

# 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...

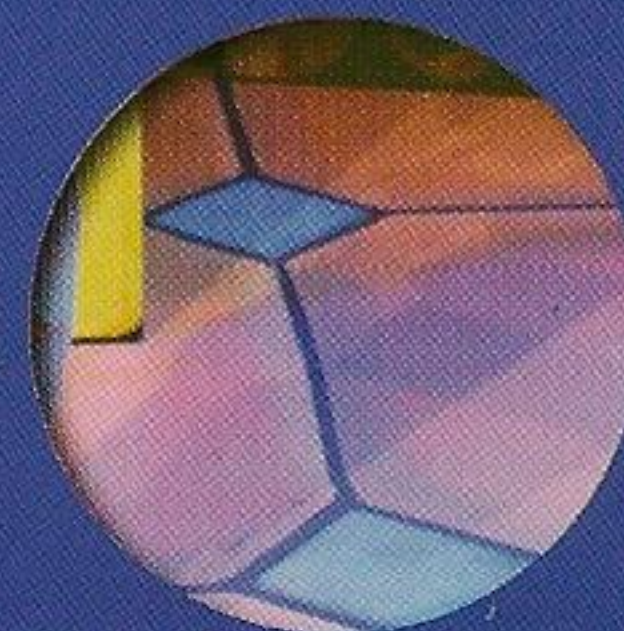
- Free tickets to at least 8 productions a year.
- Access to over 20 productions a year - classic, contemporary, international and new plays, from just £6.50 a ticket.
- Membership of the Grapevine Bar
- Questopics, our club magazine.
- The chance to act, direct, or get involved backstage.
- Discounts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

## Three ways to book tickets:

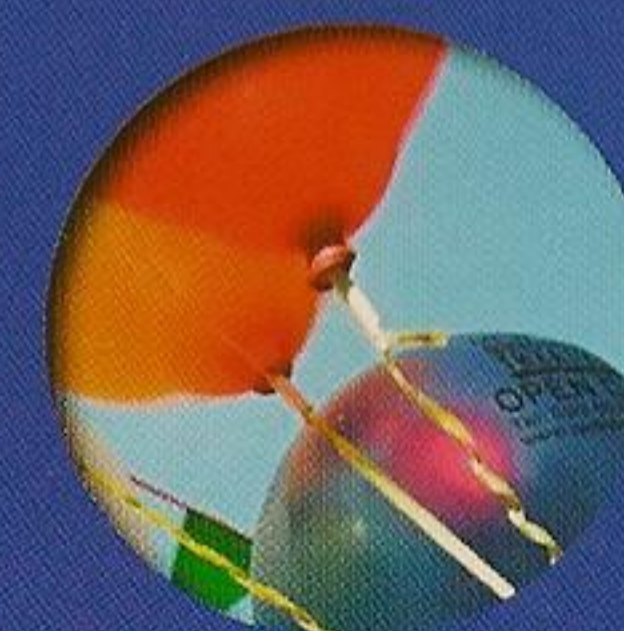
- Ring our Box Office on 020 8567 5184  
Open Mon - Fri, 11.00am-12 noon, Show nights and Wednesdays 6.45pm - 8.30pm, Sunday Matinee 2.00pm - 2.30pm.
- Fill in a booking form (inside Questopics) and return to the Box Office.
- Book online at [www.questors.org.uk](http://www.questors.org.uk).

