



by Stuart Paterson

The Playhouse

13 December 2007 – 5 January 2008





THE QUESTORS THEATRE



Welcome to The Questors Theatre, one of London's best kept secrets – except to its 2,000 members.

How do I know about The Questors? I am proud to have been its President for over 20 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 perks of membership) and the many and varied shows in our 370-seat 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 The Questors Youth Theatre. In short, theatre is something for everyone, and with annual membership from £12.00 to £52.50 depending on your chosen level of commitment, it's great value for money as well.

But don't just take my word for it. The next time you're in Ealing, call into the Grapevine bar on any Wednesday evening at 8pm for a free tour of the theatre and a drink on us!

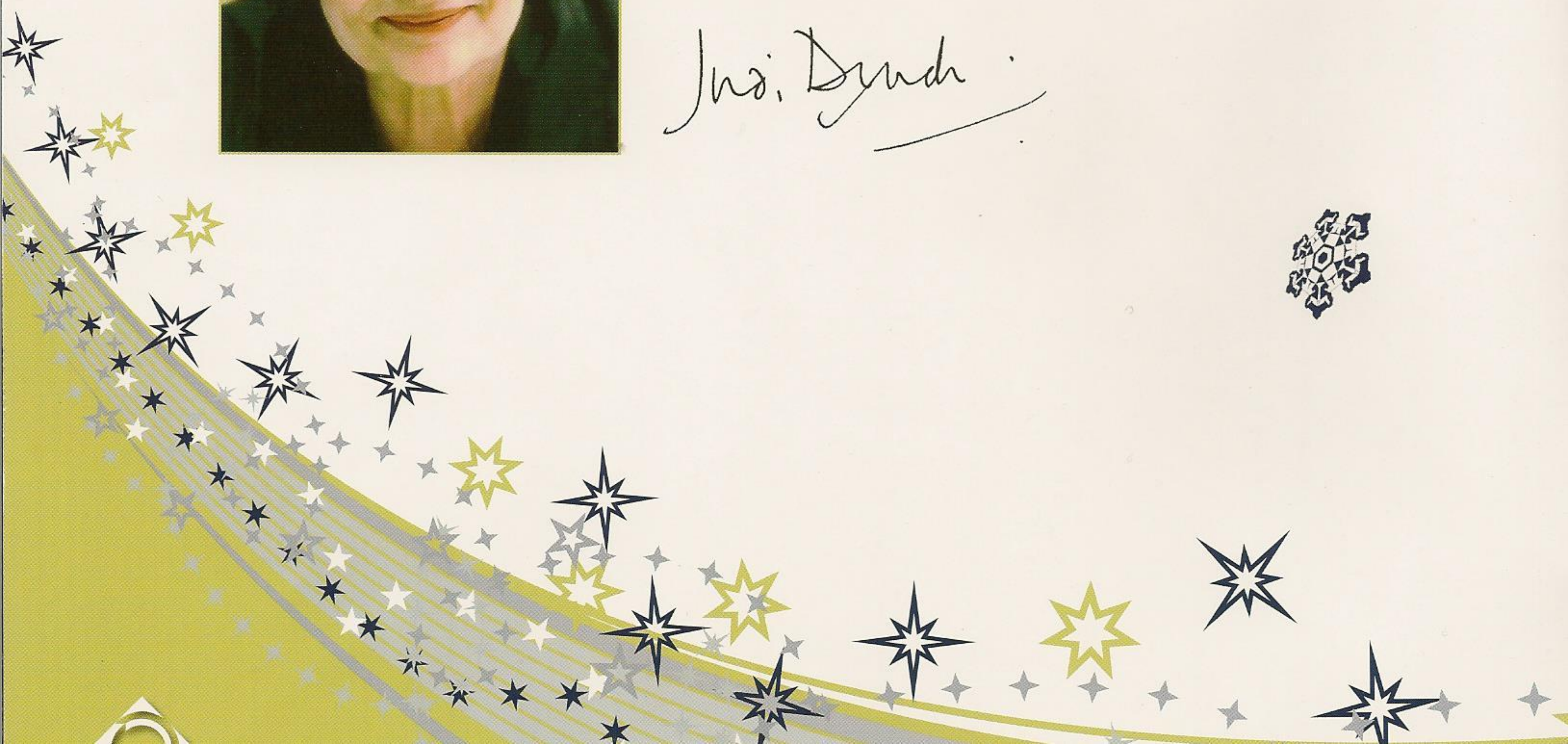
Worth looking into?

Definitely!

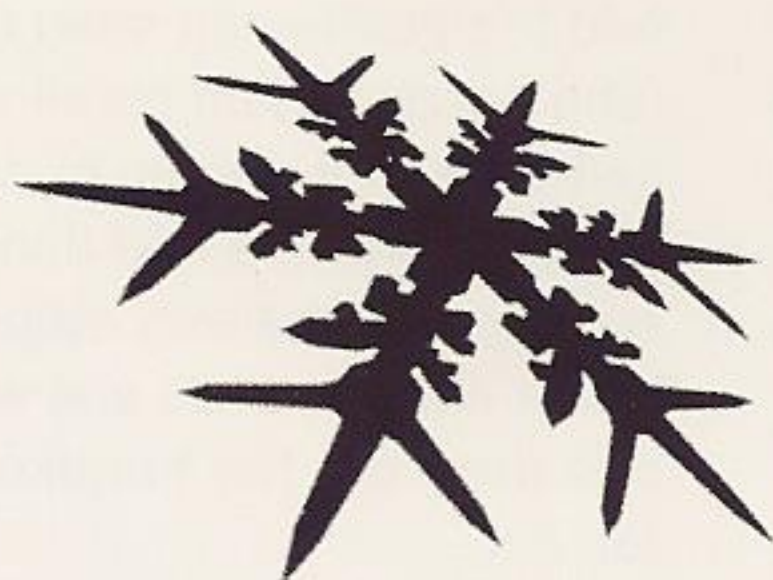
Dame Judi Dench

President of The Questors Theatre

Judi Dench



**A very festive
welcome to you
from the Questors
Theatre with
this Christmas
2007 production
of *Cinderella***



***Cinderella* is, undoubtedly, one of the best known and well-loved fairy stories in the world.** For most of us, the name of *Cinderella* conjures up visions of a beautiful, pink-gowned princess gliding across a ballroom in the arms of her prince charming.

