

www.questors.org.uk

Find out all about our forthcoming productions – along with a lot of other information about The Questors – on our web site.

Stay in touch

Just send us your details, and we'll keep you informed about our forthcoming productions at The Questors.

You can either write, phone or email us with your details.

Join us

If you enjoy theatre, why not join us and become a member of The Questors?

If you enjoy a regular night out at the theatre with friends, why not become a member of The Questors? As a Playgoer Member, you'll receive a 20 per cent discount on your ticket to most Questors productions, free tickets for your children to most Questors productions, regular information about our productions, and membership of the Grapevine Bar, so you can come and enjoy a quiet evening in the Grapevine throughout the year.

Or you could join as a Company Member and receive a 50 per cent discount on your ticket and opportunities to get involved in our productions, in addition to all the benefits for Playgoer Members.

You can get all of this for just £26.00 for Playgoer membership and £52.50 (£34.00 concessions) for Company membership, with discounts for payment by Direct Debit.

You can find Membership Application forms in the Box Office Foyer, or just phone the Theatre Office.



THE
QUESTORS
THEATRE



THE QUESTORS THEATRE

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Registered Charity no 207516

MERCURY FUR

by Philip Ridley

The Studio

20 – 27 October 2007



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



MERCURY FUR

by Philip Ridley

MERCURY FUR

I was introduced to *Mercury Fur* back in 2005 through a friend and instantly was drawn to it. It captured my imagination and dealt with compelling themes and although disturbing at points, never let you forget the aim of the central characters – survival. It was also a play I thought would attract a younger audience, something I'm keen to do to ensure future generations' interest in theatre and their active involvement; if not in productions, at least in going to see shows. The show has been with me for approximately a year and has not been without its ups and downs. A false start back in February due to the need, for various reasons, to replace most of the original cast meant extensive reworking and culminated in the production you're about to see. Two of our original cast remain in this production and I'm glad of and grateful for their patience and dedication to the show. As for the new cast members, I couldn't have been luckier if I lived in Ireland and farmed four-leaf clovers. They simply fit and are a joy to work with, as are all the cast. The crew are no less hard working and resourceful, especially when sourcing the most rare of props and without question fun to work with.

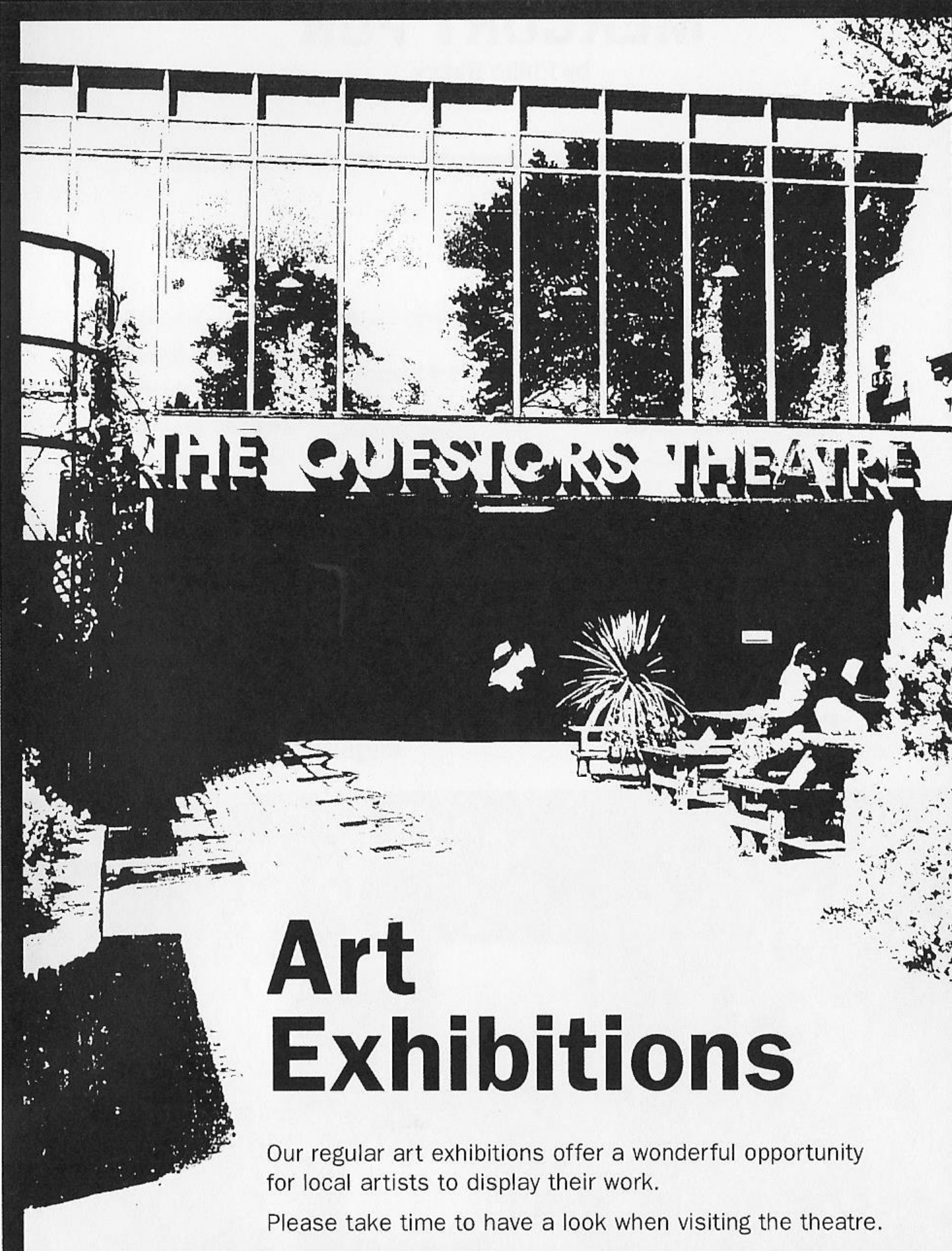
When you first see or read this play, you'd be forgiven for thinking that rehearsing such subject matter might be a sombre or depressing process. Not the case. Rehearsals have been exciting, filled with energy and new ideas and, most of all, fun. I found

