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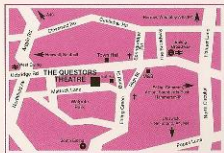
If you enjoy a regular night out at the theatre with friends, why not become a member of The Questors? As a Playgoer Member, you'll receive a 20 per cent discount on your ticket to most Questors productions, free tickets for your children to most Questors productions, regular information about our productions, and membership of the Grapevine Bar, so you can 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 this for just £30 for Playgoer membership and £60 (£45 concessions) for Company membership, until 31 August 2009, with discounts for payment by Direct Debit. You can find membership application forms by Box Office, or download one from our web site.

Stay in touch

Sign up for our weekly or monthly emails and get the latest news of our productions. Find out at questors.org.uk.



Full details on our web site

You'll find full details of our current and forthcoming productions – along with lots more information – on our web site.

- ◆ What's on
- ◆ Online booking
- ◆ Getting involved
- ◆ Courses
- ◆ Hire facilities
- ◆ Grapevine Bar
- ◆ Art exhibitions
- ◆ QYT youth theatre
- ◆ Weekly Open Evenings
- ◆ Receive our email news

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Questors Ealing's Theatre

LES LIAISONS DANGEREUSES

by Christopher Hampton

The Playhouse
6 – 13 June 2009



questors.org.uk



Café

Enjoy a coffee during the Interval at our Café in the Upper Foyer. It's open before the performance and during the Interval for most performances in the Playhouse. (Studio audiences can enjoy a coffee in the Grapevine Bar instead.)



Grapevine Bar

The Grapevine is our friendly club bar open to 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 2009 edition of The Good Beer Guide, and we have been named as West Middlesex CAMRA Club of the Year 2008. Real ales recently on tap include Fuller's London Pride, Adams The Bitter and Sambrook's Wandie 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



LES LIAISONS DANGEREUSES

by Christopher Hampton

The Playhouse
6 – 13 June 2009

Les Liaisons Dangereuses

Christopher Hampton is one of our most successful contemporary playwrights. Few others have so successfully covered such a range of genres or content, from early plays about adolescent passion, political anger, conflict between the first and third worlds, through to West End plays and tales of adultery and control in a pained triangle. Added to this, there are his successful adaptations and translations of other writers' work, famously including Yasmin Reza's *Art*.

He has been described as a supreme technician, the supreme playwright in the sense of a maker of plays. His writing is always clever, exquisitely light of touch and almost perfectly constructed. This is perhaps most true of *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* which he wrote for the RSC and which opened to great acclaim in Stratford in 1985, with Alan Rickman and Lindsey Duncan in the lead roles. Since then it has, with good reason, become a staple of amateur theatre. It is also regularly revived professionally – a production directed by Rupert Goold opened on Broadway only last year.

The play is an adaptation of the novel by Choderlos de Laclos, first published in 1782. This classic novel has been the source material for five films, a radio play, an opera, a ballet, at least one other stage version, a television play and a costume exhibition!

In 1856 Baudelaire remarked that, "If this book burns, it can only be as ice burns". Hampton's adaptation accurately illustrates the passion and the coldness that Baudelaire describes. The passion is undeniable: love, sensuality, jealousy and despair – lives are played with, ruined and lost. The coldness is also clear – Valmont and Merteuil scheme and manipulate, analyse and calculate. They are detached, clever and ironic.

Commentators have claimed that the depraved sensuality of the aristocracy described in the novel helped bring about the French Revolution. This view is echoed by Hampton using the shadow of the guillotine as the final image of the play. The aristocracy are literally above the mores of normal society. They make their own rules for their own games, and indulge an amorality that precedes, if not precipitates, a period of great social change. Laclos' sub-title for his novel is *A Collection of letters from One Social Class and Published for the instruction of others*.

But however reprehensible the characters are, they are also intelligent, glamorous and even sympathetic. Perhaps we can empathise without wishing to emulate them? Love does not triumph and good does not win out and whilst the wicked may be punished the virtuous are not rewarded. As Laclos himself put it "Virtue will not necessarily lead to happiness, nor wickedness to punishment."