**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)

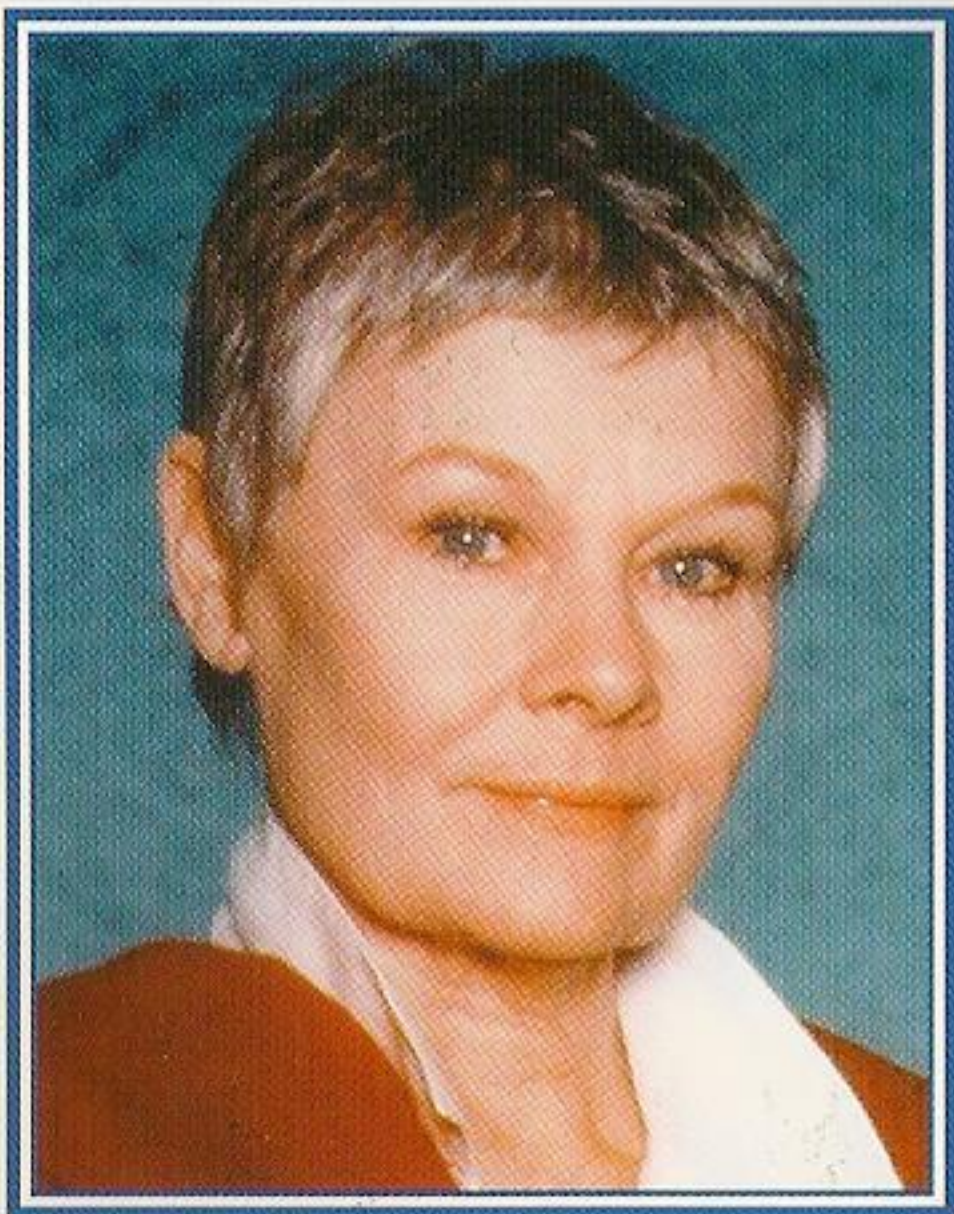
The Questors Theatre  
Mattock Lane  
Ealing  
W5 5BQ



the shape of things







**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



# the shape of things

by neil labute





## neil labute

combining intriguing moral and ethical metaphors with dark portraits of the underside of american life, writer and director neil labute became one of the most controversial new filmmakers to emerge in the 1990s, offering a perspective that was intelligent and possessing a brutally clear focus.

neil labute was born in detroit, michigan, on march 19, 1963. when labute was a child, his family moved to spokane, washington, and during his high school days in the pacific northwest he developed a keen interest in both writing and theatre.

after graduating from high school, labute received a scholarship from brigham young university, a college in provo, utah, which was founded and is still overseen by the church of jesus christ of latter-day saints, known to many as the mormons. labute received a degree in theatre and film at b.y.u., and converted to the church of jesus christ of latter-day saints while a student. labute went on to graduate work at the university of kansas and new york university, and participated in a writing workshop at london's royal court theatre, as well as attending the sundance institute's playwright's lab at n.y.u.

