

# 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](http://www.questors.org.uk).

## Questors membership gives you...

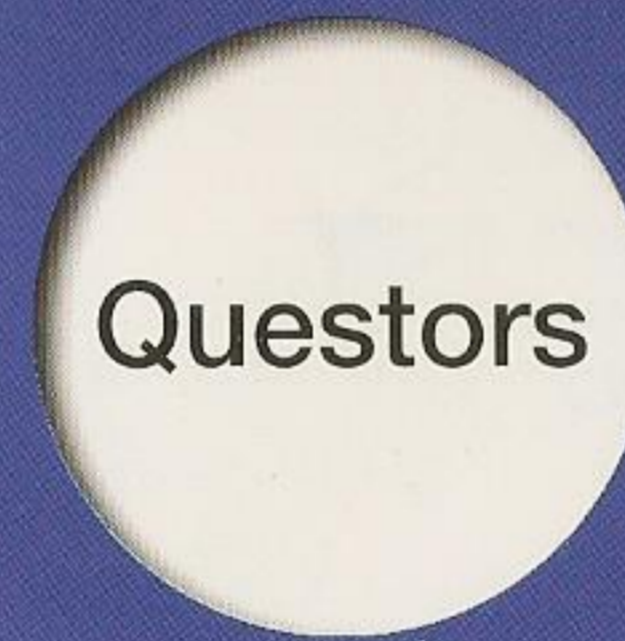
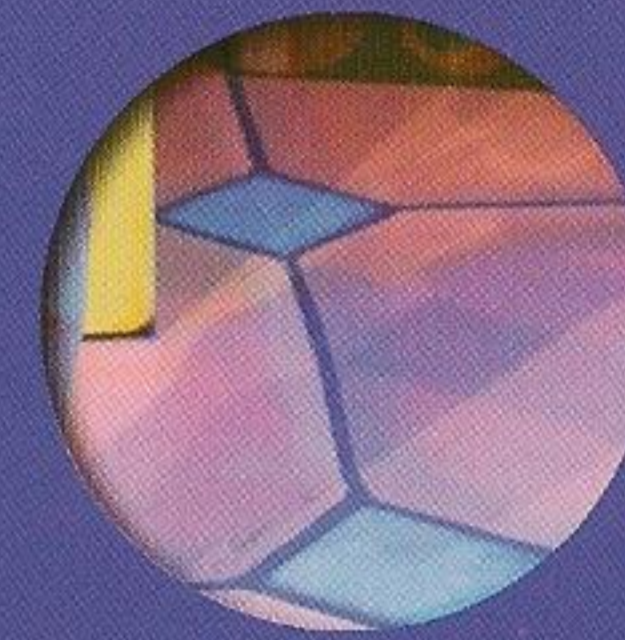
- Free tickets to at least 8 productions a year.
- Access to over 20 productions a year - classic, contemporary, international and new plays, from just £6.50 a ticket.
- Membership of the Grapevine Bar
- Questopics, our club magazine.
- The chance to act, direct, or get involved backstage.
- Discounts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

**Box Office:** 020 8567 5184  
**Admin:** 020 8567 0011  
**Fax:** 020 8567 8736  
**Email:** [enquiries@questors.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@questors.org.uk)  
**Website:** [www.questors.org.uk](http://www.questors.org.uk)

