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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
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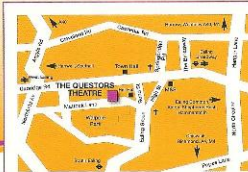
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**Questors** Ealing's Theatre

# THREE POLISH SHORTS WIDOWS, CHARLES AND STRIPTease

by Sławomir Mrozek, translated by Zyg Staniaszek

**The Studio**  
10 – 17 May 2008

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



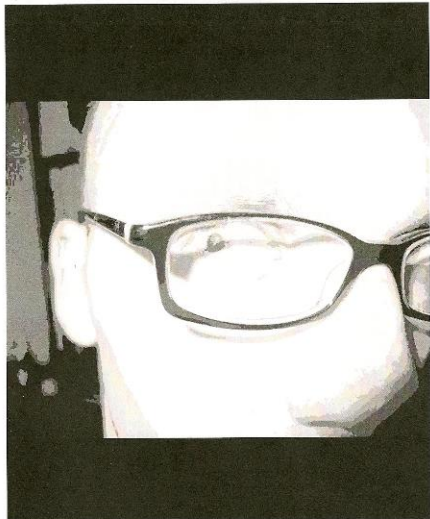
## Questors Grapevine Bar

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 snow 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 Midlands CAMRA Club of the Year 2007. Real ales recently on tap include Fuller's London Pride, Twickenham Sundae 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



## THREE POLISH SHORTS WIDOWS, CHARLES AND STRIPTEASE

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The Studio

10 – 17 May 2008

## THREE POLISH SHORTS

One of Europe's great twentieth-century writers

### Short, but to the political point.

You might think that plays written under the totalitarian regimes of Eastern Europe have little relevance today.

But see these three short pieces by the Polish writer Slawomir Mrozek and you might just change your mind.

Mrozek started writing in the 1950s and his political themes quickly got him into trouble with the authorities. Stripped of his Polish nationality, he was forced into exile. After being hounded across Europe by various secret services, including the Stasi, he eventually found refuge in Mexico.

Following the political revolutions across Eastern Europe, Mrozek returned to his native Poland in 1996. His citizenship reinstated, he now lives in Krakow and is still writing today.

Much of his material is drawn from the Communist world in which he grew up. But worryingly, his plays seem just as pertinent to the democracies of Western Europe today.

*Striptease* is a farce about freedom, actual and perceived. Two businessmen are thrust into a room by an unknown force. They are shocked, but initially they maintain their composure as they both attempt to rationalise the situation. But pressure from outside forces systematically reduces their options and erodes their dignity. Despite spirited attempts by each of them to resist, they eventually become utterly compliant.

*Charles* is a farce about power, intimidation and coercion. A grandfather and his grandson visit the optician to get a pair of glasses for the older man. He is going shooting and he wants to be able to see clearly. It seems a simple task, but the optician's confidence in his procedures is quickly undermined by the grandson. Soon he finds himself trying to back out of an awkward situation, and devises over more ridiculous ruses in an attempt to distract the grandfather and grandson from their mission. But they will not be deterred.

*Widows* is a surreal comedy about life, love and death, with a liberal dose of envy, snobism and one-upmanship thrown into the mix. It explores the same story from two different perspectives – male and female.

Mrozek's writing is sharply comical and belongs to the genre known as the Theatre of the Absurd because of its departure from realistic characters and situations. Loaded with political and historical references, his plays make their point through the use of parody and satire. Mrozek explores the norms that govern the behaviour of individuals; his dramas are located in simple settings, and show human behaviour adapting to political and social systems.

This is thought-provoking theatre, and a rare opportunity to see plays by one of Europe's great twentieth-century writers.

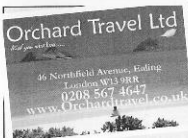


Our regular art exhibitions offer a wonderful opportunity for local artists to display their work. Please take time to have a look when visiting the theatre.

