

# 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...

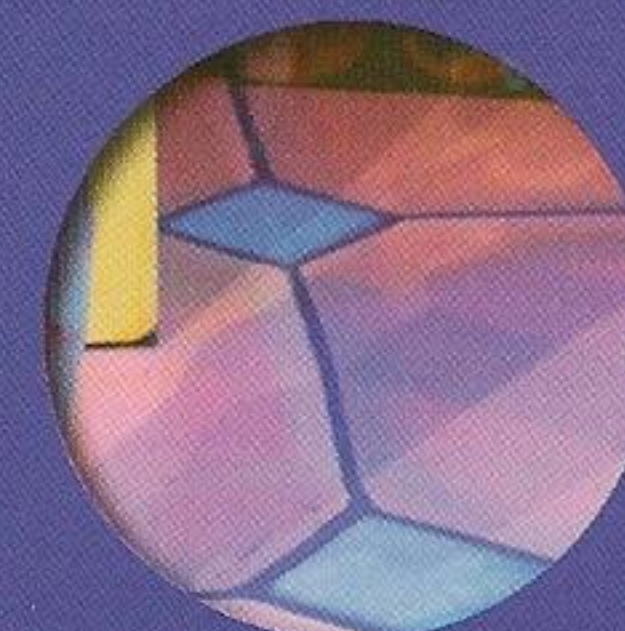
- Free tickets to at least 8 productions a year.
- Access to over 20 productions a year - classic, contemporary, international and new plays, from just £6.50 a ticket.
- Membership of the Grapevine Bar
- Questopics, our club magazine.
- The chance to act, direct, or get involved backstage.
- Discounts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