The play has clear resonances for a modern audience. We can see the universal and timeless appeal of the characters: manipulative risk-takers such as Merteuil and Valmont still exist today, as do their victims. The ideas and issues in play still concern us. Duelling may be a thing of the past but revenge killings still occur. Questions of rape and seduction are raised daily in the media; we debate the emancipation of women; and the various

manifestations of the eternal sexual triangle never cease to fascinate us, whether in literature, plays, films, soap-opera or our own lives. But for me the main reason for this story's enduring popularity is its many-sidedness and the multiplicity of views it offers on complex issues and relations.

Laclos said of his novel, "I resolved to write a work which would stand out from the ordinary and which would still cause a stir through the world after I have left it". I believe that in adapting his novel for the stage Christopher Hampton has served Choderlos de Laclos well. I hope this production makes a small contribution to the cause.

Roger Beaumont

LES LIAISONS DANGEREUSES

by Christopher Hampton

First performance of this production: Saturday 6th June 2009

THE COMPANY

La Marquise de Merteuil	Caroline Bleakley
Cécile Volanges	Rosalind Storry
Madame de Volanges	Maria Brusa
Major Domo	Daniel Cawtheray
Le Vicomte de Valmont	Peter Brown
Azolan	Simon Higginson
Mme de Rosemonde	Cathie Wallace
La Présidente de Tourvel	Sarah Hannah
Emilie	Tara Stewart
Le Chevalier Danceny	Julian Brown
Adèle	Claudia Kailich-Ofne

The action of the play takes place during one autumn and winter in the 1780s.

ACT ONE

Scene 1 An August evening, Mme la Marquise de Merteuil's salon

Scene 2 Three weeks later, early evening. The principal salon in Mme de Rosemonde's chateau in the country

Scene 3 A couple of days later, the middle of the night. Emilie's bedroom in her house on the outskirts of Paris

Scene 4 Ten days later, a September afternoon. The grand salon of La Marquise de Merteuil

Scene 5 A week later, after lunch. The salon in Mme de Rosemonde's chateau

Scene 6 A fortnight later; the middle of the night. Cécile's bedroom in the chateau

Scene 7 The following day, 1st October; afternoon. The salon in Mme de Rosemonde's chateau

Scene 8 Two nights later, Valmont's bedroom in the chateau

Scene 9 Late the following evening; the salon in the chateau.

There will be an interval of 15 minutes.

ACT TWO

Scene 1 Late October; the principal salon in Valmont's Paris house

Scene 2 Two days later, six p.m. The salon in Mme de Tourvel's house

Scene 3 The following evening; Mme de Merteuil's salon

Scene 4 A fortnight later; afternoon. The salon in Valmont's house

Scene 5 Ten days later; evening. Mme de Merteuil's salon

Scene 6 The following afternoon. The salon in Mme de Tourvel's house

Scene 7 About a week later. A December evening in Mme de Merteuil's salon

Scene 8 A misty December dawn in the Bois de Vincennes

Scene 9 New year's eve; Mme de Merteuil's salon.

Director
Designer
Stage Manager
Deputy Stage Managers

Roger Beaumont
Mike Langridge
Jane Arnold-Forsler
Andrew Davies
Jean Hally

Properties

Peter Sakletto
Liz Cooper
Penny Seyfert

Lighting Designer

Alan N Smith

Lighting Operator

Rim Mohammed

Sound Designer

Alan N Smith

Sound Operator

Paul Robinson

Wardrobe

Sarah Andrews
Jennie Yates
Jean Derby
Pam Smith

Make-up

Susan Davies

Mails Enger

Nina Price

Construction

Colin Home

Prompt

Debbie Abel

Fight Arranger

John Fryer

Assistant Stage Managers

Jemma Auvaiche, Liz Cooper

Hunter Gibson, Sherice Griffiths,

Richard Jones, Catherine Moore,

Stephanie Moore, Andrew Morris, Kate Townsend

Get in crew

Tony Smith, Tina Harris, Zyg Stanieszek

Programme Editor

Penelope MacLachlan

Programme design and print

Considerthisuk.com

Thanks to:

