

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.

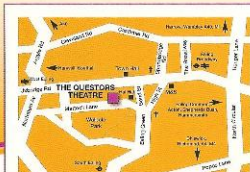
Stay in touch

Sign up for our weekly or monthly emails, full of the latest news, at www.questors.org.uk 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



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Questors Ealing's Theatre

CHARLEY'S AUNT

by Brandon Thomas

The Playhouse
21 – 28 June 2008



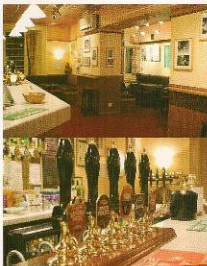
Questors Grapevine Bar

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 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 Suncancer 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



CHARLEY'S AUNT

by Brandon Thomas

The Playhouse
21 - 28 June 2008

Charley's Aunt

Charley's Aunt was first performed at the Theatre Royal, Bury St. Edmunds on 29th February 1892, before transferring to the Royalty Theatre in London and then to the Globe. Starring W.F. Penley, a popular comedian who had made his reputation in the Gilbert and Sullivan operas, and with Brandon Thomas himself as Sir Francis Chesney, it was an instant success, running for a record 1,466 performances. It opened in America in 1893, where it also ran for more than four years. It has been filmed five times, once with Syd Chaplin (Charlie's brother), once with Arthur Askey (under the wince-making title of *Charley's Big Hearted Aunt*) and, most famously, with the great American comedian, Jack Benny. A role call of the actors who have played Lord Fancourt Babberly reads like a Who's Who of great comedians, and includes Ray Bolger (the Scarecrow in *The Wizard of Oz*), Norman Wisdom, Frankie Howerd, Mel Smith and Griff Rhys Jones. Straight actors too have played the part: Jose Ferrer, John Mills (in a celebrated production directed by Sir John Gielgud) and Michael Kitchen among them. Even Danny La Rue and John Inman have had a go, although I can't say I'm sorry to have missed the former performance. Frank Loesser (of *Guys and Dolls* fame) turned it into the musical *Where's Charley?*, now best remembered for the classic number *Once in love with Amy*. It has been translated into virtually every language under the sun, and had

the comrades of Brezhnev's USSR rolling in the aisles when it appeared in Moscow in 1975 under the title *Hello I'm Your Auntie* (apparently that line's a better in Russian). There is even a Danish musical version, which had a big hit with Babbs's song: *Det er svært at være en kvinde nu til dags*. Apparently that translates as *It's hard to be a woman nowadays*. I don't know if that was an early Eurovision Song Contest entry, but it certainly sounds as though it should have been. Perhaps it should have been included in *Festen*. It would have cheered matters up no end.

So what makes the play so successful? Obviously, the first reason is that it is sublimely, deliciously funny. We all love the silly-ass Babbs dragged up as the old frump of an aunt, and his pursuit by the money grabbing Spettigue. But aside from the farce, what makes the play so enduringly appealing is that it is also a great romantic comedy without an ounce of malice. It is, quite simply, the most good-natured, happy play ever written. None of your French boudoir cynicism here; this is a tale of quintessential English decency – dashing chaps and gorgeous girls all brought together in the most perfectly contrived farcical plot. *Charley's Aunt* has survived for more than 100 years, and I see no reason why it should not go on for many hundreds more. Working on the play has been an unalloyed pleasure.

Francis Lloyd

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.

CHARLEY'S AUNT

by Brandon Thomas

First performance of this production: 21 June 2008

THE COMPANY

Jack Chesney	Henry Lewis
Brassett	Michael Hayes
Charley Wykeham	Charlie Cahill
Lord Fancourt Babberley	Anthony Curran
Kitty Verdun	Marianne Waite
Amy Spettigue	Eleanor Misselbrook
Sir Francis Chesney	Paul Francis
Stephen Spettigue	Alan Waldock
Donna Lucla d'Alvadorez	Sarah Morrison
Ela Delahay	Chloe Lewis
Director	Francis Lloyd
Stage Manager	Clare Watson
Set Design	Alicia Gregory
Lighting Design	Marlin Stoner
Lighting/Sound Operator	Mel Pereira
Wardrobe	Nichola Thomas Therese Anderson
Costume Designer	Raymond Childe
Ladies' gowns made by	Jean Derby, Sue Peckitt, Therese Anderson, Pam Smith, Jennie Yates, Susan Millhouse, Janis Forber
Men's costumes organised by	Nichola Thomas

Wardrobe Assistants	Anne Neville Basia Kapuscinska
Deputy Stage Manager	Bernice Wolf
Assistant Stage Managers	Chris Edwards Henry Broom
Construction	Clive Whitcroft, Jim Craddock, Chris Edwards, Penny Lillie, Gordon Miller, Geoffrey Morgan, Sanjay Rampura, Richard Williams, Paul Wilson
Hair and Makeup	Katy Richards (The Questors and Minack), Caroline Setton (The Questors and Minack), Rebecca Davies, Helen Gant, Gabiella Thorpe
Programme Editor	Penelope Madlachian
Programme Design and Print	Considerthisuk.com
Thanks to:	Julie Cruttenden, Don Kincaid, Pam Smith, Nigel Worlsey, Paul Wilson

Act 1
Jack Chesney's rooms, St Olde's College, Oxford. Morning

Act 2
Exterior of Jack Chesney's rooms. Afternoon

Act 3
The drawing room in Stephen Spettigue's House, North Oxford. Evening

The play runs for 2 hours and 20 minutes, including two intervals.

