

Chatroom

We wanted to perform *Chatroom* as it is a play we are familiar with - Remi has seen it 4 times - and one that inspires us. When reading a review of *Chatroom*, I found a quote which sums up why I love the play: "What is so refreshing about *Chatroom* is that it is a play which connects with issues every teenager faces, without becoming an "issues" play". We think that it captures perfectly the teenage desire to do something important and to make a difference, but without ever being patronising. It's also extremely funny, and we think it has an important message for today's online generation.

Our generation is known for its use of the internet and social networking. The technology provides a world for young people separate from their parents. In the wrong hands, it adds another dimension to bullying. It is harder to deal with because there is no physical contact between the bully and the victim.

Adult members of the theatre have been very supportive, but this is very much our own production. We are all 17, and this is the first time that young members at Questors have ever been able to produce, direct and star in their own production.

The director of The Questors Youth Theatre, Alex Marker: "When Ellen and Remi outlined their desire to stage *Chatroom* I was adamant that the production should have as little adult interference as possible. They have been involved in every aspect. This is a first for us, and for them an insight into the whole process of what it is to stage a production."

We would like to thank: Alex Marker for giving up so much of his time to help us; Andrea and everyone in the office for all of their support; Raj Fruzza and Martin Choules for their technical wisdom; Nigel Lewis for his time and patience; Dominique Gerrard and Wanda Duszynska for their guidance and moral support; and Jamie King for being so helpful and supportive.

Ellen and Remi

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Questors, Ealing's Playhouse

The Questors Youth Theatre presents



Chatroom

by Enda Walsh

The Studio
23-25 September 2010

This production is supported by
The Questors Theatre, Mattock Lane, Ealing, London W5 5BQ

Cast

Jim - Sebastian Umrigar
William - Remi Smith
Eva - Sita Sharma
Jack - Will Langley
Emily - Frances James
Laura - Florence Cooke

Crew

Director - Ellen Gould
Producers - Remi Smith, Ellen Gould
Stage Manager - Julie Hadwin
ASMs - James Brennan, Jamie Gould
Lighting Designer and Operator - Nigel Lewis
Sound Designers - Remi Smith, Ellen Gould
Sound Operator - Peter Gould
Stage Designer - Alex Marker
Stage Construction - Gemma Batchelor, Samantha Anthony
Costume and Make-up - Sam Hynes
Front of House - James Brennan, Jamie Gould, Ellen Gould
Photography and Filming - Peter Gould

Please remember to turn off mobile phones.

The performance lasts for one hour without an interval.

Biographies

Florence Cooke has been a member of QYT for seven years. At Questors she has been in *Cogner Au Plafond*, also performing it at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff and at the First World Youth Theatre Festival in Vienna.

Ellen Gould has been a member of QYT for ten years. At Questors she has performed in *Arabian Nights* and in the CILT award-winning *Cogner Au Plafond*, which she also performed at the First World Youth Theatre Festival in Vienna. She is an active member of the National Youth Theatre, and has worked for them as a Creative Assistant. She was also the Assistant Director on her school production, *Guys and Dolls*. This is her first opportunity to direct a play.

Julie Hadwin is the director's mum! Since her children and husband were always at Questors she became a Company member two years ago in order to see her family. She has worked backstage on a number of productions including *Dinner*, *Breakfast with Emma* and *Accrington Pals*. This is her first production as Stage Manager.

Frances James has recently become a member of the National Youth Theatre and is a new member of QYT, having attended for only a year. She has also been in a number of school plays, and taken the role of Assistant Director on her school's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Will Langley has been a member of QYT for nine years. He has appeared in numerous shows, including *Oliver!*, *Cogner Au Plafond*, *The Railway Children*, *Brave New World*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Macbeth* and *The Pierglass*. He also joined ten other QYT members on a trip to the First World Youth Theatre Festival in Vienna to perform *Cogner Au Plafond*. He is also a QYT Teaching Assistant.

Nigel Lewis is Co-Head of Lighting at Questors, he also owns his own lighting design company. Nigel has worked in theatre lighting for 25 years both on the small stage and professionally.

Sita Sharma has been a member of QYT for five years. She played an entirely French-speaking role in *Cogner Au Plafond*, and performed it twice more in Wales when collecting a CILT award and then in Vienna at the First World Youth Theatre Festival. She has performed in a number of school plays and has taken GCSE Drama and is now taking it for A Level. She has also worked backstage at Questors, working on the set for *Brave New World*. This year she will be a Teaching Assistant at Questors.

Remi Smith has been a member of QYT for six years, and made his debut in *Brave New World*. He was also invited to take part in the First World Youth Theatre Festival in Vienna, performing *Cogner Au Plafond*. He has taken part in school productions which have been performed at the Camden Roundhouse and the Donmar Warehouse. This year he will become a Teaching Assistant at QYT.

Sebastian Umrigar has been a member of QYT for seven years. In this time he has appeared in two major productions, the CILT award-winning *Cogner Au Plafond* in 2007, and *Brave New World* in 2009. Outside of Questors, Sebastian is a member of the National Youth Theatre, and has appeared in a number of school plays, including a production of *Hamlet* at the Cochrane Theatre in 2008.