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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
12 Mattock Lane
Ealing W5 5BQ

Box Office:
020 8567 5184

Theatre Office:
020 8567 0011

Email:
enquiries@questors.org.uk

Registered Charity no 207516



**MORE ADVENTURES
IN TIME AND SPACE**

Two plays by Sebastian Baczkiewicz

The Studio
3-10 March



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



MORE ADVENTURES IN TIME AND SPACE

Two plays by Sebastian Baczkiewicz

MORE ADVENTURES IN TIME AND SPACE

SEBASTIAN BACZKIEWICZ

Sebastian joined The Questors Youth Theatre at the age of 14 and progressed through to the oldest group. He then joined the Student Group and completed the first year of the course before going on to drama school, training as an actor at Drama Centre. In 1990 he returned to The Questors as an actor and director, directing David Hare's *Pleanty* in the Playhouse in 1990, appearing in John Horwood's devised piece *Rook* in 1991, and in 1992-93 acting as tutor to the Second Year Student Group, whom he directed in *Entertaining Strangers* by David Edgar and *You Can't Take It With You* by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman.

His first play, *The Fight of the Beeblebum*, was a one-man show which Sebastian wrote and performed at the age of 16. It was seen for one night at The Questors, causing Alfred Emmet to write in TOAD, 'Without doubt a major new talent has arrived among us.' Subsequent plays, all produced at The Questors, were *Shoeshop* (1980), *The Whirler* (1982), *Harry* (1985), *The Man Who Shot the Tiger* (1987) and *He'llo Paris* (1990, and revived 1992 for the Edinburgh Fringe).

Professional success began in 1996 with a production of *The Lives of the Saints* at the Old Red Lion, since when Sebastian has written extensively for radio, where his broadcast work has included an adaptation of *Las Misericordias*; *Arthur*, a six-part retelling of the legend; and the original plays *The Prettiest Girl in Texas*, *Stalingrad Kiss*, *The Orchid Grower* and most recently *The Influence*. He is currently writing for *Hotby City* on television.

Sebastian has also spent time working as a freelance drama teacher and director in Gloucestershire, and it was during this period that tonight's two plays were created. *North's Point* was commissioned by the Cheltenham

Festival of Literature and Wycliffe School, and first performed there in 1995. *A Labyrinth of Iron* dates from 1997 and was first produced on commission from Cheltenham Ladies College by a cast from the school at the Edinburgh Fringe.

APOLLO 13

The US space programme first landed on the moon with the Apollo 11 mission in July 1969. The second landing, the Apollo 12 mission, was in November 1969. Apollo 13, launched on 11 April 1970, was to have been the third landing.

But, as it was on its way to the moon, there was an explosion in an oxygen tank, which made it too dangerous to use the main thrusters on the service module. From that moment, the challenge ceased to be how to complete the mission, but how to get the three astronauts back to earth alive.

The spacecraft was short of fuel, short of battery power and short of oxygen. It would have taken too much fuel to turn it around and power it back to earth. The only way home was to go on, do a single loop around the moon, and use the moon's gravity and what fuel they could spare from the landing module (the bulk of it, had to be saved for re-entry) to build up enough momentum to propel the craft back to earth. They used the landing module as a kind of lifeboat: designed to support two astronauts for two days, it had to support three astronauts for four days.

For four days the entire world held its breath; every news bulletin in every country reported the latest development; it was the world's first space rescue mission.

Amazingly, and through brilliant improvisation, Apollo 13 splashed down safely on 17 April, the crew unharmed. The world celebrated.

THE K FOUNDATION

In 1991 a pop band known as the KLF were the biggest selling singles act in the world. A duo, Bill Drummond and Jimmy Cauty, they were, somewhat unusually, doing it for the art rather than the money. They also had a highly anarchic view of art. After a year or two of financial success, they retired from the music industry in enigmatic fashion. They had made quite a few million pounds, but didn't know what to do with it.

Initially they put it into a fund for struggling artists, the K Foundation. But then, said Drummond, 'We realised that struggling artists are meant to struggle, that's the whole point.' So they decided to spend it on creating art themselves. However they had little success with that. So then Cauty said, 'Why don't we just burn it?'