Virtually every culture tells its very own version of this classic folk tale. One of the first recorded stories of *Cinderella* was told by the Greco-Egyptians in the first century BC. Here our *Cinderella* character is named 'Rhodopis' and she is forced to wash clothes by her fellow servants who leave her to attend the feast of a Pharaoh. A bird steals one of Rhodopis's rose-gilded slippers and drops it into the Pharaoh's lap. He then searches his kingdom for the owner of the slipper and, of course, it is Rhodopis whom it fits. Similar ancient tales are told in China, India, Malaya, Japan and Korea, as well as in many areas of Northern Europe where the famous Brothers Grimm collected their anthology of fairy tales in the early nineteenth century.

The version of *Cinderella* which most of us know was written by the French author Charles Perrault in 1697. He made his name reworking traditional folk stories for the stylish literary salons of the 1690's. It is his story of 'Cendrillon' or *Cinderella* upon which Walt Disney based his iconic 1950 animation feature film; and it is Disney who created the vision of a beautiful, pink-gowned princess gliding across a ballroom in the arms of her prince charming.

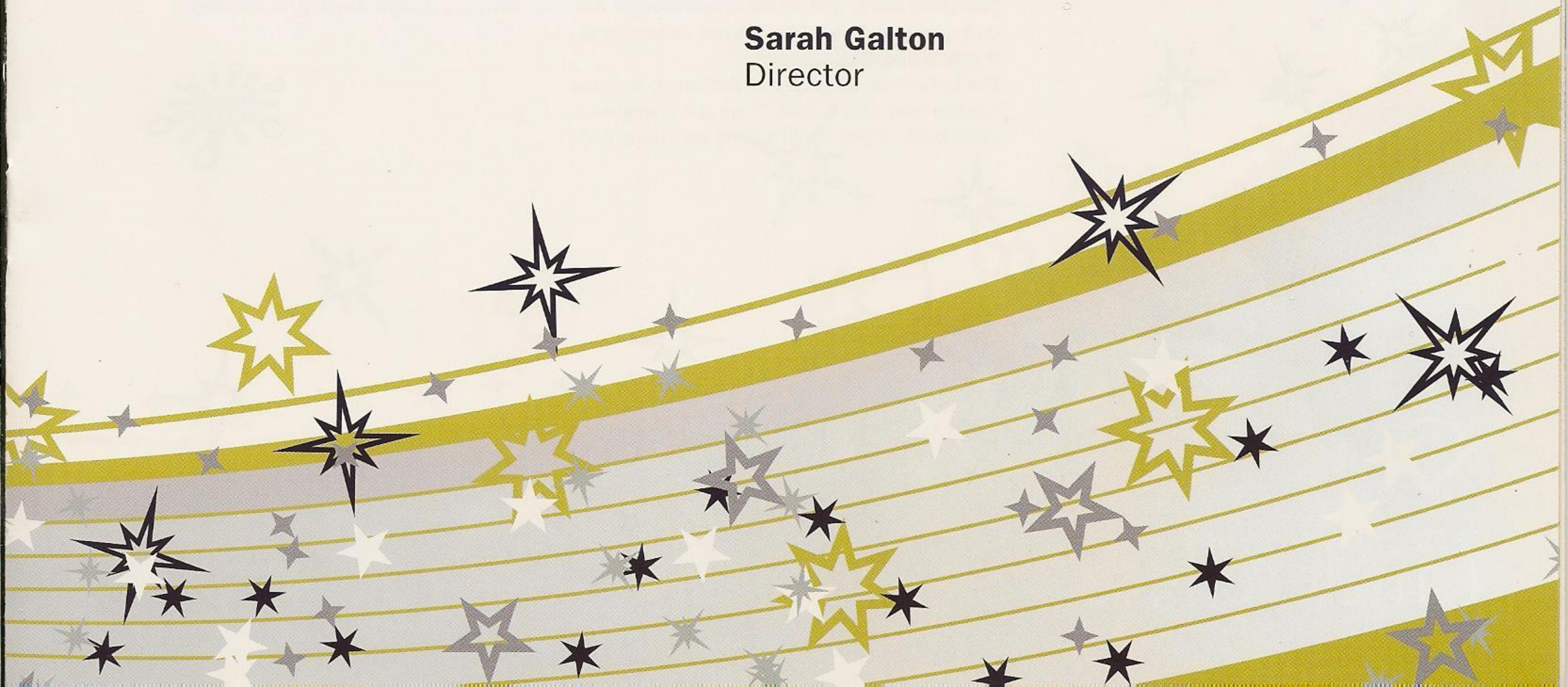
This production of *Cinderella* is a wonderful modern reworking by Stuart Paterson, who draws upon much older European story telling traditions. You will recognise many of the characters: the wicked step mother, the awful stepsisters, the dashing prince, but you will also meet some surprising new ones which bring a fresh twist to this familiar plot.

Our cast and crew have interpreted Stuart's lovely script to bring out the magic of story telling at Christmas in a new and creative way.

I hope you will be charmed and captivated by our *Cinderella*.

With Seasons Greetings from the Questors Theatre and

Sarah Galton
Director





Once upon a time...

Telling the story around the world

She's Lissa in Finland, Marushka in Czech and Rhodopis in Egypt; and here are just four of the beginnings of the beloved tale of Cinderella.

Once there was a gentleman who married, for his second wife, the proudest and most haughty woman that was ever seen. She had, by a former husband, two daughters of her own, who were, indeed, exactly like her in all things. He had likewise, by another wife, a young daughter, but of unparalleled goodness and sweetness of temper, which she took from her mother, who was the best creature in the world...

Cinderella; or, The Little Glass Slipper

Charles Perrault (France)

Once upon a time, though it was not in my time or in your time, or in anybody else's time, there was a great king who had an only son, the prince and heir who was about to come of age. So the king sent round a herald who should blow his trumpet at every four corners where two roads met. And when the people came together he would call out, "O yes, O yes, O yes, know ye that his grace the king will give on Monday sennight" – that meant seven nights or a week after – "a royal ball to which all maidens of noble birth are hereby summoned; and be it furthermore known unto you that at this ball his highness the prince will select unto himself a lady that shall be his bride and our future queen. God save the king."

The Cinder Maid

Joseph Jacobs (Europe)

Once upon a time there was a rich man who lived happily for a long time with his wife. Together they had a single daughter. Then the woman became ill, and when she was lying on her deathbed, she called her daughter to her side, and said, "Dear child, I must leave you now, but I will look down on you from heaven. Plant a little tree on my grave, and when you want something, just shake the tree, and you shall get what you want. I will help you in time of need. Just remain pious and good." Then she closed her eyes and died. The child cried, and planted a little tree on her mother's grave. She did not need to carry any water to it, because her tears provided all the water that it needed. The snow fell over the mother's grave like a white cloth; then after the sun had retired from it a second time, and the little tree had become green a second time, the man took another wife.

