

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...

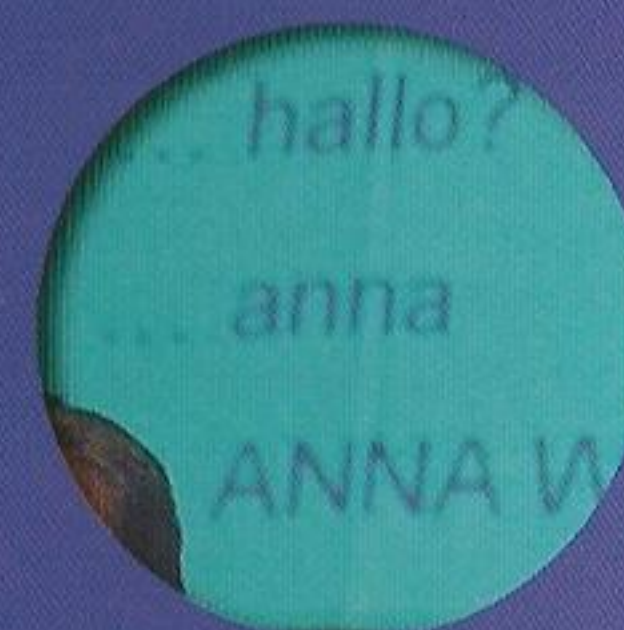
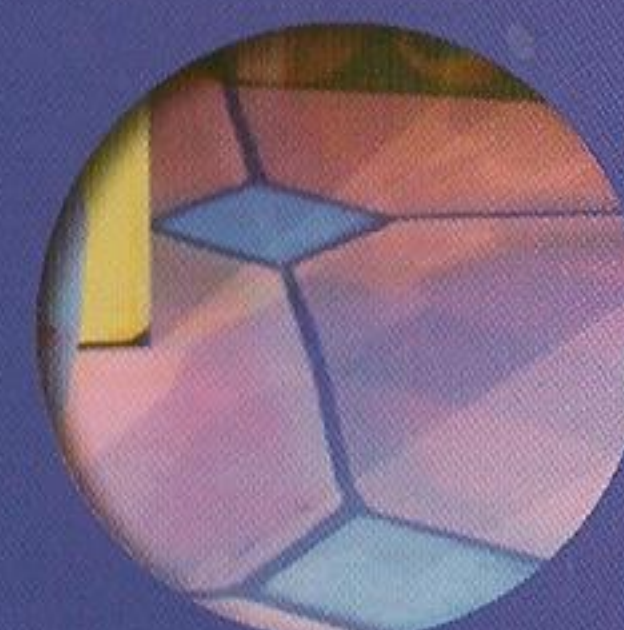
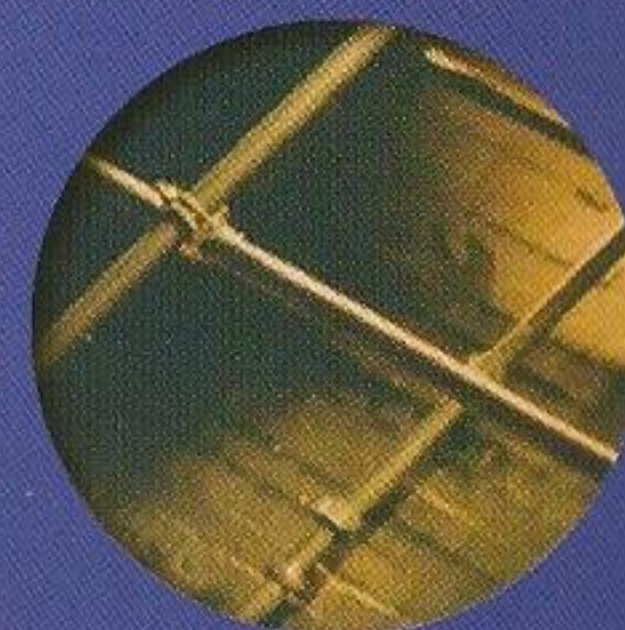
- Free tickets to at least 8 productions a year.
- Access to over 20 productions a year - classic, contemporary, international and new plays, from just £6.50 a ticket.
- Membership of the Grapevine Bar
- Questopics, our club magazine.
- The chance to act, direct, or get involved backstage.
- Discounts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