In-house Services, Nottingham Lace Factory – especially Linda Creston, Jonny Richardson, Sylvia Wall, Alex Marker & Gordon Miller

Biographies

Jane Arnold-Foster – Stage Manager

Jane has been an active member of The Questors since 2005. In addition to stage managing *The Weir*, *Vincent in Brixton*, *Trojan Women*, *Great Expectations*, *Festen* and *Two*, she is to be seen in the Box Office. She has operated lights and sound (both for the comedians) and has recently operated follow-spot.

Roger Beaumont – Director

For *The Questors*, Roger has directed *Design For Living* (Noel Coward) 2003, *Closer* (Patrick Marber) 2003, *Duet for One* (Tom Kempinski) 2004, *Streetcar Named Desire* (Tennessee Williams) 2004, *Waiting For Godot* (Samuel Beckett) 2007, and *Festen* (David Eldridge) 2008. He has also acted in *Russian in the Woods* (Peter Whelan) 2003 and *Mouth to Mouth* (Kevin Elyot) 2006 and *Great Expectations* in 2008.

Caroline Bleakley – Madame de Merteuil

Caroline has appeared in over 35 Questors productions, including *Translations*, *Norma*, *Dancing At Lughnasa* & *Heartbreak House*. Parts include *Lady Macbeth* (*Macbeth* 1994), *Hermione* (*Winter's Tale*), *Clarebeth* (*The Crucible*), *Betty* (*Lady Betty*), *Fanny Squoers* (*Nicholas Nickleby*), *Muriel* (*Habes Corpus*) *Heruba* (*The Trojan Women*), *Elae* (*Festen*) and most recently *Arkadina* (*The Seagull*).

Peter Brown – Le Vicomte de Valmont

Peter is delighted to be appearing in his first production at The Questors. With Theatre Proteus (Surrey) Peter has appeared in *Copenhagen* and *Almas & Excursions* (Michael Frayn), *Art* (Yasmina Reza) and *Hysteria* (Terry Johnson); at Cambridge, as *Macbeth*, *Joe Orton* in *Diary of a Somebody* (John Lahr), *Passion Play* (Peter Nichols), *The Accorington Pals* (Peter Whelan), *Twelve Angry Men*, *Comedians*, *The Power of the Dog* (Howard Barker), and the Gershwin musicals *Gin Crazy* and *Oh Kay*. He played Dante in a dramatisation of *The Divine Comedy* in Surrey, Italy and Germany.

Julian Brown – Le Chevalier Danceny

Julian trained at Breton Hall and graduated with a BA in Acting in 2005. Since finishing his training Julian has been continually performing and recent credits include, *The Merchant of*

Venice, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Utopia*. This is Julian's first Questors production, and he is very excited about performing at this venue.

Maria Brusa – Madame de Volanges

Maria has been very actively involved in all aspects of *The Questors* (acting, front of house and backstage) since joining in 1983. Since then she has performed in a wide variety of plays, including *Arcadia*, *The Chick Garden*, *Road*, *The Bacchae*, *Seascape*, *There'll Always be a Bradford* and, most recently, the 2007/08 Christmas production of *Chloroform* as the wicked stepmother.

Daniel Cawtheray – Major Domo

Now *The Questors*, Daniel is a multi-award winning actor on the amateur theatre circuit of the Isle of Wight, until his recent move to London. Dan has also had extensive involvement behind-the-scenes and it was this that brought him into *Los Liaisons Dangereuses*, and his first foray into the world of *The Questors*.

Liz Cooper – Props and ASM

Liz joined *The Questors* in 2002 and after taking 'Acting for All' & Stage Management courses has worked backstage on a variety of productions as an ASM and 'props person'. Her greatest challenge was in *Festen* (2008) where she helped provide a 2-course dinner & breakfast for 10 actors with no dishwasher!

