

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...

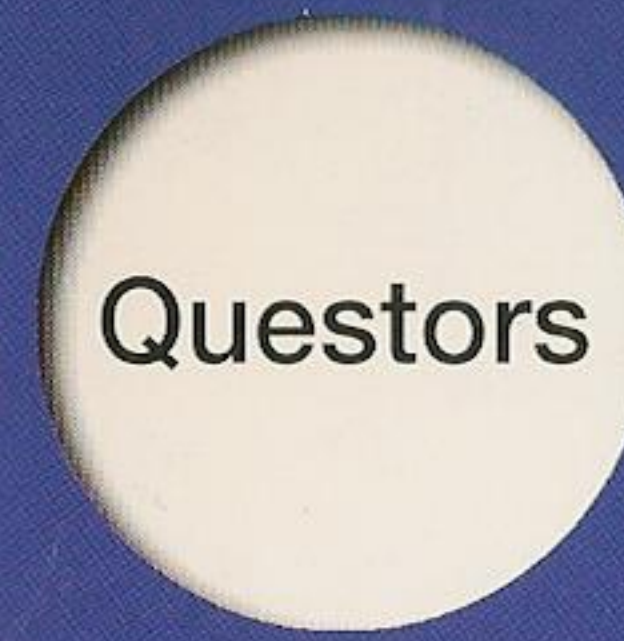
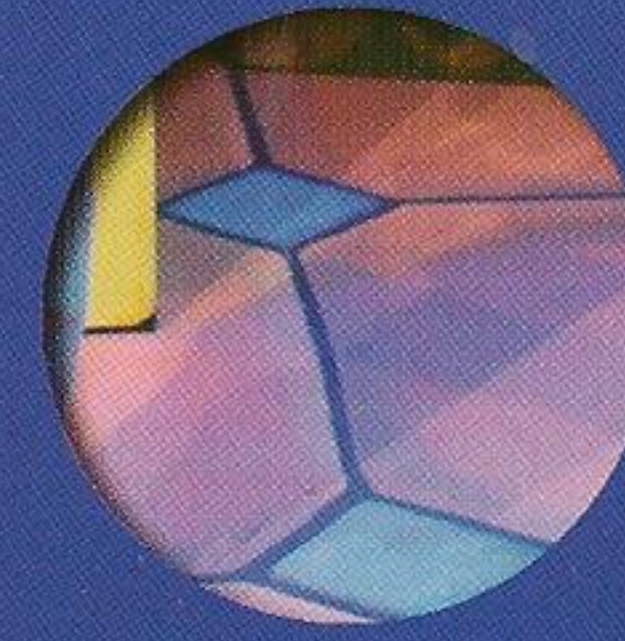
- Free tickets to at least 8 productions a year.
- Access to over 20 productions a year - classic, contemporary, international and new plays, from just £6.50 a ticket.
- Membership of the Grapevine Bar
- Questopics, our club magazine.
- The chance to act, direct, or get involved backstage.
- Discounts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

