

THE QUESTORS THEATRE

Its easy to join...

- Come to the main office during office hours.
- Join us in the Grapevine Bar at The Questors Theatre on any Wednesday at 8pm for a free guided tour and a drink on us.
- Pick up a membership form from the foyer.
- Call **020 8567 0011** during office hours.
- Find out more at www.questors.org.uk.

Questors membership gives you...

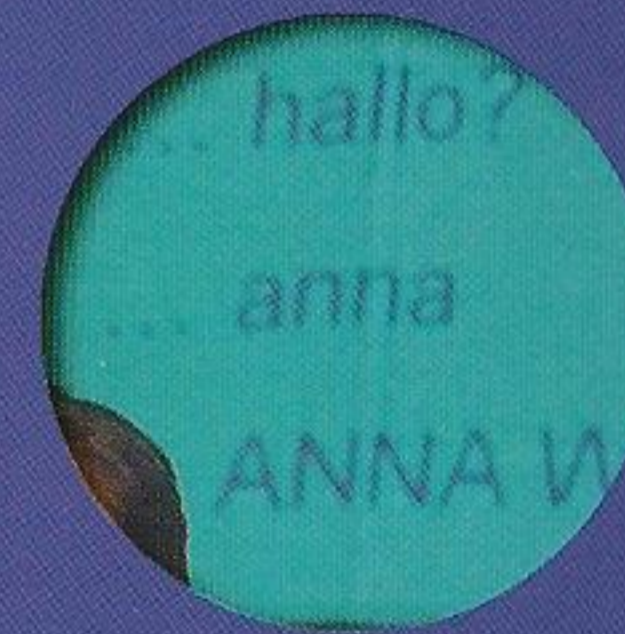
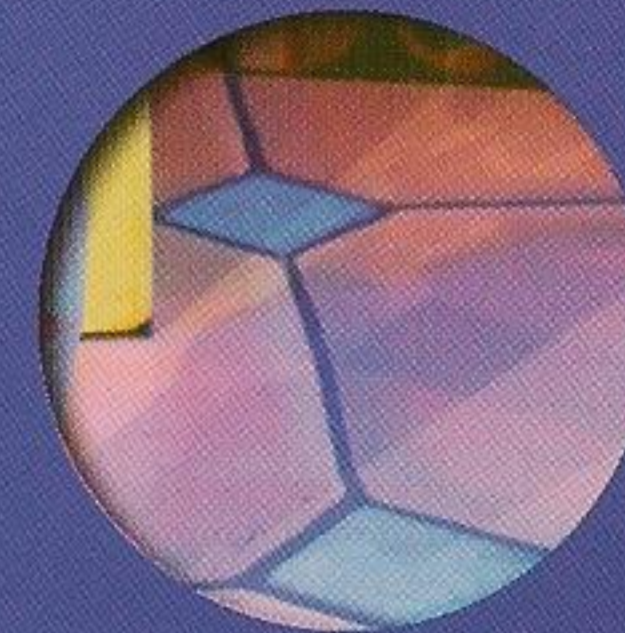
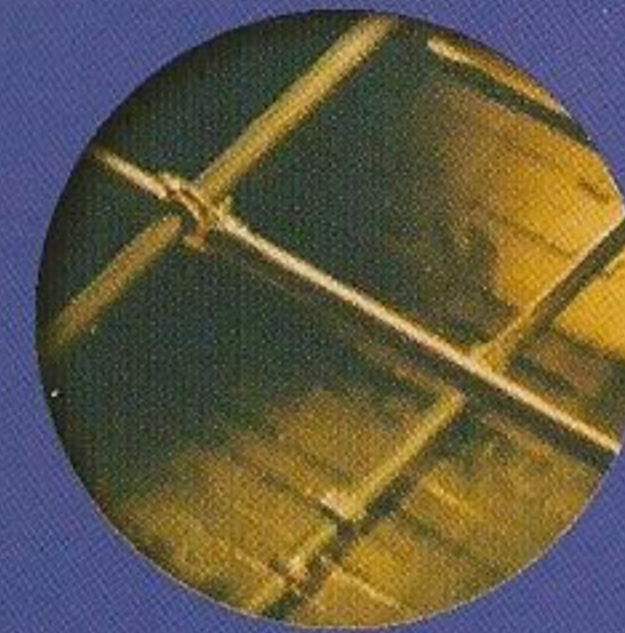
- Free tickets to at least 8 productions a year.
- Access to over 20 productions a year - classic, contemporary, international and new plays, from just £6.50 a ticket.
- Membership of the Grapevine Bar
- Questopics, our club magazine.
- The chance to act, direct, or get involved backstage.
- Discounts at: Holmes Place, Butlers restaurant, Ealing Dance Centre, Monty's Tandoori, Près de Lós exclusive lingerie.