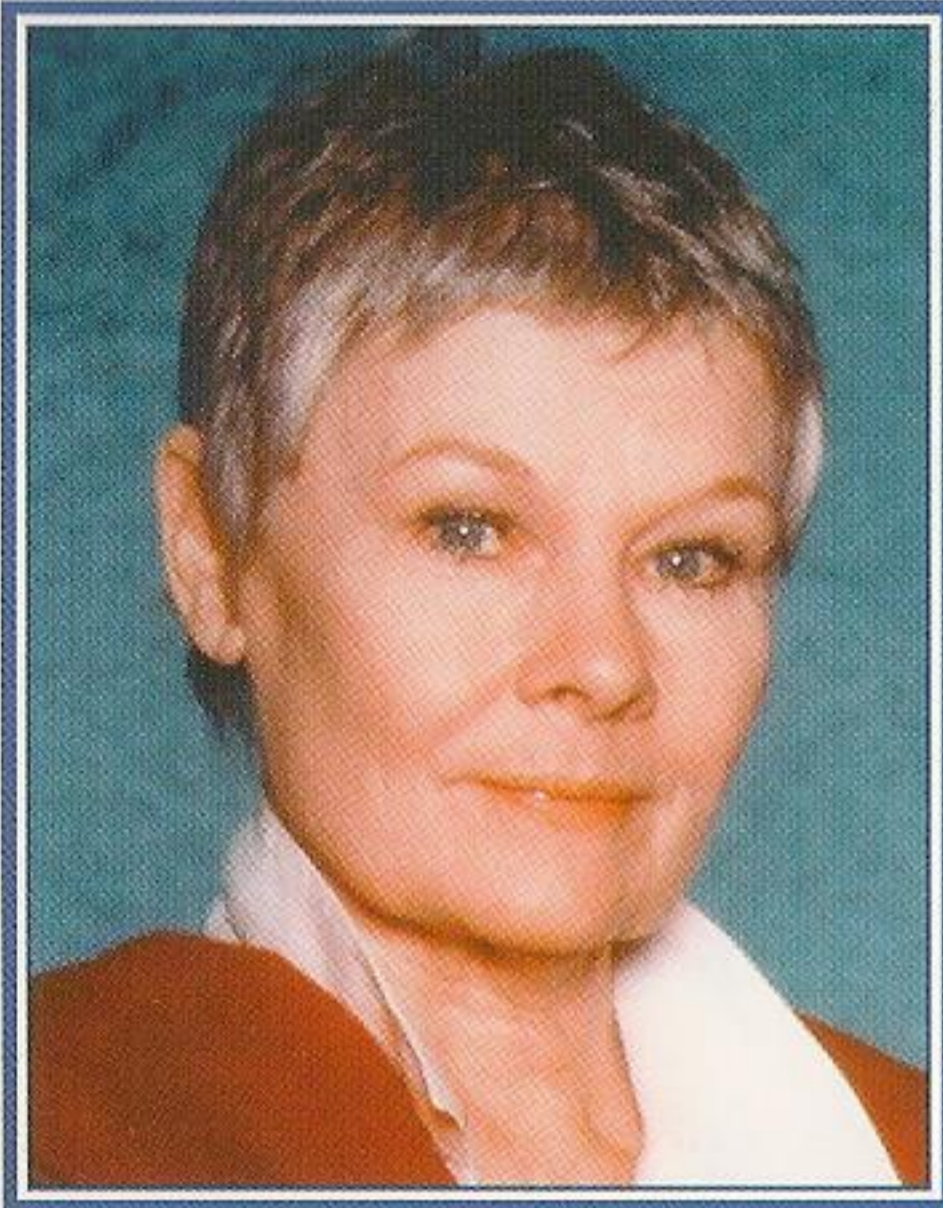
**The Questors Theatre**  
Mattock Lane  
Ealing  
W5 5BQ