Biographies

Charlie Cahill – Charley Wykeham

Charlie has done most of his acting at Durham University. Parts included Brutus in *Julius Caesar*, Skinny in *Mojo* and most recently Joe Pitt in *Angels in America*. After graduating last year, Charlie joined The Questors and is very pleased to be taking part in his first production here.

Raymond Child – Costume Designer

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

Anthony Curran – Lord Fancourt Babberley

Anthony is a graduate of Student Group 47 and has been an acting member since 1994. Among his favourite parts are Kite in *The Recruiting Officer*, Tony Lumpkin in *She Stoops to Conquer* and Estragon in *Waiting for Godot*. He recently starred as Truffaldino in *The Servant to Two Masters*.

Paul Francis – Sir Francis Chesney

Paul has been a member of The Questors for many years and has played parts ranging from Badger in *The Wind in the Willows* to a man-eating plant in *Little Shop of Horrors*. Leading roles include Judge Brack in *Heidi Gable* and Kent in *King Lear*.

Michael Hayes – Brassett

This is Michael's third appearance at The Questors. He played Larry in the Sondheim musical company, last summer, and The King in last year's Christmas show

Cinderella. Noteworthy appearance in the USA: Hiram Sweet in *The Drinking Gourd* and The Devil in *The King of Soul*.

Chloe Lewis – Ela Delahay

Chloe most recently appeared as Biddy in *Great Expectations*. She also played Stella in *A Streetcar Named Desire* in 2004. Other roles have included Mary Brenham in *Our Country's Good* at the Theatre Royal Studio, York, Jacie 333 in *Comic Potential* at the Friargate Theatre, York and Stiggwipple in *Tetragrammaton* at the Smirnoff Underbelly, Edinburgh Fringe.

Henry Lewis – Jack Chesney

Henry has been at The Questors for five years. He was a member of the Youth Theatre and the Introductory Student Group. He will start training at LAMDA this year. Questors credits include: *Guards! Guards!*, *Scenes from the Fair*, and *Peter Pan*. Other recent theatre credits include: *The Cherry Orchard* and *Resurrection*.

Francis Lloyd – Director

Francis joined The Questors in 1994, when he played Bohun in *You Never Can Tell*. Acting roles since then include John in *Oleanna*, Henry Carr in *Travesties* and Wicksteed in *Habeas Corpus*. For The Questors he has directed *After the Dance* and *French Paste*.

Eleanor Misselbrook – Amy Spettigue

This is Eleanor's first role after becoming an acting member of The Questors this year. She graduated from Leeds University with an acting degree in 2005. Comedy has always been a great love of hers. She says it has been fantastic working with such a great company, alongside some great comedy actors. She hopes this is her first performance of many to come at The Questors.

Sarah Morrison – Donna Lucia d'Alvadores

This show will be Sarah's 49th production with The Questors, but only the second time she will have been to the Mirack since first appearing there in *The Rivals* way back in 1991. Recent performance include *Dolina in A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* and *Ethel in This Happy Breed*. Favourite roles from the past include Truxy in *Steel Magnolias* and Marlene in *Top Girls*.

Martin Stoner – Lighting Design

Martin has designed the lighting for many Questors productions over the years. Recently he designed the lighting for *Time and Time Again* and for *Arsenic and Old Lace*. He has been a member of The Questors for more years than he cares to admit.

Marianne Waite – Kitty Verdun

After joining The Questors in 2006, Marianne appeared last June in the second New Actors Showcase by Company, as April. Marianne attended Stagewise Theatre School and was a member of Bourmemouth Little Theatre in her home town in Dorset, where she performed in various concerts and productions, and in Oscar Wilde's *A Woman of No Importance*.

Alan Waldoock – Stephen Spettigue

After a 25-year sojourn in the New World, Alan is delighted to be treading the boards with The Questors once more. Recent appearances include *Black Comedy* (Colonel Melkett), *Great Expectations* (Mr Jaggers), and *The Dog in the Manger* (the Marquis Ricardo).

Clare Watson – Stage Manager

Clare has worked in various capacities in over 12 productions during the five years she has been a member of The Questors. She has recently taken on the role of Production Director, helping all Questors productions run smoothly.

A Midsummer Night's Dream

12 – 19 July 2008

In the Playhouse

Shakespeare's comedy enchants us with its romance and magic.

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.



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
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-occupied 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.