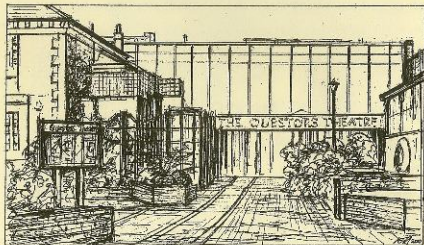




Questors, Ealing's Theatre



HUMBLE BOY

by Charlotte Jones

The Studio

9 – 23 October 2010

Qafé

Have you tried the Questors café experience yet?

Opening times Tuesday – Saturday:

Term time 9:00 am – 7:30 pm

Outside term time 11:30 am – 7:30 pm

On Playhouse show nights, through until the end of the first interval.

Serving specialist teas and coffees, hot chocolate and soft drinks, with a selection of sandwiches cut to order.

Pre-theatre hot meal menu available on show nights up to 7:00 pm.

The Grapevine Bar

The Grapevine is our friendly club bar open to Members and Friends of The Questors Theatre and their guests, as well as 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 2011 edition of The Good Beer Guide and we are 2010 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:

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

Sunday lunchtime midday – 2:30 pm

Autumn Beer Festival – Thursday 28 to Saturday 30 October

See questors.org.uk/grapevine for more details

**Neither the Qafé nor the Grapevine
are able to accept credit or debit cards.**



HUMBLE BOY

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Humble Boy

Charlotte Jones studied at Balliol College, Oxford, before training as an actress. She worked in theatre and television for six years before turning to writing as a means of creating her own roles. Her first play, *Airswimming*, premiered at Battersea Arts Centre in 1998, followed the next year by *In Flame* at the Bush Theatre and *Martha, Josie and the Chinese Elvis* at the Bolton Octagon in 2000. *Humble Boy* opened at the National Theatre in 2001 and her follow up, *The Dark*, was staged at the Donmar Warehouse in 2003.

Jones wrote *Humble Boy* with actor Simon Russell Beale in mind. She had never met him but her husband, who was working with Russell Beale at the National Theatre, showed him the script and he agreed to come on board.

Humble Boy was an enormous success when it opened at the National before transferring to the West End. It won numerous awards and has been regularly revived ever since. It is a multi-layered and poetic piece of writing that has many themes – grief, loss, pride and humility, the nature of love, family relationships. It also makes many literary and cultural allusions – to *Hamlet*, the social organisation of bees, the Pastoral Genre, the Garden of Eden, Theoretical Astrophysics, falling and being fallen, Chaos Theory, M-theory and more. But at its heart, at its point of resolution, it has a magical “Eureka Moment” – a moment of healing, self-acceptance and forgiveness that touches the heart and, in my view, makes *Humble Boy* a very special play.

Roger Beaumont

The Theory of Everything

“Anybody who is not shocked by this subject has failed to understand it”, Niels Bohr, of quantum mechanics.

There are two foundational pillars on which modern physics rests. One is Einstein’s general relativity, which provides a framework for understanding the universe on the largest of scales: stars, galaxies and beyond. The other is quantum mechanics, which provides a theoretical framework for understanding the universe on the smallest of scales: molecules, atoms down to electrons and quarks. The problem is this: as they are currently formulated, general relativity and quantum mechanics are incompatible, *they cannot both be right*. Whoops! But help is at hand in the form of string theory, superstring theory and M-theory which attempt to reconcile the two, as studied and struggled with by our protagonist and hero, Felix Humble.

Theoretical Astrophysics

Astrophysics is a branch of Astronomy concerned with the physical and chemical properties of celestial bodies. Felix would be working on reconciling the principles of general relativity (which applies to large objects) and quantum mechanics (which deals with microscopic objects).

Quantum Mechanics

Early in the 20th century it became clear that classical Newtonian physics did not apply on a sub-atomic level. Quantum mechanics explains such concepts as The Uncertainty Principle, particle spin, the wave particle duality of light and matter.

Quantum Theory of Gravity

Also known as the theory of everything, it would explain the behaviour of everything in the universe, from the smallest particles to entire galaxies.

