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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.

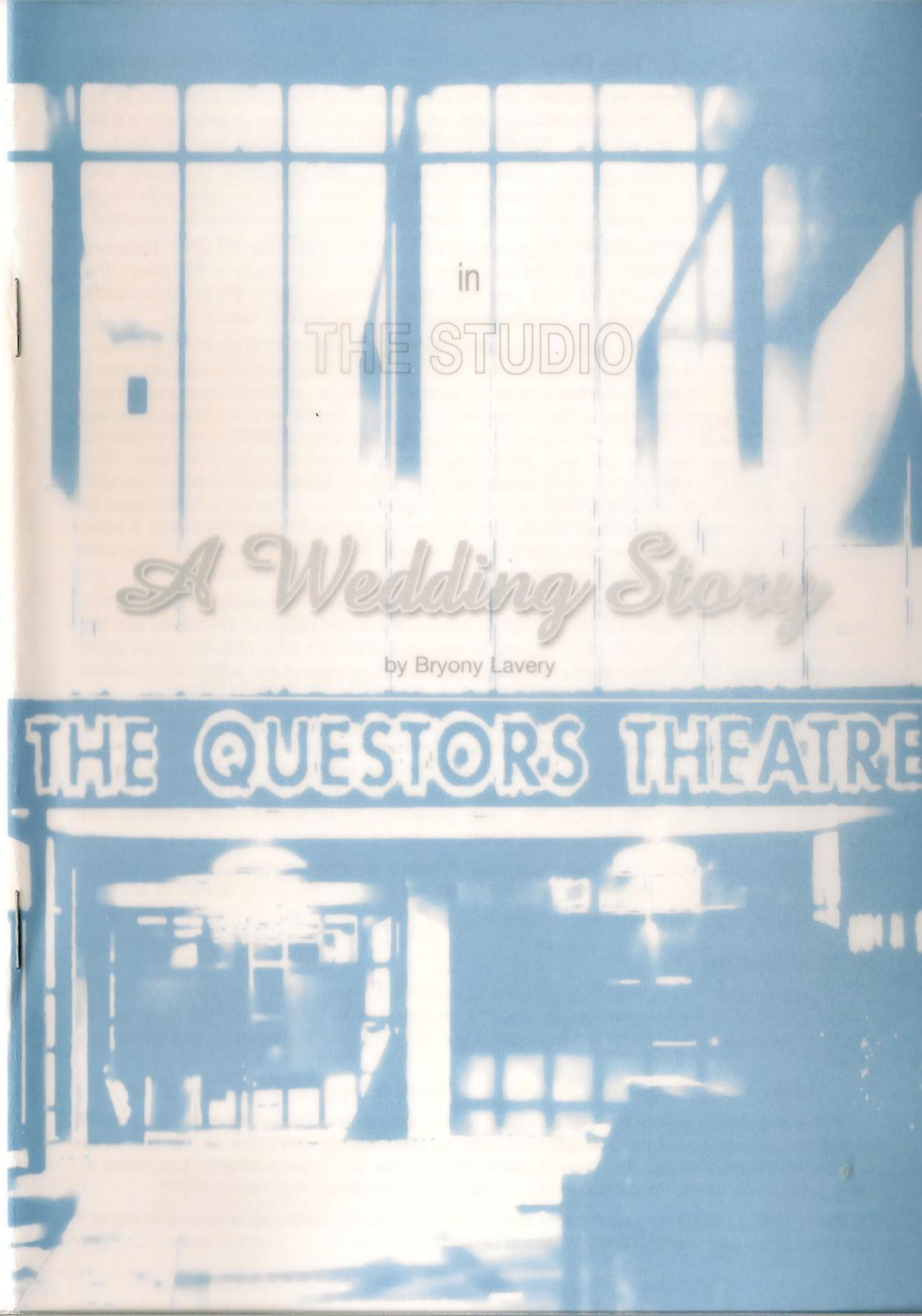
The Questors runs a professionally recognised two-year acting course in conjunction with Kingston College. There are also acting courses for beginners, free backstage training courses, visiting companies from home and abroad, regular art exhibitions, and workshops and clubs for young people. In short,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

A Wedding Story

by Bryony Lavery

THE QUESTORS THEATRE

A Wedding Story - The Play

A Wedding Story is written in 23 scenes of continuous action – at least continuous as far as the staging is concerned. It is offered as a real story with live illustrations, focusing on snapshots in time. Occasionally it is not told in linear form - flashbacks build up the plot to give best dramatic effect.