Three ways to book tickets:

- Ring our Box Office on 020 8567 5184
Open Mon - Fri, 11.00am-12 noon, Show nights and Wednesdays 6.45pm - 8.30pm, Sunday Matinee 2.00pm - 2.30pm.
- Fill in a booking form (inside Questopics) and return to the Box Office.
- Book online at www.questors.org.uk.

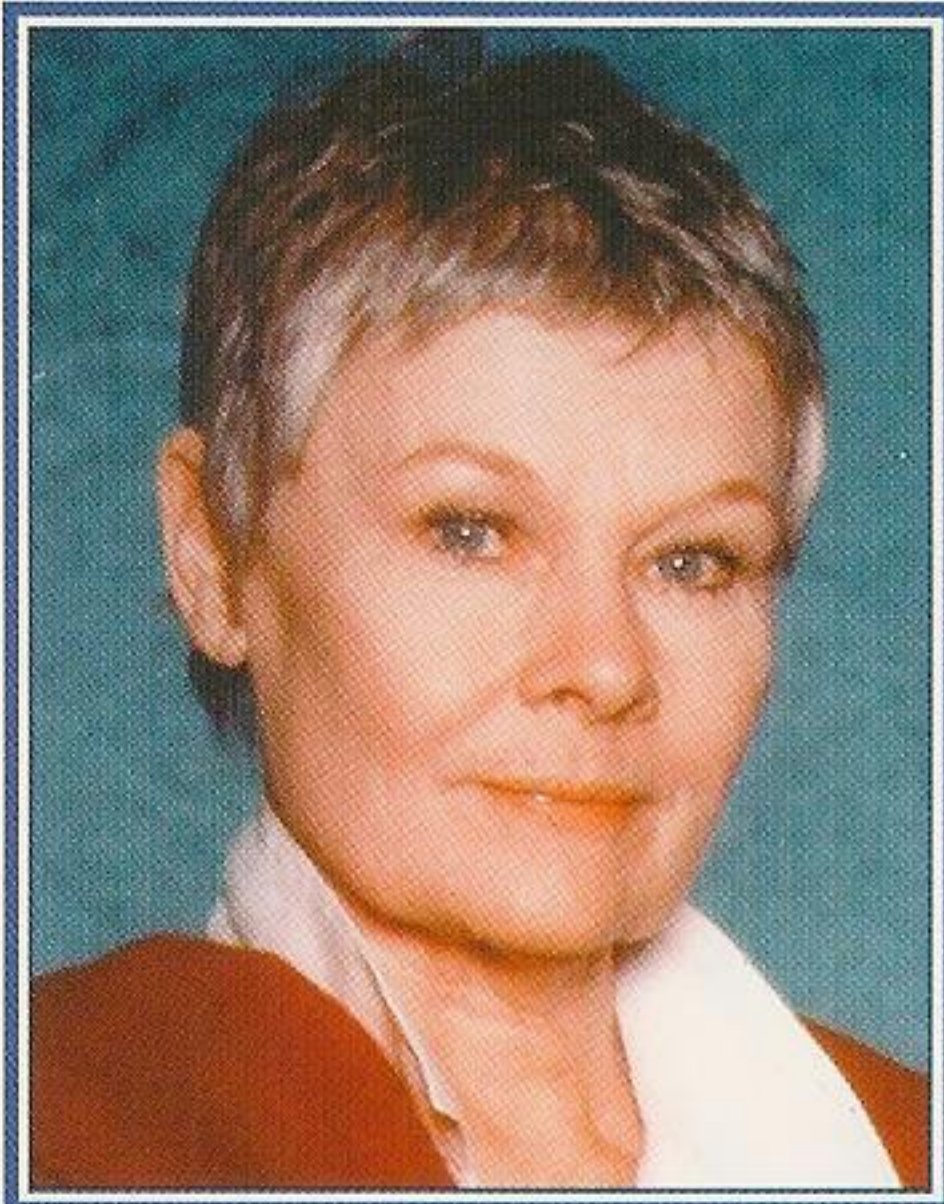
Box Office: 020 8567 5184
Admin: 020 8567 0011
Fax: 020 8567 8736
Email: enquiries@questors.org.uk
Website: www.questors.org.uk

