# THE WITCHES

by David Wood

from the book by  
Roald Dahl



## THE QUESTORS YOUTH THEATRE PRESENTS

in the Studio

February  
19, 20, 21, 22, 25,  
26, 27, 28 at 7.15pm  
February 23 at 2.00pm  
Members free  
guests £5.00  
children £3.00



CHAOTIC FUN  
FOR ALL AGES!

### ERNIE'S INCREDIBLE ILLUCINATIONS

by ALAN AYCKBOURN

# THE QUESTORS CAFÉ is open

before the show and during the interval

serving:

mince pies, ice cream-

vanilla, strawberry, chocolate, ginger & lemon sorbet flavours

mulled wine

in the Studio

February  
19, 20, 21, 22, 25,  
26, 27, 28 at 8.30pm  
February 23 at 3.15pm  
Members free  
guests £5.00  
children £3.00



Post

apocalyptic

drama

## The Chrysalids

by David Harrower,  
from the book by John Wyndham



The Youth Theatre  
productions have  
been sponsored by

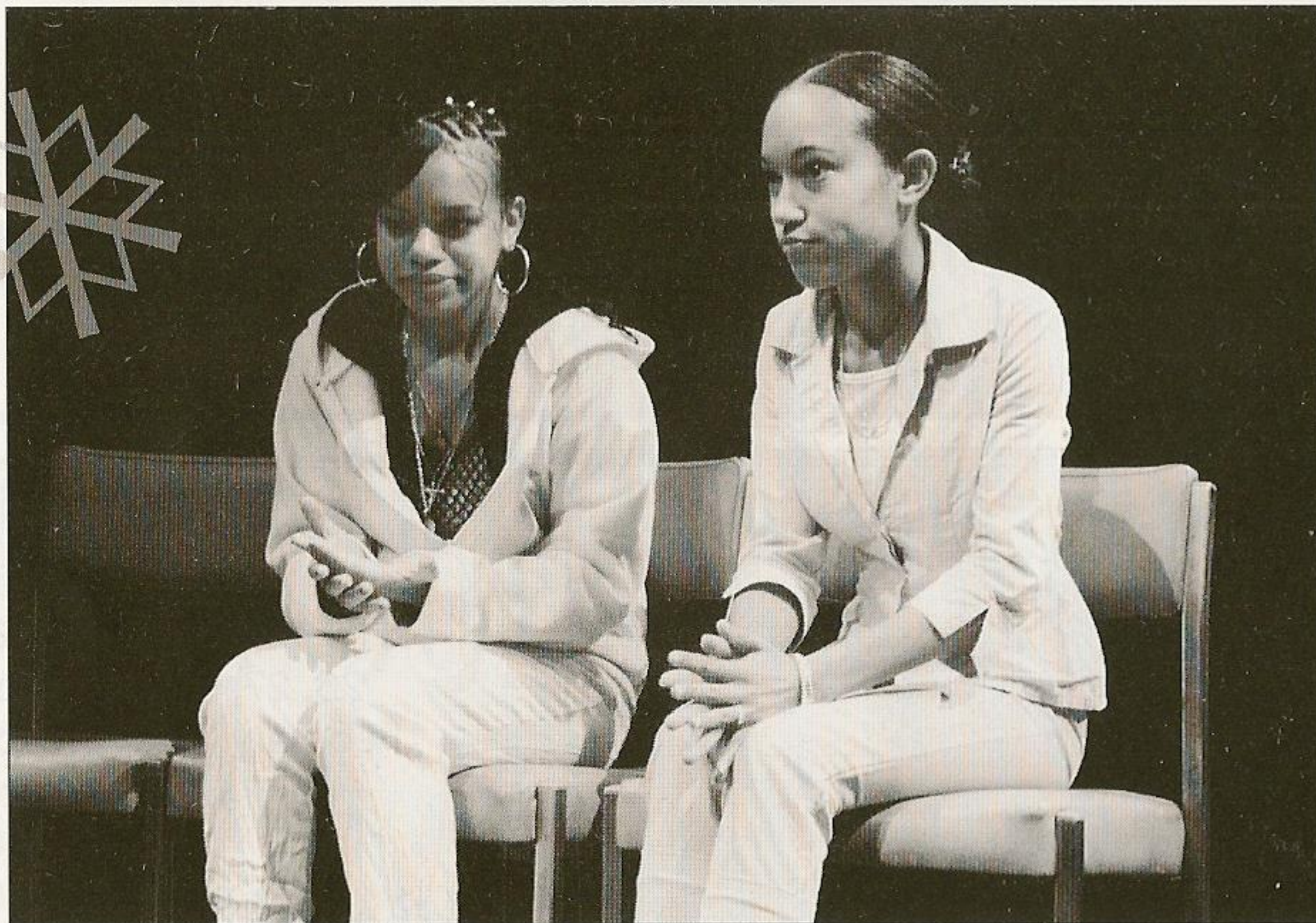
Answers: Page 3, the poem spells 'time no longer'. The message is 'meet me here tomorrow'.  
Page 4, there are eight geese. Page 5, 1. the letter 'm', 2. a keyhole. The picture is a squirrel.