On 23 August 1994, on the Scottish island of Jura, witnessed by a video camera and a few friends, the K Foundation lit a bonfire and burned £1,000,000 in £50 notes, all that they had left from their career in the pop industry. It took 67 minutes to burn.

THE OSPEDALE DELLA PIETÀ

Venice in the 17th and 18th centuries was the European city of music. A very important part of the musical culture was provided by four Ospedali: homes for various groups of disadvantaged members of society. The most famous of those was the Ospedale della Pietà, a home for abandoned and unwanted babies. These babies were often the children of prostitutes, the illegitimate offspring of brothel-owning, or merely children found by the roadside or floating in canals. The Ospedale had a hatch in a door where babies could be left anonymously.

Boys would be trained for a job and would leave at the age of 18, but for girls there was very little choice. In the outside world they had only two options: marriage or a nunnery. The Ospedale gave them a third choice: to remain at the Pietà indefinitely, and many did, living into old age. There they would either be one of the *figlie de corzon*, working on household tasks, or the *figlie de coro*, trainee as singers and

musicians. The latter group was much smaller: at one time there were 5,000 children on the Pietà's roll; in 1745 there were 46 girls in the *figlie de coro*. They were always known as girls, though in fact many were middle-aged women.

The standard of musicianship was staggeringly high. The girls were multi-instrumentalists and virtuoso performers – probably because they were allowed (or disciplined) to devote their entire lives to playing. They gave concerts at the Ospedale – they were not allowed to play elsewhere, so Venetians and tourists flocked to hear them play behind closed doors. To keep the girls away from the visitors, the audience watched them play behind an iron grille.

ANTONIO VIVALDI (1678-1741)

The son of a barber, who taught him to play the violin, Vivaldi trained for the priesthood, and on being ordained in 1703 obtained a job at the Pietà. There he was supposed to be both a priest and a violin teacher, composer and conductor. However, music was far more to his taste than religion, and it seems that through a few ruses he managed to ditch his priestly duties.

Nevertheless he remained associated with the Pietà until his death, a period of nearly 40 years. He taught many of their greatest musicians, and it was at the Ospedale that he composed most of his greatest works. He had periods of sometimes several years away in other cities and countries, especially when he was writing operas, but he always returned to Venice, and the Ospedale was in reality his home, his refuge and sanctuary.

Vivaldi was by all accounts a striking figure, with bright red hair – Bach called him 'that red-headed priest' – but suffered from poor health throughout his life and never achieved a fortune. He was also surrounded by scandal for most of his life because of his long association with a young female pupil. To survive, he pumped out musical compositions at a prolific rate. Most of them were sold to the Pietà, where they were preserved, and he died in poverty in Vienna.

MORE ADVENTURES IN TIME AND SPACE

Two plays by Sebastian Baczkiewicz

First performance of this production: 3rd March 2007

NOAH'S POINT

(cast in order of appearance)

George Swift, *journalist on the local newspaper*

J T (Jack) Osmond

Councillor Poole

Bob Stevenson, *editor of the local newspaper*

Carmen, *George's ex-fiancée*

Sergeant Dickens, *of the local police*

Gloria, *Jack's (Osmond's) mother*

Jack's father (also Osmond)

Alan Bright, *Jack's stepfather*

Doctor

Jack, *aged 2-17*

Aunty Annie, *Gloria's neighbour*

Boy 1

Boy 2

Boy 3

Jack, *aged 18-28*

Tony Tusker, *bank manager*

Oscar, *bank employee, a winner*

Clive, *bank employee, a loser*

Nacmi Watts, *Oscar's girlfriend*

Mike, *second-hand car salesman*

Shirley, *his girlfriend*

Gloria's father

All other parts played by members of the cast

The play opens in the town of Belmoor on Christmas day 1995, but is set mostly in a hut in a disused quarry at Noah's Point above the town; and in other times and spaces.

Running time: about 1 hour.