Cinderella

Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm (Germany)

Once upon a time there was a man who had three daughters. He was once ordered to go away to work, and said to them, "Since I am about making a journey, what do you want me to bring you when I return?"

One asked for a handsome dress; the other, a fine hat and a beautiful shawl. He said to the youngest, "And you, Cinderella, what do you want?" They called her Cinderella because she always sat in the chimney corner.

"You must buy me a little bird Verdeliö."

"The simpleton! She does not know what to do with the bird! Instead of ordering a handsome dress, a fine shawl, she takes a bird. Who knows what she will do with it!"

"Silence!" she says. "It pleases me."

The father went, and on his return brought the dress, hat, and shawl for the two sisters, and the little bird for Cinderella.

The father was employed at the court, and one day the king said to him, "I am going to give three balls; if you want to bring your daughters,

do so; they will amuse themselves a little." "As you wish," he replies, "thanks!" and accepts. He went home and said, "What do you think, girls? His majesty wishes you to attend his ball." "There, you see, Cinderella, if you had only asked for a handsome dress! This evening we are going to the ball."

She replied, "It matters nothing to me! You go; I am not coming."

In the evening, when the time came, they adorned themselves, saying to Cinderella, "Come along, there will be room for you, too."

"I don't want to go; you go; I don't want to."

"But," said their father, "let us go, let us go! Dress and come along; let her stay."

When they had gone, she went to the bird and said, "O Bird Verdeliö, make me more beautiful than I am!"

She became clothed in a sea green dress, with so many diamonds that it blinded you to behold her. The bird made ready two purses of money, and said to her, "Take these two purses, enter your carriage, and away!"

She set out for the ball, and left the bird Verdeliö at home. She entered the ballroom. Scarcely had the gentlemen seen this beautiful lady (she dazzled them on all sides), when the king, just think of it, began to dance with her the whole evening. After he had danced with her all the evening, his majesty stopped, and she stood by her sisters. While she was at her sisters' side, she drew out her handkerchief, and a bracelet fell out...

Cinderella

Italy

Compiled by Rachel Knightley from sources including www.pitt.edu and www.inquiryunlimited.org/lit/cinderbks



Cinderella





Act 1



"The Story Begins"

- Scene 1** Inside the castle grounds
- Scene 2** A grand room inside the castle a month later
- Scene 3** The Castle kitchens 3 days later
- Scene 4** The Castle main-hall adjoining the great-hall, the same evening
- Scene 5** The Castle kitchens, the same night

"The Story So Far"

Interval: 20 minutes

Act 2



"The Story Continues"

- Scene 1** The castle kitchens the next day.
- Scene 2** The castle main-hall adjoining the great-hall, the same evening.
- Scene 3** The castle kitchens, the next evening.
- Scene 4** The castle main-hall adjoining the great-hall, the same evening.
- Scene 5** The castle kitchens, the same night.
Inside the castle grounds, the same night.

Curtain



Cast

In order of appearance

Isabella/Cinderella

Alex Barry

Lady Claudia

Maria Brusa

Father

Derek Chandler

Claudette

Stephanie Williams

Claudine

Ania Alexander

Sergeant Puff

Robert Baker-Glenn

Kai

Gabriel Pankhurst

The Black Magnus

Annalie Brusa

The Fairy Godmother

Lindsey Pearson

The King

Michael Hayes

Prince Rufus

Nick Melhuish

The Dancing Bear

Nigel Barker

Guard

Lydia Georgoula

Kitchen Workers and Ball Guests

Jennifer Brusa

Emma Byrne

Tania Nicholau

Lydia Georgoula

Nigel Barker

Film Actors

The Questors Youth Theatre

Students of St Anne's Special School, Hanwell



Cinderella

Crew



Director/Producer

Sarah Galton

Costume Design

Raymond Childe

Set Designers

Bron Blake
Jenny Richardson
Sarah Galton

Stage Manager

Clare Watson

Lighting Designer

Andy Torble

Sound Design

Sarah Galton

Multimedia Consultant

Nigel Worsley

Film Cameraman and Editor

Davies Palmer

Assistant Lighting Designer

Francois Langton

Lighting Operators

With thanks to them
(Unconfirmed at time
of print)

Sound Engineer

Danny Bailey

Sound and Vision Operators

Em
Claire Walker
Carl Frederick
Valance Drakes

Wardrobe Mistress

Nichola Thomas

Dressmakers

Sue Peckitt
Jean Derby
Pam Smith
Dawn Metayer
Bridget Strevens
Kevin McGovern
Giovanni D'Alessandro
Susan Millhouse
Lyndsey Udell
Jennie Yates
Sylvia Thomas
Janis Forber
Bridget McCall
Jenny Russell
Sunita Dugal
Basia Kapuscinskya
Tish Piesik
Sophie Manhire

Hair and Make-up

Elizabeth Barlow
Rebecca Sweetman

Stage Management Team

Chris Bath
Kate Jales
Ruth Parry
Paul Fitzsimons
Jack Belloli
Joe Marter
Stuart Campbell
Denika O'Rourke
Tasha Nardoni
Elliot Bentley
Amit Mathoru
Sarah Galton
Katie Fleming
Kingston College Students
Mike Hagan
Alex Marker
Colin Horne
Sunita Dugal

Props

Flying

Prompt

Playhouse Get-In and Get-Out

Christmas Decorations

Poster Design

Programme Editor

Programme Design and Print

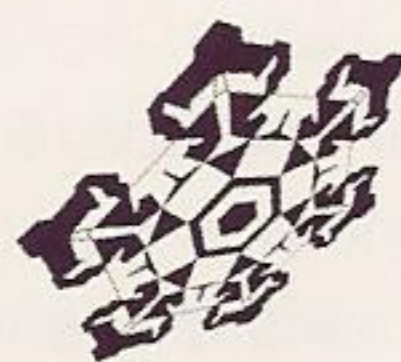
Chris Edwards
Bridget Strevens
SCREWU Team
Chris Tomlins
David, Sarah and Petal
Palmer
Rachel Knightley
Considerthisuk.com

With thanks to:

The Questors Office, Box Office, Front of House and Housekeeping teams; the Grapvine Bar; the Questors Youth Theatre tutorial team; Sue Collins; Tracey Torble; Alan Smith; North Ealing School PTA; Ealing Broadway Business Improvement District; Northfields Association and everyone else who has contributed to the success of 'Cinderella'

Set Construction

Gordon Miller
The Kingston College
Students
Mike Hagan
Tina Harris
Katie Fleming





Biographies

Alex Barry – *Cinderella*

At Questors, Alex has played various roles including Godchild in *Helen of Troy*, Auntie May in *Ernie's Incredible Illusions*, Catherine in *Scenes From The Fair* and Lady Ramkin in *Guards! Guards!* for the Youth Theatre. She also played Mary Flanagan in *Once a Catholic* and last Christmas was Wendy in *Peter Pan*.

