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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 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.

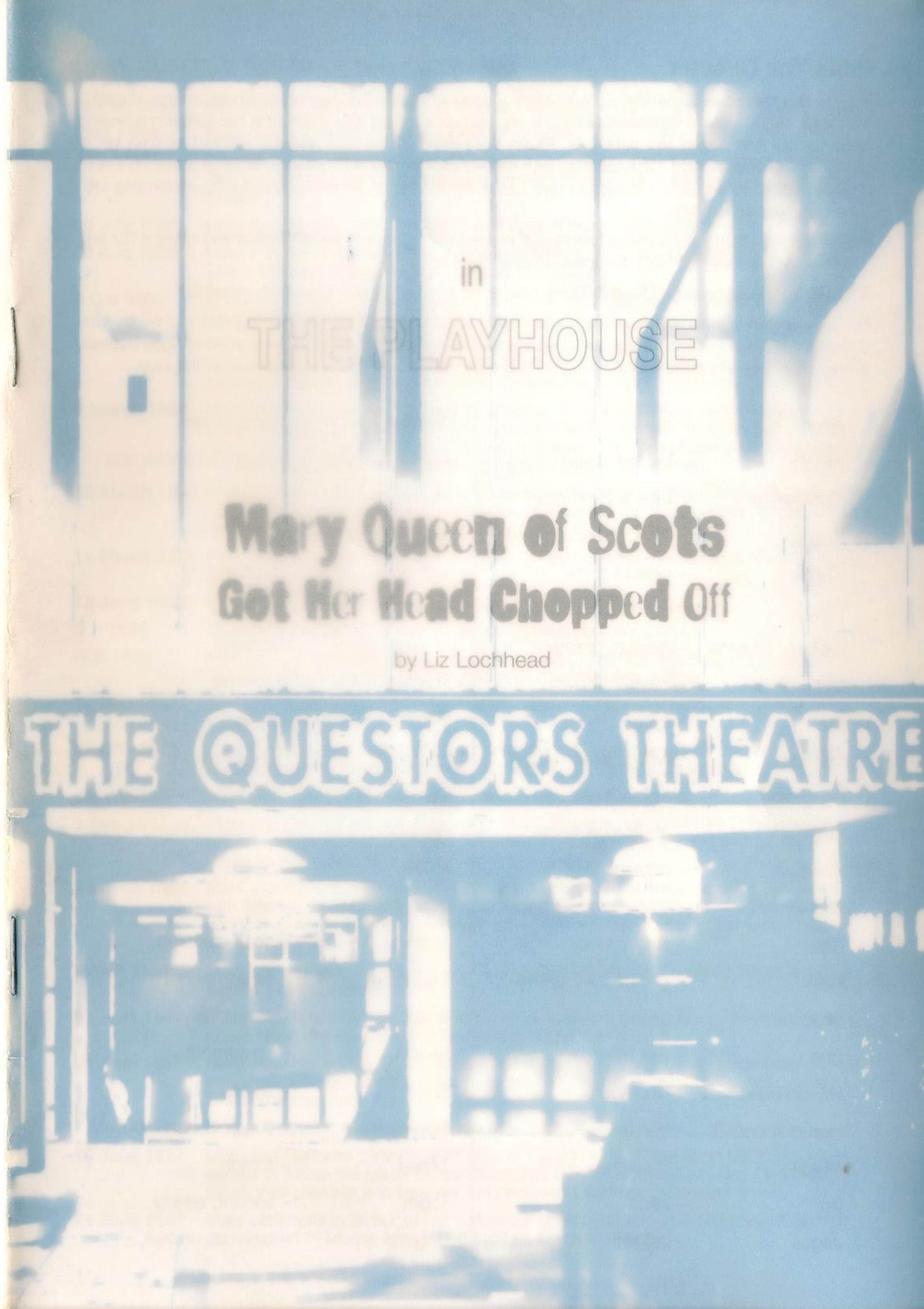
The Questors runs a professionally recognised two-year acting course in conjunction with Kingston College. There are also acting courses for beginners, free backstage training courses, visiting companies from home and abroad, regular art exhibitions, and workshops and clubs for young people. In short, 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!

Judi Dench

Dame Judi Dench
 President of The Questors Theatre



in
 THE PLAYHOUSE

**Mary Queen of Scots
 Got Her Head Chopped Off**

by Liz Lochhead

THE QUESTORS THEATRE

From The Director

Two weeks before the opening night of *Mary Queen of Scots Got Her Head Chopped Off*, during a dance rehearsal, Jolene Paterson, playing Mary, had an accident that resulted in her suffering a broken bone by the little toe of her right foot. Given the nature of the part and the amount of time left in rehearsal it was decided, in consultation with the Artistic Director and Jolene's medical advisors, not to replace her but to adapt her scenes to give her as much help as possible. She will be performing with a walking cast on her leg.