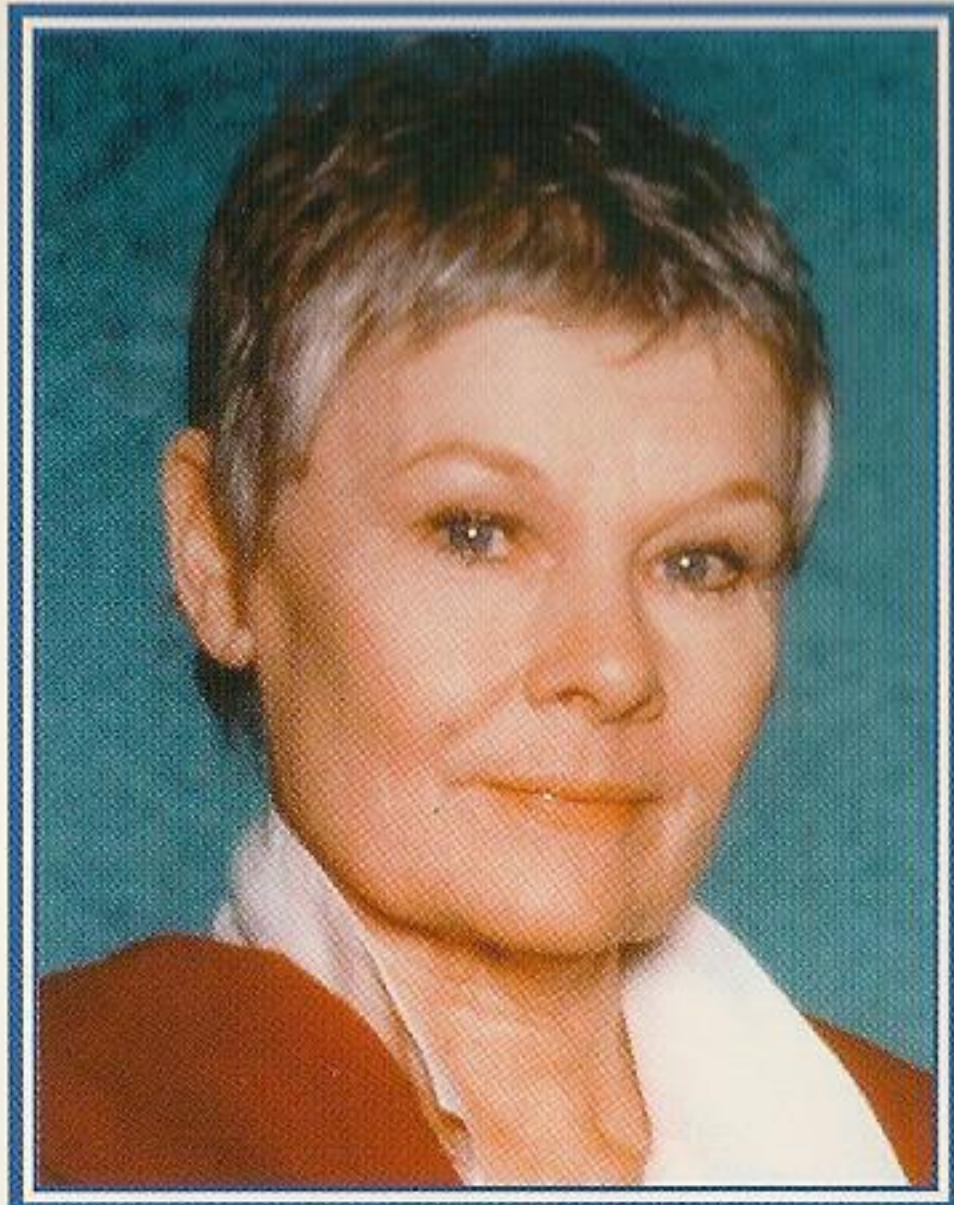
Box Office: 020 8567 5184
Admin: 020 8567 0011
Fax: 020 8567 8736
Email: enquiries@questors.org.uk
Website: www.questors.org.uk

The Questors Theatre
Mattock Lane
Ealing
W5 5BQ



Isle of the Departed





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



Isle of the Departed

by James Woolf & Christina Katic
Adapted by David Hovatter

James Woolf

- 1994 **Hitting Home** first produced at the Man in the Moon Theatre London.
- 1995 **Isle of the Departed** written in conjunction with Christina Katic. First produced at the Man in the Moon Theatre London.
- 1999 **Giving Head in Seven Sisters** first produced at the Man in the Moon Theatre London.
Chicken and Mushroom Pie first produced at the Man in the Moon Theatre London.
- 2001 **City Lights** , a Workshop Production at the Latchmere Theatre
- 2002 **By The Balls** first produced at the Etcetera, London.
- 2003 **Chips** commissioned by Komedia Theatre and Zygo Arts. Performed with **Chicken and Mushroom Pie**.

Christina Katic

- 1989 **Improbabilities** first produced at Soho Polytechnic, London.
- 1992 **Elizabeth Barton** first produced at Tabard, London.
- 1995 **Isle of the Departed** written in conjunction with James Woolf. First produced at the Man at the Moon Theatre London.

Isle of The Departed

The rather timely release of the German film DOWNFALL has put a spotlight on the events of this play, i.e., the last days of Hitler and his staff in a bunker in Berlin, a cascade of Russian bombs falling like rain on the Third Reich's parade. Debilitated by a dangerous cocktail of daily drugs (that marched him up to the top of his mettle and dramatically marched him down again), Hitler had decided not to join the growing exodus of German generals fleeing to anywhere as far from the advancing Russian troops as possible and instead, he tried to maintain control of the military situation deep from within the bunker underneath the Chancellery building.

