

## 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 £27.00 for Playgoer membership and £55.00 (£38.00 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.

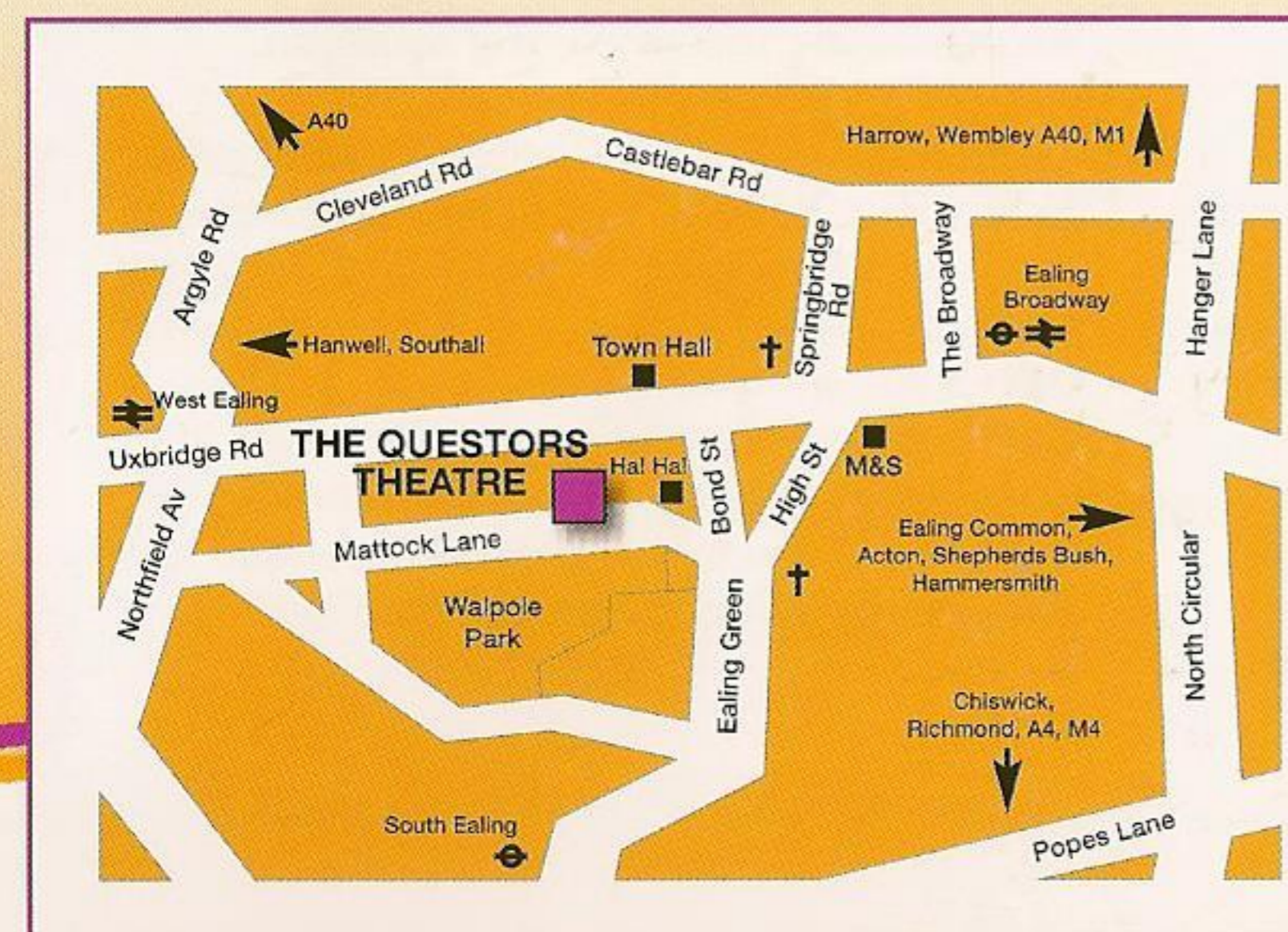
## Stay in touch

Sign up for our weekly or monthly emails, full of the latest news, at [www.questors.org.uk](http://www.questors.org.uk) or send us your name and address and we'll post you our bi-monthly season card.