Please join with the cast and crew and myself in thanking her for her determination and wishing her and everyone else connected with the show, Bonne chance!

A Word on the Language Used in *Mary Queen of Scots Got Her Head Chopped Off*

The play is written in a mixture of English and 16th Century Scots, and it is hoped that you will be able to understand most of the dialogue – let's be honest, we don't understand every word of Shakespeare, do we? But here are a few words that you might like to look up in the interval or after the play.

Abune	– above	Jawbox	– kitchen sink
Birled	– twirled, spun	Keist-&-rummle	– rough & tumble; sex
Caw canny	– take it easy, stop	Kintra	– country
Collops	– thick slices of meat	Kye	– cattle
Corbie	– carrion crow	Left-fitter	– Catholic
Cowp	– overturn	Mairrit	– married
Creesh, creeshy	– grease, greasy	Mowdie-hill	– molehill
Ding, dingit	– beat(en) down	Naethin'	– nothing
Een	– eyes	Oxter	– armpit
Eldritch	– weird, supernatural	Penny-jo	– prostitute
Fendless	– defenceless	Quine	– woman (derogatory)
Flytin'	– abusive speech	Rebeck	– a three stringed fiddle
Foumart	– polecat	Rickle	– heap
Gaberlunzie	– a strolling beggar	Rumplefyke	– sex
Glaur	– slime, mud	Sark	– shift, chemise
Glisk	– glance, see briefly	Shoogled	– swung about
Greetin'	– crying	Shilpit	– pale, sickly
Haa	– wet mist	Skail(t)	– scatter(ed)
Hause-bane	– neck-bone	Smirr	– fine rain
Humphit back't	– hunchbacked	Sourrock	– sharp, rough, sour
Hurdies	– haunches, loins	Theek	– thatch
Ilka	– each	Toom	– vacant, empty
Jaggit	– jagged	Ungimp	– unwind, unplait

MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS – A Selected Timeline

- 16 Feb 1565** Mary meets Darnley for the first time since her return to Scotland at Wemyss Castle.
- April 1565** Mary nurses Darnley through a bout of measles.
- July 1565** Mary issues a proclamation declaring that she will not interfere in religious matters. She also seeks a papal dispensation for her marriage as she and Darnley are blood relatives.
- 29 July 1565** Mary and Darnley are married in the chapel of Holyrood Palace
- 26 Aug 1565** Mary sets out towards Stirling to confront Moray and the rebellious Lords. This is the start of the Chaseabout Raid.
- 8 Oct 1565** In Dumfries, Mary meets the Earl of Bothwell and makes him her lieutenant-general when he joins her campaign.
- March 1566** For fear of reprisals, the Lords involved in the Chaseabout Raid and Darnley sign a bond with the object of upholding the Protestant faith, removing David Rizzio, Mary's secretary, and conveying the crown matrimonial to the by now estranged Darnley.
- 9 March 1566** David Rizzio is savagely stabbed to death at Holyrood, in front of the heavily pregnant Mary, by Patrick Ruthven, accompanied by Darnley and the Earl of Morton's men. Mary is detained at Holyrood while the Lords issue a proclamation in Darnley's name that the Chaseabout Raid rebels were pardoned.
- 12 March 1566** With the help of Bothwell, Mary and Darnley escape to Dunbar Castle. She offers to pardon the perpetrators of the Chaseabout Raid but not those of the murder of Rizzio. Morton, Lindsay and Ruthven retreat to England.
- 18 March 1566** Mary returns to Edinburgh and accepts Moray back into her Council. She awaits the birth of her child at Edinburgh.
- 19 June 1566** After a long and painful labour, James VI of Scotland is born.
- Oct 1566** Mary falls seriously ill. She is visited by Bothwell but not Darnley.
- Nov 1566** Mary and her advisers discuss what to do about Darnley. It is suggested to Mary that Darnley should be assassinated, a plan which Mary rejects.
- 17 Dec 1566** James VI is baptized at Stirling Chapel. Darnley does not attend. The godparents include Elizabeth I.
- 24 Dec 1566** Mary pardons the Rizzio murderers and spends some days at Drummond Castle accompanied by Bothwell. Darnley retreats to Glasgow, suffering from syphilis.
- Jan 1567** Mary visits Darnley and persuades him to return to Edinburgh.
- 1 Feb 1567** Mary and Darnley arrive in Edinburgh and Darnley is put up at Kirk O'Field for fear of contaminating the baby. Mary is cordial to him and it is agreed that he should return to Holyrood.
- 9 March 1567** Mary attends one of her pages' wedding at Holyrood and also spends some time with Darnley. At 10 p.m. she remembers that she promised to attend the masque and leaves again. At 2a.m. an explosion destroys Kirk O'Field. Darnley's body is found strangled in the orchard.
- March 1567** Mary goes to mourn at Seton Castle. The Earl of Lennox, Darnley's father, accuses Bothwell of the murder.
- 12 April 1567** Bothwell attends his trial at the Tolbooth in Edinburgh. For want of witnesses the prosecution has no case and Bothwell is acquitted.
- 24 April 1567** Mary visits her son at Stirling for the last time. On her way back to Edinburgh she is abducted, willingly or not, by Bothwell and his men and taken to Dunbar Castle where she may have been raped by him.
- 7 May 1567** Bothwell obtains a divorce from his wife, Lady Jean Gordon.
- 15 June 1567** Mary and Bothwell confront the Lords at Carberry Hill. There is no battle but Mary agrees to follow the Lords on condition that they let Bothwell go. But the Lords break their promise and take her to Lochleven Castle as their prisoner.
- 24 June 1567** Mary abdicates in favour of her son under duress. James VI is crowned at Stirling and the Earl of Moray, Mary's half-brother, becomes Regent.

