

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...

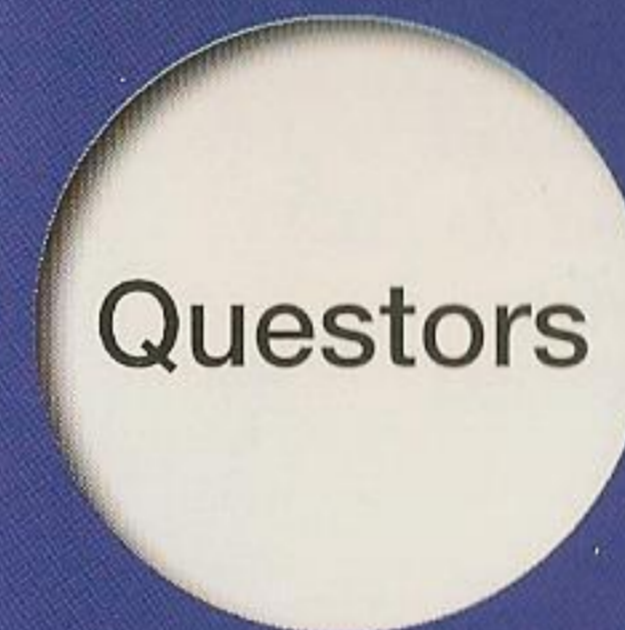
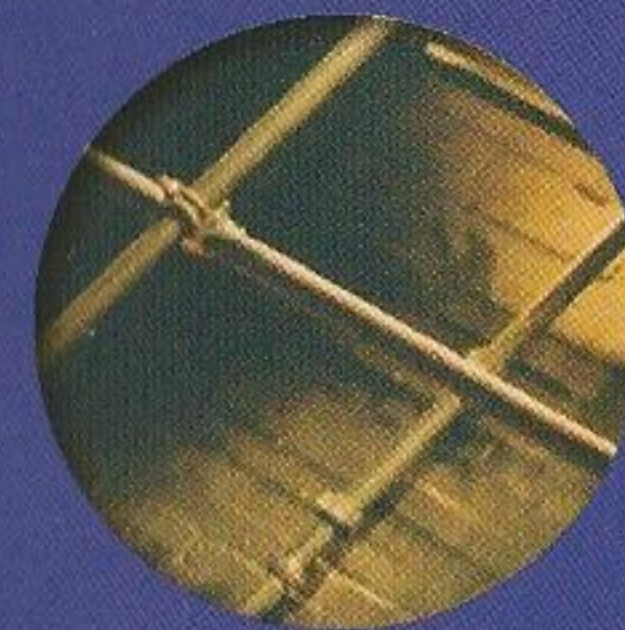
- Free tickets to at least 8 productions a year.
- Access to over 20 productions a year - classic, contemporary, international and new plays, from just £6.50 a ticket.
- Membership of the Grapevine Bar
- Questopics, our club magazine.
- The chance to act, direct, or get involved backstage.
- Discounts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

Three ways to book tickets:

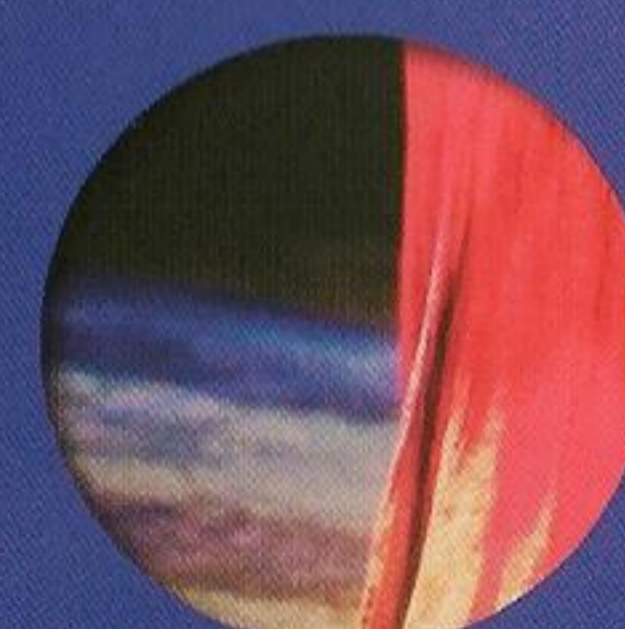
- Ring our Box Office on 020 8567 5184
Open Mon - Fri, 11.00am-12 noon, Show nights and Wednesdays 6.45pm - 8.30pm, Sunday Matinee 2.00pm - 2.30pm.
- Fill in a booking form (inside Questopics) and return to the Box Office.
- Book online at www.questors.org.uk.

