



Questors, Ealing's Theatre

Rock 'n' Roll

By Tom Stoppard

The Studio

19th December 2009 - 2nd January 2010

questors.org.uk

Café

Have you tried the new Questors café experience yet?

Serving specialist teas and coffees, hot chocolate and soft drinks
Selection of paninis and sandwiches cut to order

Pre-theatre hot meal menu available on show nights up to 7.00pm

Take your membership card with you to receive discounts on hot meals and drinks!

Café Christmas Opening Hours

Friday 18 December	12midday	to	8:30pm
Saturday 19 December	12midday	to	8:30pm
Sunday 20 December	12midday	to	5:00pm
Monday 21 December	3:00pm	to	8:00pm
Tuesday 22 December	12midday	to	8:00pm
Wednesday 23 December	12midday	to	8:30pm
Thursday 24 December	CLOSED		
Friday 25 December	CLOSED		
Saturday 26 December	CLOSED		
Sunday 27 December	12midday	to	5:00pm
Monday 28 December	12midday	to	5:00pm
Tuesday 9 December	12midday	to	8:00pm
Wednesday 30 December	12midday	to	8:00pm
Thursday 31 December	12midday	to	8:00pm
Friday 1 January	CLOSED		
Saturday 2 January	12midday	to	8:30pm

On show nights through until the end of the first interval

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 2010 edition of The Good Beer Guide, and we are 2009 CAMRA West Middlesex Club of the Year. A choice of at least three real ales is usually available including Fuller's London Pride. We also provide a range of draught lagers and ciders, as well as wines and spirits – all at very reasonable prices.

Opening hours:

7:00pm to 11:00pm (10:30pm close on Sundays)