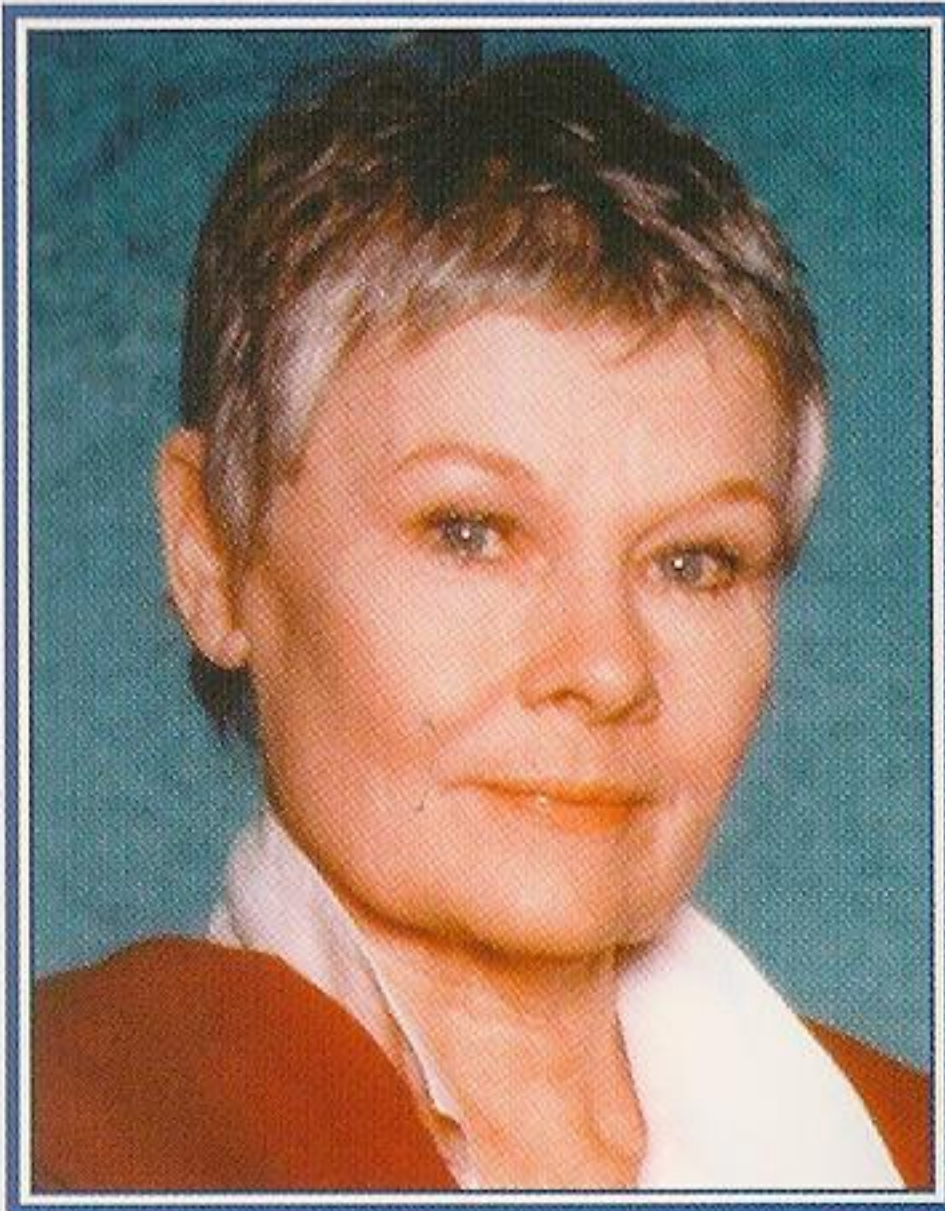
The Questors Theatre
 Mattock Lane
 Ealing
 W5 5BQ



RINGBACK

by Ron Hart





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!

Judi Dench

Dame Judi Dench
President of The Questors Theatre



RINGBACK

by Ron Hart

THE FEMALE PARTS mini-season at Questors has presented us with a diverse group of plays and poems that focus on women - a rare opportunity for the actresses and their audiences to give themselves over, for a time at least, to life and love as experienced by 'the fairer sex'. Rounding up the season we are delighted to bring you the world premiere of **RINGBACK**, the newly updated version of Ron Hart's original award-winning comedy **LUNCH GIRLS**.

Set somewhere in a village near you, Vee, Bee, Dee and Jay, four middle-class friends and neighbours attempt to make a date for lunch. Over the weeks and months that this takes to arrange they exchange gossip, swap confidences and share life's problems. Wittily observed and distinctively drawn, the four characters communicate with each other almost exclusively by telephone - a peculiarity of the piece that defines the drama and in many ways the lives of the women represented. Their husbands, children, pets and in-laws are talked about but never seen and as the play progresses we become increasingly aware of the emptiness and isolation they share. Behind their facade of material well-being, the jokes and the gossip there is the crushing sense that, emotionally and spiritually they are leading lives of chatty desperation - a realisation that hits all of them in one way or another as things begin to pull apart at the seams.

The script for **LUNCH GIRLS** has undergone a number of re-writes since it first emerged in the early '80s as a one-act play for four women. Written during the Thatcher era but reflecting the social changes that had been taking place in the preceding decade, **LUNCH GIRLS** brilliantly captured the domestic and social situation of a group of middle class ladies during that period - so much so that the script has since has been used by many universities and colleges (particularly in America) to support their modules on women in society. Although many of the references have been updated (along with the telephone technology), **RINGBACK** still retains the hallmarks of the '80s but combines this with a contemporary perspective through which we can observe, and smile at, the attitudes and aspirations of our not

too distant past as well as our current pastimes and preoccupations.

