

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...

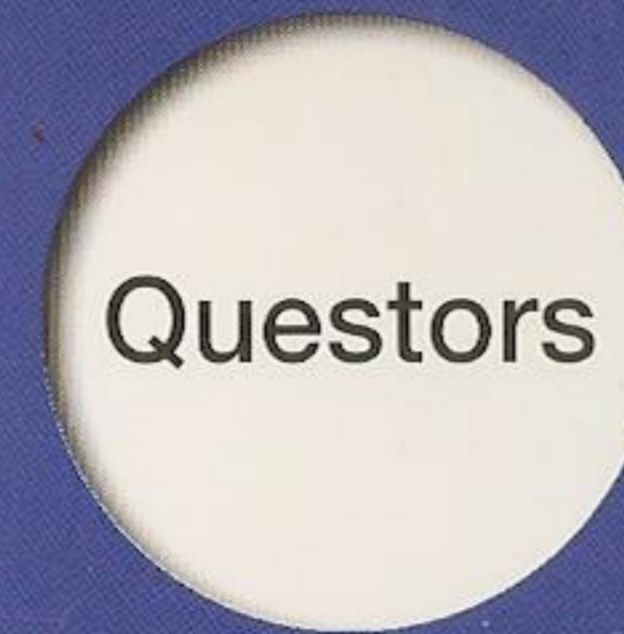
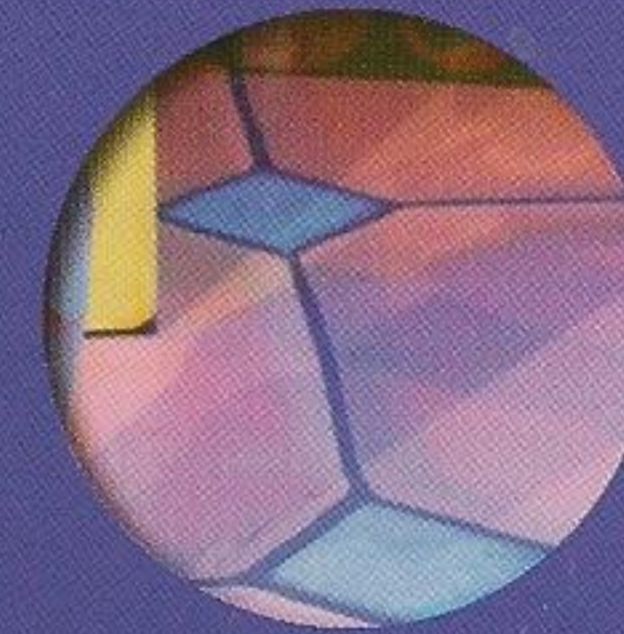
- Free tickets to at least 8 productions a year.
- Access to over 20 productions a year - classic, contemporary, international and new plays, from just £6.50 a ticket.
- Membership of the Grapevine Bar
- Questopics, our club magazine.
- The chance to act, direct, or get involved backstage.
- Discounts 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