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

- ▶ What's on
- ▶ Book now online
- ▶ Getting involved
- ▶ Creative learning
- ▶ Hire facilities
- ▶ Grapevine Bar
- ▶ Art exhibitions
- ▶ QYT Youth Theatre
- ▶ Weekly Open Evenings
- ▶ Receive our email newsletter

[www.questors.org.uk](http://www.questors.org.uk)



### THE QUESTORS THEATRE

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Ealing W5 5BQ

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### Email:

[enquiries@questors.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@questors.org.uk)



**Questors** Ealing's Theatre

# A MIDSOMMER NIGHTS DREAM

by William Shakespeare

The Playhouse

12 – 19 July 2008

[www.questors.org.uk](http://www.questors.org.uk)



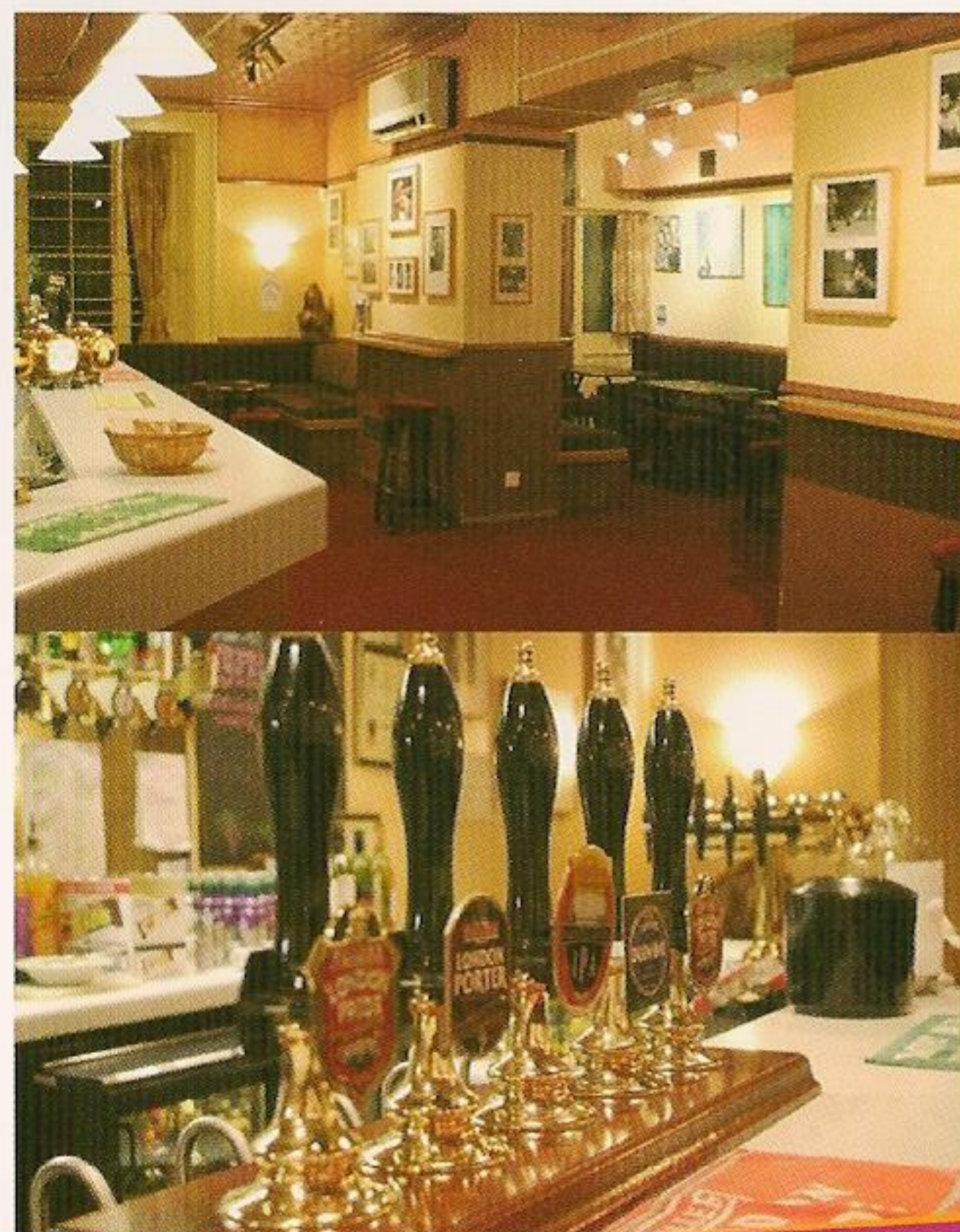
# Questors Grapevine Bar

The Grapevine is our friendly club bar open to the members of The Questors Theatre and their guests, as well as serving audience members on show nights. The club is open seven nights a week and Sunday lunchtimes and is managed and staffed entirely by volunteers. We are the proud holders of a Cask Marque award for the quality of our real ales, we appear in the 2008 edition of The Good Beer Guide, and we have been named as West Middlesex CAMRA Club of the Year 2007. Real ales recently on tap include Fuller's London Pride, Twickenham Sundancer and Fuller's Old Winter Ale. We also provide a range of draught lagers and ciders, as well as wines and spirits – all at very reasonable prices.

**Opening hours:**

7.00-11.00pm (10.30pm close on Sundays)

also Sunday lunchtime 12.00-2.30pm



## A MIDSOMMER NIGHTS DREAM

by William Shakespeare

**The Playhouse**

**12 – 19 July 2008**

# A Midsummer Nights Dream

What is the point of telling you about this play? It is probably the first Shakespeare play you ever attended, and you have probably been to at least two productions. It is also the most popular and most produced of his works. So I will talk a little about producing it from an actor and director's point of view. We have used the First Folio version, as I always do with Shakespeare's plays. It still includes the helpful clues for the actors. I have, as I usually do, chosen the uncut version (don't worry, it runs for two hours and 25 minutes including interval), and it flows. Of course some speeches could use a bit of trimming here and there, but who am I to muck around with the speech construction of the greatest playwright the world has seen? Here I differ from directors who claim there are problems and inconsistencies, which they take it on themselves to fix, in his plays.