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



Shirley Valentine





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



Shirley Valentine

by Willy Russell

Willy Russell

Willy Russell is one of the most successful playwrights of his generation. His plays have been performed in countries across the globe and have won countless appreciation and creative awards as well as academic honours for their author. Since their premieres, **Educating Rita**, **Stags and Hens**, **Shirley Valentine**, **Breezeblock Park** and **Our Day Out** have been in constant production throughout the world. Twenty years after it first opened in 1983, the revival of **Blood Brothers** is still playing to large and enthusiastic audiences in London's West End. Here are some highlights of his career:

Willy Russell - A Brief Chronology

- 1947** Born in Liverpool, he left school at 15 to become a hairdresser. Changing his mind, he returned to education to become a teacher. Whilst training to become a teacher, he wrote his first play.
- 1971** **Keep Your Eyes Down**, produced as part of a student production at St Katherines College Liverpool.
When the Reds, premiered at the Edinburgh festival (an adaptation of Alan Plater's *Tigers are coming OK*).
John Paul George Ringo....And Bert which moved from Liverpool to the West End, winning the Evening Standard & London Theatre Critics Award for Best Musical.
Breezeblock Park, Commissioned and directed by Alan Dossier for the Liverpool Everyman Theatre.
One for the Road, first performed at Manchester Contact Theatre.
- 1978** **Stags and Hens**, originally performed by students, it was revised as a stage play for Everyman Theatre, where Chris Bond directed it.
- 1979** **Educating Rita** First performed at the RSC's Warehouse in June 1980
- 1982** **Blood Brothers**, a non-musical schools version. First performed at Fazakerley Comprehensive School in November 1981. The musical version opened at the Liverpool Playhouse in 1983.
- 1983** In this year he received an Honorary MA from the Open University in recognition of his work as a playwright. **One for the Road** opens in the West End, starring Russ Abbot.
- 1984** **Blood Brothers**, a new touring version.
- 1988** **Shirley Valentine** the stage play opens at the Vaudeville Theatre, starring Pauline Collins.
- 1989** **Shirley Valentine** opens at the Booth Theatre, New York. The revival of **Blood Brothers** opens at the Albury Theatre.
- 1992** Liverpool University honours Willy Russell by making him a Doctor of Literature.
- 1993** **Shirley Valentine** opens at the Liverpool Playhouse. **Blood Brothers** opens at the Music Box Theatre in New York.
- 1995** Willy Russell is made a Fellow of John Moores University. **Words on the Run**, a unique evening of prose, poetry, song and music which toured Britain throughout the autumn of 1995.
- 1996** **Words on the Run** was played at festivals throughout the year at Hay on Wye, Birmingham Writers Festival and many others. **Our Day Out**, a stage version at Belgrade Theatre.
- 2001** **Willy Russell and Friends**, Willy is joined onstage at the Everyman Theatre in Liverpool by Sir Paul McCartney and Adrian Mitchell. Willy reads from *Shirley Valentine* and Sir Paul read extracts from his book of poems 'Blackbird Singing'

Shirley lives in 2004

How is Shirley Valentine still relevant almost 20 years after she was created? Because all those circumstances, the 'tea-on-the-table' grumpy breadwinner, though lessened, still exist. Because leading a 'little life' is sadly what many of us do – losing the big picture in the daily grind. This powerful, witty, lovely woman appeals directly to us to take another look at ourselves and where we're at.

'Doing a Shirley' has become an urban myth, synonymous with swapping your man; but heed the final lines of the play. Russell's genius is in its element here as he cunningly leaves us to pick up all the signals but doesn't take us to the station.

Travelling to Fazakerley? Be sure to get on the right bus.

Act 1 Scene 1

The kitchen of Joe and Shirley Bradshaw's house in the suburbs of Liverpool in 1986.

Act 1 Scene 2

The kitchen, three weeks later

Interval of 20 minutes

Act 2

A secluded part of a beach in Corfu, Greece

The duration of the play is 2 hours 20 minutes including the interval

Music

Respect	Aretha Franklin
Fleetwood Mac	Don't Stop
Sheryl Crow	All I Wanna Do (is Have Some Fun)
Last Train and Ride	Ralph McTell
Dr Hook	Everybody's Makin' it big but me
Tom Paxton	I'm Bound for the Mountains and the Sea
Eric Clapton	Promises
The Bargain Store	Dolly Parton
Tom Paxton	Standing on the Edge of Town
Dancing the Night Away	Crystal Gayle
Aretha Franklin duet with Eurythmics	Sisters are Doin' it for Themselves

Shirley Valentine

by Willy Russell

Cast

Shirley Bradshaw

Helen Parkinson

Production Team

Director

Jo Matthews

Stage Design

John Wibberley

Lighting Design

Chris Newall

Lighting Operator

Sophie Foster

Sound Design

Mike Caddy

Sound Operators

Katy Gallantry, Mike Caddy

Properties & Furnishings

Peter Salvietto

Stage Managers

Martin Choules, Jo Matthews

Deputy Stage Manager

Diane Grimes

Assistant Stage Managers

Lauren Nayler, Lindsey Pearson,
Bethany Spencer, George Stidolph,
Nicole Watson

Rehearsal Prompt

Susan Oliver

Set Construction

John Wibberley, Jovanka Litvinenko

Stage Crew

Martin Choules, Diane Grimes, Lauren Nayler,
Peter Salvietto, Lauren Spencer,
George Stidolph, Ruth Parry