Superstring Theory

It attempts to explain all the particles and fundamental forces of nature. Three of the fundamental forces (strong nuclear, electromagnetic and weak nuclear) are explained by quantum mechanics, while general relativity explains the fourth, gravity. To reconcile the two, superstring theory proposes the existence of 10 or more dimensions.

M-theory

An offshoot of string theory, it’s the yet unknown solution proposed for “the theory of everything”. It would combine all five superstring theories and 11-dimensional super-gravity into one theory, thus reconciling quantum mechanics and relativity.

HUMBLE BOY

by Charlotte Jones

First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 9 October 2010

CAST

Felix Humble	Simon Roberts
Flora Humble	Louise Templeton
Mercy Lott	Lisa Day
George Pye	Robert Gordon Clark
Rosie Pye	Jananne Rahman
Jim	Tony Barber

The performance lasts approximately 2 hours and 25 minutes including a 15 minute interval.

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 and Designer	Roger Beaumont
Costume Designer	Nicola Thomas
Lighting Designer	Francois Langton
Sound Designer	Roger Beaumont
Stage Manager	Jane Arnold-Forster
Deputy Stage Managers	Hunter Gibson, Cathy Swift
Assistant Stage Managers	Sharan Chabrin, David House
Properties	Peter Salvietto
Prompter	Debbie Abel
Lighting and Sound Operator	Sarah Clopet
Lighting Rigger	Stephanie Moore
Wardrobe Assistant	Mel Pereira
Constructors	Cast and Crew
Scenic Artist	Dennis Dracup
Get In Crew	Matthew Addison, Tina Harris, Philip Lindley, Paul Wilson
Photographer	Richard Mead
Front of House	Alec Atchison, Anne Gilmour, Claudia Kallich-Ofner, Eric Lister, Jo Matthews, Liz Prior, Clare Watson
Special Thanks to	Roy Cowley and PHS Greenscene for providing the garden
Thanks to:	Nichola and Eammon Curran, Wendy Goulstone and Rugby Theatre Society, Mike Hagan, Mike Langridge, Alex Marker, Alan Smith, Ealing Heating and Plumbing, Tower Theatre Wardrobe

Biographies

Tony Barber – Jim

Tony's first appearance at The Questors was in 1957 in Alfred Emmet's production of *Henry V*. He has been in numerous productions since, including *Ring Round the Moon* (the twin brothers Hugo and Frederic), *Juno and the Paycock* (Joxer Daly) and *The Weir* (Jack Mullen). A particular pleasure was having a part written specially for him by James Saunders in *The Island*. Tony can also be seen offstage as a Duty House Manager.

Lisa Day – Mercy Lott

Scarcily, Lisa has now been an acting member of The Questors for more than half her life and has made the transition from playing juvenile leads (eg Isabella in *Measure for Measure*) via not-so-juvenile leads (eg *The Snow Queen* and *Blanche Du Bois* in *A Streetcar Named Desire*) to dotty middle-aged women. In Mercy, there are shades of her last role as the socially-awkward Susan in *Abigail's Party* but she does hope this will not lead to her being typecast. PS: she really does have 'those kind of feelings' for George.

Robert Gordon Clark – George Pye

Like Lisa Day, Robert has acted at The Questors for over half his life. And, like her, he has moved seamlessly from juvenile leads in the 80s (Tom: *The Glass Menagerie*, Claudio: *Measure for Measure*) to old men (Gremio: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Haig: *Oh, What a Lovely War!*), missing out mid-life male parts completely. He is delighted to be working with Roger Beaumont and this cracking cast.

Jananne Rahman – Rosie Pye

Jananne has appeared in numerous productions since making her debut at The Questors in 2003. These include two Dickens adaptations (*Nicholas Nickleby*, *Great Expectations*); musicals (*Little Shop of Horrors*, *Company*); and dramas (*Festen*, *The Seagull*). Her most recent appearance was in February 2010 in *Abigail's Party* when she played Beverly, the hostess from hell.