The Questors Theatre
Mattock Lane
Ealing
W5 5BQ



BLASTED





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 18 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 our 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 £27.00 (including at least 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



BLASTED

by Sarah Kane

Sarah Kane

February 3rd 1971 – February 20th 1999

Sarah's plays deal uncompromisingly with aspects of death, sex, violence and mental illness. They comprise a poetic intensity together with an affirmation of love juxtaposed with powerful and violent imagery. All life is here, both the sweet and the bitter. She struggled with intense manic depression for a long period, but continued to work throughout. She had spells in hospital but, alas, these were to no avail. A suicide attempt with sleeping pills, though on this occasion unsuccessful, was followed a few days later by another, when she was found to have hung herself in the hospital where she was recovering.

Sarah Kane - A Brief Chronology

- 1971** Born in Essex. Her parents were journalists of a deeply religious nature. She studied drama at Bristol University, graduating with first class honours. This was followed by an MA at Birmingham University. She worked as an actor in *Work* by Vincent O'Connell and *Victory* by Howard Barker. In the role of director: Joan Littlewood's *Oh, What A Lovely War* together with works by Shakespeare at school. Chekhov's *The Bear* at Soho Polytechnic, Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, Caryl Churchill's *Top Girls* and Clare McIntyre's *Low Level Panic* at Bristol University.
- 1991-**
- 1993** As a writer: **Slick** consisting of three monologues performed at the Edinburgh Festival: *Comic Monologue*, *Starved* and *What She Said*. **Blasted** was produced whilst studying for her MA.
- 1995** **Blasted** at the Royal Court Theatre, London. Sarah Kane's debut play is an extreme vision of war in contemporary Europe, focusing on three people sheltering in a hotel under fire.
- 1996** She directed **Phaedra's Love** at the Gate, Theatre London.
- 1998** **Cleansed** at the Royal Court Theatre, London and **Crave** at the Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh.
- 2000** **4.48 Psychosis** produced posthumously at the Royal Court Theatre, London.

Blasted

From its first performances in 1995 Sarah Kane's play *Blasted* has set a benchmark for provocative and challenging theatre that is yet to be equalled. In terms of form, content and structure the play moves from an ugly realistic world naturalistically played into a dream-like place of nightmarish intensity, where the style is more akin to expressionism – Bosnia visits Leeds so to speak. Michael Billington, the esteemed Guardian theatre critic, after initially joining in the condemnation and protest that accompanied press reviews at the play's launch, subsequently praised Sarah Kane's 'passionate moral vision or integrity' when the play was revived in 2000. But at the time it was up to other playwrights to spring to her defence and amongst these were Caryl Churchill, Harold Pinter and Edward Bond. For Bond, whose own play *Early Morning* will be on here at Questors shortly, 'The images in *Blasted* are ancient. They are seen in all great ages of art, in Greek or Jacobean Theatre, in Noh or Kabuki. The play changes some of the images – but all artists do that to bring the ancient imagery, changed and unchanged, into the focus of their age. The humanity of *Blasted* moved me, I worry for those too busy or lost that they cannot see its humanity...But I do know this is the most important on in London'.