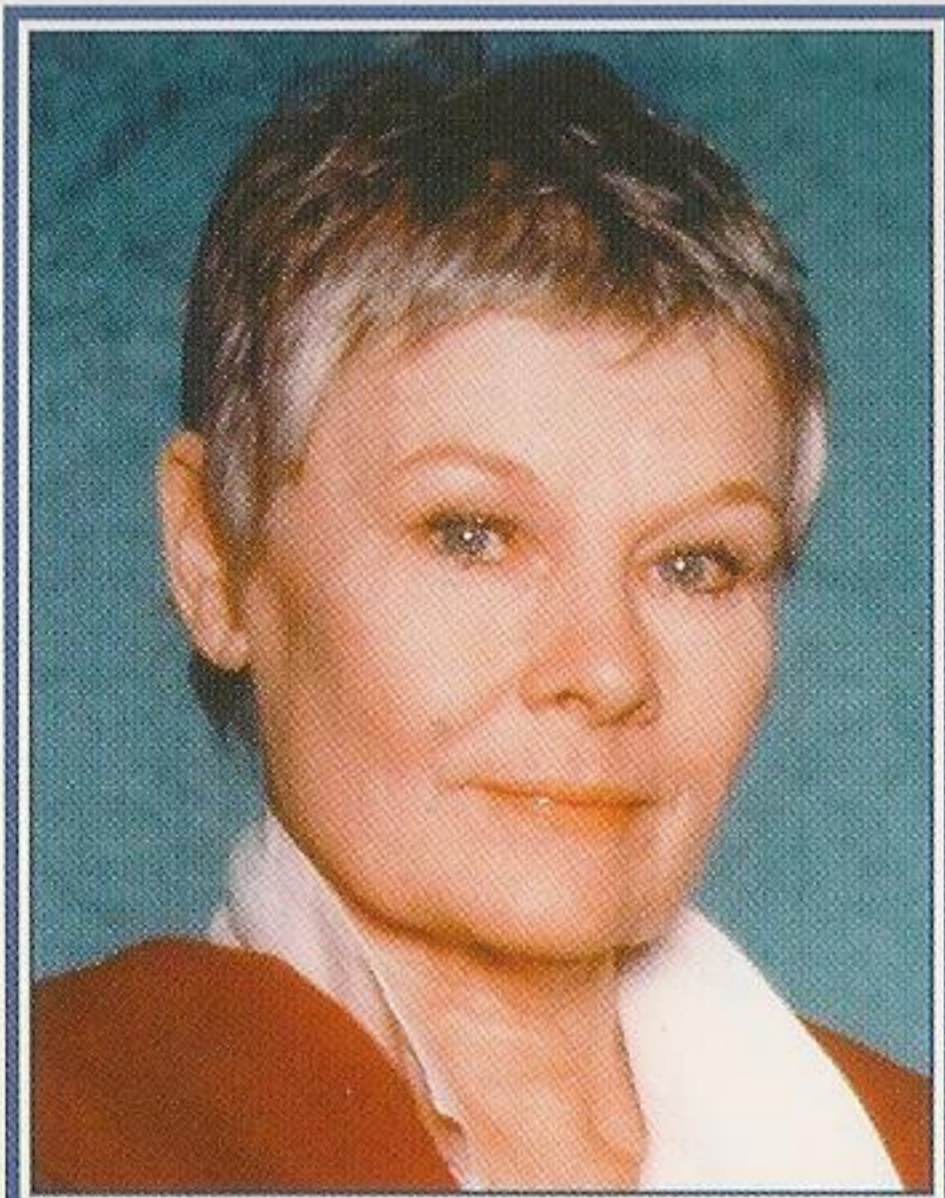
The Questors Theatre
Mattock Lane
Ealing
W5 5BQ



Once a Catholic

by Mary O'Malley





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?

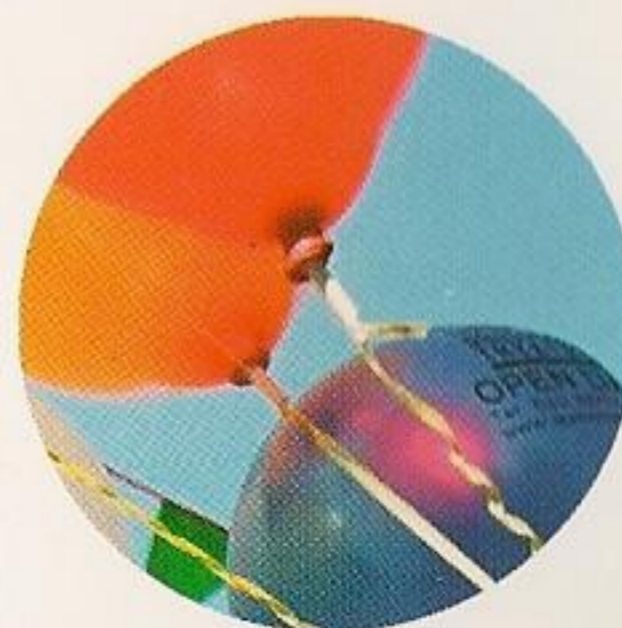
Definitely!

Dame Judi Dench
President of The Questors Theatre



Once a Catholic

by Mary O'Malley



Mary O'Malley was born in Harrow, Middlesex, and went to a convent school for girls in Harlesden. She started writing plays at the age of seven but after a series of productions in the classroom and in the back garden at her home, she decided that performing was a lot more fun than writing. Twenty years later she returned to writing plays via acting, dancing, singing, marriage, motherhood and a study of comparative religion.

Once a Catholic was Mary O'Malley's first full length play for the theatre and received its world premiere at the Royal Court Theatre, London, on 10th August 1977. It earned her awards from the London Evening Standard and Plays and Players for the most promising new playwright of 1977.

In choosing the title, Mary would seem to imply 'always a Catholic', but this extremely funny comedy based on her own school days in London, in the 1950s, in a convent, certainly belies the Church's claim, as far as Mary is concerned. For what emerges rather is the resilience of children to survive - in spite of, not because of, their upbringing and indoctrination. The play concentrates principally on the amusing way the girls deal with the dogma constantly pumped into them, but though there are some hilarious moments, it has a more serious underlying theme.

Once a Catholic...

I was indeed once a catholic, also an alter boy! Which I have to say I loved - it must have been the actor in me trying to get out, unfortunately some would say, it eventually did! It was in the early 1960s and sex, drugs and rock and roll led me down a very different path.