Maria Brusa – *Lady Claudia*

Maria has been very actively involved in all aspects of theatre since 1975 and became a member of Questors in 1983. Since then she has performed in a wide variety of plays, including *The Crucible*, *Arcadia*, *The Chalk Garden*, *Road*, *The Bacchae* and most recently *There'll always be a Brentford*.

Derek Chandler – *Father*

Derek joined Questors in the early sixties, first appearing in *Henry IV Part I*, which was staged in the "Old Tin Hut". He has since appeared in many plays, old and new, more recently *Arsenic and Old Lace* and *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*.

Stephanie Williams – *Claudette*

Stephanie graduated from the student group in 2001 playing Dobchinsky in *The Government Inspector* and Maureen O'Dwyer in *Trelawny of the Wells*. Most notable subsequent appearances were as Betty in *Goodnight Children Everywhere* in 2003 and as Elaine Harper in this year's production of *Arsenic and Old Lace*.

Ania Alexander – *Claudine*

Ania is a professional actress and trained at The Arts Educational School of Acting. She made her Questors debut in 1997 as Cinderella in the Christmas production of *Grimm Tales* and in 2001 she graduated from the Student Group, playing Rose Trelawny in *Trelawny of the Wells*.

Robert Baker-Glenn – *Sergeant Puff*

Robert's last appearance was as Don Pedro in *Much Ado About Nothing*. Prior to that he was to be seen in *The London Cuckolds*, *The Clandestine Marriage* and *The Cherry Orchard*, among others.

Gabriel Pankhurst – *Kai*

Gabriel started dance and drama lessons at the YMCA aged three, performing at Ealing Town Hall aged four and joining the Questors Youth Theatre aged eight. At Questors he has performed in *The Goat Boy*, *Welly, Jelly and Espeedy* and in the award-winning *Cogner au Plafond* as Rachid.

Annalie Brusa – *The Black Magnus*

Annalie has been a member of the Questors Youth Theatre for seven years. She has appeared in lots of shows including *King Lear*, *Tongues of Fire*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Oliver!* and the Award-winning *Cogner au Plafond*.

Lindsey Pearson – *The Fairy Godmother*

Lindsey has been a member of Questors since 2004. She appeared in *The Evolution of Esther* (2004), *Night Shift* (2005) and *Trojan Women* (2007). She has also worked backstage on *Shirley Valentine* in 2004 and *Dance of Death* in 2006.

Michael Hayes – *The King*

Michael's first appearance at Questors was as Larry in the musical *Company*. He worked as assistant stage manager and prompt for *Much Ado About Nothing* and was prompt for *Mercury Fur*. Noteworthy appearances in the USA: Hiram Sweet in *The Drinking Gourd* and The Devil in *The King of Soul*.

Nick Melhuish – *Prince Rufus*

Nick has been involved at Questors for five years and in that time has acted and worked back stage on *Scenes from the Fair*, *Goat Boy*, *Peter Pan*, *More Adventures in Time and Space* and *Cogner au Plafond*. He designed the lights for the Look-ins in 2007.

Nigel Barker – *The Dancing Bear/ Kitchen Worker*

Nigel joined Questors' Acting For All group in September 2006, and during that course was invited to perform in aid of the Oscar Wilde Society in *OSCANCE* at St. James's Church,



Cinderella



Biographies

London, where he performed *The Nightingale & The Rose* and a solo poem. He is now in the Questors Student Group.

Lydia Georgoula – *Kitchen Worker/Guard*
Lydia joined the Acting For All Group at Questors in 2006 and is now member of the Student Group. This is her first participation in a Questors production.

Jennifer Brusa – *Kitchen Worker/
Ball Guest*

Jenny has been at Questors since the age of five and is a member of the Youth Theatre. She has been in a number of plays at Questors, the most recent one being *Cogner au Plafond* (April 2007) in which she played a French student.

Emma Byrne – *Kitchen Worker/
Ball Guest*

Emma has been a member of Questors Youth Theatre for four years, taking part in the Look-ins and the award-winning *Cogner au Plafond*. Now a member of the Youth Theatre's Group 12 she wishes to stay at Questors for as long as possible.

Tania Nicholau – *Kitchen Worker/
Ball Guest*

Tania has been a member of the Questors Youth Theatre since 2005. As well as performing on stage she is a musician, playing both the piano and saxophone.

Sarah Galton – *Director/Producer*

Directing this production of *Cinderella*, Sarah brings all her experience gained on previous projects such as James Saunders' *Who Was Hilary Machonochie*,

Tom Stoppard's *Travesties*, Terry Johnson's adaptation of *The London Cuckolds* and more recently Alan Bennett's *The Lady in a Van*. As well as directing *Cinderella*, Sarah has designed the sound track and made many of the props for this production. Sarah has also been classically trained as an actress at LAMDA and performs regularly at Questors.

Raymond Childe – *Costume Designer*

After training as an actor at Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Raymond worked professionally in weekly rep and touring companies for several years. Roles included Ronnie Winslow in *The Winslow Boy* and Mr Darcy in *Pride and Prejudice*. In a change of career, Raymond spent 20 years at Thames Television designing costumes. For Questors, Raymond has acted in and designed costumes for many shows including *The Country Wife*, *Cinderella* (a previous version!), *The Seagull*, *Tartuffe*, *A Little Night Music*, *The Snow Queen*, *Hedda Gabler*, *Nicholas Nickleby*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *Oliver!* and *Peter Pan*.

Bron Blake – *Set Designer*

An active member since 1969, Bron worked on stage management, lights and sound, then, following a break, took up set design. Recent productions include *The London Cuckolds*, *Vincent in Brixton*, *Lady in the Van* and *Separate Tables*. Bron usually works with Jenny Richardson.