This time, working through a Shakespeare play, I am noticing more differences between his actors and modern student actors. For example, modern actors are trained to read through a play and write down everything the characters say about themselves and everything other people say about them. They then map out the journey of the characters according to the events and relationships that affect them. Shakespeare's actors would have had their parts and the half cue line into their speeches. They would have formed their opinions solely on this, so in effect they could only play what they said. Now there are good points to this: they were you are staying true to their part and everything they needed to know about themselves is in their role. The missing part was the collaboration between the director and the other actors.

This does provide a clear objective line, though. I have noticed in rehearsal that actors

allow their characters to read minds, as when Hermia and Demetrius torment Helena during the lovers' scenes. Helena laments:

*... you must join in souls to mock me too?*

and:

*Now I perceive they have conjoined all three  
To fashion this false sport in spite of me.*

and:

*... when I turn my back,*

*Wink each at other; ...*

I discovered that the actors have started to play what she says. These are her words and the original actor would have played this to the letter, as would the actors playing the other roles. The problem we were having was the modern actors were trying to play what they say and what Helena says. This was really confusing the matter, especially as she describes the others as winking at each other when she turns her back. Unless she has eyes in the back of her head, it must be all in her mind. Contemporary actors risk over-complicating the text when Shakespeare has made it easier for them. He encouraged actors to react freshly to what was said to them whilst on stage. Now when this scene was first played, the actors performing Demetrius and Hermia would have been surprised at Helena's words and probably a bit confused.

To test this theory I am producing the first three acts of Hamlet in the Studio on January 18th 2009. The actors will work only from their cue script parts. They won't be able to work with anyone else before the day, in front of a live audience. So we hope you enjoy tonight's performance and I hope to see you again in January.

**Mark Fitzgerald**

## Enjoy the comedy again!

4 – 8 August 2008

Support our production of Charley's Aunt at the Minack Theatre on the cliffs at Porthcurno in Cornwall.



## Open Day

Saturday 13 September 2008  
from 12 – 5pm

Discover what goes on behind the scenes of your theatre.