Andrew Davies – Deputy Stage Manager

For *The Questors*: As Assistant Director – Dinner, As Stage Manager – *There'll Always Be a Bradford*, As DSM – *Two*. Andrew also worked on *Company*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *After the Dance and Over!* in either as ASM or Sound Operator. For Sedus at The Bridwell: *The Wild Party* (Asst Lighting Designer), *Rent* (Lighting Operator); Falmouth Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society: *Me and My Girl* (Charles), *Murdered to Death* (Pierre/Peter)

Jean Hally – Deputy Stage Manager

Jean studied for a Masters in Directing from University College Dublin. During her time at UCD she directed a number of shows including *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me* and *The Weir*. This is Jean's first production at *The Questors* Theatre.

Sarah Hannah – La Présidente de Tourvel

Trained at Drama Studio London, Sarah last appeared at *The Questors* in David Harrower's *Kisses in Hens*. Since then she has been working with William G Lawrence on his new play *Blue on Blue* and appeared in the lead role of its premiere production. Previous recent credits also include Nick Moran's *Tolstar* and Marcus Warren's *The Neary*.

Simon Higginson – Azolan

Simon joined *The Questors* in 1984 and made his debut in *Princess Ivona*. Since then he's appeared mainly in comic roles including *Brinsley* in the 1985 production of *Black Comedy* that toured to Japan, a couple of *Aggaboorns*, a brace of *Restorations* and *Mercutio's Off* in 1996.

Michael Langridge – Designer

Has designed sets for *The Hired Man*, *Peck of Lies*, *Noises Off*, *Privates On Parade*, *The Winter's Tale*, *The Crucible*, *Lady Betty*, *Nicholas Nickleby*, *Great Expectations* and most recently *Two*. Michael is also an actor and director and has worked on over 100 productions. He recently played Dr Dorm in *The Seagull*.

Peter Salvitto – Props

Peter, from 2005 on, has 'propped' up shows from *Büthe Spirit* to *Richard III*, *Others* including *This Happy Breed*, *Shiney Valentine*, *Into The Woods*, *Vincent In Brixton*, *Peter Pan*, *A Servant To Two Masters*, and most recently, *The Alchemist*. Greatest challenge: a roast goose for *Oliver!* – Christmas, 2005.

Far From the Madding Crowd

11 – 18 July 2009

In the Playhouse

Smouldering drama of a headstrong young woman pursued by three lovers

Alan N Smith – Lighting and Sound Designer

Enjoys integrating Lighting and Sound design. Credits range from *Hans Kohlhias* (19/2), *Accorington Pals* (1983), *Lark Rise* (1984), *To The Beauty Queen of Leningrad*, *Design for Living*, *Nicholas Nickleby*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Duet for One*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *The London Cuckolds*, *Great Expectations*, *Seagull*, *Waiting for Godot* and *Festen*.

Rosalind Storey – Cécile

A recent graduate of *The Questors* student group, Rosalind has performed in a *Midsummer Night's Dream* (Hermia), *Macbeth* (Murderer) and *Madame Bovary* (Felicité). Rosalind is thrilled to be given the opportunity to play Cécile and hopes for an undisturbed night's sleep very soon.

Cathie Wallace – Madame De Rosemonde

Cathie Wallace has been an acting member of *The Questors* for over thirty years. She has appeared in many Questors productions including *Nicholas Nickleby*, *Conversations After a Burial* and *Trojan Women*.

Please remember to turn off all mobile phones

Please note photography is not permitted in the Playhouse

Henning Wehn

3 – 5 September 2009

In the Playhouse

German Comedy Ambassador returns with Otto Kuhnle



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- 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!

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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 – where you can volunteer for just one night, or several. Backstage staff – including stage managers, prop makers, set builders, painters, wardrobe staff, and costume and set designers – 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 place 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 – our 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 have 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 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.

QYT Youth Theatre

Our youth theatre – QYT – runs weekly drama classes for all ages from 6 to 16 years old. Younger groups meet on Saturday mornings and older ages meet on weekday evenings. There's often a waiting list for membership, so put your name down now! You can find details online at questors.org.uk/qyt/.