labute first began writing and staging original plays while studying at brigham young, and in 1993 he returned to b.y.u. to premier his drama *in the company of men*, a startling and controversial tale of two businessmen who conspire to emotionally destroy a receptionist at their firm. in 1997, labute decided to adapt *in the company of men* for the screen, and on a budget of only 25,000 dollars, shot the film in two weeks in and around fort wayne, indiana, with a friend from his college days, aaron eckhart, who played chad, one of the businessmen. *in the company of men* was accepted at the 1997 sundance film festival, and to labute's surprise, it won the filmmaker's trophy as best dramatic feature; the film was picked up for national distribution, and went on to gross 2.9 million dollars.

following the success with *in the company of men*, labute next wrote and directed *your friends & neighbours*, an examination of the sexual and emotional failings and frailties of three couples; it was also based on one of labute's earlier plays, entitled *lepers*.

labute refocused his attentions to the stage with *bash: latterday plays*, a collection of three short plays (which, like his two films, was adapted from a previous labute stage production entitled *bash: a gaggle of saints*). it starred calista flockhart and paul rudd and was well received.

that same year, labute released his third feature film, which was also his first film which he did not write — *nurse betty*, a dark but sweet comedy about a slightly touched woman chasing her dreams after the murder of her husband. *nurse betty* proved labute could work with a lighter touch, and became a respectable box-office success.

in 2001 labute worked at the almedia theatre in london writing and directing *the shape of things*. this cast included rachel weisz and paul rudd. in 2002 it transferred to broadway and in 2003, with the same cast labute again directed a film version.

2002, he directed *possession* with gweneth paltrow, a departure from his usual style it was romantic mystery with incorporated period drama.

he has since made a return to the stage, 2002 a play, *the mercy seat*, about the human element of the 9/11 attacks starring liev schreiber and sigourney weaver. 2004 *fat pig* about a man who falls in love with a large woman and how he handles his own prejudices, his friends and society,

earlier this year, two of his latest works premiered in the west end. *some girl(s)* starring david schwimmer premiered at the gielgud theatre and *this is how it goes* played at the donmar theatre.

november 2004 neil released a collection of twenty short stories called *seconds of pleasure*.

he is no longer a member of the church of jesus christ of latter-day saints.



# the shape of things

by neil la bute

first performance 14 september 2005

## cast

evelyn	chloë faine
adam	will hahn
jenny	jude claybourne
phil	chris farrell

## scenes

scene 1	an art gallery
scene 2	a restaurant lobby
scene 3	a living room
scene 4	a bedroom
scene 5	a park
scene 6	a doctor's surgery
scene 7	a lawn
scene 8	a coffee shop
scene 9	an auditorium
scene 10	an art gallery