With our own revival we will see whether time alters responses to Kane's play, and whether the shock and outrage have been diminished by ten years that have seen the horrors of the Balkan wars eclipsed by subsequent conflicts. Interestingly, as our mediatised world shrinks with each subsequent technological innovation, the abusive relationships that characterise the play exist in dramatic time, but do indeed reflect realities of our own world, both at home and far away. The contact between the characters of Ian, Cate and the Soldier is meant to disturb and frighten us, but live theatre continues to insist upon a direct, immediate contact between performer and audience member, thus maximising effect through the intensity of the experience. As such, we must each individually determine if *Blasted* serves to remind us of the need for a better world by crying huge bloody tears bemoaning its loss. As director I believe this to be true, but then I should, shouldn't I?

Anthony Shrubbsall
October 2004

BLASTED

First performance 21 October 2004
by Sarah Kane

Cast

Ian Tom Begley

Cate Lenet Asatourian

Soldier Gary Tapley

Production Team

Director Anthony Shruballs

Stage Manager Bernard Brady

Deputy Stage Managers Deborah Carey,
Amy Cruickshank

Assistant Stage Managers Kathryn Miller,
Amir Ahmed,
Anis Ubaye

Designers Heidi Korb,
Donatella Lazzari

Construction Jim Craddock

Lighting Designer Tim Hayward