Sunday lunchtime 12:00 midday to 2:30pm



Rock 'n' Roll

By Tom Stoppard

A World Amateur Premiere

The Studio

19 December 2009 – 2 January 2010

Barrett, Havel and Others: key dates

- 1968**
January: Syd Barrett's last performance with Pink Floyd.
March: Angry demonstrators try to storm the American Embassy in London after a rally protesting against the Vietnam War.
May: Thousands of students, supported by striking workers, fight the police in Paris. At the London School of Economics and other universities and art colleges, students take over the college buildings. Meanwhile, Moscow moves Soviet troops to the Czech border, alarmed by the liberalisation of Czechoslovakia under the Communist leader Alexander Dubcek.
June: Czech writer Václav Havel travels to New York to see the English language premiere of his play *The Memorandum*.
July: Soviet and Czech leaders meet at a frontier village to resolve their differences over the 'Prague Spring'.
August 20-21: The forces of the Warsaw Pact invade Czechoslovakia. Havel provides a commentary on the events on Radio Free Czechoslovakia.
September: In Prague, bassist Milan Hlavsa forms a new band named *The Plastic People of the Universe* after a Frank Zappa song.
October: Czechoslovakia and the USSR sign an agreement to allow Soviet troops to remain 'temporarily'.
- 1969**
January: Czech journalists agree to self-censorship to end their conflict with the government.
January 16: Protester Jan Palach sets himself on fire in Wenceslas Square, Prague, and dies three days later.
April: Dubcek is sacked from the Czech leadership. 'Normalisation' begins in earnest under his replacement, Gustav Husák.
May: The Czech Communist Central Committee adopts hard-line policies and begins purges of reformers.
July: The Rolling Stones give a free concert in Hyde Park for 250,000 people.
- 1970**
January: Syd Barrett, *The Madcap Laughs*.
February: The Czech Communist Party announces loyalty checks.
April: The Beatles formally split up.
May: Four students shot dead by National Guard at Kent State University, Ohio.
June: Dubcek is expelled from the Czech Communist Party.
November: Syd Barrett, *Barrett*.
- 1971**
March: Andy Warhol's *Velvet Underground* featuring Nico (UK).
- 1972**
February 24: Syd Barrett's last performance, at the Corn Exchange, Cambridge.
March: The Czech Journalists' Union announces 40% of journalists have been dismissed since August 1968 for not following the government line.
- 1974**
Havel spends nine months working in a brewery, the inspiration for *Audience*, his first 'Ferdinand Vanek' play.
- 1975**
February: Margaret Thatcher becomes Tory leader.
April: Havel's *Letter to Doctor Husák*.
- 1976**
July and September: Seven members of the Prague rock 'n' roll underground receive prison sentences for spreading anti-socialist ideas.
September: Seven Czech writers sign a letter appealing for solidarity with the rock musicians on trial.
- 1977**
240 people sign Charter 77, accusing the Czech government of violating human rights.
May: Tom Stoppard travels to Czechoslovakia and meets Havel for the first time.
August: Elvia Presley dies.
- 1979**
May: Mrs Thatcher becomes British Prime Minister.
October: Six leading 'Charlists', including Havel, receive prison sentences of two to five years.
- 1980**
December: John Lennon shot dead.
- 1985**
March: Mikhail Gorbachev becomes Soviet leader.
- 1987**
January: Gorbachev announces perestroika (reconstruction) and greater 'control from below'. The Czech leadership refuses to publish Gorbachev's perestroika speech, despite the fact that Soviet TV is available in Czechoslovakia.
February: Andy Warhol dies.
April: Gorbachev visits Prague.
June: Mrs Thatcher elected for a third term.
December: Mrs Thatcher and Gorbachev meet in London. Husák resigns from Czech party leadership but retains his presidency.
- 1988**
October: Syd Barrett, *Opel*.
- 1989**
November: The fall of the Berlin Wall. A student demonstration in Prague is met with police violence, and the Velvet Revolution begins. Hundreds of thousands gather in squares in Prague and other cities in Czechoslovakia.
December: The Czech communist leadership resigns. The USSR and four other Warsaw Pact countries jointly condemn the 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia.
December 10: The first non-Communist Czech government for 41 years is sworn in by President Husák, who resigns immediately afterwards.
December 29: The Federal Assembly, under the leadership of the re-elected chairman Alexander Dubcek, unanimously elects Havel as President of the Republic.
- 1990**
January: The Czech government appoints American rock musician Frank Zappa as Czechoslovakia's representative of trade, culture and tourism; later rescinded after pressure from the US administration.
February: President Havel meets Gorbachev in Moscow to agree the immediate withdrawal of Soviet troops in Czechoslovakia.
August: The Rolling Stones play in Prague.
- 2006**
June 3: The premiere of Stoppard's *Rock 'n' Roll* at the Royal Court Theatre. The play is dedicated to Havel.
July 7: Death of Syd Barrett, six months after his sixtieth birthday.
- 2009**
December: The twentieth anniversary of the fall of Czech Communism. World amateur premiere of *Rock 'n' Roll* at The Questors Theatre.

ROCK 'N' ROLL

By Tom Stoppard

A World Amateur Premiere

First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 19 December 2009

CAST

in order of appearance

The Piper/Policeman 1/Stephen Esme (younger)/Alice Jan Max Eleanor/Esme (older) Gillian/Magda/Candida/Deirdre Interrogator/Nigel Ferdinand Milan/Policeman 2/Jaroslav Lenka	Nick Moorhead Lydia King Justin Stahley Roger Beaumont Nikki Squire Sarah Brothwell Simon Rudkin Mark Redrup Mark Hill Wanda Duszynska
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The performance lasts approximately 2 hours and 40 minutes including one interval of 15 minutes.

Please turn off all mobile phones, pagers and watch alarms. The use of cameras, video cameras and recording equipment is strictly prohibited.
Thank you.