## 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.

# A MIDSOMMER NIGHTS DREAM

by William Shakespeare

*First performance of this production: 12 July 2008*

## THE COMPANY

### The Athenians

<b>Hippolyta</b>	Alexis Wieroniey
<b>Theseus</b>	Max Fedyk
<b>Egea</b>	Rachel Griffiths
<b>Hermia</b>	Rosalind Storey
<b>Lysander</b>	Tom Cantwell
<b>Demetrius</b>	Jackson Milner
<b>Helena</b>	Asha Reid
<b>Philostrate</b>	Jemma Edmonds

### The Fairies

<b>Titania</b>	Claudia Kailich-Ofner
<b>Oberon</b>	Peter Clements
<b>Puck</b>	Katie Baggs
<b>Peaseblossom</b>	Rachel Griffiths
<b>Cobweb</b>	Max Fedyk
<b>Moth</b>	Jemma Edmonds
<b>Mustard-seed</b>	Alexis Wieronieri
<b>Second Fairy</b>	Victoria Butler

### The Mechanics

<b>Petra Quince</b>	Lauren Wigmore
<b>Nick Bottom</b>	Simon Rudkin
<b>Tara Snout</b>	Rachel Griffiths
<b>Robin Starveling</b>	Victoria Butler
<b>Snug</b>	Jemma Edmonds
<b>Francis Flute</b>	Will O'Connell

**Director**

Mark Fitzgerald

**Design**

Bron Blake, Jenny Richardson

**Lighting Design**

Richard Mead

**Lighting Riggers**

Tim Edwards, Francois Langton, Ben Sandford, Mark White

**Sound Design**

Paul Wilson, Nina Welch

**Fairy Songs Composed by**

Victoria Butler, John Hennessey

**Costume**

Sarah Andrews, Sarah Beebe, Mary Davies, Helen Krakiewicz

**Stage Managers**

Camilla Cadier, Pam Cullen

**Deputy Stage Manager**

Ewa Juryniec

**Assistant Stage Managers**

Rajan Sharma, Olivia Howard, Martin Jeffs, Dan McCready, Remi Smith

**Production Co-ordinator**

Martin Choules

**Fight Director**

John Fryer

**Hair and Makeup and  
Special Effects**

Victoria Coster, Caroline Evans, Emily Goldsmith

**Programme Editor**

Penelope Maclachlan

**Programme Design and Print**

Considerthisuk.com

**Thanks to:**

Chris Edwards, Tina Harris, Colin Horne

### For the Student Group

**Voice Teacher**

Marianna Milcaliff

**Movement Teacher**

Nicholas Jonne

**Director of Studies**

David Emmett

## Bedroom Farce

by Alan Ayckbourn

**Opens 29 September 2008**

Comedy of modern life from the ever-popular Ayckbourn.

## Macbeth

by William Shakespeare

**Opens 31 October 2008**

Shakespeare's powerful tragedy of ambition and destiny.

## Biographies

### **Katie Baggs – Puck**

This is Katie's third play at The Questors. She has performed in *Much Ado About Nothing* as a dancer and in *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, undertaking 10 characters which included the Cook, a Farmer and the Invalid. This is the first time she has played one character throughout. She also loves singing in the shower and does Lindy-hop. Katie intends to act at The Questors and go to drama school (eventually).

### **Victoria Butler – Second Fairy, Robin Starveling**

Victoria was in the 51<sup>st</sup> Student Group and has since performed in many shows at The Questors, including *Little Shop of Horrors* (Audrey), *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Philia), *Tejas Verdes* (The Disappeared/Soul in Torment) and most recently, the devised show *Knopped Up by Naughty Helen*.

### **Tom Cantwell – Lysander**

After a little experience before joining the Questors Student Group, Tom attended drama workshops at the Limelight Theatre, Aylesbury. In *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, Tom's roles included the Doctor, the Monk and Shauva. He plans to become an acting member at The Questors. He follows Wycombe Wanderers in his spare time.

### **Peter Clements – Oberon**

Peter graduated from The BRIT School in 2006. Previous productions include *The Winter's Tale*, *Ghetto*, *Reach* (Queen Elizabeth Hall), *DreamWorks '06* (RSC), *The 55 Second Plan* (Edinburgh Festival), *The Dog in the Manger* and *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* (both at The Questors). Peter will begin his professional training at Drama Centre London in September.

