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What makes The Questors Theatre, one of London's best kept secrets - except to its members? How do I know about the Questors? I am proud to have been a member for over 17 years. Founded in 1964 it has since grown into the largest community theatre in Europe with a reputation for the highest standards in acting but in direction and design as well. Luckily, with so many talented people, we have a wealth of talent to call on for all aspects of production and are encouraged to be as actively involved as they would like. Members simply enjoy the social side of the club, enjoying the friendly atmosphere and one of the many perks of membership and the many and varied productions. The Questors has a 350 seater Playhouse Theatre and more intimate Studio Theatre.

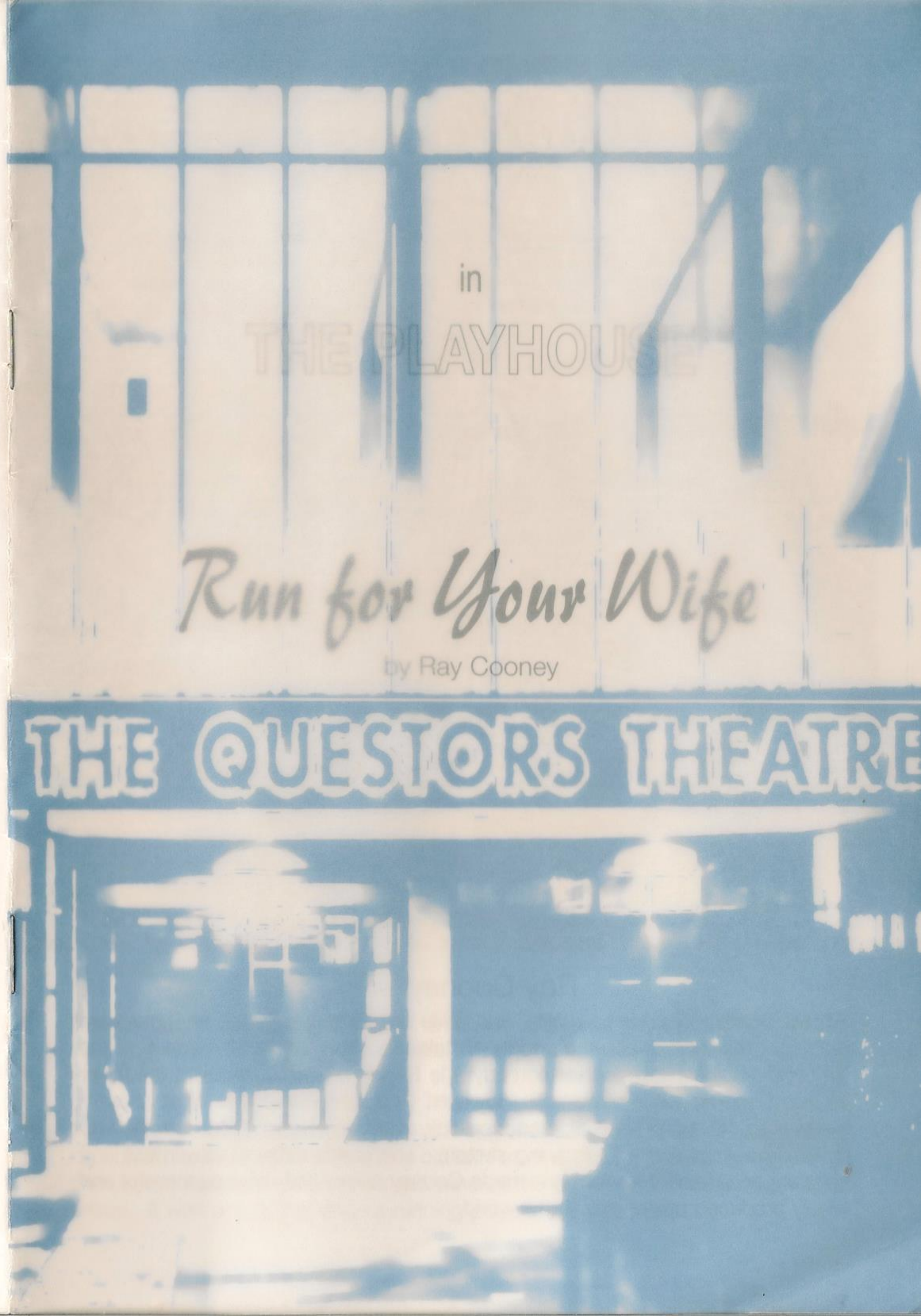
The Questors is a professionally recognised two-year training course in conjunction with the London College. There are also acting courses for beginners, free taster courses, visiting companies, and a school of drama, regular workshops and clubs for young people. In short, there is something for everyone and with annual membership costing as little as £23.50 (including all the above) 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 Grapes on any Wednesday evening at 8pm for a free tour of the theatre and a drink or two.

Worth looking closer, isn't it?

Judi Dench

Dame Judi Dench
 President of The Questors Theatre



in

THE PLAYHOUSE

Run for Your Wife

by Ray Cooney

THE QUESTORS THEATRE



Ray Cooney

With names like "Run for Your Wife" and "Wife Begins at Forty", Cooney's plays are ready to pratfall easily into the puddle of "take my wife, please..." humour, or the "garters-'n-knickers" school of comedy à la Benny Hill (where nothing is funnier than a dropped pair of drawers). However, Cooney's works also often share a likeness to the more sophisticated slapstick of Monty Python (like the "Say na more...kno wot I mean?" elbowing sketch). The combination of cleverness and absolute accessibility is what has made Cooney one of the most successful and widely produced playwrights in the world.