Mary Queen of Scots Got Her Head Chopped Off

by Liz Lochhead

First performance of this production 21 June 2003

CAST

Hilary Shearing	La Corbie
Maria Brusa	Elizabeth/ Bessie/ Leezie/ Wee Betty
Jolene Paterson	Mary/ Marian/ Mairn/ Marie Stewart
Norman Wilkinson	John Knox/ Mummer/ Scots Commoner/ Ambassador/ Wee Knoxxy
Graham Bowe	Hepburn o' Bothwell/ Ambassador/ Scots Noble/ Dreamperson/ Mummer/ Jamie
Iain Stirling	Henry, Lord Darnley/ Ambassador/ Scots Noble/ Wee Henry
Jonathan Dedman	David Rizzio/ English Commoner/ Scots Noble/ Dreamperson/ Richie
Anne Sawbridge	Mummer/ Adviser/ English Commoner/ Ambassador/ Dreamperson/ Wee Girl
Penny Sims	Adviser/ Scots Commoner/ Ambassador/ Dreamperson/ Wee Girl

All other parts played by members of the cast.

The play is set in Scotland and England during the reigns of Mary, Queen of Scots and Elizabeth I, and in Scotland in the late 20th Century in the final scene.

Act 1: 60 minutes
Interval: 20 minutes
Act 2: 55 minutes

PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Manager:	Les Fraser
DSM:	Sally Milton
ASMs:	Eleanor White, Matthew Simpson, Eammon Ali, Martina Callinan, Kiesha Robertson, Penny Letham, Kate Cunningham
Set Design:	John Rolfe
Lighting design:	Hugh Davies-Webb
Sound Design:	Mark Lucek
Lighting Operators:	Bruce Humphreys, Frank Martin
Sound Operator:	Martin Choules
Costume:	Sylvia Wall, Bridgett Strevens, Pam Smith
Wigs & Make-Up:	Caroline Silk, Caroline Weston
Get in/Get out	Geoff Moore, Adrian Stones
Choeography:	Janet Cook
Rehearsal Prompt:	Pam Smith
With thanks to:	Tess Walsh, Harriet Parsonage, Joel Schrire, Julia Cruttenden, Nigel Bamford, Jim Craddock

COMING SOON

The 56th Questors Student Group Presents

You Can't Take it With You by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman
in **The Playhouse**, 12 - 19 July

Alice Sycamore, the only normal person from a zany family, falls in love with her boss, Tony Kirby, and has to introduce his family to her own. The Kirby's are a wealthy, stuffy family of great self-importance, while the Sycamore's are a collection of good-hearted lunatics. When the two families come together, lifestyle and philosophy collide head-on. The Kirbys, predictably, are appalled at the wild unorthodoxy of the Vanderhofs, which presently results in the arrest of the family—and of the Kirbys themselves.

The Questors First Year Student Group Look In

Wednesday 2 - Thursday 3 July at 7.45pm

A theatrical variety show full of exciting things - informal, unpredictable, uplifting.