### **Jemma Edmonds – Philostrate, Moth**

This is Jemma's third production, having previously appeared in *Much Ado About Nothing* and playing nine roles in *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*. In the student Group Jemma has studied and performed texts by Wilde, Berkoff, Shakespeare and Miller. She intends to go to drama school next year and continue acting at The Questors. She enjoys watching Jackson Milner birdwatch.

### **Max Fedyk – Theseus, Cobweb**

Max's previous roles during the Questors Student Group have included Yassup in *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, Algernon in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Hal in *Kvetch*, Paris in *The Crucible*, and Clarence in *Richard II*. Outside The Questors, he is an avid reader and keen photographer. He hopes to pursue his acting to drama school.

### **Mark Fitzgerald – Director, 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Course Tutor**

Mark trained in the 44<sup>th</sup> Student Group at The Questors, then at Drama Studio London. He worked as an actor and then turned to directing in 1995. Productions include: *Richard III*, *Henry V*, *Much Ado about Nothing*, *Comedy of Errors*, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, *The Visit*, *An Ideal Husband*, *The Rivals* and *This Happy Breed*.

### **Rachel Griffiths – Egea, Snout, Peaseblossom**

This is Rachel's second play for the Student Group after playing 10 roles in *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*. Other experience in the Group includes roles in *Kvetch*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Henry V*, *School for Scandal*, *The Crucible*, *Vincent in Brixton* and workshops at RADA, ALRA

and the Doncaster Little Theatre. Rachel hopes to continue acting, and perhaps one day be cast in a play which requires only playing one role.

### **Claudia Kailich-Ofner – Titania**

After having appeared as a dancer in last year's *Much Ado About Nothing*, she could be seen in different parts in *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* in March. Roles in the Student Group included Abigail (*The Crucible*), Donna (Berkoff's *Kvetch*), Lady Bracknell (*The Importance of Being Earnest*), Queen Elisabeth (*Richard III*) and Lady Townley (*The Man of Mode*).

### **Jackson Milner – Demetrius**

This is Jackson's second play at The Questors. He has previously performed in *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, playing Simon. Other productions include *Fuente Ovejuna* at the RADA Youth Group and *After Jayne Eyre* at The Shared Experience. Jackson plans to go to drama school. He enjoys birdwatching.

### **Will O'Connell – Francis Flute**

Will joined The Questors in 2003, and completed the Student Course in 2006. He played various roles including the Bishop of Canterbury in *Henry V*, Granddad in *Saturday, Sunday, Monday*, Catesby and Tyrell in *Richard III*, and recently appeared in *A Servant of Two Masters*, *The Railway Children* and *Polish Shorts (Widows)*.

### **Asha Reid – Helena**

Asha made her Questors debut in *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*. She graduated from The BRIT School in 2006. Previous acting experience includes *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (three times now!), *The 55 Second Plan* (Edinburgh Festival), *Dreamworks '06* (Royal Shakespeare Company).

### **Simon Rudkin – Nick Bottom**

Since starting the student course two years ago, Simon has appeared in *The Visit* and *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*. Prior to The Questors, Simon has worked with Sleaford Little Theatre in Lincolnshire appearing in (amongst others) *An Inspector Calls* and *Then There Were None*. Once he has completed the course, Simon is looking forward to appearing in *Bedroom Farce* in September.

### **Rosalind Storey - Hermia**

This is Rosalind's third Questors production following *Much Ado About Nothing* and *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*. Roles whilst in Student Group 61 include Abigail (*The Crucible*), Cicely (*The Importance of Being Earnest*), Waitress (*Greek*) and Lady Anne (*Richard III*). This course counted towards the completion of her silver and gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards. She plans to attend drama school, and likes collecting buttons.

### **Alexis Wieroniey – Hippolyta, Mustard-seed**

Alexis's most recent stage appearance was as Grusha in *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*. Her other Questors appearance was as a dancer in last year's *Much Ado About Nothing*. Other productions include *A Chorus Line* at University, and *Macbeth* at high school. After the Student Group ends this month she plans to keep acting at The Questors.

### **Lauren Wigmore – Petra Quince**

Lauren teaches for Questors Youth Theatre and acted in *There'll Always Be a Brentford*. Having trained at Rose Bruford in BA (Hons) European Theatre Arts and the leading drama school in Estonia, she is currently seeking an agent and plans to start her own theatre company.



## 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](http://www.questors.org.uk)**  
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.