Cooney began acting, as a child, in 1946. He appeared onstage throughout the '50s and '60s, cutting his teeth at Brian Rix's farce company at Whitehall theatre in London. He wrote his first play in 1961. In 1983 he created his own Theatre of Comedy, at London's Shaftesbury Theatre. His most well-known play, "Run for Your Wife" (1983), involves a cabby who maintains a life of covert bigamy - until his chivalrous attempt to save a little old lady from a mugging lands him in jail and then in the hospital. Both wives get wind of the accident and comic high jinks ensue. It was one of the longest running plays in the West End.

Run for Your Wife

By Ray Cooney

First performance of this production 5th April 2003

CAST

MARY	Heather Naylor
BARBARA	Helen Parkinson
JOHN	Andrew Short
TROUGHTON	Geoff Webb
STANLEY	Tom Begley
REPORTER	Evan Rule
PORTERHOUSE	Norman Wilkinson
BOBBY	Tony Barber

*Running time: 2 hours 15 minutes.
There will be a 15 minute interval.*

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Peter Field
Designer	Jenny Richardson
Design Assistant	Jennie Rawlings
Stage Manager	Sylvia Wall
Deputy Stage Manager	Alec Atchison
Assistant Stage Managers	Bron Beckford, Tina Harris, Sally Milton, Donatella Lazzari, Bridgett Strevens, Fi Gray
Lighting Designer	Tim Edwards
Lighting Operator	Jo Segar
Construction	John Feather
Costumes	Jean Derby
Music	Don Kincaid
Hair and Make-up	Gemma Field, Paulina Vega
Sound Designer	Franziska-Maria Apprich
Sound Operator	Anthony Enrione
Many thanks to:	Adrian Asher, Nigel Bamford, Roger Brace, Mike Caddy, Mike Hagan, Colin Horne, Barry Jones, Damien Lazell, Richard Lewis, Eric Lister, Mark Lucek, Geoff Moore, Jo Perse, John Rolfe, Martin Stoner, Chris Sydenham, Karen Tolladay, Nigel Worsley.

COMING SOON

Suddenly Last Summer by Tennessee Williams

in **The Studio**, 26 April - 10 May

'This,' says Tennessee Williams through one of the characters in the play, 'is a true story about time and the world we live in.' In the steaming, oppressive heat of a created tropical garden in New York, a terrifying drama is revealed. The elderly Mrs Venable questions her disturbed niece Catharine about the events surrounding the death of Mrs. Venable's son the previous summer. The poetic dialogue builds a hypnotic spell as the play leads us toward its shocking climax.

The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby

by Charles Dickens, adapted for the stage by David Edgar

in **The Playhouse**, 24 May - 7 June

This is a rare chance to see both parts of one of the greatest theatrical adaptations of Dickens' novel ever staged. This epic narrative play relates the adventures of the virtuous young Nicholas Nickleby as he fights to overcome the injustices that assail his family. A huge cast portrays a range of typically larger-than-life characters, including the wretched Smike, the deliciously vile Wackford Squeers, the Brothers Cheeryble, the coldly calculating Ralph Nickleby, and the wonderfully eccentric Crummles Theatre Company. The lavish staging and costumes vividly recapture the sights and sounds of Victorian England, and with David Edgar's skillful and sensitive adaptation of the complete Dickens' novel and Stephen Oliver's lyrical musical score you will experience all the comedy, horror, melodrama, satire and warmth of this fulfilling and ultimately life affirming tale.

Closer by Patrick Marber

in **The Studio**, 7 - 21 June

A modern romantic comedy of sex and betrayal - sexual jealousy and sexual desire. Patrick Marber's *Closer* is a story of four strangers who meet and fall in love. Both romantic comedy and brutal anatomy of modern love, it is about the kindness of strangers and the cruelty of desire.

Mary Queen of Scots

Got Her Head Chopped Off by Liz Lochhead

in **The Playhouse**, 21 - 28 June

This is a ferociously iconoclastic re-examination of Mary's life from one of Scotland's best contemporary playwrights. We are led at break neck speed through Mary's last years and forced to examine the parallels with modern Scottish life. The language is rich and varied, incorporating Elizabethan English and contemporary Scots, and the characters are full-bodied, subtle, humorous and virile. When first performed in 1987, *Mary Queen of Scots* won a prestigious "Scotsman Fringe First" award at the Edinburgh Festival. Not to be missed.

ART EXHIBITIONS

Local artist **Judy Gordon** will be displaying a variety of her work in the **UPPER FOYER** from April 5 to April 20, and in **THE GRAPEVINE BAR** from April 12 to May 4.

Most of Judy's work is concerned with ancient things - bristlecone pines going back 4,000 years, 400 year-old olive trees, dolmen. Like listening to poetry in a foreign language, the trees speak an unknown tongue. They are alive but the central core is hollow, yet leaves sprout from their extremities

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.*

LIVE THE ADVENTURE...

The Life & Adventures of **NICHOLAS NICKLEBY** PARTS 1 & 2

by Charles Dickens,
adapted by David Edgar

24th May - 7th June 2003

BOOKING NOW!