We present it very much as the playwright envisaged, with characters 'appearing and disappearing through fog', and with due deference her stylistic prose. The text comes with a note that 'none of the characters speak in sentences or observe punctuation or breathe at the right time'.

It seems to be a story told from the daughter's point of view, and sometimes the other characters seem to be merely in her head - but all the characters at some time contribute to the telling. The players are coping with real, gritty, life in the year 2000, but they are set against the classic romantic escape world of *Casablanca*, with its monochrome tones and foggy, searchlit atmosphere.

What is it about? Clearly it is about a woman's descent into the black hole of Alzheimer's disease. But of equal weight is the Rites of Passage drama – a young woman bounced into adulthood, having to confront her personal future. The two themes are inextricably woven, so that the two protagonists constantly invade the young woman. On the one hand there's her mother who needs and deserves a great deal of attention. On the other there is her one-night-stand/lover/girlfriend, who poses the classic 'commitment' question and gets the equally classic wavering & hedging in return. The daughter is constantly pulled in opposing directions. Then there's the devoted husband who is in denial of his wife's illness, and the brother who is caring but squeamish. The whole family resort to the comforting romance of films when real life gets too much, in the Mother's case the black & white images of *Casablanca* emphasise her doctor's view of cause & effect, illness and treatment, diagnosis and cure. All Bryony's characters are presented with all their warts, no one is a hero.

Bryony wrote this play as a direct reaction to the death of both her parents. Research into Alzheimer's confirms her illustration of the various stages: the erratic nature of the decline and the subsequent trauma for the loved ones. We are brought up to expect a linear pattern, we get wiser, more experienced, more knowledgeable. It is so difficult for us to witness and accept a backwards trail, a gradual loss of all that was carefully built up.

There are strong themes flowing through the narrative. Coping with the gradual loss of a loved one's mental and physical faculties. How love adjusts to huge changes in a partner. How society's aims and ideals for marriage are imbedded but more than ever need major adjustment. How the great romance idea is not relevant to life – or at least, romance has its place, but it is fleeting. How a same-sex couple grapple with exactly the same experience of society's cultural customs and therefore the same needs, desires, aims and beliefs.

You may be left pondering on the mutual predicaments of ourselves and the characters, and on the competition between reality and romance. But not too deeply – the young women at least are happy – and life goes on, does it not?

Bryony Lavery

"A playwright, director, performer and teacher of playwriting, Bryony Lavery has swum against the mainstream with verve, nerve and success since the beginning of her career in the early seventies. A wizard of humour and theatricality, she has produced a vast array of work, displaying huge talent and diversity"

...from the Introduction to "Rage and Reason" - Women Playwrights on Playwriting, Methuen.

A rounded theatre practitioner and prolific writer, her skills extend from performer (most notably as Tinkerbell in *Peter Pan* at the Drill Hall), artistic director (Gay Sweatshop and *Female Trouble*), writer of children's theatre (including *The Dragon Wakes*, *Madagascar* and *Down among the Mini Beast*) to many cabarets (including *Floorshow* with Caryl Churchill for *Monstrous Regiment* in 1977).

From 1989 to 1992 she was Tutor-Lecturer on the M.A. Playwriting Course at Birmingham University and is an honorary Doctor of Arts of De Montfort University.