*(the running time is approx 2 hours with no interval)*

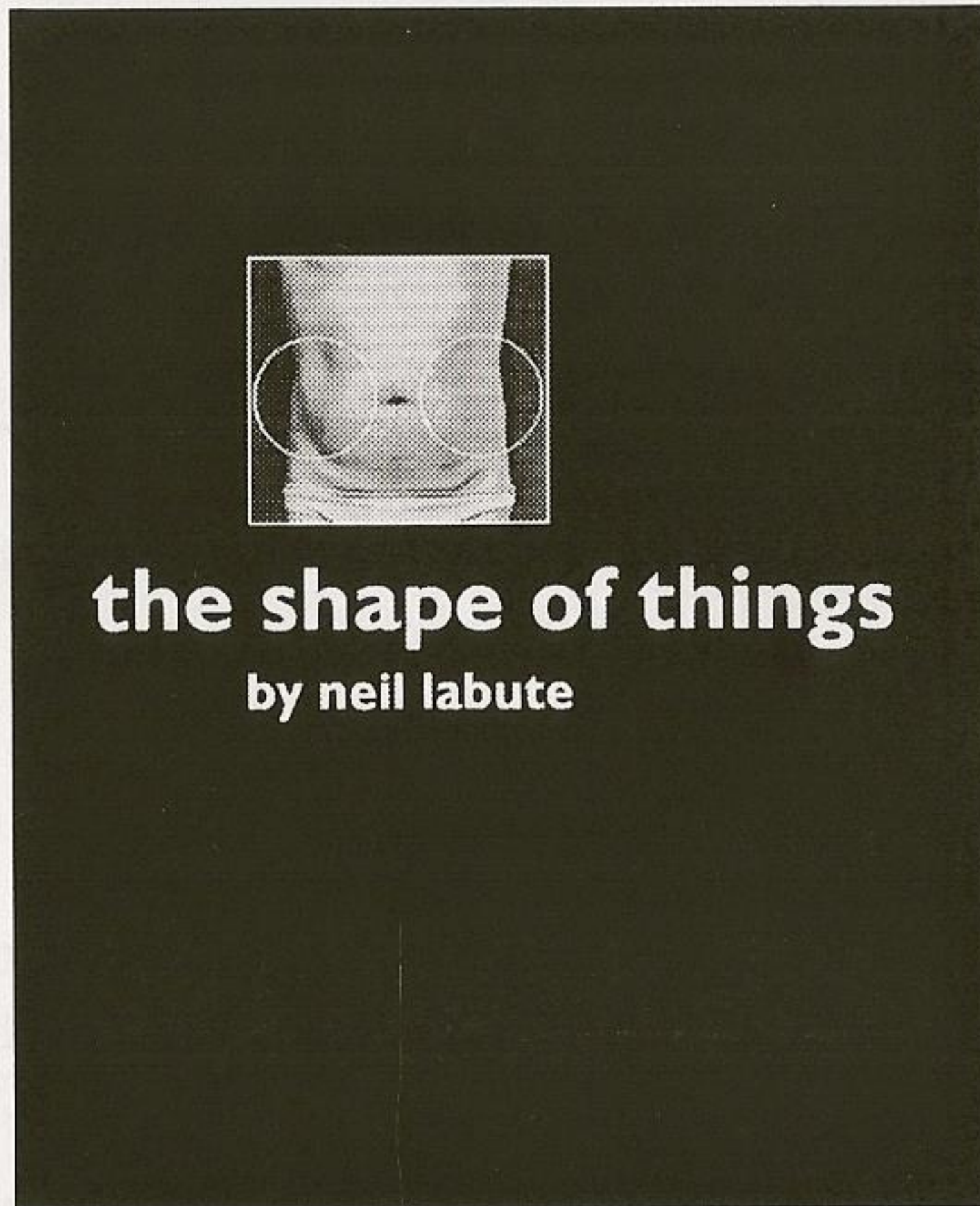
## production team

director/designer	rachel moorhead
costume designer	heidi korb
lighting designer	richard lewis
sound designer	david palmer
assistant sound designer	martin choules
multi media designer	ellis pritchard
stage manager	clare watson
deputy stage manager	martin choules
technical operator	charlie lucas
set construction	mike hagan
assistant stage manager	ben davies
assistant stage manager	meaghan woodhouse
assistant stage manager	matthew waldren

## with thanks to

adrian asher, alexander asher, nigel bamford,  
sarah galton, charlie lucas, steve nicholls,  
kirsty packham, harriet parsonage





