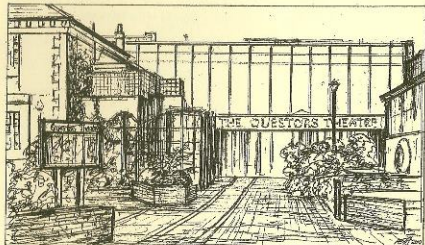




Questors, Ealing's Theatre



JEFFREY BERNARD IS UNWELL

by Keith Waterhouse

The Playhouse

2 – 9 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.**



JEFFREY BERNARD IS UNWELL

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Jeffrey Bernard

Jeffrey Bernard (1932-1997) was the legendary Soho journalist who was forever popping into the pub for "just the one", getting involved in strange escapades, behaving badly, drinking for England and, inevitably, outliving most of his contemporaries.

What other bottle-of-vodka-and-fifty-fags-a-day hack has also been a gigolo, navy, fairground boxer, miner, stagehand, film editor and actor?

He has been compared to Pepys and Boswell; had a racehorse named after him; has his portrait in the National Portrait Gallery; and was described by playwright John Osborne as "the Tony Hancock of journalism". He wrote (or failed to write) for many publications in his long career, including *The Sporting Life*, *The Daily Express*, *The Sunday Mirror*, and *The Spectator* – as well as the porn magazine *Men Only!*

He was married four times, as well as seducing 500 lovers (his estimate!), as well as befriending Graham Greene, John Hurt, Wendy Richard, Francis Bacon, Tom Baker and Peter O'Toole – who went on to play Jeff in the original production of *Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell*.

But his greatest love of all was Soho. For twenty years his "Low Life" column in *The Spectator* charted its highs, lows and decline, which mirrored Jeff's own: indeed, it was unofficially subtitled "a suicide note in weekly instalments". He was such a fixture in Soho that Michael Heath's *Private Eye* cartoon strip "The Regulars", set in The Coach and Horses, used the catchphrase "Jeff bin in?" as an in-joke.

After a lifetime of drinking and smoking, it is not surprising to say that Jeff's health was not great. At sixty, he looked over eighty. And yet he carried on, through pancreatitis, diabetes, fatty lipomas, amputation and eventual renal problems. He died in 1997 after refusing to have any more dialysis treatment. With his passing, the lights of Soho shone a little less brightly.

If you'd like to find out more, try the following books:

Low Life, More Low Life and Reach for the Ground by Jeffrey Bernard;
Soho Night and Day by Frank Norman and Jeffrey Bernard;
Just the One: The Wives and Times of Jeffrey Bernard by Graham Lord.

"The Regulars"

Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell is populated with many of the characters of the golden age of Soho: drunks, artists, gamblers, bohemians, ladies of ill-repute, sportsmen. Depending on your age, some may be more familiar to you than others. Here is a quick run down of those on stage or mentioned in passing.

Elizabeth Smart – Canadian poet and novelist. Known for *By Grand Central Station I Sat Down and Wept*. Got Jeff his first job in Soho.

Barry Brogan – Irish jump jockey and racehorse trainer.

Michael Molloy – Editor of *Daily Mirror*, *Sunday Mirror* and *Punch*. Now writes children's fantasy novels.

Norman Balon – Now-retired landlord of The Coach and Horses. Self-styled "rudest landlord in Soho", in reality had a heart of gold. Published his autobiography *You're Barred, You Bastards* in 1991.

Dennis Shaw – Character actor specialising in slimy villains. Died of a heart attack aged 49.

John Le Mesurier – Actor, most famous for his role as Sergeant Wilson in the TV comedy *Dad's Army*.

Lester Piggott – Champion flat jockey with 4,493 career wins. Famously jailed in 1987 for tax evasion.

Dylan Thomas – Welsh poet and writer. Drank in The French House.

Francis Bacon – Anglo-Irish painter, best known for his dark triptychs. Was paid £10 a week by Muriel Belcher to bring friends and rich patrons to The Colony Room.

Lucien Freud – Possibly Britain's greatest living painter. Grandson of Sigmund Freud. He and Francis Bacon both painted portraits of Henrietta Moraes, another Soho regular.