Lighting Operators Louis Tonna,
Kathy Ruthven

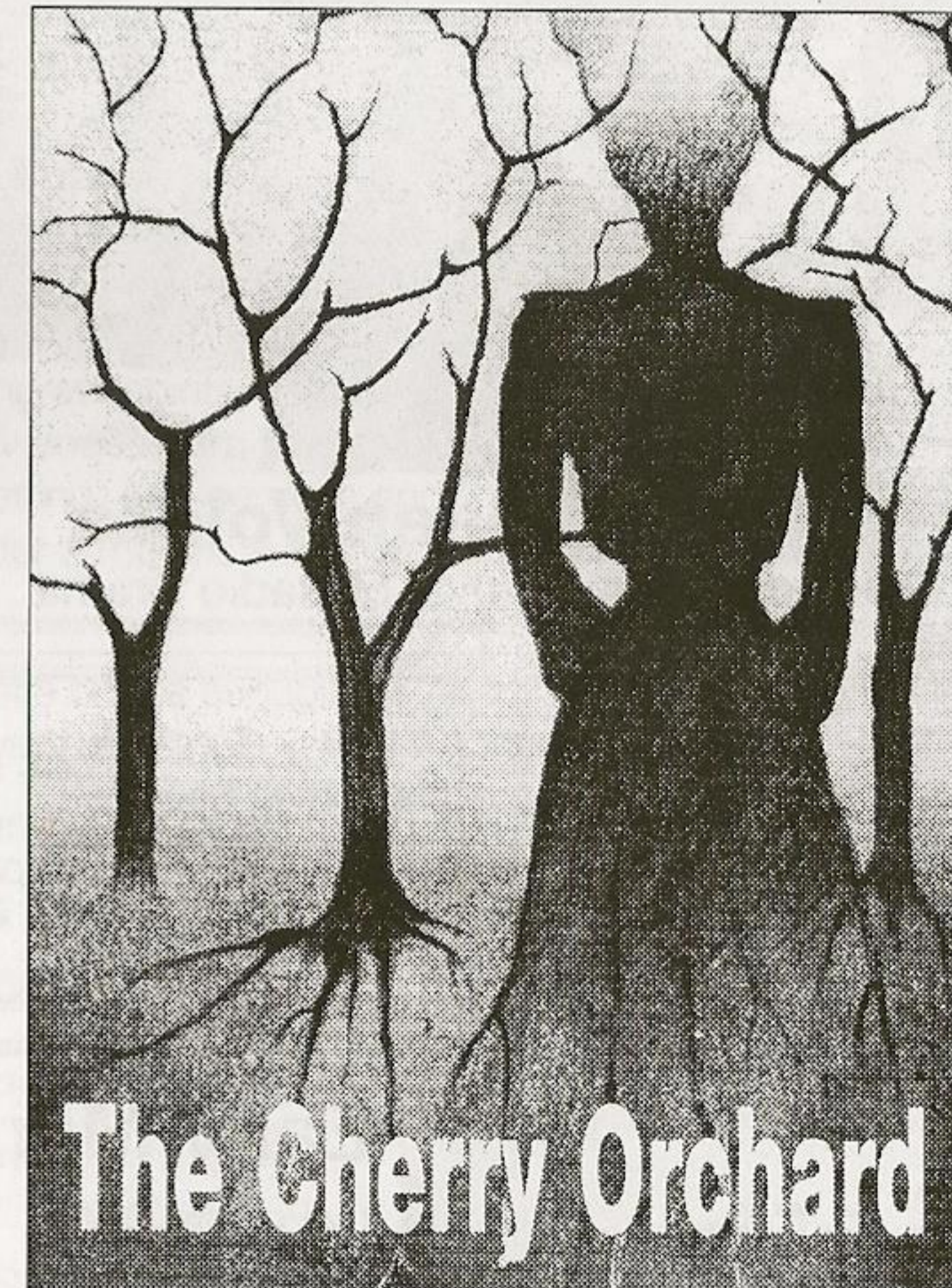
Sound Designer Paul Wilson

Sound Operator Anthony Enrione

Make Up Greasepaint

Thanks to: Casey Becker, Brin & Harriet Parsonage, Mike Hagan,
Roger Brace, Nigel Worsley, Himalaya Carpets Ltd.,
Best Wishes and a speedy recovery to Kevin Boland

The Questors 75th Gala Performance



by Anton Chekhov
translated by Michael Frayn
In the **Playhouse**
5 - 13 November

The climax of our 75th Anniversary season is a gala production of Chekhov's final and most elusive play. The tragi-comedy centres around Madame Ranyevskaya, whose family are deeply in debt and can only free themselves from it by selling the family's beloved cherry orchard. Making the decision to sell their estate symbolises the severing of personal and historical ties, cutting them off from the past and abandoning them to an uncertain future.

The Cherry Orchard is celebrating two anniversaries of its own: the double centenary of its first performance and of the playwright's death.

COMING SOON

Unseen Voices

A Festival of Radio Drama

In the Studio

4 November - 6 November

Sebastian Baczkiewicz will be represented with two short plays on **Thursday 4th November**, *The Publicist's Tale*, *Any Other Wednesday* and Harold Pinter's *A Slight Ache*.

Friday 5th November brings Tom Stoppard's *Artist Descending a Staircase*. The piece