both the cast and crew dedicated to the production, which made each rehearsal a pleasure to come to and my job a lot easier. Of course this was helped by the script, managing to produce phrases from myself that I never thought I'd utter in a rehearsal room especially when asking the actors to 'go' from a certain line. In fact, some of the more memorable moments in rehearsal have been finding the comedy in the script and seeing the cast enjoy both the light and dark parts of the play as they stretch themselves as actors. Rehearsals and describing them wouldn't be complete without mentioning Bob, and his efforts to bond the cast. I'm sure they will miss him.

I've had the added pleasure and fortune to have been in contact with Philip Ridley for most of the process whose support and kind words can't go without mention here. Throughout the process he has been open and welcoming to myself and the cast, willing to answer questions, sound out ideas and generally be there for the production. A big thank you, Phil.

Finally I'd like to thank you, the audience member, for parting with your hard-earned dosh to come see the play. Without people like you – willing to go and see exciting and challenging theatre – it simply wouldn't get put on. I hope you enjoy this production and the fine bunch of people that have worked incredibly hard to put it all together.

Gary Reid



Art Exhibitions

Our regular art exhibitions offer a wonderful opportunity for local artists to display their work.

Please take time to have a look when visiting the theatre.



For details on upcoming exhibitions or on exhibiting your work, please contact Jane Mason in the Questors Office on 020 8567 0011.

MERCURY FUR

by Philip Ridley

First performance of this production: 20 October 2007

CAST

Elliot	Charlie Dupré
Darren	Paul Wesoly
Naz	Lewis Brown
Party Piece	Danny Tomkins
Lola	Nick Thomas
Spinx	Ryan Hurst
The Duchess	Sarah Carney
Party Guest	Chris Carroll



Crew

Director	Gary Reid
Assistant director	Lorraine Hill
Design and construction	Alex Marker
Lighting designer	Tim Edwards
Sound designer	Francois Langton
Lighting and sound operator	Chris Edwards
Stage manager	Martin Choules
Deputy stage manager	Chris Bath
Properties	Jemma Auvache
Wardrobe	Jennie Yates
Make-up and hair	Chloë Jones, Katie Pattenden
Prompt	Michael Hayes
Assistant stage managers	Claudia Kees, Tasha Nardoni
Firearms	Nigel Worsley
Fight co-ordinator	Duncan Alldridge
Photography	David Mosby, Tim Edwards
Programme editor	Rachel Knightley
Programme design and printing	Considerthisuk.com

Thanks to: Danny Bailey, Richard Eliot, Simon Hicks, Chris Tomlins, Andy Torble, Morgen Weaver, Paul Wilson, London Borough of Ealing Festivals and Events

Setting:

an abandoned flat in the East End of London in the near future.