John Minton – Painter, musician and theatrical designer. Illustrated a number of books by cookery writer Elizabeth David. Died of a drugs overdose in 1957.

Frank Norman – Novelist and playwright. Wrote the plays *Fings Ain't Wot They Used T'Be* and *A Kayf Up West*, in which a young Jeff appeared as Burglar Bill. After he died Jeff lodged with his widow ... for five years.

French Vera, No-Knickers Joyce – I believe "hostesses" is the polite term.

Sid the Swimmer – Soho small businessman and petty crook, so named "because he was always trying to keep his head above water".

continued ...

JEFFREY BERNARD IS UNWELL

A play by **Keith Waterhouse** based on the life and writings of Jeffrey Bernard

First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 2 October 2010

CAST

Jeffrey Bernard

Steve Fitzpatrick

Poets, Hacks, Wives, Girlfriends,
Thespians, Publicans, Sinners,
Policemen, Waiters, Friends,
Neighbours, Jockeys, Trainers,
Bores, Artists, Doctors, Nurses,
Customs and Excise Officials,
Drunks, Tarts

all played by:
James Goodden
Alison Roux
Adam Sutcliffe
Katharine Williams

The play takes place overnight in The Coach and Horses pub, Soho, in the not-so recent past, and in the teeming, sodden brain of Jeffrey Bernard.

Please note this play contains swearing, smoking, drinking and frankly awful behaviour. But if we took them out of a play about Jeff, it'd be very short indeed.

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	John McSpadyen
Set Designer	Alex Marker
Costume Designer	Charlotte Greer
Lighting Designer	Tim Hayward
Sound Designer & Operator	Paul Robinson
Stage Manager	Michelle Weaver
Stage Managers (Rehearsals)	Jane Arnold-Forster, Sylvia Wall
Deputy Stage Manager	John Barron
Assistant Stage Managers	Grace Craddock, Sylvia Wall
Properties	Grace Craddock, John McSpadyen
Prompter	Gordon Miller
Lighting Operator	John Green
Lighting Riggers/Crew	John Green, Francois Langton, Chris Newall, Paul Robinson, Alan Smith
Lighting Assistants	Terry Mummery, Martin Stoner
Wardrobe Mentor	Nichola Thomas
Wardrobe Assistant	Grace Craddock
Construction Manager	Mike Hagan
Construction Runner	John MacCarrick
Constructors	John Feather, Gordon Miller, Geoffrey Morgan, Paul Wilson
Scenic Artists	Bron Blake, Dennis Dracup, Elaine Hagan, Sarah Turner
Upholstery	Jenny Richardson
Get In Crew	Dennis Dracup, Alun Jones, Stephen Knight, Richard Williams
Photographer	Peter Gould

Thanks to: **Michael Heath; Julie Cruttenden; Nigel Bamford; Alan Smith; Meryl Griffiths (Tower Theatre Wardrobe); Phil Ley; Tess Walsh; The Duke of Kent pub, Ealing; Kingston College Students; House Services; The Questors Office Staff**

Special Thanks to: **Georgina Gibbs and Emma Watts from the Fuller's Brewery for beer equipment**

Biographies

Steve Fitzpatrick – Jeff

Recent performances include Lars in *Dinner*, Lucky (*Waiting for Godot*) and Jaques (*As You Like It*). Less recent performances include Antonio (*Twelfth Night*) and Cornwall (*King Lear*). And not at all recently there was Homer (*The Country Wife*), Hotspur (*Henry IV*) and Hamlet. He also directs, most recently *The Taming of the Shrew* last November and, coming up next February, *The Wintering* by Jez Butterworth.

James Goodden – Ensemble

Since joining The Questors in 1987, James has appeared in over 20 productions including five with the PlayBack Team. Most recently he has been seen in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Great Expectations*, *There'll Always be a Brontford* and *Habeas Corpus*.

Alison Roux – Ensemble

Following a BA Hons Drama at Manchester University and a stint with the National Student Theatre Company, Alison took a temporary but very long break from the boards. Re-igniting this lifelong passion several years ago with other local community theatres, she is thrilled to be doing her first production at The Questors.