THEATRE CREDITS INCLUDE

2002	ILLYRIA	Royal National Theatre Connections
2002	FROZEN <i>Director: Bill Alexander - Cast: Anita Dobson, Tom Georgeson and Josie Lawrence</i>	Cottesloe Theatre, RNT
2001	THE MAGIC TOYSHOP	Shared Experience
	CHERISHED DISAPPOINTMENTS IN LOVE	English version of a Finnish play
2000	A WEDDING STORY <i>Jackie Clune, Kika Markham</i>	Sphinx/Soho Theatre Company
	BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE MUSEUM	Birmingham Repertory Theatre Adaptation
2000	ILLYRIA	ACT in San Francisco
2000	SHOT THROUGH THE HEART <i>site-specific multi-media piece</i>	Ludlow Castle
1998	FROZEN <i>Anita Dobson, Tom Georgeson and Josie Lawrence</i> <i>*Winner - Eileen Anderson Central Television Award for Best Play</i> <i>*Winner - TMA Best New Play, 1998</i>	Birmingham Repertory Theatre
1997	MORE LIGHT	Royal National Theatre BT Connections
1997	GOLIATH <i>with Nichola McAuliffe</i>	The Bush & Sphinx National Tour
	OPHELIA	
1995	NOTHING COMPPARES TO YOU	Birmingham Repertory Theatre
1991	FLIGHT	Perspectives Theatre, Denmark
1991	HER ACHING HEART	Sphinx Theatre Company
1990	KITCHEN MATTERS	Gay Sweatshop, Royal Court
1988	THE TWO MARIAS	Theatre Centre and National Tour
1985	WITCHCRAZE	
1984	ORIGIN OF THE SPECIES	Birmingham Repertory Theatre
1983	CALAMITY	Tricycle & national tour
1980	HOT TIME <i>*Pink Paper play of the Year - 1991</i>	Common Stock Theatre Tour
1979	MISSING	Sheffield Crucible & national tour
1978	GRANDMOTHER'S FOOTSTEPS	King's Head Theatre
1977	BAG	Young Vic & two national tours
1976	THE CATERING SERVICE	Edinburgh Festival & tour

TELEVISION AND FILM

2002	BUY <i>30 minute film</i>	Channel Four
	REVOLTING WOMEN	BBC2

RADIO PLAYS

2000	LADY AUDLEY'S SECRET <i>adaptation for Classic Serial Slot</i>	Radio 4
2000	REQUIEM	Radio 3
2000	A HIGH WIND IN JAMAICA <i>2 part adaptation</i>	Radio 4
1998	THE SMELL OF HIM <i>*Nominated for a Sony Award</i>	Radio 4
1997	NO JOAN OF ARC <i>*Nominated for a Sony Award</i>	Radio 4
1996	VELMA AND THERESE	Radio 4
1994	TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS	Radio 4
	MY COUSIN RACHEL <i>Adaptation for classic serial slot</i>	Radio 4
	WUTHERING HEIGHTS <i>Adaptation for Classic Serial Slot</i>	Radio 4
1992	LAYING GHOSTS	Erotic Plays by Women series

A Wedding Story

by Bryony Lavery

First performance of this production Saturday 4th October 2003

CAST *in order of appearance*

EVELYN	Mary Davies
PETER	Barry Jones
SALLY, <i>Evelyn & Peter's daughter</i>	Wanda Duszynska
GRACE	Louise Tasker
ROBIN, <i>Evelyn & Peter's son</i>	Simon Roberts

A Wedding Story is set in the year 2000 in an English town.

The play is one hour forty minutes in duration and there will be an interval of 15 minutes after one hour.