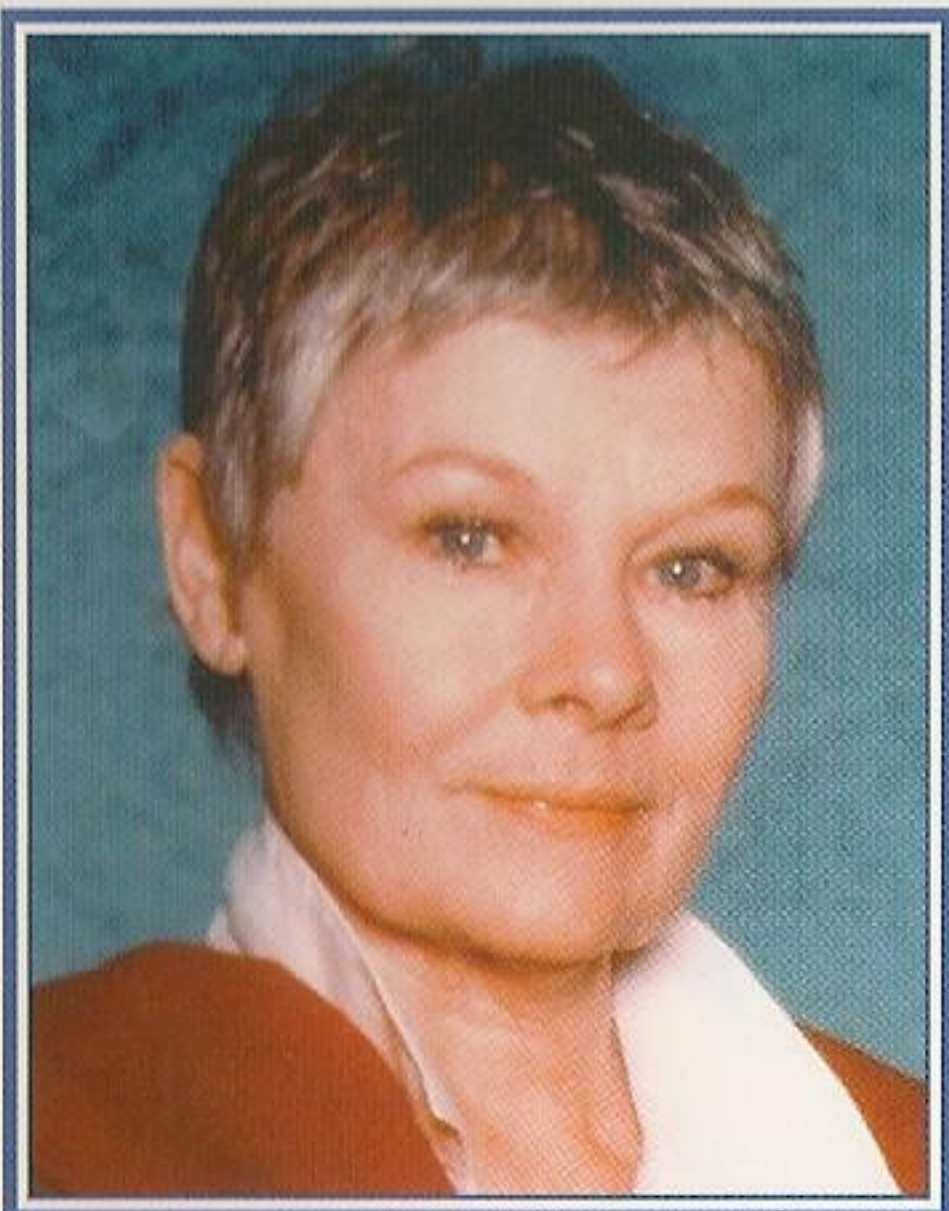


## ROAD

by Jim Cartwright







**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



## ROAD

by Jim Cartwright





## A Word From The Director

*'Wid your night yous choose to come and see us. Wid' our night as usual we's all getting' ready and turning out for a drink. THIS IS OUR ROAD! But tonight it's your road an'all...'*

ROAD is still pertinent today, eighteen years after it was written. Described as an *Under Milk Wood* for Thatcher's Britain, ROAD captures the despair of millions of people in the late 1980s. The sad thing is that, while unemployment may no longer be so high, it has left a legacy of economic, educational and emotional impoverishment for several generations. Britain is still split into the haves and have-nots. And it's the have-nots that ROAD fixes on.

*'And owt can happen tonight...'*

An old lady makes herself up, very badly, for a night out; a melancholic man mourns the loss of his past; a despairing young couple starve themselves to death; an older woman drools over the young flesh of a pissed-up soldier; and more, many more... Eight actors will be playing over thirty characters – some so small you'll blink and miss them, some larger than life: all of them vital components of ROAD in all its many guises. It'll be fun to bring them to life and let them loose in the Playhouse. Don't be afraid, they don't bite – well, not all of them...

*'You want something different. Stay, I mean it... We have a something that we always do when out side gets to you...'*

ROAD may not have a conventional narrative, but its combination of laughter, violence, desperation and love is a journey in itself. And by the morning (the end of the play, as in *Under Milk Wood*), you'll be hoping that its' characters "SOMEHOW A SOMEHOW A MIGHT ESCAPE!"

Enjoy the play...

John McSpadyen, Director.

## Jim Cartwright

ROAD represented the theatrical debut of Jim Cartwright, who was born in Lancashire. Described by *The Sunday Times* as a "writer of outstanding talent", ROAD was a groundbreaking and influential play and was first performed in 1986. It won the Samuel Beckett Award in 1988, Drama Magazines Best New Play award, joint winner of The Plays and Players Award and The George Devine Award. The play launched his reputation as one of the country's most eloquent, radical playwrights and ROAD is now considered a modern classic.

After the great success of ROAD, Cartwright has gone on to write many more critically acclaimed plays. BED, 1989, TWO (1989), I LICKED A SLAG'S DEODORANT (1996) PRIZE NIGHT (1999), HARD FRUIT (2000), THE RISE AND FALL OF LITTLE VOICE (1992) Which won The Evening Standard Award for Best Comedy in 1992 and The Oliver Award for Best Comedy in 1993. The Play was then made into the successful film LITTLE VOICE in 1996. More of his plays have also been transferred to the screen. Including; ROAD (BBC 1987) winner of the Golden Nymph Award for Best Film; VROOM (Channel 4, 1988), WEDDED (BBC, 1990); BED (BBC, 1994) and two films directed by Danny Boyle entitled STRUMPET and VACUUMING COMPLETELY NUDE IN PARADISE in 2001.

## The Background to ROAD: Britain In The 1980's

*'I feel like England's forcing the brain out me head. I'm sick of it. Sick of it all. People reading newspapers: 'EUROVISION LOVERS', 'OUR QUEEN MUM', 'MAGGIE'S TEARS', being fooled over and over again...'*

The early 1980's saw Britain in the grip of recession. Miners clashed with police in strikes against pit closures, riots broke out in several cities, stock markets suffered one of the biggest collapses in history and Britain dispatched a task force to recapture the Falkland Islands.

This is the backdrop to Jim Cartwright's play. ROAD captures what it was like to be living in an industrial town ravaged by the economic policies of the Conservative Party under Margaret Thatcher.

## Margaret Thatcher

The Iron Lady of British politics, Margaret Thatcher was the longest continuously serving prime minister since 1827. Her conservative politics led to the implementation of such radically conservative policies as the poll tax. The Falklands was fought during her tenure. She resigned in 1990. During her time as prime minister unemployment rose to 3 million and her government continued to attempt to lower taxation and public spending, curb trade union power and follow a policy of privatisation.

## Miners Strikes 1984/85

The Miners' Strike 1984/85 was a fight for a number of basic rights: the right to work, the right to live in a community of one's choice, the right for a future for oneself and one's children. The miners knew that when a works closes down, the community dies.

