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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
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- ▶ QYT Youth Theatre
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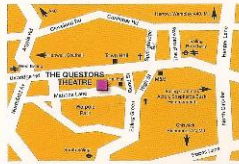
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Questors Ealing's Theatre

THE RAILWAY CHILDREN

by E Nesbit

The Playhouse
21 – 29 March 2008

www.questors.org.uk



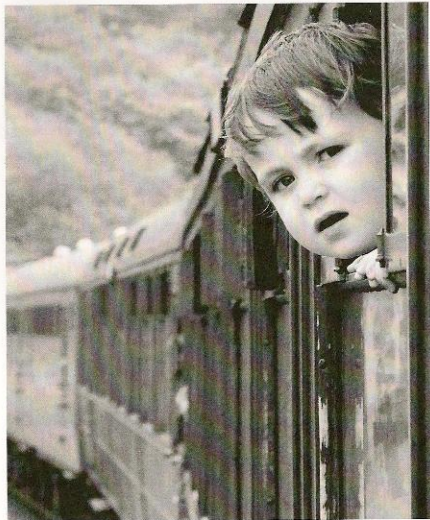
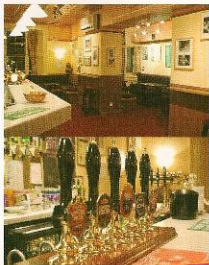
Questors Grapevine Bar

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 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



THE RAILWAY CHILDREN

by E Nesbit

The Playhouse

21 - 29 March 2008

The Railway Children

Directing *The Railway Children* presented some relatively large obstacles. One of the biggest is people's knowledge of, and fondness for, E. Nesbit's book and the famous film starring Jenny Agutter. It can be a dangerous business to tackle people's favourite stories, especially childhood ones, but this adaptation retains all of the most important aspects of the original story whilst still ensuring that it is both fresh and theatrical for a broad ranging audience, including those who are discovering the story for the first time.

One of the most notable things about this adaptation for the stage is the incorporation of Perks' children who do not feature in the book, the original BBC film or the more recent ITV version. They bring a youthful angle to the story and allow us to see the class distinction between them and the Railway Children more clearly. They also serve to provide some light relief from the more serious issues of the story, from which this adaptation does not shy away. The play focuses on the characters and their dilemmas, bringing out the moral and ethical issues in the story and the wider social issues such as equality and freedom. The use of Perks, the Station Master, as a narrator of the story, also keeps the story accessible to all audience members.

Another of the hurdles is the extremely wide age range of the cast. It was an exciting challenge to find ways to work with both 10- and 71-year-olds in the same rehearsal. What evolved was a level of communication that had to work for all cast members. Everyone involved has shown incredible flexibility in their methods and approaches to the work to allow for the needs of others. The actors have all learned from each other, regardless of age or experience, which has created a strong and happy company. What has also

emerged is a sense of family and community, which serves the piece extremely well. This production offered many opportunities in terms of incorporating lots of young people involved in the Questors Youth Theatre, and in particular the insight and experience they would gain from working alongside many other actors, rather than only their peers.

The cast also needed to have a comprehension and appreciation of the period of the play and how their characters' lives in 1905 differ from their lives now. The company visited The Bluebell Railway, a fully operational Steam Railway in Sussex, to experience the reality of the period and the rural setting similar to that in the play. It was important to create just the right atmosphere for the production, incorporating authentic train sounds, steam, the landscape, original music and very importantly the Railway Station, made more authentic by original paraphernalia from The Bluebell Railway.

The story (for anyone less familiar with the famous film) focuses on a family who are forced to move to rural West Yorkshire without their father, whose fate the children find out over the course of the play. The family have to cope with a level of poverty with which they have previously been unfamiliar and are forced to challenge their own sense of pride in order to manage in their new lives. The children become more resourceful and find alternative ways to help their mother and resolve problems. Learning about the real world and facing class differences, the children learn who they really are, and discover the truth about their father.

