



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 members-hip 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 concession) 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 or send us your name and address and we'll post you our all-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
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- ▶ Weekly Open Evenings
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www.questors.org.uk

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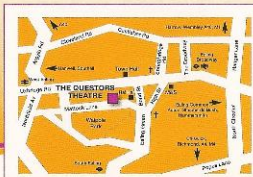


Questors Ealing's Theatre

ARABIAN NIGHTS

by Dominic Cooke

The Playhouse
19 – 23 February 2008





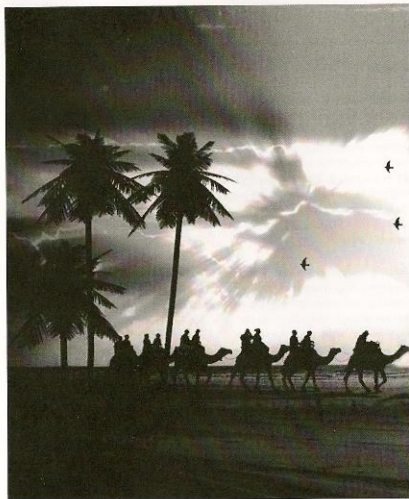
Questors Grapevine Bar

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 lunches and is managed and staffed entirely by volunteers. We are the proud holders of a Cash 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 craft 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



ARABIAN NIGHTS

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Arabian Nights

Synopsis

Wedding night in the palace of King Shahrayar. By morning the new Queen Sharazad is to be put to death like a thousand young brides before her. She has the one gift that can save her - the gift of storytelling. If she can occupy the King with her stories then she can avoid the executioner's block.

From the Director

Directing the Questors Youth Theatre has been a huge and exciting challenge. I hadn't previously worked with any of the cast and only now, as we write, we are beginning to discover what we can all do and are beginning to gel together as a company.

We started rehearsal on the show in January, with a skeleton team and a challenging and extremely demanding text. So we have worked very quickly, and needed to! The Arabian Nights has been very challenging theatrically. We made an early decision that we needed to be minimal, so we cut one story, resisted the temptation to go costume and puppet 'mad', which demanded resources we lacked, and gradually developed a minimal design concept around three golden ladders, light, skin, atmospheric

sound and gauzes. We have deliberately chosen the language of simple physical theatre using bodies to provide the mise-en-scène for the stories.

Theatre production requires many skills, including the rigours of self-discipline, resilience, punctuality and patience, and instilling these professional disciplines within a young company can be as challenging as trying to stage the stories themselves. To their credit, the cast have been fantastic; many of them are acting within a physical form they have not explored before, and of course it's the first time that nearly all have played on the thrust stage in the Playhouse. The playing ages range from Year 7 (11-12 year olds) to the Questors Intro Group (17-19).

So rehearsals have also been about acquiring basic acting technique as well as telling stories. It's difficult to perform on a large thrust stage. At times you need to perform to people behind you, constantly using changes in your voice and body to keep their focus on you. You need to turn your head. Yet a thrust does lend itself to storytelling, the imaginary fourth wall is already broken and the audience can more willingly engage with the storyteller. The Arabian Nights is about the ability to listen and to hear,

and in King Shahrayar's case, his heart is opened as he listens to Shaharazad's stories and slowly hears the story silence within himself. He rediscovers his laughter.

So we have done some introductory work on narrative voices; that is, we have tried to 'orate' the story with one voice and then 'interpret' or characterise it with another. Dominic Cooke's text invites this. Shaharazad's taming of the King's heart and their growing love becomes the central narrative within the stories, and this dramatic layering is framed within the context of Shaharazad's courageous 'superobjective' in sacrificing herself: to prevent the King from murdering all the women in the land.

And so the stories. We invite you to listen and enjoy.