About the time of the events depicted in the play (during the last week of April 1945) Primo Levi was in a transit camp in Katowice, having been sent there after Auschwitz was liberated. Levi committed suicide in 1987, in the apartment block in Turin, where he had spent all his life, apart from the one year he was a prisoner in a concentration camp. It was his experience in that one year that drove him, despite his full time work as a manager of a paint and varnish factory, to write books and essays detailing the dehumanising conditions in said camp.

In the play *ISLE OF THE DEPARTED* the authors have brought the characters in the bunker and Levi together. In fact, the authors did a number of things which due to circumstances beyond my control, I had to alter.

In the original production, there were 18 characters, most of whom were Hitler and his team in the bunker. There was also, on a platform above the stage, the ghosts of Hitler's niece, and a man who knew Hitler when he was a vagrant in Vienna. Levi spent most of the play trying to talk to these two people and trying to get them to see a man being shot (in the original production, done ten years ago at THE MAN IN THE MOON THEATRE, there was a man who mimed being shot in the head throughout the entire play, symbolising the six million who perished in the death camps).

Because of enormous difficulties casting the play (we only had a Hitler a week before opening night), I had to get permission from the authors to cut and paste accordingly. Out went about ten characters from the original play, including the two ghosts; which left the Levi character in a predicament: he had no one to talk to.

Because of these changes I decided to focus on Levi more than in the original play, and make the feel of the play less naturalistic and more something which is either a dream of Levi or something happening to him after his death.

Because we couldn't feasibly get someone to mime a shooting in our production, we came up with an alternative physical reference point to Auschwitz. Levi grew up on Dante and owned a copy of the *INFERNO* in the camp and quoted it to fellow prisoners. We decided to use the circles of Hell and the architectural plan of Auschwitz and make them manifest on stage and which Levi would use to draw people's attention to what was hushed up and never mentioned during the few years of the Thousand Year Reich.

David Hovatter

Isle of the Departed

by James Woolf and Christina Katic

Adapted by David Hovatter

First performance 15 April 2005

Cast

Primo Levi	Gareth Bevan
General Christian	David Hovatter
Gerda Christian	Kate Sullivan
General Koller	Derek Chandler
General Fegelein	Michael Smith
Adolf Hitler	Barry Jones
Albert Speer	Steve Fitzpatrick
Eva Braun	Wanda Duszynska

Production Team

Director	David Hovatter
Stage Manager	Martin Choules
Deputy Stage Manager	Nicole Watson
Assistant Stage Managers	Diane Grimes Jo Matthews
Set Design	Wanda Duszynska
Costumes	Jennie Yates
Lighting Design	Tom McGuire
Lighting Operator	Jenni Silvermann
Sound Design	Martin Choules
Sound Operators	Danny Bailey Nick Jeffery
Photography	Ian Cole Martin Sapsed
Movement Director	Nicholas Jonne Wilson
Thanks to	Harriet Parsonage, Chris Ifould, Nigel Worsley, Jon Webster, Nigel Bamford, Mark Lucek, Duncan Alldridge, Joel Schrire