PRODUCTION

Director Designer Lighting Designer Sound Designer Assistant Director	Stuart Watson Andy Chamberlain Francois Langton Martin Choules Simon Rudkin
Stage Manager Deputy Stage Managers Assistant Stage Managers Wardrobe Properties Operators Scenic Artist Scenic Painting Constructors	Pamela Redrup Claudia Kees, Paul Kendle Andrew McGovern, Rodrigo Sánchez Susan Davies, Russell Fleet Emma Hart, Claudia Kees Martin Choules, Ben Sandford Dennis Dracup Alexandra Dimakopoulos Jason Cowell, Luke Farrow, Chris McIver, Waran Navaratnam, Duncan Richmond
Czech Consultant Makeup Advisor Production Photographer Get-in	Teri Janska Lucy Ibbotson Matthew Addison Martin Choules, Luke Farrow, Claudia Kees, Paul Kendle, Ellis McNorthy-Gibbs, Mark Redrup, Paul Smith Jane Arnold-Forster, Bron Blake, Steve Fitzpatrick, Mike Hagan, Eric Logan, Alex Marker, Nicola Percy, Steven Pigozzo, Jenny Richardson, Greasepaint for wigs
Thanks to	

Tom Stoppard – A History

Tom Stoppard was born Tomáš Straußler in Zlín, Czechoslovakia in 1937 (the city was renamed Gottwaldov in 1948, after Czechoslovakia's first Communist president, and its original name was restored in 1990). After the Nazi invasion in 1939, the Straußlers fled to Singapore together with other Jewish refugees, but when the Japanese invaded in 1942 four-year old Tomáš was evacuated to India – his father remained behind and was killed. His mother later married Kenneth Stoppard, a British army major, and the family moved to England in 1946.

Unlike Jan in *Rock 'n' Roll*, who returns to his native land in 1948, Stoppard remained in Britain. Taking his adoptive father's name, Stoppard worked as a journalist and theatre critic during the 1950s and early 1960s. During this period he began to write plays for television, radio and the stage. His first major hit, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* was performed at the National Theatre in 1967. *Jumpers* followed in 1972 and *Travesties*, which combines Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* with Dadaist art and Marxist theory, was staged by the RSC in 1974.

In his formative literary years, Stoppard maintained a resolutely apolitical stance – in 1968 he claimed: 'I burn with no causes'. However, by the late 1970s he had taken up a number of causes, including the violation of human rights in Czechoslovakia and the Soviet abuse of Jewish dissidents. He met playwright and future President of Czechoslovakia Václav Havel for the first time in 1977 (see timeline) – the beginning of an enduring friendship. Plays like *Dogg's Hamlet, Cahoot's Macbeth* and *Every Good Boy Deserves Favour* adopted a more overtly political tone.

The Real Thing (1982), *Happgood* (1988) and *Arcadia* (1993) further established Stoppard's reputation as one of Britain's leading contemporary playwrights. Recent works for the stage include *The Invention of Love* (1997) and *The Coast of Utopia* (2003), a trilogy of plays set in nineteenth century Russia. Stoppard's screenplay for *Shakespeare in Love* (1998) won one of seven Oscars scooped by the film. He has also adapted plays by Chekhov, Arthur Schnitzler and Havel.

He became Sir Tom Stoppard in 1997, the first playwright to be knighted since Sir Terence Rattigan in 1971, and commented that he felt: "Instantly proud. I have felt English almost since the day I arrived, but the Knighthood puts some kind of seal on that emotion."

Rock 'n' Roll Music

I'll Be Your Baby Tonight,
Boo Dylan,
John Wesley Harding (1968)

It's All Over Now,
The Rolling Stones,
12x5 (1964)

It's All Over Now
(excerpt from *The Universe*
Symphony and Melody About
Plastic Doctor – part 1),
The Plastic People of the
Universe,
Muz bez usí
(live recordings 1969-1972)

I'm Waiting for the Man,
The Velvet Underground,
The Velvet Underground &
Nico (1967)

Astronomy Domine,
Pink Floyd,
The Piper at the Gates of
Dawn (1967)

Jugband Blues,
Pink Floyd,
A Saucerful of Secrets (1968)

It's Only Rock 'n' Roll
(*But I Like It*),
The Rolling Stones,
It's Only Rock 'n' Roll (1974)