Jenny Richardson – *Set Designer*

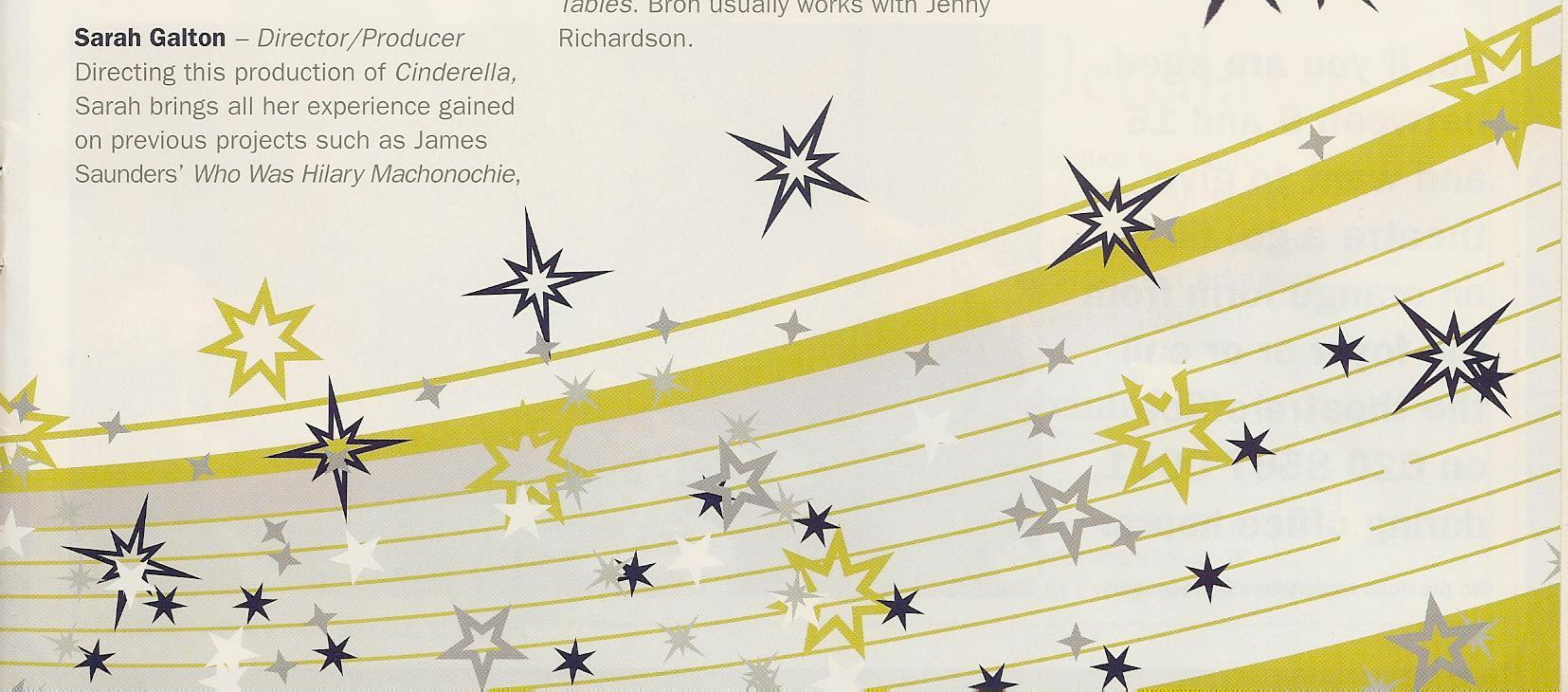
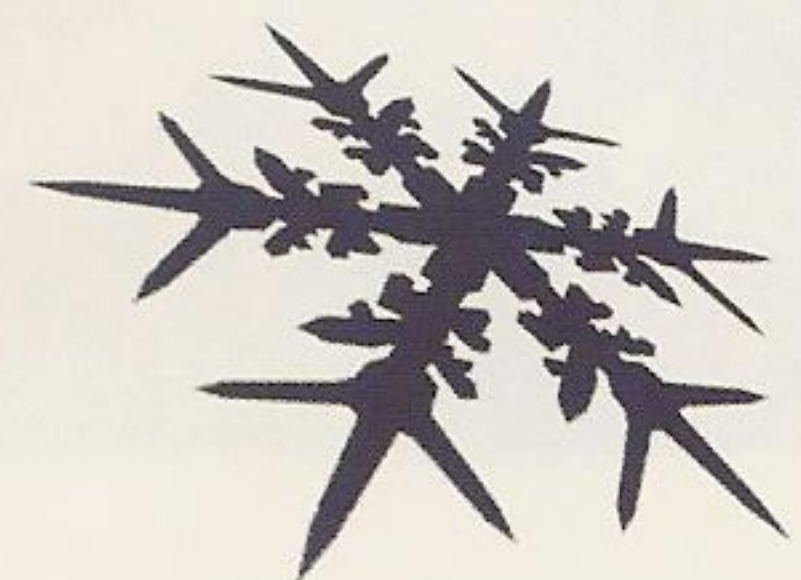
Jenny's first Questors task was building a five-foot telescope with eyelashes. Other highlights include Venue Manager at the Edinburgh Fringe and Coarse Acting SM. A Designer since the 1980s and more recently with Bron, her work includes *The London Cuckolds*, *Vincent in Brixton* and *Separate Tables*.

Clare Watson – *Stage Manager*

Although Clare has stage-managed many shows at Questors this will be her first Christmas production. She has gained much experience both within Questors and touring to Minack Theatre with *The London Cuckolds* in 2006. Clare also holds the position of joint Production Director.