## COMING SOON

### In the Playhouse

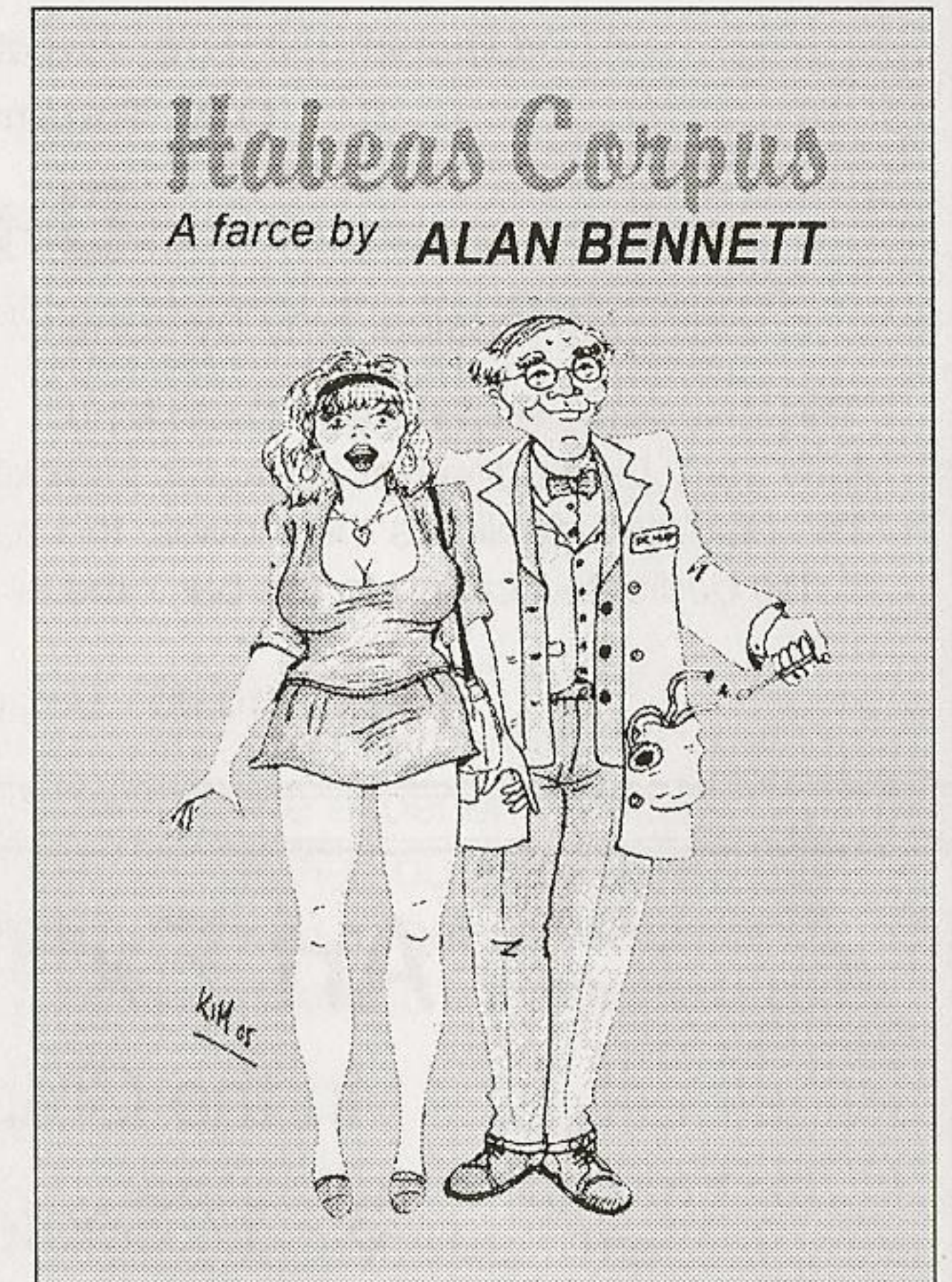
September 30, October 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8  
at 7.45pm, 2 at 2.30pm

The Questors Theatre Presents

### Habeas Corpus

A farce by Alan Bennett

Take a run round 'Brighton's plush, silk-stockinged district of Hove' with the obsessive Wicksteed family 'sniffety, sniffety, sniff: on the fruitless quest of bodily pleasures'. There's Doctor Arthur Wicksteed with wandering hands but a marvellous bedside manner; Muriel his wayward wife; Dennis (or is it Trevor?) their son, who thinks he is going to die and yes, in a way, he does want a dirty girl; Constance, the doctor's sister, is not a spinster but 'unmarried'. *Habeas Corpus* is a legal term meaning 'you must have the body': this play is not about the law but the title is strangely apt...