Chinatown Shuffle,
The Grateful Dead,
Rockin' the Rhein with the
Grateful Dead
(recorded live 1972)

Welcome to the Machine,
Pink Floyd,
Wish You Were Here (1975)

Wouldn't It Be Nice,
The Beach Boys,
Pet Sounds (1966)

I Still Haven't Found What I'm
Looking For, U2,
The Joshua Tree (1987)

Wish You Were Here,
Pink Floyd,
Wish You Were Here (1975)

Bring it on Home,
John Lennon,
Rock 'n' Roll (1975)

Policy of Truth,
Depeche Mode,
Violator (1990)

Vera, Pink Floyd,
The Wall (1978)

You Got Me Rocking,
The Rolling Stones,
No Security (1998)

Biographies

Roger Beaumont – Max

Roger has acted in *A Russian in the Woods*, *Mouth to Mouth*, *Great Expectations* and *Otherwise Engaged* at The Questors. He has also directed *Design For Living*, *Closer*, *Duet for One*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Waiting for Godot*, *Festen* and *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*. His next project is to direct *The Birthday Party* for The Tower Theatre at the Bridwell Theatre in June 2010.

Sarah Brothwell – Gillian/Magda/Candida/Deirdre

Sarah graduated from The Questors Student Group 59 after playing Henry V in Shakespeare's *Henry V* and Aunt Meme in *Saturday, Sunday, Monday*. She also played Cassandra in *The Trojan Women*, Estella in *Great Expectations* and Nina in *The Seagull*, amongst other roles. She has also performed in a radio play called *Political Games* and various corporate acting projects.

Wanda Duszynska – Lenka

Questors acting credits include: *The Railway Children*, *Island of the Departed*, *Hooke* and *A Wedding Story*. Wanda has also worked as a designer on *His Pity She's a Whoore*, *The Merchant of Venice* and *Suddenly Last Summer*. She directed *Brave New World* and wrote *The Goat Boy* and the award-winning *Cogner au Plafond*.

Mark Hill – Milan/Policeman 2/Jaroslav

Mark's most recent appearance at The Questors was as Spidge in *Dogs Barking*. He played Uncle Henry/Emerald City Guard in *The Wizard of Oz* and a drug dealer in the Polish short, *Widows*. He also popped up in *The Railway Children* and was DSM for Point 303's production of *Night Watch*.

Lydia King – Esme (younger)/Alice

Previous productions at The Questors include: *The Learned Ladies*, *Nicholas Nickleby*, *The Snow Queen*, *A Little Hotel On The Side*, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, *Runaways*, Theatre elsewhere; *Tech Crew: The Musical*, *Macbeth*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Bat Boy* (Warwick Arts Centre), *Swagi*, *I Love You You're Perfect Now Change*, *Spring Awakening*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *The Vist* (University of Warwick), Film: *Monster*, *Remnants*, *Other Spaces* (Tea Fuelled Productions).

Nick Moorhead – Piper/Policeman 1/Stephen

Over the past three years, Nick has performed in The Questors productions of *The Importance of Being Earnest* as Algernon, *The Wizard of Oz* as Scarecrow and *Booby in Company*. He also performed in the world premiere of *When Midnight Strikes* at the Finborough Theatre.

Mark Redrup – Ferdinand

Mark has been acting at The Questors since 1990. Of the 50 odd shows he has done here since, the last was *The Alchemist*. This will be his ninth Christmas-time show, the last two being *Comedians* and *Time and Time Again*.

Simon Rudkin – Interrogator/Nigel/Assistant Director

Simon graduated from The Questors Student Group 6 in 2008. *Rock 'n' Roll* is his fourth main show since graduating, following *The Marvellous Land of Oz*, *The Alchemist* and *Bedroom Farce*. He has also recently run a sketch writing group at The Questors and produced *The Errors* of Comedy sketch show.