My sister Christine and I went to the same convent infant school in Victoria, south London in the 1950s. Run by the sisters of St. Vincent De Paul - big white, winged hats! Christine then went on through the school and ended up in the girls' secondary, which my Mum, Vi, had also attended in the 1940s.

I remember my Mum telling me the story of school lunch times. The food was so awful that when the sisters weren't looking she would spit the food out into her handkerchief and stuff it down her knickers (big blue ones!) until she could get out into the playground to dispose of it. Christine was also having her battle with the nuns by trying to turn her school uniform into something that would fit in with the fashions of the 'swinging sixties'. The nuns were having none of this and every morning at assembly, they would make all the girls kneel down to see that their gym slippers were touching the floor. Most of the cast had some Catholic education. Anne O'Brien, Aine Lark and Anne Sawbridge were all taught by nuns.

I think it was Woody Allen who said that Jews and Catholics are full of guilt. He also said "Not only is there no God, but try getting a plumber on weekends." And "If only God would give me some clear sign! Like making a large deposit in my name in a Swiss bank".

Michael Dineen

And more Once a Catholics...

"I think that all of us who have been to convent schools, who thought that this was the only kind of education there was, now realise that nuns are great box office material. People are very entertained by nuns' stories and we all make them much more horrific than they were"

Maeve Binchy

"I think one of the reasons why I was never properly domesticated is because I was actually socialised by a gang of mad women in flapping black habits."

Germaine Greer

"If you have ever stood on a chair in front of 200 girls with your green knickers showing, reading out loud from a holy book - nothing truly daunts you after that."

Anne Robinson

"It was rather wonderful as a convent girl always to be with adults who knew a little less than you did. We were innocent, we were children, but however poorly equipped we were, the nuns always had a little less information about life."

Clare Boylan

"Looking back, I can see that the nuns were essentially single women trying to cope with a very unruly set of girls who were awash with hormones."

Frances Donnelly

"I did want to be a nun for a while - everyone hoots with laughter when I tell them. Nuns were terribly glamorised, like Debbie Reynolds as the singing nun which I though was wonderful and very romantic."

Ellie Lane

"Perhaps it's to do with coming from mixed parentage - I've got Protestant guilt and the Catholic work ethic. Which means you can sit on your arse all day and not feel guilty about it."

Bernadine Corrigan

"When I was about six I would lie in the crucifixion shape, on my stomach, on the stone cold floor of the church. My mother said then she knew what I was going to be - and it wasn't a nun. It was a drama queen!"

Sandi Toksvig

"I feel very uncomfortable every time I see a nun. I was doing a keep-fit class in a Catholic church hall one day when two nuns walked in. And I had a fleeting thought: Oh God I've got a leotard on, its rude!"

Mary O'Malley

Once a Catholic

by Mary O'Malley

First performance of this production 28th April 2004

Cast

Mother Peter	Anne O'Brien
Mother Thomas Aquinas	Anne Sawbridge
Mother Basil	Áine Lark
Father Mullarkey	Tom Begley
Mary Mooney	Nina De Cosimo
Mary Gallagher	Natalie Taylor
Mary McGinty	Emily De Cosimo
Mary Flanagan	Alex Barry
Mary Murphy	Amy Dunning
Mary Hennessy	Sinéad Lawler
Mr Emanuelli	Ken Ratcliffe
Derek	John Barron
Cuthbert	Lee Knight

The play is set in the Convent of Our Lady of Fatima -
a Grammar School for Girls,
in and around the streets of Willesden and Harlesden, London,
from September, 1966 to July, 1957.

act I: 1hr 10min

act II: 1hr

There will be one interval of 15 minutes.

Production

Director	Michael Dineen
Assistant Director	Bernice Wolfenden
Stage Manager	Martin Choules
Assistant Stage Manager	Amy Dunning
Designer	Heidi Korb
Construction	Karen Tollady
Lighting Designer	Richard Lewis
Lighting Operators	Sophie Foster, Tom Meagher
Sound Designer	Anthony Enrione
Sound Operators	Ian Kings, Falco, Bernard Brady
Sound Design Mentor	Paul Wilson
Props	Janeth Kempston
Wardrobe	Bernice Wolfenden
Hair & Makeup	Dianne Prangnell, Somee Park
Prompt	Pam Smith
Music Adviser	Paul Clark
Tech Link	Nigel Bamford
Special Thanks to	Tim Godfrey
Photography	Martin Sapsed
Poster Art	Kate Morton
Thanks to	Sarah Andrews, Jim Craddock, Les Fraser, Greasepaint, Silas Hawkins, Jo Matthews, Louis Tonna, Kirsty Packham, Charlie Lucas, Nigel Worsley Ceres Dandridge at Rebato Costume Tolworth Girls School (RBK)

COMING SOON

The Merchant of Venice by William Shakespeare

In the **Playhouse**, 21 - 29 May

"Hath not a Jew eyes? Hath not a Jew hands, organs, dimensions, senses, affections, passions?...If you prick us, do we not bleed?...If you poison us, do we not die? And if you wrong us, shall we not revenge?"