Set Painting

Jovanka Litvinenko, John Wibberley

Kitchen Technicians

Nigel Worsley, Chris Newall, Jim Craddock

Hair and Make-up

Carolyn Lewis & Greasepaint

Wardrobe

Sarah Andrews, Jennie Yates,
Nichola Thomas

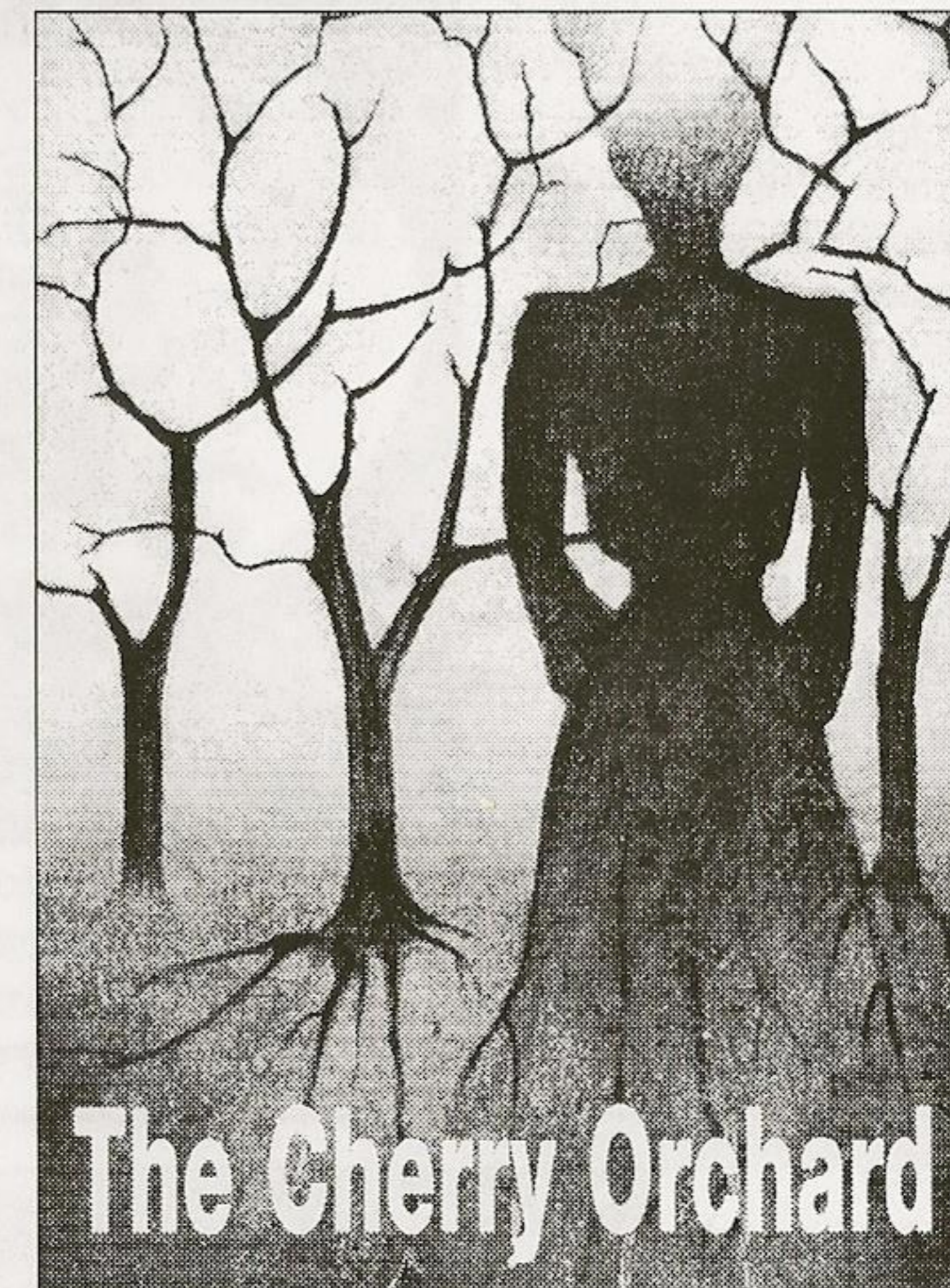
Cooker & Fridge

Mick at Greenford tip

Photography (lower foyer)

Ian Cole

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.

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:*

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 Chekhov
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 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.



October 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15,
16, at 7.45pm, 10 at 2.30pm


THE
QUESTORS
THEATRE
MATTOCK LANE
EALING W5 5BQ
Reg. Charity No.207516

shirley

valentine

by Willy Russell

BOX OFFICE
020 8567 5184

or book online at
www.questors.org.uk

Members £7.50, £9.00, guests £10.50, £13.00, students £5.00