# THE QUESTORS YOUTH THEATRE

The Questors Youth Theatre have presented an eclectic range of plays since the first youth production, *Gregory's Girl* by Bill Forsyth, ten years ago. Other productions have included *The Gut Girls* by Sarah Daniels, *Helen of Troy* by Euripides and the musicals *Godspell* and *Runaways*.

All the young people in this production are drawn from the Questors Youth Theatre, which currently comprises nineteen drama groups. These drama groups provide a programme of hour long classes held weekly over three terms, culminating in a workshop performance in our Studio theatre at the end of the summer term. These sessions focus on developing ideas and imagination rather than teaching people 'how to act'.



Every so often, there is the chance to audition for youth productions, such as *Ernie's Incredible Illucinations* and *The Chrysalids*, or roles in other Questors plays such as *Tom's Midnight Garden*. The majority of young people that you have seen in Questors' productions over the years have been drawn from the Youth Theatre.

So, if you are between 6 and 17 and want to give the theatre a go, fill in an orange form from the foyer or enquire for details at the office on 020 8567 0011, during office hours. No previous experience is necessary.

Alex Marker  
The Questors Youth Theatre

# ACTING FOR ALL

Many of the actors in *Tom's Midnight Garden* are from the Questors' group *Acting for All*, a friendly course designed for people with no previous experience of acting. Many of those on the course are long-standing Questors members - bar staff, technicians, photographers, lighting designers - and many others join the theatre just so they can do the course. Many previous members of *Acting for All* have gone on to the Student Course or to be acting members of the Questors. This is its 11th year, so we must be doing something right!

Each week participants join in lots of lively and enjoyable drama games, exercises and improvisations to stimulate imagination and creativity. And there's a great social atmosphere in the Grapevine bar afterwards - the perfect way to start the weekend!



Some enthusiastic comments from previous members:

*A fantastic course*

*Really enjoyed the social aspect*

*Very supportive*

*Just say how brilliant it is!*

The course is extremely popular and always fills up quickly. There may be some more places available in January, but there is already a waiting list. A new class will start in September - look out for the leaflets in your mailing. If you are not a Questors member and would like more information, pick up a membership leaflet in the foyer or find us on the internet at [www.questors.org.uk](http://www.questors.org.uk).



# Questors Membership Gives You...

- Access to over 17 productions a year - classic, contemporary, international and new plays. From just £6 a ticket!
- Free tickets for up to 8 shows a year.
- Membership of the exclusive Grapevine Bar.
- Questopics - our lively monthly magazine.
- The chance to act, direct or get involved backstage.
- Discounts at many local businesses, including 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, Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 5.30pm or join us in the Grapevine Bar at The Questors Theatre on any Wednesday at 8pm for a free guided tour of the theatre and a drink on us.

*The Grapevine Bar*



## Courses at Questors

The Questors runs:

- A two year part time Foundation in Acting in association with Kingston College.
- A one year part-time Introductory course in Acting.
- The Questors Youth Theatre: weekly drama classes for 6 - 17 year olds.
- Acting For All: friendly Friday night acting workshop for adults who are new to acting.
- Literature course, on the subject of *Mansfield Park* by Jane Austen.

## The Partners & Staff of Merchant & Co.

are once again delighted to sponsor a Questors production.

This time the production is

# Tom's Midnight Garden

And we would like to extend a warm welcome to all friends and associates.

We hope that you have an enjoyable evening to complete the Christmas festivities!



## Merchant & Co.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
AND REGISTERED AUDITORS

Tel: 020 8579 7933

Fax 020 8579 7935

email: [info@merchantco.co.uk](mailto:info@merchantco.co.uk)

84 Uxbridge Road, West Ealing, London W13 8RA



## 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)