Hart's characters are sympathetically written and the familiarity of the situations that the female friends find themselves in as well as their personalities (don't you know someone just like that?) add to the comedy which is punctuated throughout by more deliberate jokes that at times reveal that it has been written by a man - although for the most part this is surprisingly well concealed! The enduring popularity of **LUNCH GIRLS** is a testament to Hart's ability to write so well for and about women and we hope that **RINGBACK** will continue this legacy and delight audiences in the same way for many years to come, or at least until Vee, Bee, Dee and Jay, the next generation hit the stage!

RON HART has written two film scripts and 12 plays over the last 25 years, four of which have been successful and the rest he'd sooner forget about. He is a Verity Bargate Award winner and his plays have been translated into 10 languages and produced all over the world including The National Theatre, London, Los Angeles Theatre Center, Half Moon Theatre, Tokyo, Manchester Library Theatre, Athens, Berlin, Copenhagen, Warsaw, Jerusalem, Hong Kong, and most recently Bombay. He's also had several No 1 tours of his work in the UK as well as Germany, France and Switzerland.

MARY-ALICE STACK was recently accepted as a Questors Director following her directorial debut of Ionesco's *The Lesson* at the Camden People's Theatre in February 2004. *The Lesson* was presented as part of a double bill produced, directed and performed by members of Group 56, the company that she and her fellow students formed following their graduation from the Questors Student Course in July 2003.

RINGBACK

by Ron Hart

First performance of this production 9th June 2004

Cast *in order of speaking*

Marianne Micallef	Jay
Mari King	Bee
Vivien Kerr	Vee
Zlata Camdzic	Dee
Robert Manners, Luke Ireland, Paul Wilson*	The Waiters

(restaurant staff may vary from night to night)

Featuring the voice of Geoff Morgan as The Vicar
and Mary-Alice Stack as BT CALL WAITING.

With thanks to Nigel Worsley and Roger Day for their "Ring Tones"

Production

Director	Mary-Alice Stack
Set Designer <i>based on an original idea by John Rolfe</i>	Alex Agg
Lighting Designer	Tom McGuire
Sound Designer	Paul Wilson
Stage Manager	Chris Bennett
Deputy Stage Manager	Daniel Tarrant
Set Construction	Jim Craddock
Costume Design	The Company
Lighting Operator	Tom McGuire
Sound Operator	Ian King
Make Up	Danielle Neate, Katie Galelli
With thanks to	Tim Edwards, Louis Tonna

There will be an interval of 15 minutes

COMING SOON

Female Parts by Dario Fo and Franca Rame

June 11, 12, 18, 19

Approx 10.00pm, after **Ringback**

Sexual politics and fairytales get a workout in these staged monologues dealing with the ups, downs, frustrations, joys, anger and tragedies of life from a female perspective. Naturally political but always entertaining and filled with tears and laughter, these short pieces centre on motherhood and deal humorously with the trials of being a wife and of relationships with men. A selection of the monologues will be presented separately on different nights during the run of Ringback.

Page Verses Stage

Poetry performance evening

13 June at 7.45pm

£5

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

Featuring the voice of Dame Judi Dench.

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 self-centred middle class social climbers behaving badly towards each other. As they question the value of their work, their art and their leisure, they're shocked by the responses their disputes reveal. Relationships break under the strain, and scandals of business and infidelity are laid bare.

To help celebrate The Questors' 75th Anniversary, this production will feature student group members from previous years.

ART EXHIBITIONS

In the **Upper Foyer**

12 - 26 June

Lesley Chitty returns to The Questors with **Enigma 2**

An eclectic mix of French and Australian adventures.

"Time and Space - Spirit and Light"

10 - 24 July

Abstract and Figurative

Geoffrey Vivis and Duane Noblett

The exhibition will combine Duane Noblett - an abstract construction relief - maker and

Geoffrey Vivis, a figurative and direct painter. Duane has been influenced by Ben Nicholson - white reliefs, Geoffrey showing influences of Bonnard at times.

Duane has shown at the Questors Theatre in the '80s.

Geoffrey has also has exhibited at The Questors Theatre since the early 80s.

In the **Grapevine Bar**

19 July - 3 July

Georgina Maxwell

BA (Hons), Central St. Martins College of Art and Design, Environmental Sculptor.

The wild beauty of the Cornish coast - environmental vandalism and degradation - wasted energy and wasted lives. Plastic and bones - Georgina strikes back!

10 - 24 July

Judy Gordon

Showchoir presents

Jerry's Kids - a celebration of the music and 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

Ant Theatre Company presents

Fractures by Simon Beyer

A powerful exploration of the savage nature of jealousy.

In the **Studio**

July 21 - 24 at 7.30pm

Box Office: 020 8255 9303

Stop Gap Theatre presents

Disposing of the Body by Hugh Whitmore

July 28 - 31 at 7.45pm

Box Office: 020 8995 9725

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 13 September

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

ADMISSION FREE

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?

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.