## Art Exhibitions



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



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# THREE POLISH SHORTS

by Sławomir Mrozek  
Translated by Zyg Staniaszek

*First performance of this production: 10 May 2008*

## THE COMPANY

### Striptease

Man I                      Geoffrey Morgan  
Man II                     Agostino Orsini

### Widows

First Widow             Hannah Whiteoak  
Second Widow         Emma Hounsell  
Third Widow             Rhiannon Bevan  
Waiter                     John Fryer  
First Man                 Mark Hill  
Second Man              William O'Connell

### Charles

Optician                 David Hovatter  
Grandson                Stephen Kavanagh  
Granddad                Michael Gorrard

**Director**                      Zyg Staniaszek

**Stage Management**        Claire Auvache

**Lighting Designer**         Tim Hayward

**Sound Designer**             Nina Welsh

**Wardrobe**                     Anne Gilmour

**Make-up**                     Julia Cruttenden

**Lighting/Sound Operator**   Martin Choules

**Properties**                    Claire Auvache  
                                      Jemma Auvache

**Assistant Stage Managers**   Hannah Woodman  
                                      Jemma Auvache

**Programme Editor**         Penelope Maclachlan

**Programme Design and Print**   Considerthisuk.com

### Thanks to:

Mike Hagan, Pam Cullen, Danny Bailey and Chris Edwards.

## Biographies

### Zyg Staniaszek – Director

This is Zyg's 10th year of directing and in that time he has directed 32 shorts and seven full length plays including *Guards! Guards!* and *Tejas Verdés* at The Questors. He has also appeared in three productions at The Questors and does the occasional bit of set building.

### Striptease

#### Geoffrey Morgan – Man I

Geoffrey Morgan has been with The Questors since 2003 and been onstage and backstage. He was most recently in *Knopped up by Naughty Helen* (nothing to do with the Grapevine). Before that he was in *Trovestics, Conversations after a Burial* and *Lady in the Van*. He sings Gilbert & Sullivan with Julian Light Opera Society.

#### Agostino Orsini – Man II

Agostino is originally from southern Italy and has always had the acting bug since he played Dr. Wetson in a school production of *Sherlock Holmes*. Since joining The Questors he has played a variety of roles in the production of *Knopped up by Naughty Helen* which he enjoyed a lot and in which he also performed various songs.

## Insignificance

7 – 14 June 2008

In the Studio

A fascinating play set in 1953.

### Widows

#### Hannah Whiteoak – First Widow

Hannah has been a keen actress since her school and university days. She is also one of the recent graduates to blossom out of the Student Group at The Questors. Her roles have included Miss Cooper in Rattigan's *Separate Tables* and Clare Zochanassian in Durenmatt's *The Visit*.

#### Emma Hounsell – Second Widow

Emma trained at Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art and joined The Questors a year ago. This will be Emma's second show at The Questors, her first production was *After Magritte*.

#### Rhiannon Bevan – Third Widow

This will be Rhiannon's fourth show with The Questors since joining as an acting member a year ago. However she has performed at this theatre many times with other companies such as Gloc Musical Theatre and The Young Sevoyards. Outside The Questors Rhiannon is a freelance drama teacher and also sings with a professional gospel choir called Urban Voices.

## Charley's Aunt

21 - 28 June 2008

In the Playhouse

This farce has delighted audiences since 1892.

### John Fryer – Waiter

John's previous plays at The Questors include *Peter Pan*, *Arsenic and old Lace*, *Richard III* and *The Servant of Two Masters*. He has written several plays; *Standing by her man* and *The Bloodsucker list*.

### Mark Hill – First Man

This is Mark's second production with The Questors, after appearing in *The Railway Children* earlier this year. He is currently a member of Acting for All.

### William O'Connell – Second Man

Will joined The Questors in 2003. He completed The Questors' Student Course in 2006. He has played various roles including the Bishop of Canterbury in *Henry V* and Granddad in *Saturday Sunday Monday*, *Richard III* as Catesby and Tyrell, *Servant to Two Masters* and *The Railway Children*.

### Charles

#### David Hovatter – Optician

David has acted this year in *Knopped up by Naughty Helen*; *Richard III*; *After Magritte*. Later this year he is directing Ionesco's *The Lesson/The Chairs* in the Studio.

#### Stephen Kavanagh – Grandson

This is Stephen's fifth Questors production, previous performances included roles in *Richard III*, *Separate Tables*, *The Visit* and *As You Like It*.

#### Michael Gerrard – Granddad

Michael has been a member of The Questors for nearly 20 years. His most recent performances were in *Arsenic and old Lace* and *The Railway Children*.

## A Midsummer Night's Dream

12 – 19 July 2008

In the Playhouse

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



## Questors E-News direct to your Inbox

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by joining our e-mail lists.

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## 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.