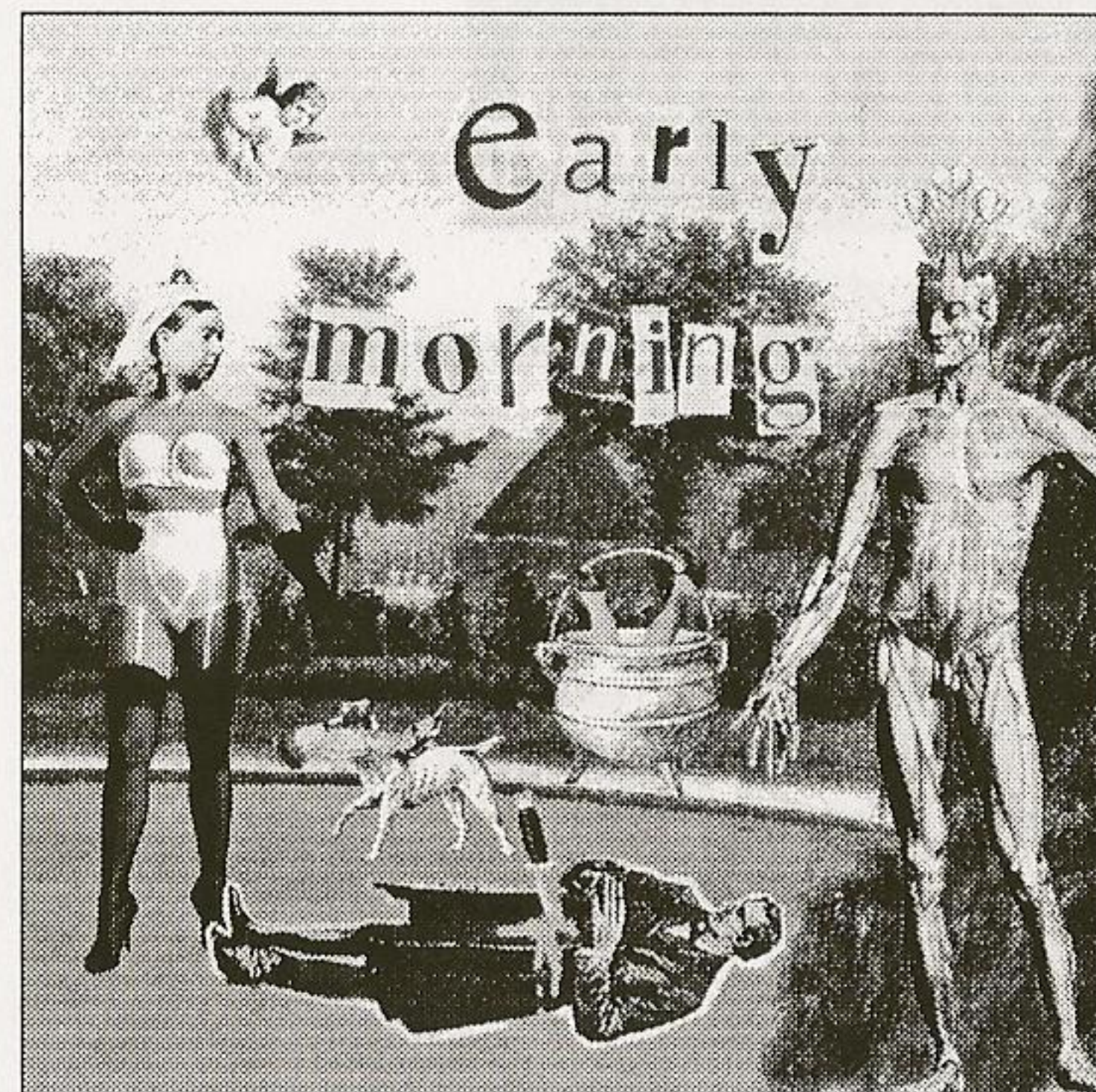
demonstrates the conflicting interpretations of an ambiguous sound effect and the plot moves and forward in time. *Random Moments in a May Garden* is the second play of the evening, our second chance to honour the late James Saunders.

Saturday 6th November we will present Peter Whelan's *The Accrington Pals*, which evokes the streets of a Lancashire town and the battle of the Somme.



Unseen Voices
A Festival of Radio Drama

75
years



Early Morning

by Edward Bond

In the Studio
20 - 27 November

The last play ever to be banned in its entirety by the Lord Chamberlain and possibly the final nail in the coffin of theatre censorship. Today it is easy to see why.

Early morning is a wicked and farcical distortion of history, showing how the values and politics of the Victorian age have led to the violence and potential holocaust mentality of the modern day world. It is grotesque, absurd,

surreal, obscene, violent, poetic and in the end rather moving; but along the way, a lot of it is preposterously funny.