Andy Torble – *Lighting Designer*

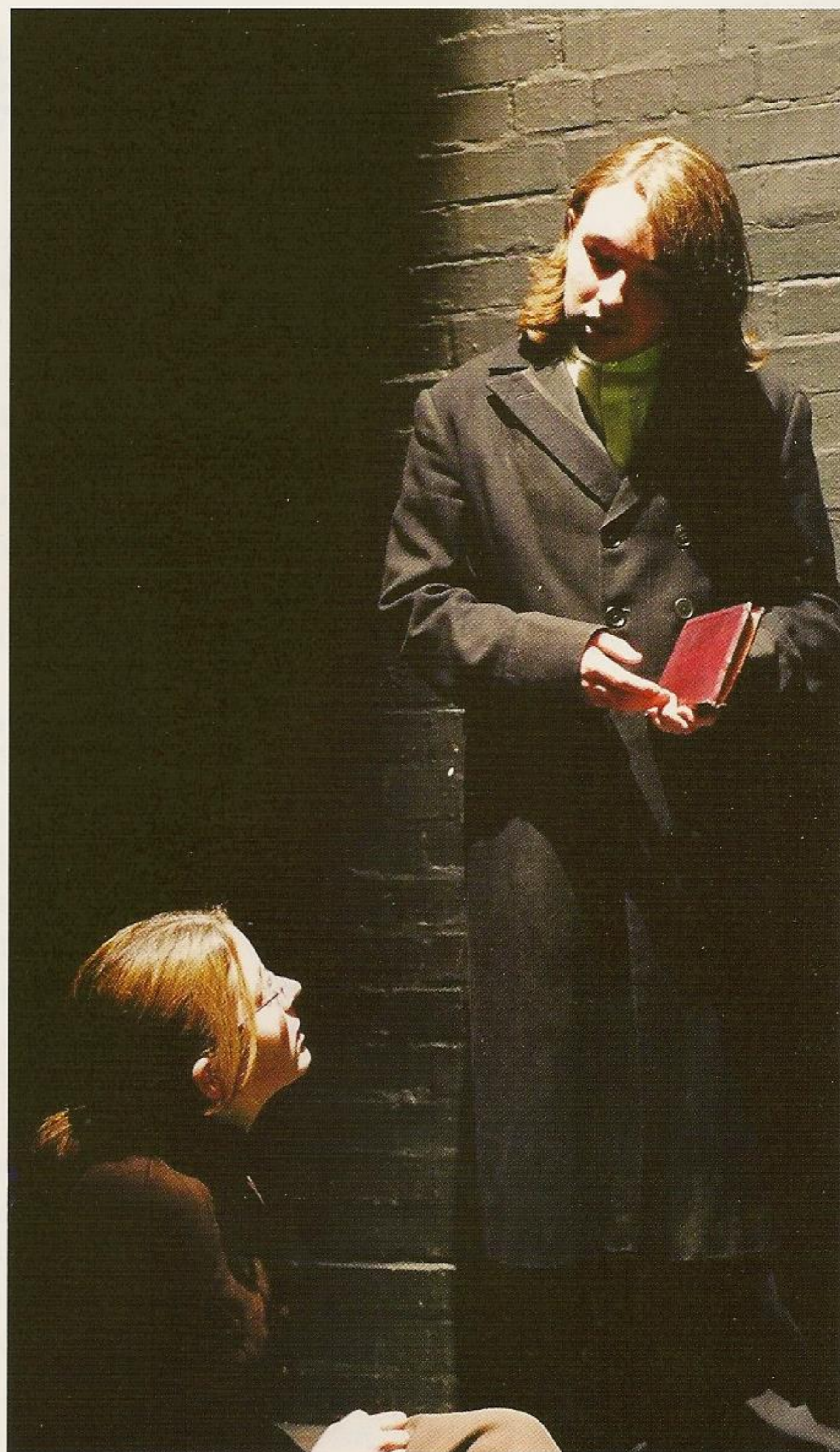
Prior to joining Questors in November 2005, Andy's professional lighting career spanned more than fifteen years, most of which was spent at The National Theatre. At Questors he has lit *Saturday, Sunday, Monday, There'll Always be a Brentford, Much Ado About Nothing* and lately *Trojan Women*.





Questors Youth Theatre

All of the young people in *Cinderella* are drawn from the Questors Youth Theatre. We run weekly classes for all ages from 6 to 16, combining a lively mix of theatre skills, games and acting. You will learn introductory skills in improvisation, script and text work, movement and voice.