The play runs for 2 hours. There is no interval

Biographies

Jemma Auvache – *properties*

Jemma has been at The Questors for two years, starting on the Acting for All course. She has some experience in acting – mainly wicked witches and dames in community panto. Her more recent supporting roles have been props on *Enemy of the People* and *Company*, though this is her first solo act.

Chris Bath – *deputy stage manager*

Chris has been at The Questors for three years. After joining the Acting For All course, he has worked backstage on *Travesties*, *As You Like It* (also construction), *London Cuckolds*, including its tour to Minack, *Tejas Verdes* and *Peter Pan*. This is his first time as DSM. He hopes to pursue more acting opportunities.

Lewis Brown – *Naz*

Lewis has been a Questors member for two years and is now a member of the Questors Student Group. His first appearance on the Questors stage was as Starkey in *Peter Pan* and his second was in the youth production *Cogner au Plafond*. This is Lewis's first performance since leaving the Questors Youth Theatre.

Sarah Carney – *The Duchess*

A drunken dare led to a toe-dip in the dramatic waters of local drama groups before a plunge into The Questors' Acting For All course. Recent roles include Giant's Housekeeper in panto, April in Timberlake Wertenbaker's *The Break of Day*, and 'member of the crowd' in The Questors' *Enemy of the People*.

Chris Carroll – *Party Guest*

Prior to joining The Questors, Chris has played a number of lead roles in student productions including *Salome*, *Twelfth Night*, *Twelve Angry Men*, *Guards! Guards!*, *Julius Caesar*, *The Miser*, *Earls Court* and *The Immaculate Legacy*. At The Questors Chris performed in the showcase *Making Whoopee* and Sam in *Vincent in Brixton*.

Martin Choules – *stage manager*

Martin has stage-managed or co-stage-managed *Once a Catholic*, *Shirley Valentine*, *Isle of the Departed*, *Love of the Nightingale*, *R.U.R.*, *Guards! Guards!*, *Enemy of the People*, *The Lady in the*

Van and *Cogner au Plafond*. He has worked with Gary before, as sound designer for *New Boy*.

Charlie Dupré – *Elliot*

Charlie is currently training at Drama Studio London. Previous appearances include Tybalt in *Romeo and Juliet* (OSO Arts Centre), *Persae* (Edinburgh Fringe '06), *Great Expectations* (Stateofheart Productions) and *Oedipus* (New Theatre Company). Television appearances include *Hanrahan Investigates* for Constantin Entertainment. This is his first production for The Questors.

Chris Edwards – *lighting and sound operator*

Chris has been at The Questors for five years and has worked in most capacities, including lighting, sound, stage management and construction. Shows include *The Merchant of Venice*, *Guards! Guards!*, *The London Cuckolds* (Questors and Minack), *The Visit*, *More Adventures in Time and Space*, *Peter Pan*, *Oliver!*, *The Lion*, *The Witch and The Wardrobe*, *Cogner au Plafond* and *Bugsy Malone*.

Tim Edwards – *lighting designer*

Tim has been lighting shows at Questors since the age of sixteen. Recent production credits include *Peter Pan*, *Vincent in Brixton* and *Little Shop Of Horrors* and he now looks forward to the challenges of *Mercury Fur*.

Michael Hayes – *prompt*

Since joining The Questors in August 2006, Michael was Prompt and Assistant Stage Manager for *Much Ado About Nothing*. He then appeared as Larry in *Company*. Noteworthy appearances in the United States include Hiram Sweet in *The Drinking Gourd* and The Devil in Many Disguises in *The King of Soul*.

Lorraine Hill – *assistant director*

Lorraine has been a drama teacher for the last five years and joined The Questors to do more directing. Most recent school productions have been *The Ash Girl* by Timberlake Wertenbaker and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She was recently deputy stage manager at The Questors on *Waiting for Godot*.