The content of this play may be disturbing to some.

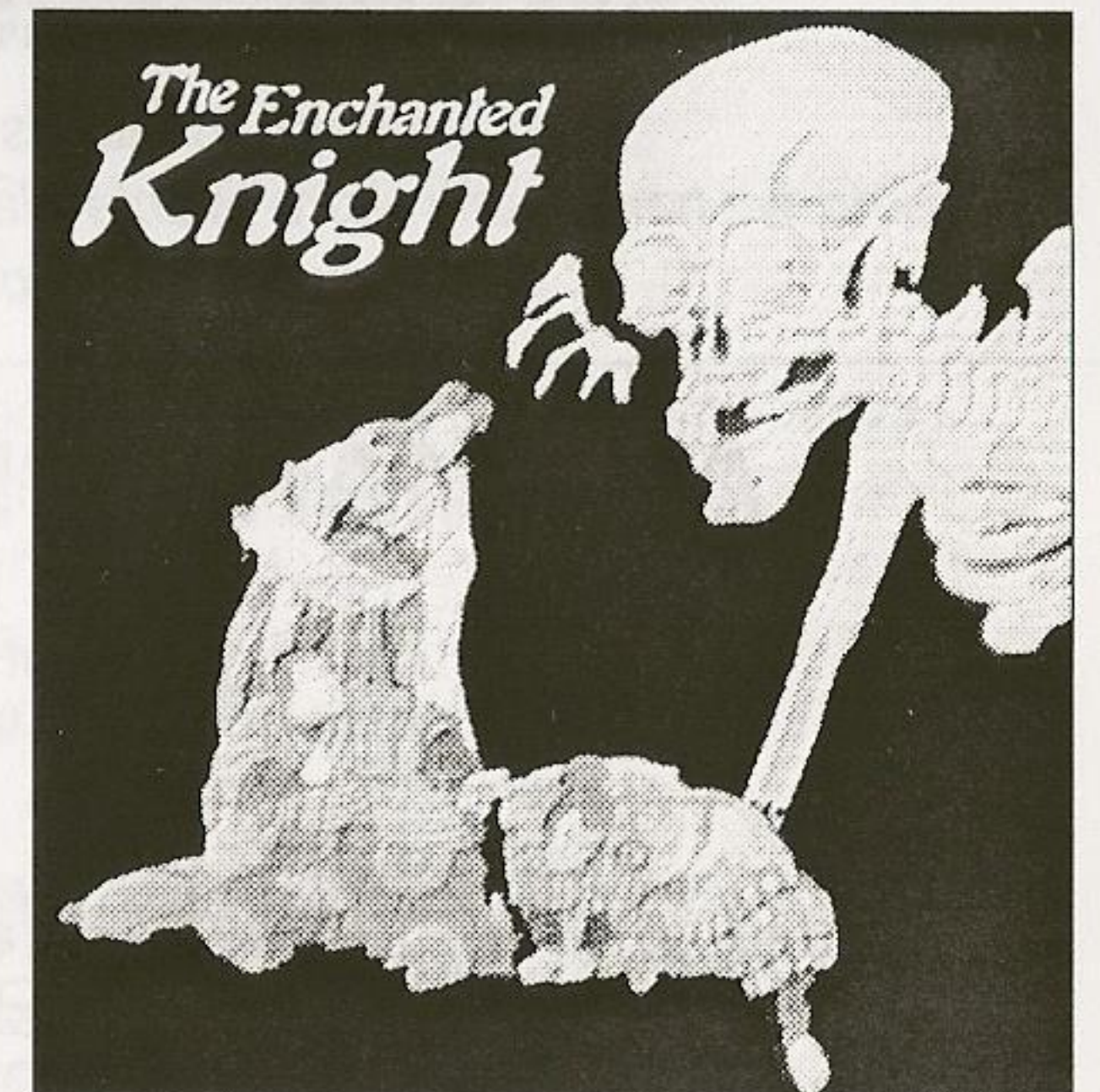
The Enchanted Knight

by David Hovatter

In the Studio

29 December to 15 January

A stylised piece, drawing on Chinese theatre and traditional folk tales. The play tells the story of an unorthodox healer and a young woman awaiting execution for witchcraft. Superstition, affairs of the heart and village life (and its unavoidable politics) are all here interwoven in a moral tale. The play conjures up an alternative universe of terrifying evil spirits, samurai battles and ghostly encounters in a medieval feudal setting. An energetic and imaginative piece for a mature audience.



The Julian Light Operatic Society The Pirates of Penzance

by WS Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan

In the Playhouse
Wednesday to Saturday
20 to 23 October

7.30pm (also Saturday 2.30pm)

Tickets £5.00, £10.00, £12.00,
£14.00

JLOS Box Office: 0870 7743498

HEOS presents Jack the Ripper

A Musical Play

In the Studio
9 - 13 November

7.30pm (also Saturday 2.30pm)

Tickets £10.00

Box Office 01784 255164

Art Exhibition

An exhibition of watercolours and pastels

by Sue Shepherd

The Grapevine Bar at The Questors Theatre

9 October - 23 October

If anyone is interested in holding an art exhibition or would like further information please call Jane Mason in the Questors Office on 020 8567 0011.

75th ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

*The Questors Theatre is 75 years old this year,
and we have many more events planned to help celebrate the event.
Here's just a selection of what's in store:*

75
years
1929 - 2004

LANDMARK PRODUCTIONS

During the autumn, we will have a series of significant plays from the 75 years of The Questors existence. These will be:

Early Morning

by Edward Bond - 1968
In the **Studio**, 20 - 27 November

The Cherry Orchard

by Anton Chekhov
translated by Michael Frayn.
In the **Playhouse**, 5 - 13 November

Himalaya Carpets Ltd.

Head Office: Unit 7, Triangle Centre, Uxbridge Road, Southall, Middlesex, UB1 3ED

Tel: 020 8571 3173 • Fax: 020 8574 2317

Himalayacarpets@Tiscali.co.uk

Open Hours:

Monday to Saturday 9am to 6pm