Adam Sutcliffe – Ensemble

Adam's introduction to The Questors (and his first role in a comedy) was as Merriman in *The Importance of Being Earnest* in 2008. Since then he has had a run as Frank in *Educating Rita* for another company (for which he received a Best Actor nomination in the Barnet Drama Festival 2010) and, much to his delight (and surprise), finds himself once again attempting to do justice to great comic writing.

Katharine Williams – Ensemble

Katharine graduated from The Questors Student Group 54 in 2001 and has most recently been seen here in *Arsenic and Old Lace* (2007), *Cinderella* (2007/8), *Bedroom Farce* (2008) and *STIFF* (2009). And she's looking forward to donning her little black number this year for Jeffrey!

John McSpadyen – Director

Since joining in 2000, John has directed eight plays for The Questors, including *Trainspotting*, *Dolly West's Kitchen*, *Road*, *Bloody Poetry* and *Insignificance*. He also directs for The Tower Theatre, most recently *Bash* by Neil Labute. John denies vigorously any insinuation that he has researched this play by spending too long in *The Coach and Horses*...

Alex Marker – Set Designer

Alex is Head of Design at The Questors where he has designed over 25 productions. He trained in design at Wimbledon School of Art and, since graduating, has designed professionally for a wide variety of venues, including West End theatres and The Finborough Theatre, where he is resident designer. He is also Director of The Questors Youth Theatre.

Charlotte Greer – Costume Designer

Charlotte is a now member of The Questors and to date has been involved in the Acting for All group. She has various interests in both acting and helping backstage, more specifically in costume design as part of the wider theatrical picture. She looks forward to the experience of organising this show and getting involved in future productions.

Tim Hayward – Lighting Designer

Tim's recent shows include: *Bloody Poetry*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Henry VI* and *Misery* at The Questors; *The Rover* at both The Questors and The Mirack; *Alice in Wonderland* at Edinburgh; the St Albans International Organ Festival; and open air productions of *As You Like It* and *A Mediaeval Nativity*.

Paul Robinson – Sound Designer

Paul has been a member of The Questors for a year and a half and has worked as lighting and sound operator on many shows in that time including *The Rover*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *A Christmas Carol* and *Misery*. This will be the second show on which Paul has been the Sound Designer, the first being *The Accrington Pals*.



TALKBACK – Tuesday 5 October

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

"The Regulars" continued ...

Ironfoot Jack – The portly Jack flaunted long hair, a Homburg hat and a long black cape hung over his short leg which was elevated by an iron boot. He would approach the unwary and try to sell them copies of his poems on pieces of grubby paper. Jack's abysmal personal hygiene – he was the man who put the BO in 'Bohemia' – meant he always had plenty of leg room in The French House.

Nina Hamnett – Welsh bisexual artist and writer who became known as The Queen of Bohemia. A regular at The Colony Room Club.

Muriel Belcher – founder and proprietress of the private drinking club The Colony Room (also known as Muriel's) at 41 Dean Street. George Melly described her as "a benevolent witch".

Fred Winter – National Hunt jockey and trainer. He was jump racing's Champion Jockey four times and Champion Trainer eight times. A great hero of Jeff's.

Eva Johansen – Jeff's greatest female friend. Studied at the Royal College of Art, but never got around to going home or getting on with the rest of her life. She died in 1983, aged 45.

Keith Waterhouse – Cheekily, has written himself into the play! Born in Leeds, he was a novelist, newspaper columnist, and the writer of many television series and films. With longtime collaborator, Willis Hall, also wrote plays of many of his novels. He died in 2009, aged 80.

Caspar – actually Conan Nicholas, a public relations officer at the Turkish Embassy. The cat-racing meeting happened in his flat in 1958. Jeff was the course bookmaker.

Jeremy Madden-Simpson – film-maker and younger brother of artist Anne Madden. Died suddenly in 1984, aged 42.

Next Questors Productions

HUMBLE BOY

by Charlotte Jones

9 – 23 October 2010

The Studio

An award-winning, very funny and extremely moving play about love, life and the joys of beekeeping.

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.

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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