The Cast of
Isle of the Departed



COMING SOON

The *PEACE FOR OUR TIME*

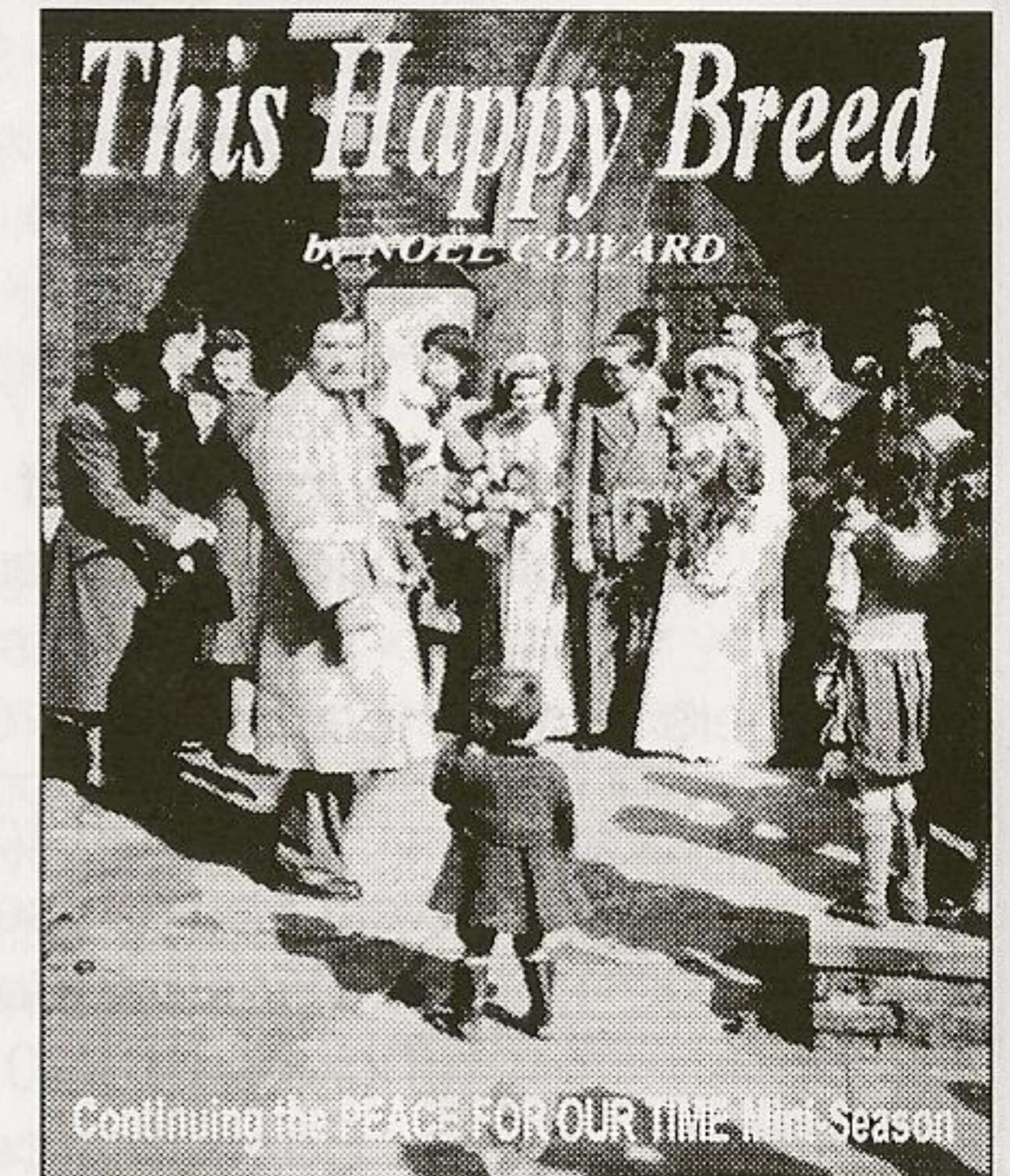
Mini-Season Continues with

THIS HAPPY BREED

by Noël Coward
In The Playhouse 13 - 21 May

The time is the period between the First and Second World Wars. Beginning on the day they move in and ending the day they leave, we join the Gibbons family, their friends and neighbours, their relationships and the ups and downs of family life.

An affectionate account of people close to the heart of Noël Coward and a play much loved by many, this production takes a fresh look at the spirit of the time it was first seen, 1944. This was a difficult time, when people needed to be reminded that their very way of life was worth fighting for.