Dominique Gerrard



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THE RAILWAY CHILDREN

by E Nesbit

First performance of this production: 21 March 2008

THE COMPANY

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Perks | Dominic Banks |
| Mother | Wanda Duszyńska |
| Roberta | Heddi Lewry |
| Peter | Andrew Knowles |
| Phyllis | Kim Hemans |
| Mr James | Mark Hill |
| Mrs Walker | Alex McDovill |
| John | Will Langley |
| Alfred | Duncan Brookfield |
| Edith | Rebecca Graham |
| Bert | Louise Waldock / William Cooke |
| Emma | Stephanie Pitt / Ella Hucgle |
| Joan | Tara Fair / Lara Dodd |
| Mrs Ransome | Sian Neil |
| Doctor Forrester | Michael Gerrard |
| Mr Szczepanski | WJ O'Connell |
| Passers-by | Alex McDovill |
| | Mark Hill |
| | Lisa Hill |
| | Sian Neil |
| | Mark Hill |
| District Superintendent | |
| Mrs Perks | Sally Beuchannon |
| Mrs Hooper | Lita Hill |
| Old Gentleman | Ken Ratcliffe |
| Hounds | Chris Shaw |
| | Amy Fox-Guida |
| | Sophia Ikirmani |
| | Elliot Keck |
| | Daniel Cramer |
| | Chloe De Canson |
| Jim | Alex Sweede / Liam O'Neil |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Director | Dominique Gerrard |
| Designer | Elaine Hagan |
| Lighting Designer | Tim Edwards |
| Sound Designer | Henry Lewis |
| Composer | Vincent Elvès |
| Assistant Designer / Master Carpenter | Mike Hagan |
| Stage Manager | Clare Watson |
| Deputy Stage Manager | Bernice Wolfenden |
| Properties | Jemma Awecho |
| Wardrobe | Anne Gerrard |
| Railway Advisor | Roger Kelly |
| Voice / Accent Coach | Emma Vane |
| Photographer | David Mosby |
| Hair and Make-up | Cathorinc Frankel |
| | Laura Shepherd |
| | Lydia Warhurst |
| | Greasepaint |
| | Colin Home |
| | Elaine Hagan |
| | Wanda Duszyńska |
| | Dan Webb |
| | Marin Choules |
| | Kwintana Amen |
| | Sophie Marthire |
| | Rajan Sharma |
| | Lewis Brown |
| | Sally Milton |
| | Colin Home |
| | Mark Home |
| | Tom Hagan |
| | Gordon Miller |
| | Chris Tomlins |
| | Eric Logan |
| | Tina Harris |
| | Colin Home |
| | Chris Edwards |
| | Penelope Macochlan |
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| |
|--------------------------|
| Prop Makers |
| Scenic Artist |
| Scenic Painter |
| Lighting Operator |
| Sound Operator |
| Assistant Stage Managers |

Set Construction and Get In Crew

Rigging Crew

| |
|----------------------------|
| Flying |
| Programme Editor |
| Programme Design and Print |

Thanks to:

Julie Cruttenden, The Bluebell Railway, Alex Marker, Ian Cole, Kingston School of Performing Arts - NAL Production Team, Curtis Ashley, Jane Hemans, Jackie Graham, Richard Dodd, Leslie Fair, Christopher Hodgson and everybody who has given their valuable support to this production.

The play runs for about one hour and 50 minutes, including a 15 minute interval.

Biographies

Dominique Gerrard – Director

Dominique is an actress who trained with The Actor's Company in 2001 and has been teaching on The Questors Youth Theatre since 2003. Since then she has directed *Scenes from the Fair* (2004) and co-directed *Goat Boy* (2006) and *Cogner au Piaford* (2007). She performed in the first ever Questors Youth Theatre production of Gregory's Girl in 1991, and she most recently played Amy in *Company* (2007).

Dominic Banks – Perks

Dominic is a new member of The Questors, though he trained at Guildhall School of Music and Drama. He has played a long list of characters in plays ranging from Shakespeare to Godber and Brecht to Mamet. This is his first time as a Station Master.

Wanda Duszynska – Mother

Wanda has been a member of The Questors for over 10 years. Since completing the student course in 1999, she has acted in a few shows, designed a few stage sets and written / directed two bilingual dramas for the Youth Theatre. She doesn't know what she likes doing best.