TALKBACK – Tuesday 12 October

Come meet the Director and Cast for an informal discussion in The Upper Foyer as soon as possible after the performance on
Tuesday 12 October

Simon Roberts – Felix Humble

Simon joined The Questors in 1989. Recent appearances include Simon Hench in *Otherwise Engaged* (2009); Christian in *Festen* (2008); Pip in *Great Expectations* (2007); and Vladimir in *Waiting for Godot* (2007). He directed *Abigail's Party* by Mike Leigh in the Studio earlier this year and Jim Cartwright's *Two* in the Studio in 2008. He is looking forward to directing *Dr Faustus* by Christopher Marlowe in The Playhouse this coming February.

Louise Tompston – Flora Humble

In Louise's last appearance at The Questors, she was playing a rather different mother, the title role in *The House of Bernarda Alba*. Previous roles include Margaret in *Broken Glass*, Queen Elizabeth in *Richard III*, Geraldine in *French Paste*, Alice in *Dance of Death*, Paige in *Dinner*, Sylvia in *This Happy Breed* and Chorus in *Trojan Women*.

Roger Beaumont – Director and Designer

Roger has been acting and directing professionally and in amateur theatre for over 30 years. For The Questors, he has directed: *Design for Living*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Closer*, *Duet for One*, *Waiting for Godot*, *Festen* and *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*. Recent Questors acting credits include: Magwitch in *Great Expectations* and Max in Tom Stoppard's *Rock 'n' Roll*. Earlier this year he directed Harold Pinter's *The Birthday Party* for the Tower Theatre Company at the Bridewell.

Hunter Gibson – Stage Manager

Hunter joined The Questors in January 2009. Since then he has been ASM on *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *Broken Glass*, *The Taming Of The Shrew* and *Three Sisters*; managed props for *Abigail's Party* and been DSM on *Sweeney Todd*, *The Pierglass* and *The Libertine*. He also Stage Managed the recent *Much Ado About Nothing* from Unmasked Productions. Away from The Questors, he works for BBC Worldwide and also volunteers for the YMCA.

Peter Salvietto – Properties

From 2003 on, Peter has 'propped' up shows from *Bliithe Spirit* to *Oliver!* Others include *This Happy Breed*, *Shirley Valentine*, *Into The Woods*, *Vincent in Brixton*, *Peter Pan*, *A Servant To Two Masters* and, most recently, *Sweeney Todd*. Greatest challenge: a roast goose for *A Christmas Carol*.

Creative exterior planting

- Exterior and interior planting
- Grounds maintenance
- Landscaping
- Plant sourcing
- Patio gardens
- Hanging baskets
- Street trees

To make your premises look as inviting as possible, there's no better way to make a statement than by using exterior plants, whether it's to make that grand entrance or to soften and protect hard landscaping in your pub garden or office courtyard.

For more information about our services, or to arrange an appointment with one of our sales team, please contact us:
T: 0845 845 9406
E: roy.conley@plus.co.uk



Next Questors Productions

A FLEA IN HER EAR

by Georges Feydeau

30 October – 6 November 2010

The Playhouse

Classic French farce with a dazzling plot, comical mayhem and frantic chases.

LADIES' DAY

by Amanda Whittington

5 – 13 November 2010

The Studio

A bittersweet and hilariously funny tale of four Yorkshire lasses on a push outing to the races.

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 friends to Questors productions*
- ✓ Children's 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 three times a year
- ✓ Monthly Members' Newsletter
- ✓ Monthly programme card
- ✓ Vote at general meetings
- ✓ Access to iQ – the members-only website <http://members.questors.org.uk>
- ✓ Membership of The Grapevine Club

*Reduced prices exclude certain events. †Under 18 only, maximum four per event. Must be collected at the performance and accompanied by an adult member.

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

Getting the most from your membership

We have a wide range of opportunities for you to become actively involved front-of-house or backstage. Volunteer help is always needed for selling programmes or stewarding, and training is provided if you'd like to work in Box Office with our computerized 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.

Questors Youth Theatre – QYT

Our Youth Theatre, QYT, runs weekly drama classes for all ages from 6 to 16. Younger groups meet on Saturday mornings and older ages at weekday teatime. There's often a waiting list for membership, so put your name down now! Details are online at questors.org.uk/qyt.

Cover Image: Elaine Hagan

Programme: Nigel Bamford & John MacCarrick

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