**Bye Bye Blues and  
Who Was Hilary Maconochie?**







**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.

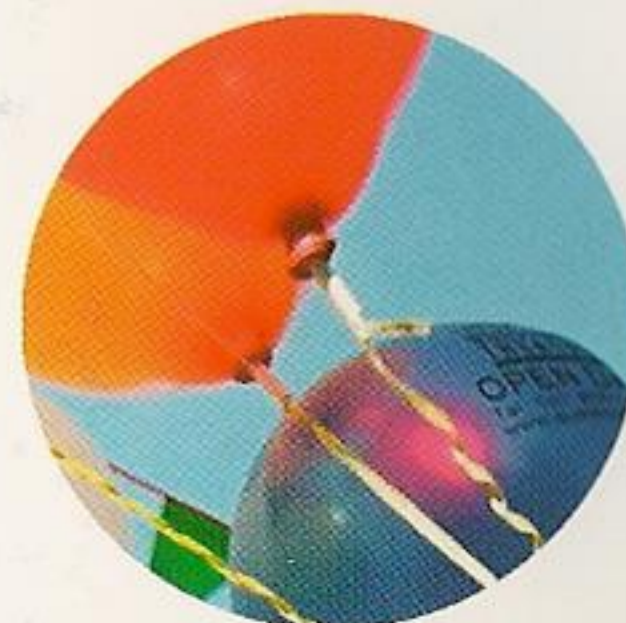
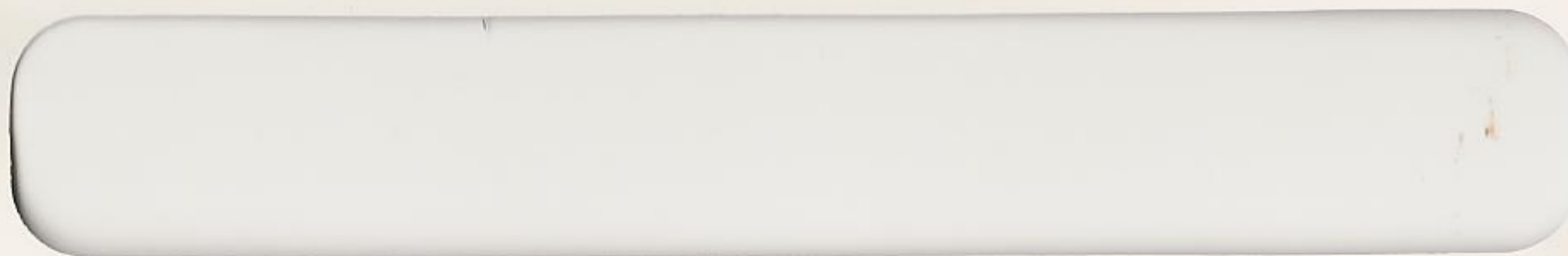
The Questors runs a professionally recognised two-year acting course in conjunction with Kingston College. There are also acting courses for beginners, free backstage training courses, visiting companies from home and abroad, regular art exhibitions, and workshops and clubs for young people. In short,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



## Bye Bye Blues and Who Was Hilary Maconochie?

A double bill by James Saunders



## James Saunders - A Brief Chronology

Born in Islington, North London. He was Educated at Wembley County. James began work at a coach-builders; but aged 18 he joined the Navy, serving in the Arctic and in the Pacific as a petty officer in the torpedo division. After the war he studied Physics and Chemistry at Southampton University. He became a chemistry tutor at Davis's in Holland Park during the day and a playwright by night, until devoting all his time to writing.

- 1951** In this year he married Audrey Cross, with whom he had a son and two daughters.
- 1959** **Alas Poor Fred** (staged in 1960 by Stephen Joseph's Library Theatre)
- 1960** He received an Arts Council playwright's bursary for **The Ark** in this year.
- 1964** He became a full time playwright, his early plays led to him being considered one of the main British exponents of of the Theatre of the Absurd.  
**Next Time I'll Sing To You** A full length work for the **Questors New Plays Festival** won him the Evening Standard award for Most Promising Playwright (1963).  
**Who Was Hilary Maconochie?**
- 1964** **A Scent of Flowers** was first staged at the Duke of Yorks Theatre. **Neighbours** at the Hampstead Theatre.
- 1967** **The Italian Girl** an adaption of Iris Murdoch's novel. **Trio**
- 1969** **The Travails Of Sancho Panza** at the Old Vic. **The Borage Pigeon Affair.**
- 1971** He began writing for Ed Berman who staged **Games**.  
**Hans Kohlhaas** at the Orange Tree Theatre. Radio drama included Random Moments in a May Garden and contributed to Play For Today. **Bye Bye Blues**
- 1975** **The Island**
- 1977** **Bodies** and **Random Moments in a May Garden.**
- 1980** **Fall**
- 1983** **Nothing to Declare**
- 1992** **Making it Better** at the Criterion. Over this period he undertook translations of works by Vaclav Havel.
- 1993** Audrey, his wife, died and at this time he moved to Eastleach in the Cotswold village where the family has had a house for 40 years and where he wrote many plays. His many loves included his pipe, his beer, his cats, crosswords and his famous jam made from his country garden.
- 2004** James Saunders passed away aged 79, He is survived by his three children, Sarah, Jane and Mathew.

## James Saunders 1925 – 2004

James Saunders was one of the most distinctive voices to emerge from the new British playwrights of the 1950s. He was very much a family man who believed that people should not be tyrannised by theories. He used drama to play with elements of philosophy, psychology, history and word play, putting his work alongside peers such as Harold Pinter, although his erudition, word power, sense of fun and irony was well revealed in his writing, there was also a clownish show-off side of him that eclipsed his more dominant introvert nature. His long association with The Questors Theatre, including first airings for many plays was both fruitful and productive. *Committal*, *Barnstable* and *Return To A City* were presented as *Ends And Echoes* at the Questors and a full length work for the 1962 Questors New Plays Festival *Next Time I'll Sing To You*, was a definitive moment for him.