Sunday 11am to 4pm

BECOME A CRITIC!

Did you like the Questors show you have just seen?
Did you hate it, or did it raise some interesting issues?
Did you think the acting was brilliant or the set surprising?
Did you enjoy the play or did you find it hard to follow?

You can share your thoughts with us, or read what others have said, at www.questors.org.uk Just log on - type your comments - and click the SEND button.

It couldn't be easier

Get the most from your membership

Many members join just to see shows, but there is so much else you can do, why not get involved?

Front of house is a great place to start. For programme selling, stewarding or serving in the Café you don't need any experience, and training can be given for anyone who fancies working in Box Office. If you want to meet people and have a good time, then the best place to be is behind the Grapevine Bar - you can volunteer for just one night or many.

Backstage staff, including stage managers, prop makers painters and wardrobe staff, are always welcomed and whatever your skills we'll find a place for you. If you have some experience then The Questors is a wonderful place to be a designer, but even if you don't you can help out on shows and you're sure to get some hands-on experience. The same goes for lighting and sound - the theatre is well equipped and a good place to learn.

You can direct if you have some experience or training, but if not then you can always look out for our training opportunities. The Questors has a high standard of acting and to maintain this anyone wanting to act will need to take an audition. These are held every month - please call the main office for details.

There are numerous other things you can do to help out. If you're free in the daytimes you can help out with envelope stuffing or delivering leaflets, and if you're a bit of a handy man or woman then there are always little jobs to be done.

If you'd like more information about active membership, you can ring the office on 020 8567 0011, Mon - Fri, 9.30 - 5.30, email us on active@questors.org.uk, or come along to the lower foyer at 8.00pm on the first Thursday of every month for an active members get together.