### In the Studio

October 28, 29 at 7.45pm,  
30 at 2.30pm

November 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 at 7.45pm

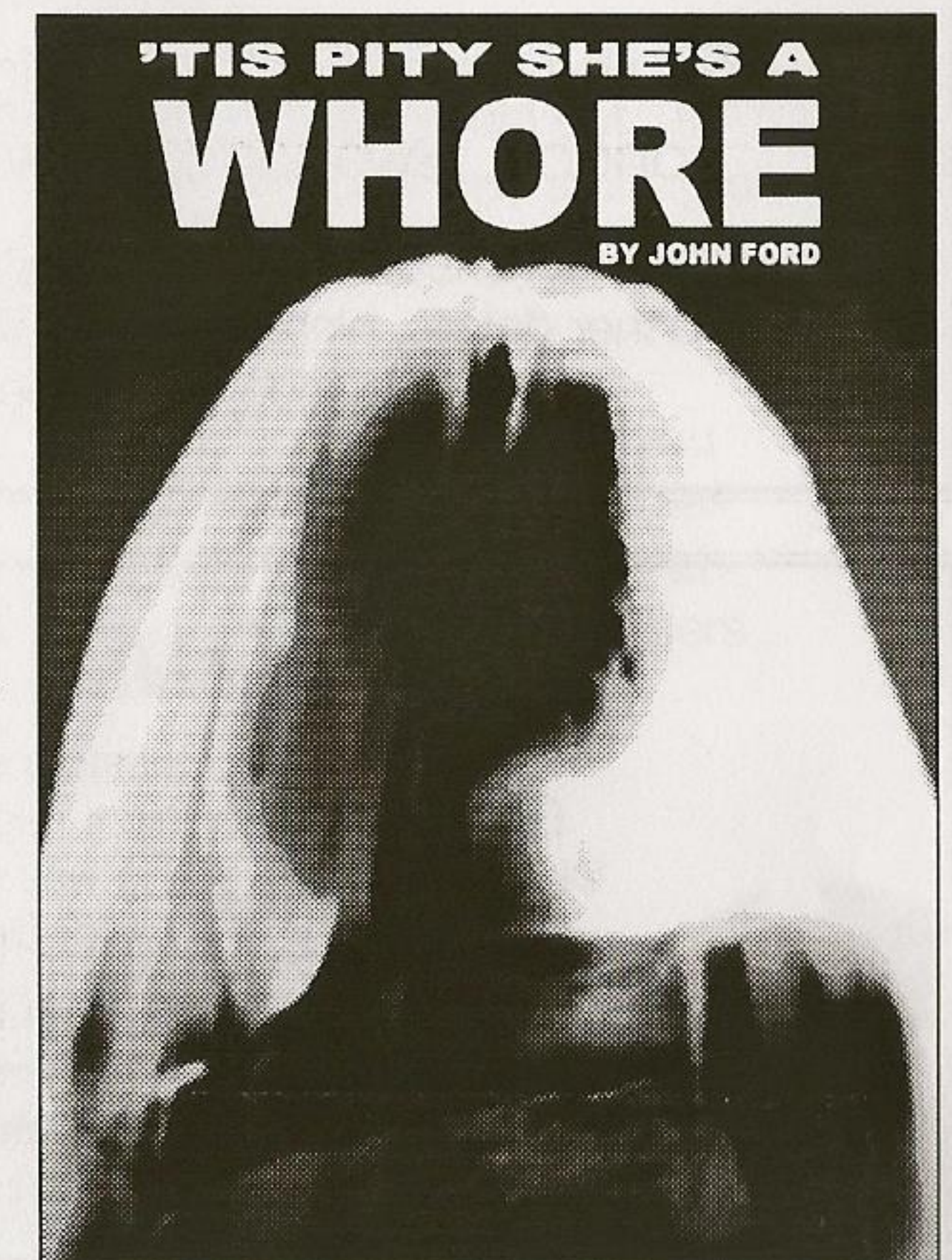
The Questors Theatre Presents

### 'Tis Pity She's A Whore

by John Ford

The 1993 film version of the Jacobean tragedy *'Tis Pity She's a Whore* was marketed as a 'sex and horror flick'. It's easy to see why, dealing as it does with themes of incest, lust, intrigue, corruption, deceit, violence, torture and murder.

This production, set in a post-war Mafia world, puts this into a recognisable context, the better to explore the issues raised in this challenging piece of English theatre.





## In The Studio

October 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 at 8pm, October 8 at 3pm

O.K. Theatre Presents

## Dino

A musical play by Tony Philips and Alexis Saunders

This play explores the life of Dean Martin, touching upon his manic partnership with Zany Jerry Lewis, the Rat Pack, his friendship with Sinatra and of course - the ladies! The play also highlights the movies, the songs, his relaxed casual attitude to life and his dedicated calling to the bar - the kind of bar that dispenses drinks not law.

Tickets £10.00 - Box Office 020 7240 1958

## Art Exhibitions

in the Grapevine Bar

3 - 17 September 2005

## Tim Robinson

Exhibition of Film and Digital Colour Photographs  
London, Swanage, Flowers and the Countryside

If anyone is interested in holding an exhibition at The 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](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.