Nikki Squire – Eleanor/Ernie (older)

Nikki's roles at The Questors include Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth*, Beatrice in *Much Ado about Nothing* and Arabella in *The London Cuckolds*. Recent performances elsewhere include *Medea in Product Medea 4.0* (Roundhouse/Cock Tavern Theatre), *Voltaire in Volpone* (Prince Edward Theatre), *Ursula in Vincent in Brixton* and *Mona in Days of Wine and Roses*, for which she won a Swan Best Actress award (both Mary Wallace Theatre).

Justin Stahley – Jan

A graduate from The Questors Student Acting Course, Justin has appeared in productions including: *Arcadia* (Septimus Hodge); *The Venetian Twins* (as the Twins) and *The Winter's Tale* (Autolycus). TV credits include BBC's *Down to Earth* as well as appearing in various TV commercials. He has also written, directed and performed in award winning one-act plays. Justin is also a keen drummer and has toured with bands such as *The Noisettes*, *White Lies* and has played drums for *The Joy Formidable*.

Martin Choules – *Sound Designer*

Martin has recently provided sound for *Christmas Ghost Stories*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *STIFF* and *The Alchemist*. This is also his seventh consecutive Christmas show. He didn't want to do one this year, but the music kept on calling to him...

Andrew McGovern – *Assistant Stage Manager*

Andrew started The Questors Acting Course in September and is really enjoying it. Although challenging, it is also rewarding. He has enjoyed helping out backstage on this show which is his first production and has shown just how much time and effort goes into putting on a show.

Rodrigo Sánchez – *Assistant Stage Manager*

Rodrigo graduated from the Central School of Speech & Drama in Drama and Education and is a first year student on the Acting Course at Questors. At Central, he performed at the Mincek Theatre and later worked with Richmond Theatre Education as well as Bigfoot on several Community Theatre Projects.

Stuart Watson – *Director*

This is the third production that Stuart has directed at The Questors, following *Knives in Hens* and *Giengary Glen Ross*. He has appeared as an actor in *Comedians and Bouncers*. Directing credits elsewhere include *The Woodsman* (Old Red Lion), *The Collector* (Jermy Street Theatre), *Festen*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Revenger's Tragedy*, *Arms and the Man*, *Blue/Orange* and *Dogg's Hamlet*, *Cahool's Macbeth* (Putney Arts Theatre).



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The Next Questors Productions

The Homecoming
by Harold Pinter
23 – 30 January 2010
The Playhouse

Classic twentieth century British drama by the Nobel Laureate.

Abigail's Party
by Mike Leigh
30 January – 13 February 2010
The Studio

Iconic comedy of suburban lives and manners.

Join Us

If you enjoy theatre, why not join us and benefit from membership:

- ✓ Half-price personal tickets for Questors productions*
- ✓ Discounted GUEST tickets when you bring your friends to Questors productions*
- ✓ Children FREE tickets**
- ✓ Opportunities to be actively involved in our productions
- ✓ Allowed to audition to join our company of actors
- ✓ Exclusive or discounted training courses
- ✓ Colour magazine 3 times a year
- ✓ Regular Members' Newsletter
- ✓ Regular programme card
- ✓ Vote at general meetings
- ✓ Membership of Grapevine Bar

* Reduced prices exclude certain events. ** Under 16. Excludes certain events. Maximum 4 per event. Must be ordered at the performance and be accompanied by member.

Introductory offer – as a welcome for 1st time members, you can either try us out for six months at half-price, or get your first 15 months membership for the price of 12 months.

Getting the most from your membership

Volunteer help is always needed Front-of-House. No previous experience is needed for selling programmes and stewarding, and training is provided if you'd like to work in Box Office with our computerised system. To meet members in a social setting, volunteer to help behind the Grapevine bar. Backstage staff, including stage-managers, prop makers, set builders, sound and light designers and operators, painters, wardrobe and costume and set designers are always welcomed; whatever your skills we'll find a place for you. We also have courses for those wishing to direct.

The Questors has a high standard of acting, and to maintain this, everyone wanting to act must first take an audition. These are held every month, call the Theatre Office for details of forthcoming auditions.

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. Details are online at questors.org.uk/qyt

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