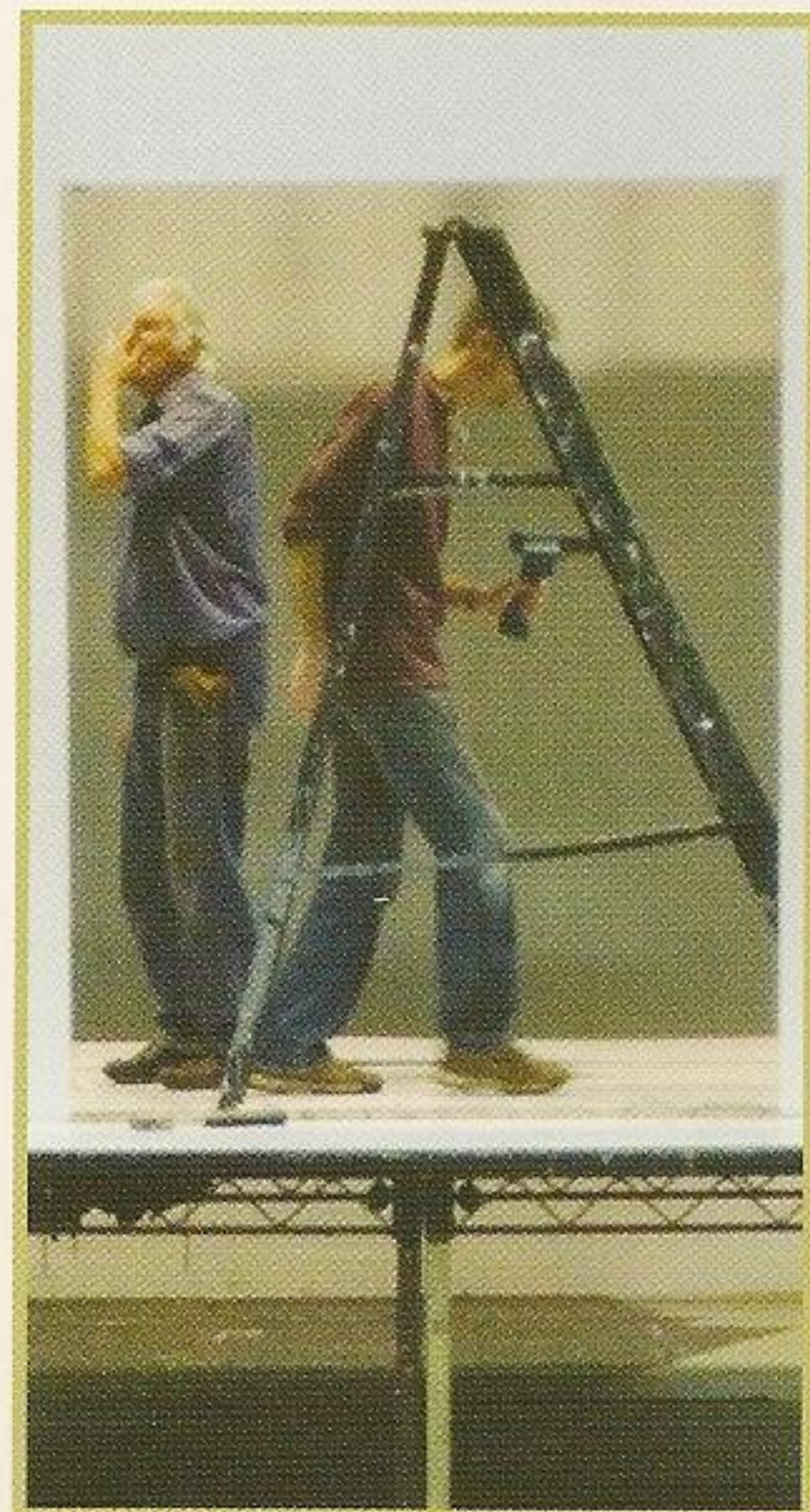
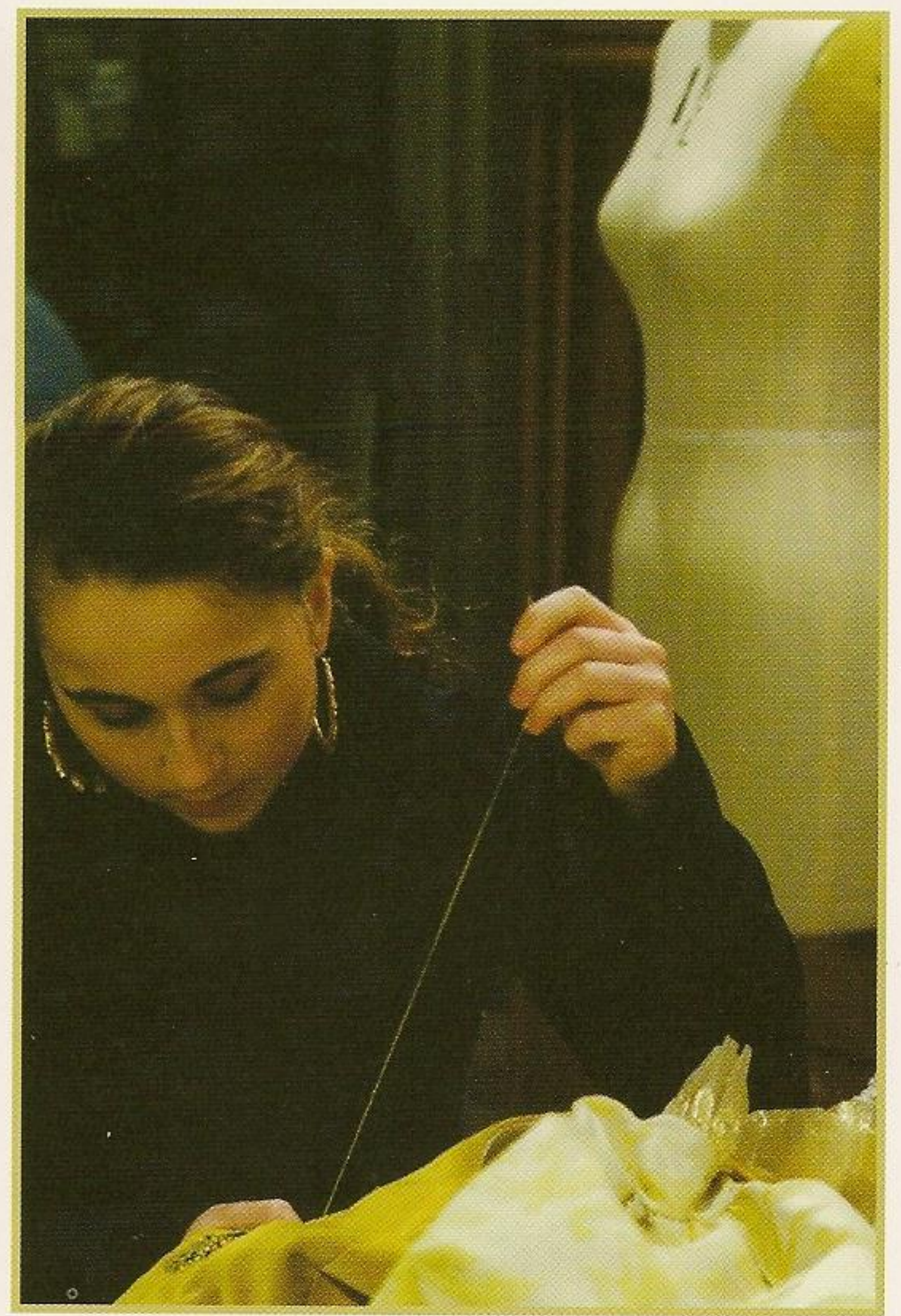
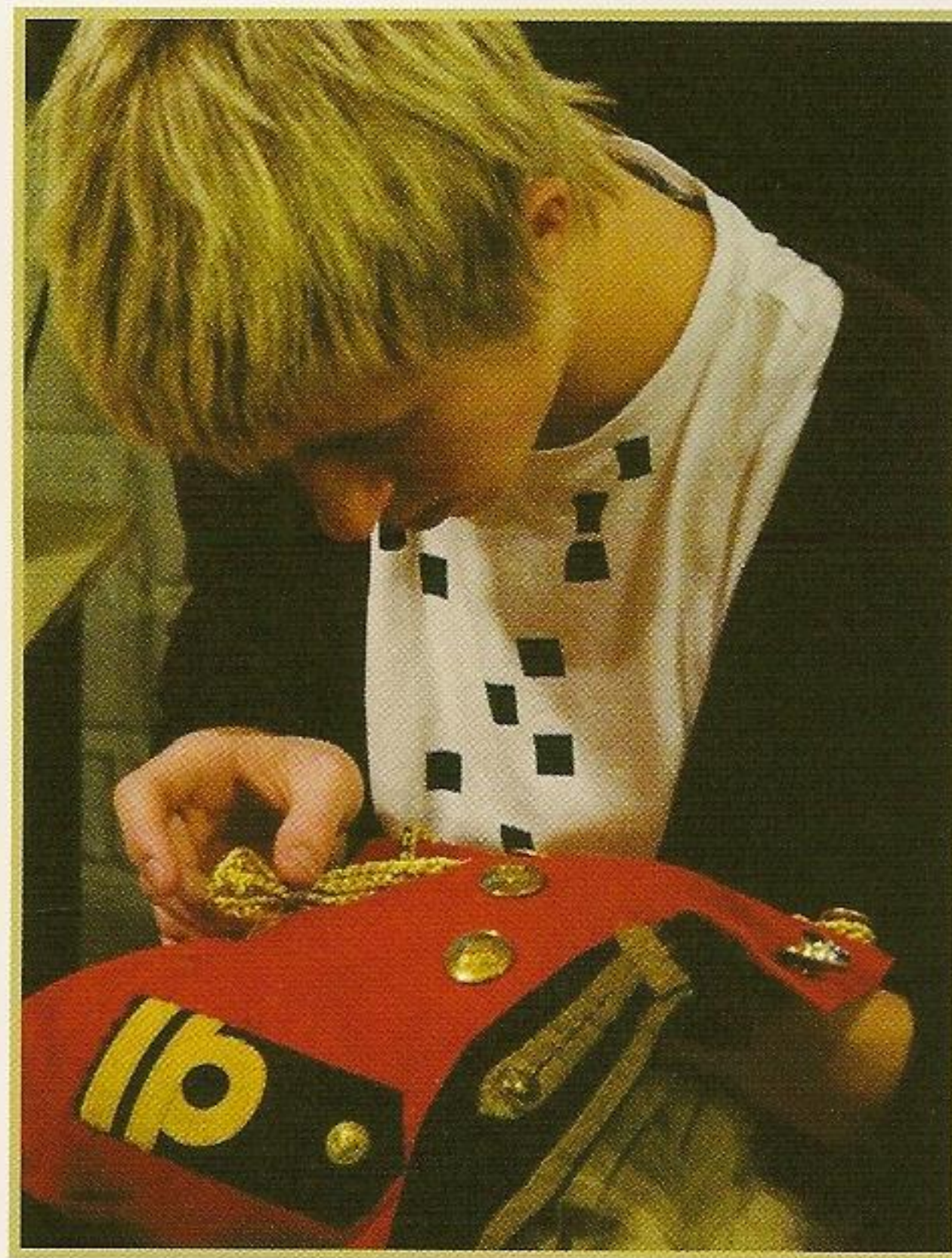
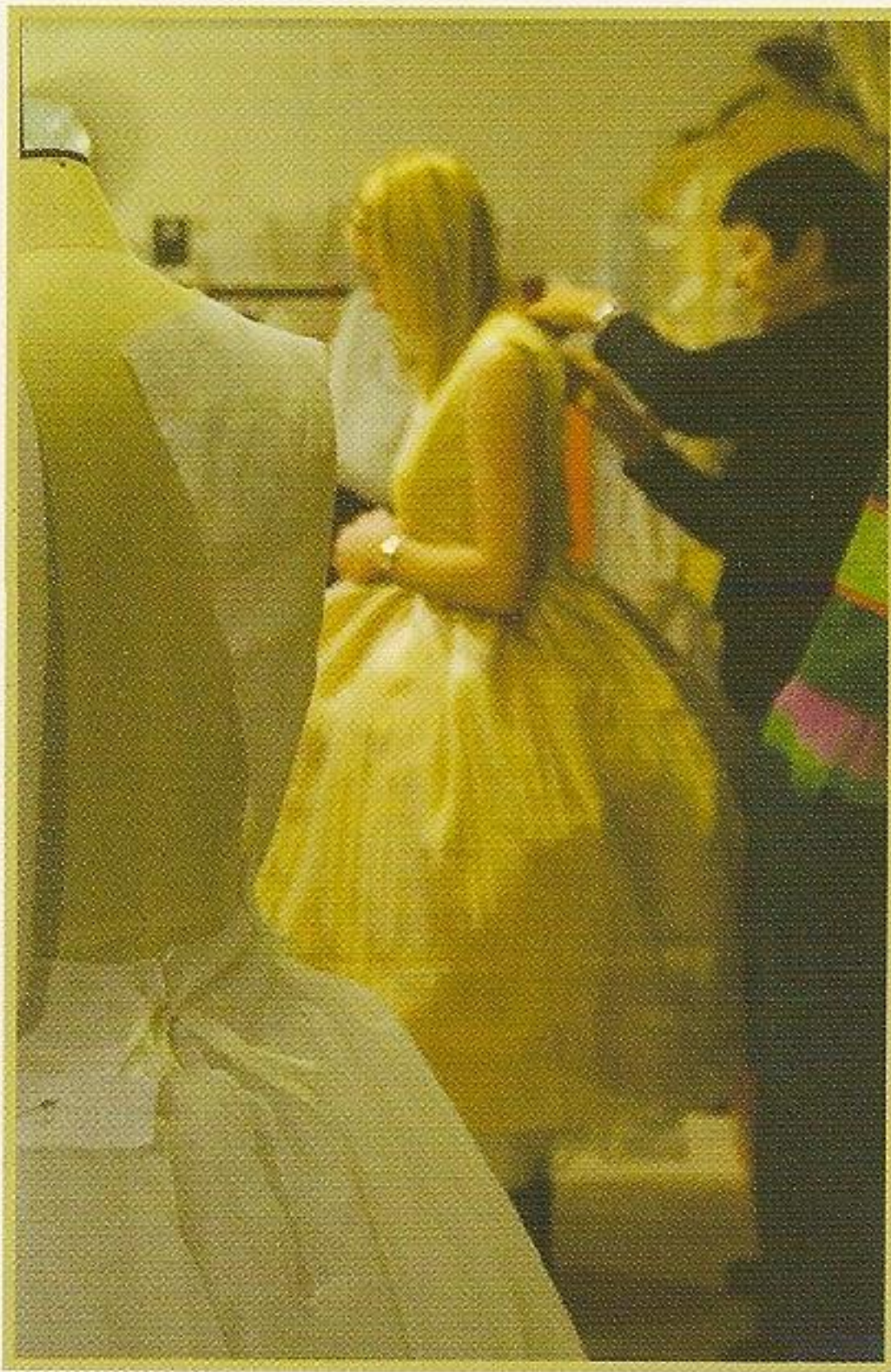
In addition to these weekly classes, youth theatre members have the opportunity to be part of a wide variety of workshops and special events, not to mention the chance to audition for youth theatre productions and other Questors shows. Recent appearances from Questors Youth Theatre members have included roles in *Great Expectations*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Waiting for Godot* and *Peter Pan*.

So, if you are aged between 6 and 16 and want to give theatre a go, fill in an orange form from the foyer or or call the theatre office on 020 8567 0011, during office hours.

No previous experience is necessary.



Photos of 'Scenes from the Fair' by Ian Cole



Photos from 'behind the scenes' of *Cinderella* by Mayte Torres Vázquez



The Partners and Staff

are once again delighted to sponsor
The Questors Christmas Production

Cinderella

and we would like to extend
a warm welcome to all our friends.
We hope that you have an enjoyable
evening to complete the Christmas
and New Year festivities!

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by David Harrower

Two outstanding modern plays presented in repertoire over two weeks.

8 – 23 February in the Studio

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1 – 8 March in the Playhouse

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by E. Nesbit

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21 – 29 March in the Playhouse

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by Moira Buffini

A caustically witty comedy for our times by one of Britain's most provocative playwrights.

25 – 29 March in the Studio

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by Margaret Edson

Winner of the 1999 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, *Wit* chronicles a woman's struggle with cancer through the redeeming power of language and literature.

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by David Eldridge

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10 – 17 May in the Studio

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