INTERVAL OF 15 MINUTES

Joe Wood

Joseph Hughes

Tom Gorrie-Stone

Jason Plessas

Guyanné Saul

Danny Tomkins

Sarah Lewis

Jason Plessas

Stephen Bermingham

Kathryn Pirrie

Andrew Knowles

Anoosh Chakelian

Min Bazys

James Alexander

Alex Swoad

Dominic Sowa

Stephen Bermingham

Rory Quinn

Gregory Sykes

Selina Sykes

Matthew Singh

Camilla Holroyd

Gregory Sykes

A LABYRINTH OF IRON

(cast in order of appearance)

Laura

Louise, *her friend*

Waltress

Giovanna (della Pietà)

Tourist Guide

Olivia, *Giovanna's Servant*

Fiaminia, *a street performer*

Augusta, *a street performer*

Sister Angela, *of the Ospedale della Pietà*

Girl 1, *at the Ospedale*

Girl 2, *at the Ospedale*

Benedicta, *Giovanna's younger self*

Giulia, *Benedicta's friend, a singer*

Maria, *volunt at the Ospedale*

Fortunata, *later Aurelia*

Rebecca, *Laura's sister*

Beggar

Countessa

Masked Lady, *cardplayer*

Signor Romero, *Spanish artist*

Baron Rasinski

German girl

All other parts played by members of the cast

The play opens in a Venetian square, present day, but is set mostly in Giovanna's house in Venice; and in other times and spaces

Running time: about 1 hour.

Maggie Hayes

Alexandra McCalla

Emilia Manzo-Slater

Martha Cooke

Ella Tayler

Katie Mason

Jessica Hailstone

Caroline Hailstone

Simran Jerath

Emilia Manzo-Slater

Holly Shirra

Julia Purves

Alexandra McCalla

Phoebe Corbett-Stenson

Ella Tayler

Anoosh Chakelian

Caroline Hailstone

Kathryn Pirrie

Jessica Hailstone

Danny Tomkins

Nick Melhuish

Phoebe Corbett-Stenson

Production Team

Director	David Emmet
Set Designer	Alex Marker
Costume Designer	Amy Jowell
Lighting Designer	Chris Edwards
Sound Designer & Operator	Alun Jones
Assistant Director	Claire Burke
Stage Manager	Ruth Parry
Deputy Stage Manager	Luke Evans
Assistant Stage Managers	Helene Fletcher Nick Melhuish Lawrence Sills
Construction & Scene Painting	Zyg Staniaszek Abigail Taylor Richard Williams
Properties	Peter Salvietto
Wardrobe	Jennie Yates
Lighting Operator	Dan Webb
Get-in Crew	Francois Langton John Marriott Danny Bailoy
Hair and Make-up	James E Spinks Ioanna Smith
Thanks to:	Mike Hagan Judith Jowell Julie Cruttenden Ealing Strings

Cast Biographies

The cast are all members of The Questors Youth Theatre (QYT) or the Introductory Group (IG).

James Alexander (Year 8) has been a member of QYT for 2 years. This is his first Questors production.

Min Bazys (Year 8) has been a member of QYT for 1 year. This is his first Questors production.

Stephen Birmingham (Year 13) is in the IG having spent several years in QYT. He has appeared as Mairgn in *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*, as Peter Carby-Hall in *Scenes From the Fair* and as Lupino Wornc in *Guards! Guards!* In addition he has been a member of the Tomplemead Players as an actor, writer and composer, appearing in *Tales of Awkwardity* and *The Templemead Players Presents*.

Anoosh Chakelian (Year 12) has been a member of QYT for 5 years and has appeared as Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Sgt Color in *Guards! Guards!*

Martha Cooke (Year 12) has been a member of QYT for 7 years and has appeared as various characters in *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* and as Princess Shunjo in *The Princess and the Pea*. She also did work experience at The Questors.

Phoebe Corbett-Stenson (Year 8) has been a member of QYT for 2 years. This is her first Questors production.

Tom Gorrie-Stone (Year 13) was a member of QYT for 3 years and is now in the IG. He has appeared in *Guards! Guards!*, as Harry the Hound in *The Four Friends*, and as Squirrel No 1 in *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*. He has also worked behind the scenes on *Olive!*

Caroline Hailstone (Year 9) has been a member of QYT for 5 years. This is her first Questors production.