PRODUCTION

Director	Jo Matthews
Stage Designer	John Wibberley
Lighting Designer	Chris Newall
Sound Designer	Paul Wilson
Lighting Operator	Mike Caddy
Sound Operator	Heather Stamford
Choreography	Peter Kennedy
Stage Managers	Brin Parsonage and Jo Matthews
Assistant Stage Managers	Martin Choules, Eleanor White, Perri Blakelock, Liz Stasi, Geoff Morgan
Deputy Stage Manager	Brin Parsonage
Properties	Perri Blakelock
Set Construction	John Wibberley
Stage Crew	Mike Caddy, Martin Choules, John Wibberley
Costume Design	Lesley Roberts
Kingfisher Blue Dress	Jenny Yates
Wardrobe	Helen Taylor
Front of House	Perri Blakelock, Eleanor White
Photography	Martin Sapsed, Ian Cole
Table lamps courtesy of	Rachel Wibberley
With thanks to:	Eldi Dundee, Les Fraser, Damien Lazell, Simon Clarke, Harriet Parsonage, Julia Cruttenden, The Alzheimers Society

Excerpts from *Casablanca* by kind permission of Warner Bros.

COMING SOON

A Russian in the Woods

by Peter Whelan

In **The Playhouse**, Thursday 16 - 25 October

Amongst the ruins of post-war Berlin, a young soldier is sent for a weekend to guard a deserted British army office. In the corrosive atmosphere of Cold War power struggles, he innocently finds himself caught up in a situation where his conscience is on trial. He comes to realise that everyone else understands the situation in a way he can't comprehend, and the plot takes a twist that makes it evident how dangerously out of his depth he is.

First performed by the RSC, this is the amateur première of this play by Questors member Peter Whelan.

Blithe Spirit

By Noël Coward

In **The Playhouse**, 8 - 15 November

Blithe Spirit is an inspired and inventive comedy, and Coward's longest-running play. It is set in the country home of the sophisticated author Charles Condomine who is researching for his latest book, the unseen, and calls in the wonderfully eccentric Madame Arcati to hold a séance. Unfortunately, the proceeding has an unforeseen result and the ensuing situation makes for much hilarity. This is classic Coward, and one of his best loved plays.

Goodnight Children Everywhere

by Richard Nelson

In **The Studio**, Thursday 20 - 29 November

It's 1945, and seventeen-year-old Peter returns from his evacuation in Alberta to the family flat in Clapham where his slightly older sisters still live. They haven't seen him since he was eleven and find it difficult to come to terms with his hybrid accent, the new version of his name, 'Petey', and the fact that he is now a man. But under the surface, things are even more complicated. Betty, who works as a nurse, continues to harbour a not-so-secret Freudian crush on him and Anne finds her sisterly feelings complicated by her own unsatisfactory marriage. Nelson's title is a grimly sardonic comment on the tangled mix of childhood and adulthood in which the central quartet are ensnared.

Book now for our wonderful Christmas production of



The Witches

by **Roald Dahl**, adapted by **David Wood**

13th December - 3rd January

BOX OFFICE 020 8567 5184

Adults £9.00

Children £7.00

Family ticket (2 adults and 2 children) £29.00



ART EXHIBITIONS

The Art Exhibitions continue to flourish. We are delighted that 2003/2004 will see the welcome return of old friends as well as welcoming those who are new to the Questors. There will be a wide cross section of artwork exhibited on both the Grapevine Bar and the Upper Foyer for members and friends to enjoy.

As always, we are very happy 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.

ALZHEIMER'S

CONCERN

EALING

ACE

Caring for someone with dementia

Alzheimer's concern Ealing is a local organisation that understands the problems faced by people with dementia and their carers. All services are tailored to meet the cultural and individual needs of people. Our highly professional team offer a range of specialised services. All our services are personalised and are geared to meet the specific needs of the person with dementia and their carers.

SERVICES INCLUDE:

Advice and Information • Weekend Day Care • Call and Care Home Respite Service
Emotional Support and Support Groups for Carers • Counselling • Befriending Service
Independent Advocacy • Training for Carers • Bimonthly Newsletter • Social Events and Outings

Contact us today for more information!

Telephone: 020 8568 4448 Fax: 020 8568 1294 223 Windmill Road, Ealing, London W5 4DJ