*'What the miners, like most of us, mean by their communities is the places where they have lived and want to go on living, where generations not only of economic but of social effort and human care have been invested, and which new generations will inherit. Without that strong whole attachment, there can be no meaningful community'* R. Williams, 1985

## Falkland Islands

Following the Argentine invasion of the island in April 1982, Britain quickly sent a task force to protect the 1,200 inhabitants. The islands were recaptured in June when the Argentine force surrendered, after fighting in which more than 1,000 lives were lost (about 300 British and 700 Argentine.)

## Privatisation

The sale or transfer of public or state-owned assets or services to the private sector. The policy was adopted by Thatcher's government in the 1980's. The aim was to reduce government spending and to try to create greater efficiency by freeing market forces from government intervention. One only has to look at today's newspaper reports concerning the state of the UK railway network to make one's own judgement as to the efficacy of this policy.



# ROAD

by Jim Cartwright

First performance of this production 17th April 2004

## Cast

(in order of appearance)

Bill Boyd	Scullery
John Sandy	Brother/ Brink/ Mr Bald/ Joey/ Soldier
Jessica Lines	Louise/ Chantal/ Clare/ Electric Clutch
Lauren Manson	Carol/ Lane/ Valerie/ Electric Clutch
Tess Walsh	Brenda/ Dor/ Helen/ Linda/ Joey's Mum/ Electric Clutch
Steve Fitzpatrick	Eddie's Dad/ Professor/ Jerry/ Joey's Dad/ Brian
Reece de Ville	Eddie/ Skin Lad/ Blowpipe/ Bisto/ Curt/ Barry
Maria Brusa	Molly/ Mrs Bald/ Marion

Please note that there will be flashing lights in the auditorium during the interval.

## Production

Director	John McSpadyen
Set Designer	Alex Agg
Lighting Designer	Tim Hayward
Sound Designer	Mark Lucek
Stage Manager	Katy Gallantry
Deputy Stage Managers	Perri Blakelock Brin Parsonage
Properties	Harriet Parsonage
Assistant Stage Managers	Diane Grimes, Catherine Collinson Sally Milton
Costume Design	"Road Crew"
Wardrobe	Alex Haines, Annalie Ranger Jenny Ranger, Pam Smith, Chris Cave
Get-in and Construction Team	Tina Harris, Mike Caddy Louie Tonno, Richard Williams Seth Hollar, Allen Cave, Chris Ifould "Road Crew", Jennifer Plummer
Lighting Operator	Tim Edwards, Tom McGuire
Sound Operator	Greg Nicholson, Seth Hollar
Wigs and Make up	Jemma Howard, Donna H'Ore
Dance Coach	Julia Cooke
Dialect Coach	Denis Turner
With thanks to:	Jenny Yates, Sarah Andrews, The Sears Family, Agfa Gevaert Ltd., Damien Lazell, Martin Stoner, Terry Dale



# COMING SOON

## **Back to the Future** - New Writing at The Questors

In the **Playhouse**

Sunday 18th April at 7.45pm

A discussion on new writing, from the early days at the Questors to new writing today. Featuring Peter Whelan, Sebastian Backiewicz and Cheryl Robson.

## **Once a Catholic** by Mary O'Malley

In the **Studio**

29 April - 8 May

Once a Catholic is set in the Convent of Our Lady of Fatima, a grammar school for girls, and in and around the streets of Willesden and Harlesden, London, in the late fifties.

The play centres on the adventures and misadventures of Mary Mooney, Mary McGinty and Mary Gallagher as they experience life in the fifth form under the tutelage of Mother Peter, Mother Basil and Mother Thomas Aquinas.

"A marvellous, irreverent, affectionate and warmly comic play about the confusions and contradictions and general awfulness of being a Catholic schoolgirl". (Sheridan Morley, Punch)

## **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.

The Questors Theatre and 4<sup>th</sup> Wall, present

## **Into the Woods**

The spectacular musical by

Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine

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."

# 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](mailto:boxoffice@glocmt.org.uk)

Web: [www.glocmt.org.uk](http://www.glocmt.org.uk)

Theatre West Four presents their 40<sup>th</sup> 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 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



## 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](http://www.questors.org.uk/feedback)  
or read what others have said.

## OF COARSE YOU CAN SEE IT AGAIN!



If you missed Coarse Acting Rides Again, or if you saw it and would like to re-live the memory, then you can order a DVD or Video of the show from the office (020 8567 0011). Videos are £19 and DVDs are £25. Please note that we have to order these from the supplier, so they will take a few days to arrive.

## ART EXHIBITION

In the **Grapevine** and the **Upper Foyer**  
17th April - 1st May

### "North and South"

an exhibition of landscapes by

### Michael Rollins

Michael's work represents his approach to the dramatic settings of the English landscape, in a variety of media and sizes. A recurring theme is the constant struggle of man to mark his presence in the landscape, and the ease in which nature can erase this in end.

## 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.