Jessica Hailstone (Year 9) has been a member of QYT for 4 years. This is her first Questors production.

Maggie Hayes (Year 12) has been a member of QYT for 4 years and has appeared in *Unseen* (*The Perfect Child*). She has also done work experience at The Questors.

Camilla Holroyd (Year 8) has been a member of QYT for 5 years. This is her first Questors production.

Joe Hughes (Year 12) was a member of QYT for 4 years and is now in the IG. He has appeared as the German Officer in *Ernie's Incredible Illusions*, as Philostene in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, as John the Preacher in *Scenes From the Fair* and in the Chorus in *Olive!* He also worked as an ASM on *Goat Boy*.

Simran Jerath (Year 12) has been in QYT for 4 years and has appeared as The Cat (Dot) in *The Four Friends* and as the Eagle in *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*.

Andrew Knowles (Year 9) has been a member of QYT for two years and has appeared as Oliver in *Olive!* and as a dwarf in *Guards! Guards!*

Sarah Lewis (Year 12) has been a member of QYT for 3 years. This is her first Questors production.

Emilia Manzo-Slater (Year 7) has been a member of QYT for 2 years. This is her first Questors production.

Katie Mason (Year 11) has been a member of QYT for 4 years. This is her first Questors production.

Alexandra McCalla (Year 9) has been a member of QYT for 3 years. This is her first Questors production.

Nick Melhuish (Year 11) has been a member of QYT for 4 years and has appeared as a Lost Boy (Nibs) in *Peter Pan*, as Joe in *Scenes From the Fair* and as Jeremy in *Goat Boy*.

Kathryn Pirrie (Year 12) has been a member of QYT for 5 years and has appeared in *Ernie's Incredible Illusions*, as Shug in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, in *Parva Vale* and as Footnote in *Guards! Guards!*

Jason Plossas (Year 12) has been a member of QYT for 5 years and previously appeared as Kic Saraden in *Emilio's Incredible Illusions*.

Julia Purves (Year 9) has been a member of QYT for 1 year. This is her first Questors production.

Rory Quinn (Year 13) has been a member of QYT for 4 years and has previously appeared in *Unscens* (*Blood and Presidency* and as the Ar'Lu Dodger in *Oliver*)

Guyanné Saul (Year 11) has been a member of QYT for 6 years and has appeared as Kizzy in *Scenes From the Fair* and as Sir Nicolas in *Perse Vale*.

Holly Shira (Year 7) has been a member of QYT for 1 year. This is her first Questors production.

Matthew Singh (Year 9) has been a member of QYT for 8 years, having started in the youngest group and has previously appeared in *Oliver*

Dominic Sowa (Year 10) has been a member of QYT for 5 years. This is his first Questors production.

Alex Sward (Year 7) has been a member of QYT for 3 years. This is his first Questors production.

Gregory Sykes (Year 8) has been a member of QYT for 5 years and has previously appeared in *Oliver*

Selina Sykes (Year 10) has been a member of QYT for 5 years and has previously appeared in *The Snow Queen*, *The Witches*, *The Four Friends* and *Guards! Guards!*

Ella Taylor (Year 10) has been a member of QYT for 7 years and previously appeared in as the leading boy in *The Witches*.

Danny Tomkins (Year 11) has been a member of QYT for 3 years. This is his first Questors production.

Joe Wood (Year 12) has progressed through QYT from the youngest group to the oldest. He has previously appeared as Mr Mugglewump in *The Twits*, as Tom in *Tom's Midnight Garden*, as Thosous/Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, as Nod in *Scenes From the Fair* and as Chief Assassin in *Guards! Guards!*. He has also been a reader for Questors Choir.

The Questors present

Much Ado About Nothing

by William Shakespeare

Two contrasting pairs of lovers, a succession of overheard conversations, and the most incompetent policemen in literature combine to foil the villain and bring a happy ending to all. A stylish and sexy romantic comedy, this is Shakespeare at his most accessible and delightful.

8-10, 13-17 March at 7.45pm,
11 March at 2.30pm

In the Playhouse

Tickets: £13.50
(£12.00 concessions, £6.50 students)



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 daylight hours, 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.