Full of love, hate revenge, joy and quite a few laughs, *The Merchant of Venice* has long been one of the most popular plays in the Shakespeare canon. Is it a tragedy, a romantic comedy, a thrilling courtroom drama? Well, it's all of these. Shakespeare brilliantly keeps confounding our expectations and preconceptions and uses all his dramatic powers to not only provide rich entertainment, but to also leave us with much food for thought.

An Evening with **Oliver Ford Davies**

In the **Playhouse**

Sunday 23rd May at 7.45pm

The highly respected actor and Vice President of The Questors, Oliver Ford Davies, will talk about his recent experiences as author and actor with *King Lear* at the Almeida and *King Cromwell* at the Orange Tree.

The Questors Theatre and 4th Wall, present

Into the Woods

The spectacular musical by
Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine

In the **Playhouse**

17 - 26 June

Once upon a time...

...there was a cast of fairytale characters, all destined to go into the woods to achieve their happy endings. But what happens after "happily ever after?" This is the musical that attempts to find out. Cinderella's prince is a hopeless philanderer. The witch is not wicked but overprotective of her daughter. And a slightly psychotic Little Red Riding Hood proudly wears the grey skin of the wolf she cut up. The score is one of Sondheim's most popular, with the comic and manic "Into the Woods," "Agony" and "On the Steps of the Palace" contrasting with the dramatic and wondering "Children Will Listen," "No One Is Alone" and "Giants in the Sky." The Questors Theatre, 75 years old, and 4th Wall, one of West London's brightest new theatre groups, joined by the voice of Dame Judi Dench, invite you on a magical, musical roller-coaster of comedy, fantasy and self-discovery, to go home...
...happily ever after!

The Questors Student Group present **Summerfolk**

by Maxim Gorky, in a version by Nick Dear

In the **Playhouse**

10 - 17 July

A satirical comedy about a group of social climbers behaving badly towards each other.

Also at the Questors

West London Opera presents

Carmen by Bizet

In the **Playhouse**

April 29, 30, May 1 at 7.30pm

Box Office:

020 8987 1535

15 March - 26 April - office hours - credit cards accepted

020 8423 3797

evenings/weekends - no credit cards

GLOC Musical Theatre presents

The Phantom of the Country Opera

Music by Michael Duff

Lyrics by Cheri Coons

A hilarious country and western send-up of *The Phantom of the Opera*.

In the **Playhouse**

May 5 - 8 at 7.45pm

Box Office: 020 8572 0475

Email: boxoffice@glocmt.org.uk

Web: www.glocmt.org.uk

Theatre West Four presents their 40th Anniversary production of

The Crucible by Arthur Miller

In the **Studio**

May 12 - 15 at 7.30pm

Box Office: 020 8896 2678

Showchoir presents

Jerry's Kids - a celebration of the music a lyrics of Jerry Herman

In the **Playhouse**

June 4 at 7.45pm, June 5 at 2.30pm and 7.45pm

Box Office: 070 9281 0713

75th ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

75
years
1929 - 2004

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:

Behind the Scenes at The Museum

An exhibition at the Gunnersbury House Museum containing a selection of our archive material - photographs, programmes, props, costumes, set models and more - from the 75 years of our history.

The exhibition runs until 14 August.

Opening times 1pm to 5pm weekdays and 1pm to 6pm weekends and bank holidays.

Admission free

An Evening with **Oliver Ford Davies**

In the **Playhouse**

Sunday 23rd May at 7.45pm

Oliver Ford Davies first joined The Questors in his teens. He says "I wanted to act but they needed bricklayers at the time so I helped to build what is now the Stanislavsky Room." As well as bricklaying, he went on to write, direct and teach, though he is now best known as an actor, and, of course, as our Vice President. He will be talking about his recent experiences acting in King Lear at the Almeida, and King Cromwell at the Orange Tree. He has also written a book, *Playing Lear* based on his experiences.



LANDMARK PRODUCTIONS

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

A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams
1949

In the **Playhouse**, 18 - 25 September

Blasted by Sarah Kane
1995

In the **Studio**, 23 - 30 October

Saved by Edward Bond
1965

In the **Studio**, 20 - 27 November

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?

Share your thoughts with us at www.questors.org.uk/feedback
or read what others have said.

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.