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### About Bye Bye Blues

First seen at The Orange Tree, Richmond, in 1973 directed by Sam Walters, this 45 minute one-act play has been performed twice before at The Questors, most recently in 1987.

### Synopsis

The catalyst is a road accident, around which a series of reverberations spin from three apparently unconnected couples. United by a disquieting conclusion. The message is essentially about relationships.

### The Action Takes Place

There are three areas, within which are three women and their men.

### About Who Was Hilary Maconochie?

*Who Was Hilary Maconochie?* Debuted 40 years ago on our own Questors stage. A little gem of absurdist theatre with a very English flavour.

### Synopsis

The action unfolds around a middle class widow, her maid and the arrival of a friend for afternoon tea. In this charming piece intimacy, class and identity (both national and personal) are investigated in a world where all is definitely not what it seems.

### The Action Takes Place

A drawing room in the English style. Mrs Brute sits at her bureau making up her diary.



# Bye Bye Blues and Who Was Hilary Maconochie?

A double bill by James Saunders

## Bye Bye Blues

by James Saunders

### Cast

Man 1	Jake Lewis Smith
Woman 1	Samantha Aguilar
Man 2	Anthony Curran
Woman 2	Gillian Jacyna
Man 3	Matthew Johnston
Woman 3	Carol Fullilove

## Who Was Hilary Maconochie?

by James Saunders

### Cast

Mrs Brute	Margaret Turner
Hilda	Grace Craddock
Mrs Drudge	Mary-Alice Stack

### Production Team

	Bye Bye Blues	Who Was Hilary Maconochie?
Director	Duncan Aldridge	Sarah Galton
Stage Management	Rachel Moorhead David Palmer Vicky Butler	Rachel Moorhead David Palmer Vicky Butler
Lighting Assistants	Paul Wilson	Paul Wilson
Costumes	The Cast	The Cast
Set Design / Dressing		Sarah Galton
Make up and Hair		Amy Scanlon
Thanks to		Mrs Dorothy Galton Greasepaint



James Saunders 1925 – 2004

## From The Chairman of The Questors

This production is mounted as a tribute to James Saunders, who died earlier this year. Although he is most famous nowadays for his full-length plays, there remains a whole wealth of one-act plays, written in many different styles, from throughout his career. Many of these were first performed at The Questors.

When the directors were choosing what plays of Jimmy's they wished to direct, they borrowed a huge pile from my library, and came up with *Bye Bye Blues* and *Who Was Hilary Maconochie?* Unexpected choices maybe, but The Questors has always made unexpected choices. That is possibly how James Saunders came to be performed here in the first place. How can one choose something 'representative' from such a great and varied collection?

But you will see tonight two plays that could not be more different from each other, and which can only remind us of Jimmy's great talent. The Questors is proud to have played a part in his career, and we offer this tribute by way of saying 'let us remember Jimmy and all of his work'.

David Emmet



# COMING SOON

## Shirley Valentine

In the **Playhouse**, 8 October - 16 October

Join Shirley Bradshaw, 42 years old (or young?), on her laughter-and-tear-filled epic journey to find her true self. She is a classic bored housewife of the '80s, whose husband and children believe is a part of the furniture. A surprise ticket for a holiday in Greece opens her eyes and re-awakens her appetite for life and love, leaving neighbour, spouse and daughter astounded by her bravery, stupidity and depravity. Live a little with Shirley as she shrugs off the label 'St Joan of the Fitted Units': travel back and forward to uncover the old, yet brand new, Shirley Valentine - and you.

## Blasted

In the **Studio**, 21 October - 30 October

Quite possibly the most controversial and shocking play Questors has ever - or will ever - produce. Blasted opened at the Royal Court in 1995 to become the most talked about play of that decade. From its naturalistic beginnings tracing physical, mental and sexual abuse in the relationship between Ian and Cate to its surreal, nightmarish conclusions Blasted is violent, explosive and explicit in every sense. Curiously, it is also about hope and as such provides a testament to our own troubled times.