Hoidi Lawry – Roberta

Hoidi is 15 years old and has been a member of The Questors Youth Theatre for six years. Her first performance was in Tom's Midnight Garden in 2000 and since then she has performed in five other productions.

Andrew Knevelos – Pater

Andrew has been in The Questors Youth Theatre for about three years and has appeared as Oliver in *Oliver*, Young Pio in *Great Expectations*, Young Jack in *Noah's Point* and as a Dwarf in *Guards! Guards!*

Kim Hemans – Phyllis

Kim joined Questors in 2003 when she was seven years old. This is her second performance at The Questors. The first was in *The Wizard of Oz* with That Drama Thing.

Mark Hill – Mr James, Passer-by and District Superintendent

Mark is a member of *Acting for All* and is making his acting debut with this production.

Alex McDovitt – Mrs Walker, Passer-by

Alex completed the Questors Student course in July 2007. She has played Clare Zarchanessian in *The Visit* and Mrs Railton-Bell in *Separate Tables*.

Will Langley – John

Will has been a member of Questors Youth Theatre for six years and is now in Year 10. He has appeared in *Oliver* and *Cogner au Piaford*. He intends to graduate onto the Student Course at The Questors.

Duncan Brookfield – Alfred

Duncan joined The Questors two years ago when he was in Year 5. Previous Questors shows include *The Boy in Waiting* for Godot and *Young Herbert* in *Great Expectations*.

Rebecca Graham – Edith

Rebecca joined The Questors Youth Theatre in 2005. This is her first performance at The Questors.

Louie Waldoock – Bert

Louie has been a member of The Questors Youth Theatre since January 2007. He is the third generation of Waldoocks to appear on The Questors stage. This is his first production.

William Cooke – Bert

William joined The Questors Youth Theatre in 2005. This is the first show he has auditioned and been selected for.

Stephanie Pitt – Emma

Stephanie joined The Questors Youth Theatre in April 2007. She has been acting at The Questors for a year now. This is her first major performance.

Ella Huggle – Emma

Ella joined The Questors Youth Theatre in 2006. This is her first performance at The Questors.

Lara Dodd – Joan

Lara is a member of The Questors Youth Theatre, in year 6. This is her first performance at The Questors.

Tara Fair – Joan

Tara is 10 years old and will be 11 at the end of March. She has been an active member of her school drama club and has been in The Questors Youth Theatre for nearly two years. This is her first appearance on The Questors stage.

Sian Neli – Mrs Ransome, Passer-by

Sian is a member of *Acting for All* and this is her first appearance at The Questors.

Michael Gerrard – Doctor Foreest

Michael has been a member of The Questors for over 20 years and has appeared in numerous productions, including *Pont Pigo*, *Wozzeck*, *Annie Christie* and most recently *Arsenic and Old Lace*.

Will O'Connell – Mr Szczepanski

Will completed Student Group 58 having appeared in *Henry V* and *Saturday, Sunday, Monday*. Since then he has been in *The Dog in the Manger*, *Richard III* and *The Servant to Two Masters*.

Lita Hill – Mrs Hooper, Passer-by

Secretly married to the District Superintendent, this is Lita's first adventure on the stage, having joined *Acting for All* in September.

Sally Beauchannon – Mrs Perks

This is Sally's first production at The Questors. She has really enjoyed being part of a large family.

Ken Ratcliffe – Old Gentleman

Ken has been an acting member of The Questors for over 45 years during which time he has played innumerable roles, including heroes, villains, a pantomime dame and, on one occasion, a blind hermaphrodite. Actors are warned never to work with animals or children but he has found acting with talented children, both in *Oliver* and *The Railway Children*, an altogether delightful experience.

Alex Sweede – Jim

Alex has been at The Questors for three years and has been in one other show, *Noah's Point*.

Liam O'Neill – Jim

Liam joined The Questors Youth Theatre in 2006. This is his first performance at The Questors.

Hounds – Chris Shaw, Amy Fox-Gaids, Sophia Ikirmani, Elliot Keck, Daniel Cramer and Chloe De Canson are all members of The Questors Youth Theatre in years 7 & 8.



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.

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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 fancy 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.