Duncan Aildridge

ARABIAN NIGHTS

by Dominic Cooke

First performance of this production: 19 February 2008

THE CAST

SHAHARAZAD'S STORY

Shaharazad	Sim Jerath
Shahrayar	Nathaniel Hauser
Vizier	David Knowles
Dinarzad	Noushira Boutla-Eastman

THE ENSEMBLE

Martha Cooke	Sidi/ Eldest Sister
Stephanie Revell	Es Sindibad/Hangman/Old Man
David Knowles	King
Natasha Ahmad	Porizade/Bride
James Alexander	Porizor/Abu Hassan/Bahman
Rosie Singleton	Quoon/Marriage Broker/Sewsd's Wife
Naomi Howell-Sivosh	Tailor
Hayley Fletcher	Tailor's Wife/Amira
Hannah Partridge	Maid/Page/Bird
Tessa Colnan	Doctor/Eldest Sister
Naomi Nicholl	Seward/Queen/Youngest Sister
Deborah Hughes	King/Old Woman/Mother/Sorceress
Ellen Gould	Chief/Steward
Holly Newson	Various
Kyra Uberal	Girl/Second Cook/Young Es Sindibad
Maria Waring	Merchant/Baker
Tom Bush	Vizier/Merchant/Sidi 2
Nick Quefferus	Little Beggar/Poriz
Natalia Perez Phillips	Various
Munawar Sheikh	Caliph/Waichman

THE CREW

Director	Duncan Aldridge
Assistant Director	Louise King
Lighting Design	Chris Newall
Costume Design	Louise King
Sound Design	Duncan Aldridge
Designer	Alex Marker

Stage Manager	Kelra Ptushkin
Choreography	Ruth Kestenbaum Dominique Neville Falko
Properties	Alex Marker
Stage Painting	Ruth Kestenbaum
Choreography	Dominique Neville Claire Dell

Additional Design	Adam Goudie
Sound Operator	Jessica Plummer
Hair and Make-up	Katy Richards Lorna Welch Stephen Welch

Lighting Crew	Greasepoint Ben Stanford Martin Stonor Ancy Tottle Alan N Smith Vance Drake
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Assistant Stage Managers	Rebecca Harper Lynsey Oja Louisa Harper
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Programme Editor	Penelope MacIsobhan
Programme Design and Print	www.considerthis.co.uk

Thanks to: The Gel'in Team and the Office

Special thanks to: Mike Hegan

The Stories within the 'Shaharazad' story are...

- The Little Beggar
- Es Sindibad
- Abu Hassan Bruke Wind
- The Wife Who Wouldn't Eat
- The Envious Sisters
- Story Without An Ending

The play runs for approximately 2 hour and 40 minutes, including a 20-minute interval.

Biography

Duncan Alltridge – Director

Duncan teaches Drama and Theatre at Strode's College Egham and has been a member of The Questors since 1994. He has worked on many productions at The Questors, last appearing in *This Happy Breed* (2005). He has directed *A Clockwork Orange* (2001) and *There'll Always be a Brentford* (2006), which he co-wrote with Tony Chapman. This is his first production with Questors Youth Theatre. Duncan is Co-Artistic Director of Swisitheatre, a young expanding theatre company specialising in contemporary new writing and devising. Duncan has professional training in writing, devising, physical theatre and stage combat.

Knives in Hens

8 – 23 February 2008

In the Studio

An outstanding modern play presented in repertoire over two weeks.

The Country

9 – 22 February 2008

In the Studio

An outstanding modern play presented in repertoire over two weeks.

A Servant to Two Masters

1 – 8 March 2008

In the Playhouse

Like the best of farces, the plot is pure whipped cream.

The Caucasian Chalk Circle

8 – 15 March 2008

In the Studio

Brecht uses storytelling to explore deep themes.

The Railway Children

21 – 29 March 2008

In the Playhouse

A well loved family classic with serious messages at its core.



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.

Dinner

25 – 29 March 2008

In the Studio

Invitations are going out for the dinner party from hell.



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 daytime, 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.