Ryan Hurst – *Spinx*

Productions include *Hack*, *Pal Joey*, *Confusions* and *A Small Family Business* and *Absolute Hell* (theatre); *Emmerdale*, *Brookside*, *City Central*, *Casualty* and *The People are the Forest* (television). For MTV's short film challenge Ryan won the Best Actor Award. He is head of drama at Feltham Community College.

Claudia Kees – *assistant stage manager*

Claudia's backstage work includes *Absent Friends*, *The Lion*, *The Witch & The Wardrobe*, *Oh What a Lovely War!*, *Oliver!*, *Guards! Guards!*, *Mouth to Mouth*, *Saturday Sunday Monday*, *The Comedians*, *The Visit* and *Arsenic & Old Lace*.

Francois Langton – *sound designer*

Francois has been involved in sound and lighting at The Questors for about four years, with *Mercury Fur* being the second show he has sound-designed here. Other sound designs have included lots of panto so this show makes a refreshing change.

Alex Marker – *designer*

Alex joined the Questors Youth Theatre in 1988. He has since designed sets and posters, made puppets, constructed, painted, acted, directed, taught, played drums and made many other contributions to over eighty Questors shows and events. He is director of Questors Youth Theatre and is also head of design.

Great Expectations

10 – 17 November 2007

In the Playhouse

Charles Dickens' frightening, funny and deeply affecting tale of betrayal, grippingly told.

Gary Reid – *director*

Gary has acted and directed for over fifteen years. His first roles at The Questors were Scavetzo in *The Fan* (touring to Minack) and the Prison Chaplin in *A Clockwork Orange* in 2001. He directed *New Boy* in 2003 which transferred that year to Jerymn Street Theatre; and Kevin Eynot's *Mouth to Mouth* in 2005.

Nick Thomas – *Lola*

Nick joined The Questors Theatre eight years ago. His many Questors appearances began with *The Wind in the Willows* in 2000; more recent productions include *Guards! Guards!* and *Peter Pan*. He has also performed and co-written many coarse-acting and comedy sketch shows, as well as crewing on *Oliver!*.

Danny Tomkins – *Party Piece*

Danny joined the Questors Youth Theatre in year nine and is now in year twelve. He has appeared in *Noah's Point* (various parts) and *A Labyrinth of Iron* (Romero). This is his first non-Youth Theatre production at The Questors.

Paul Wesoly – *Darren*

Paul was a member of Student Group 57, appearing in *Our Country's Good* and *Summerfolk*. He is very excited to be back here and to be a part of this production of *Mercury Fur*. Paul would like to dedicate his performances to the memory of a good friend, Wesley McGoldrick.

Richard III

17 – 24 November 2007

In the Studio

Shakespeare's compelling portrait of the ruthless and charismatic villain, seducing and slaughtering his way to power.



Questors E-News direct to your Inbox

Get all the latest news and offers for our shows by joining our e-mail lists.

- You can choose to receive short snippets of information every week or so, or longer round-ups every month – or both if you wish!
- We'll keep the e-mails as short and simple as possible – because we know you'd prefer it that way.
- And we'll have an unsubscribe facility (which actually works) at the bottom of every message!

It's easy to sign up – just a few clicks is all it takes.

Visit www.questors.org.uk/e-news.html and you'll start getting our E-News in your Inbox.



Getting the most from your membership

Many members join just to see shows, but there is so much more on offer to Company Members. So why not get involved?

Front-of-House is a great place to start. No previous experience is needed for selling programmes, stewarding or serving in the Café; and training is provided 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 – and you can volunteer for just one night or several.

Backstage staff – including stage managers, prop makers, set builders, 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 space to be a designer. But even without experience, you can help out on shows, and you're sure to get some hands-on experience. The same goes for lighting and sound – the Playhouse and Studio are both well-equipped and excellent places to learn.

You can direct if you have some experience or training, but if not then we offer various learning opportunities. The Questors have a high standard of acting, and to maintain this, everyone wanting to act must first take an audition. These are held every month – so if you have some training or experience of acting, call the Theatre Office for details of the forthcoming auditions.

There are many other activities you can join in to help out. If you're free during daytimes, you can help with our monthly mailing or delivering leaflets, and if you're handy with maintenance then there are always little jobs to be done.

Only Company members can take part in our activities, so please contact the Theatre Office if you would like to get involved or receive further information about Company membership.