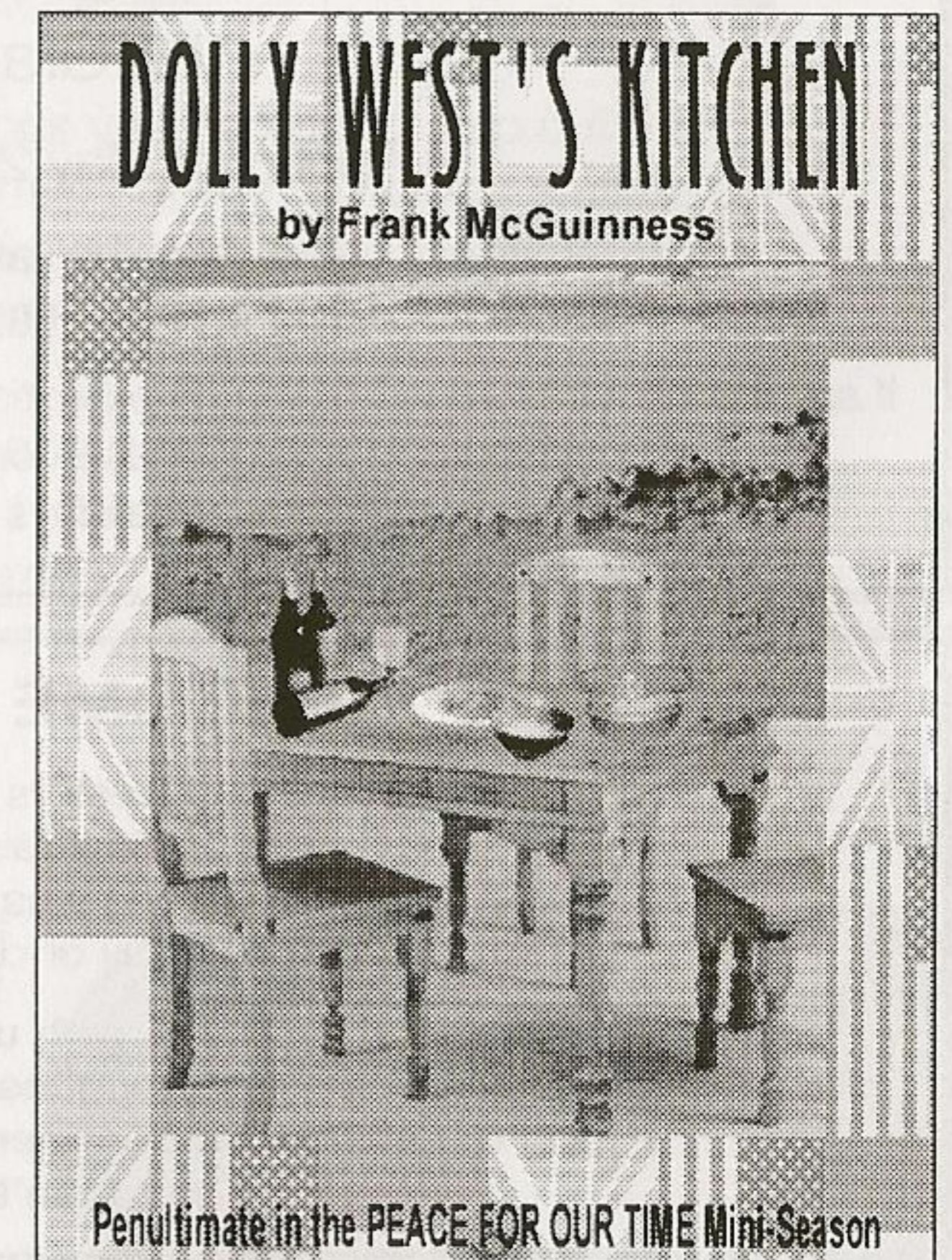


DOLLY WEST'S KITCHEN

by Frank McGuinness
In The Studio 21 - 28 May

Dolly West's Kitchen is all Ireland. The kitchen table is a place of welcome and a negotiating table.

The play takes the overwhelming feelings of war and pinpoints them through the eyes of one Irish family. It's about love, politics, it's war, the amazing ability of a human being to love, the power that love can give you in the horrific theatre of war, and the fear and pain that are a part of loving someone. The play is touching in ways that often take your breath away. Share the intimacy and emotion, the tears and laughter - sit with us around the table in Dolly West's Kitchen, it will affect the heart, the head and the gut. You'll want to cry, to laugh and to cheer.



in The Studio

May 4, 5, 6 at 7.30pm

Celebrating Poland in words, music and dance

For Your Freedom and Ours (May 4 & 5)

Around Poland in Song and Dance (May 6)

with a guest appearance by the WIWAT choir from Warsaw.

Tickets £7.50, Concessions £5.00

Box Office 020 8748 4420

May 7 at 7.45pm

Poetry reading of DART by Alice Oswald

Bringing together readers from The Questors Theatre
and Pitshanger Poets

Members and Concessions £4, Guests £5, Box Office 020 8567 5184

May 11 to 14 at 7.30pm

Theatre West Four presents an amateur production of

The Winslow Boy by Terence Rattigan

Tickets £10.00, concessions £7.00

Box Office call 020 8896 2678

Art Exhibitions

in the Grapevine Bar

29 April - 29 May 2005 **Helen Fowler**

Abstract poems - a combination of abstract art and poetry,
using graphics and digital technology

If anyone is interested in holding an exhibition at Questors and would like further details,
please contact Jane Mason on 020 8567 0011 on Tuesdays,
Wednesdays or Thursdays.

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.