The Questors Youth Theatre Look In

Thursday 10 - Saturday 12 July at 7.45pm

A 'gargantuan' event, bringing together all eighteen young people's groups with devised drama, movement and improvisation.

OPEN DAY

WILL BE ON SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

To launch our 75th anniversary year - make a note in your diary.

The Learned Ladies

by Molière
in **The Playhouse**, 27 September - 4 October

A hilarious take on the 'blue-stocking' brigade. The Learned Ladies is the story of the residents of the house of Chrysale, whose daughter Henriette is in love with Clitandre. Chrysale's wife Philaminte and her sister-in-law Belise are running a school of sorts, studying language and literature, their only student being Chrysale's other daughter Armande. Even though Armande is turning down the pretentious road to "knowledge" that Philaminte is preaching, she too is in love with Clitandre. Clitandre, however, only has eyes for Henriette. Meanwhile, Philaminte is angling for a marriage between Henriette and Trissotin a pompous young wit.

ART EXHIBITIONS

in **THE UPPER FOYER**

from 21 June - 28 June

Christine Stafford

We are always delighted to hear from anyone interested in holding an exhibition at The Questors.

For further details please contact

Jane Mason on 020 8567 0011 on Tuesdays or Thursdays.



TANDOORI RESTAURANT

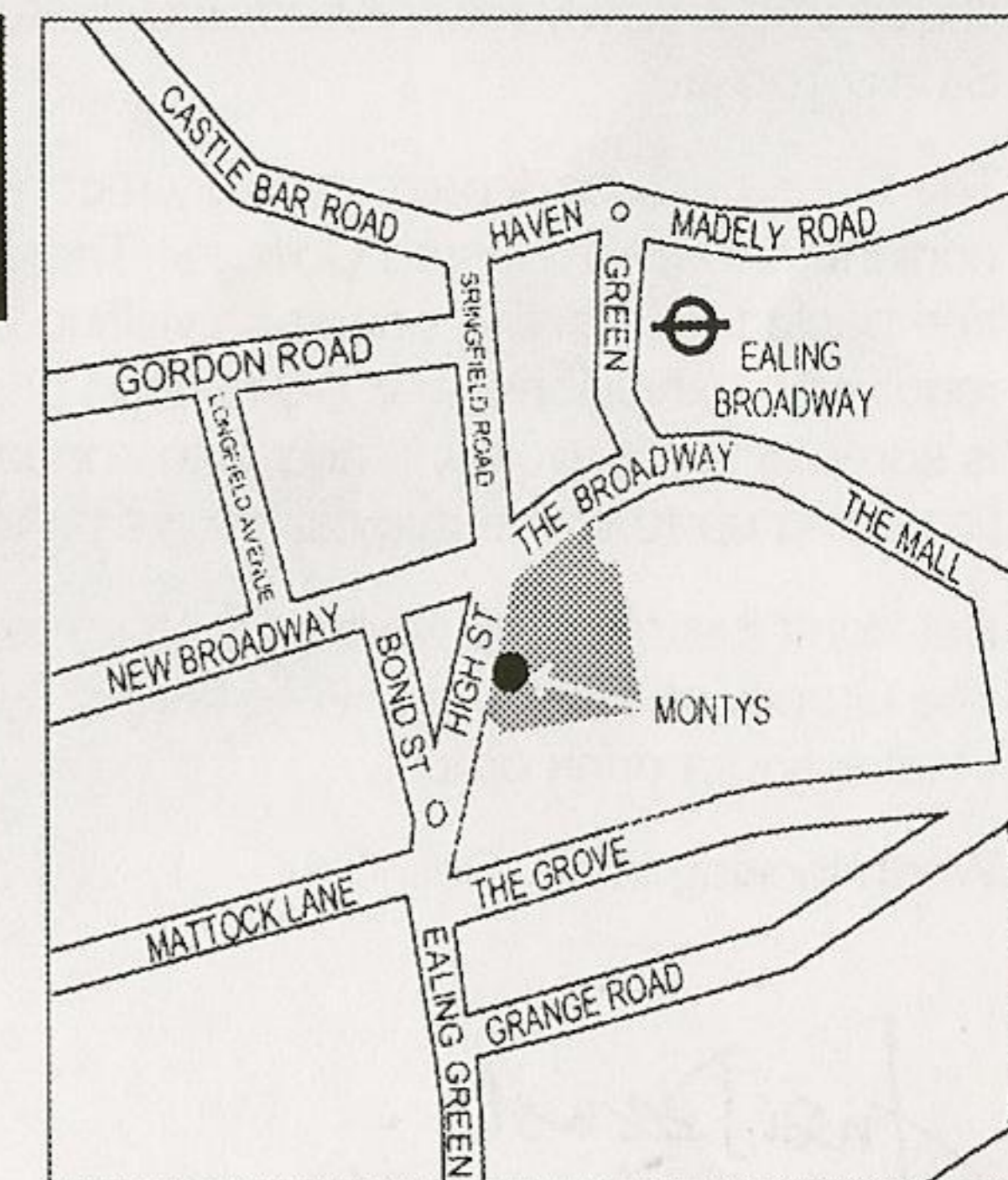
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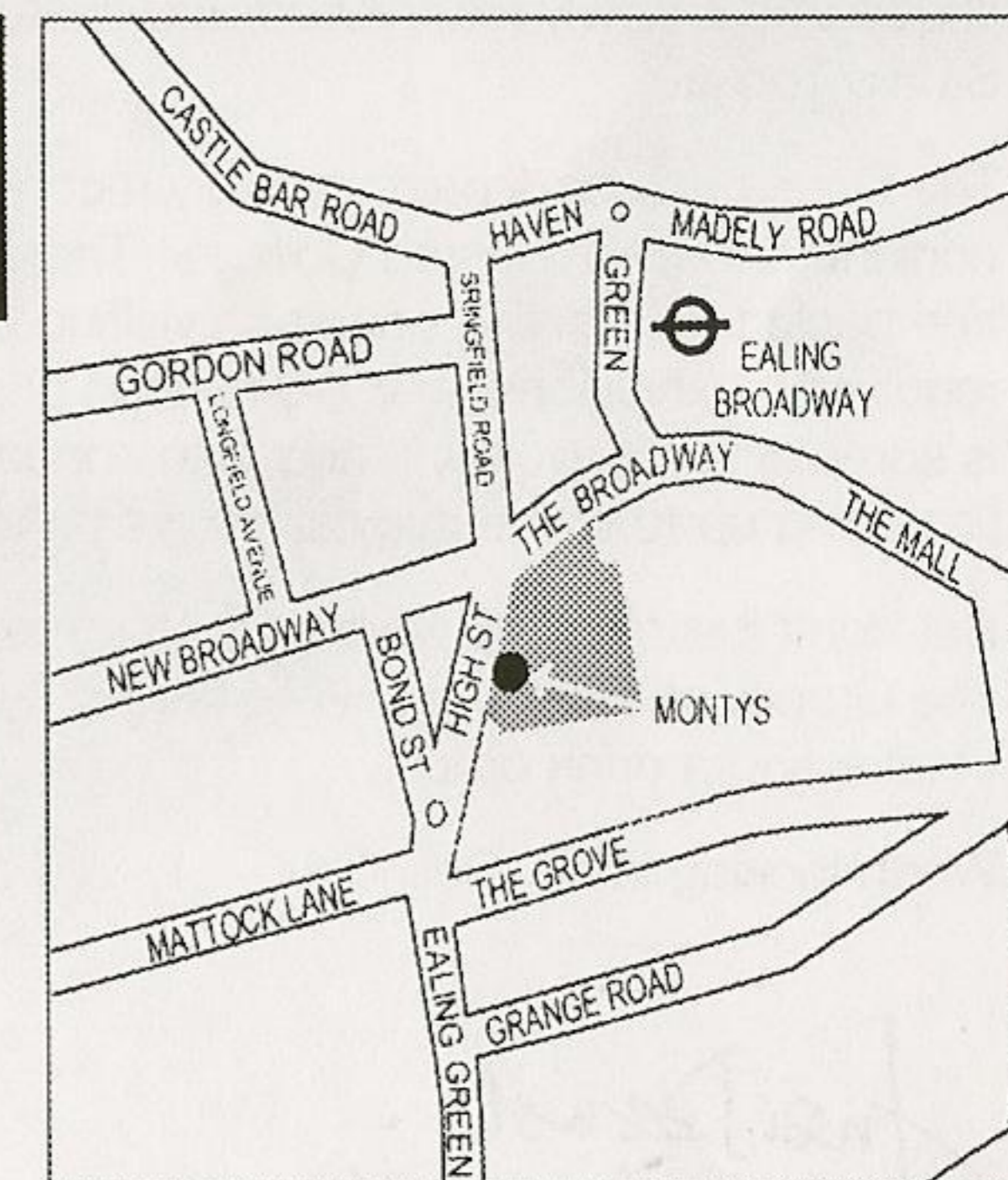
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