**Suitable for adults and the non-squeamish only!**

## 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 Pinters A Slight Ache Friday 5th is 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.

## The Cherry Orchard

by Anton Chekov translated by Michael Frayn

In the **Playhouse**, 5 - 13 November

The climax of our 75th Anniversary season is a gala production of Chekov'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.

## 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.**

## PAUPER'S BLOWOUT

"Hack the worst of the fat off a pair of breasts of lamb...." this is the start of James Saunders' recipe for "Lambooby" which can be found in **QUESTORS IN THE KITCHEN** a unique collection of recipes contributed by friends and members of the Questors. Please take the time to have a look at a display copy in the Upper Foyer or the Bar. It costs only £5 and you can buy one from the Front of House staff, the Grapevine Bar, the Box Office or, during the day, from the Theatre Office.

## ART EXHIBITIONS

Exhibits by John Stacey

will be on display in the **Grapevine bar**

from 16th September - 2nd October

John has been painting for as long as he can remember. He has had many one-man shows at The Questors Theatre, where he has been a member since 1965.

He eventually became Head of Design, a post he held for nearly four years.

His paintings, are in Oils, with a Painting Knife and are all Landscapes, although he has done other subjects to commission.

He is a long-standing member of The Ealing Art Group, who exhibit regularly throughout the Borough.

In 1998, his work was selected for the inaugural Ealing Open Exhibition in The Pitshanger Manor Gallery. When not painting, he is a Volunteer for The National Trust at Osterley Park House, Isleworth.

Also, he is a member of Pitshanger Poets, who hold Workshops every Tuesday, and meet here, in the Grapevine at 8.00pm.

The seven paintings are priced between £80 and £120.



# 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:

### **Blasted**

by Sarah Kane - 1995  
In the **Studio**, 23 - 30 October

### **Early Morning**

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

### **The Cherry Orchard**

by Anton Chekov  
translated by Michael Frayn.  
In the **Playhouse**, 5 - 13 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?

You can share your thoughts with us, or read what others have said, at  
[www.questors.org.uk](http://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?

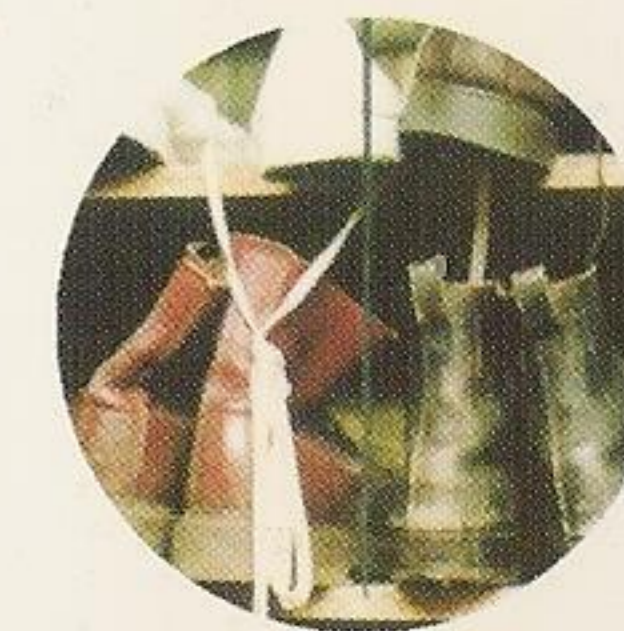
Front of house is a great place to start. For programme selling, stewarding or serving in the Café you don't need any experience, and training can be given for anyone who fancies working in Box Office. If you want to meet people and have a good time, then the best place to be is behind the Grapevine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





We apologise for these late corrections to the programme on behalf of the Production Team of Bye Bye Blues

## **Bye Bye Blues**

By James Saunders

### **Cast**

Man 1	Jake Lewis Smith
Woman 1	Samantha Aguilar
Man 2	Anthony Curran
Woman 2	Gillian Jacyna
Man 3	Matthew Johnston
Woman 3	Carol Fullilove

### **Production Team**

#### **Bye Bye Blues**

Director	Duncan Alldridge
Stage Management	Rachel Moorhead
	David Palmer
	Vicky Butler
Lighting	Tom McGuire
Sound	Paul Wilson
Costumes	The Cast