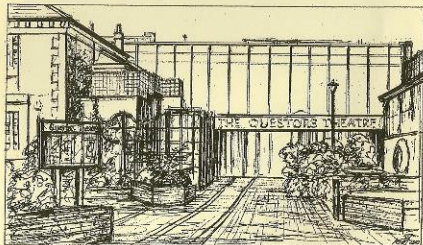




Questors, Ealing's Theatre



LADIES' DAY

by Amanda Whittington

The Studio

5 – 13 November 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

Scotch Malt Whisky Tasting – Friday 3 December

See questors.org.uk/grapevine for more details

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



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by Amanda Whittington

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Ladies' Day

Originally written for Hull Truck Theatre Company, *Ladies' Day* has been produced by many theatre companies all over the country since its premiere in 2005. There are many good reasons for this, not least because it offers four brilliant, substantial parts for women. There are men too. In fact, the script does suggest that the six male characters can be played by one man. I decided against this for a number of reasons. Firstly, this play really does focus on the women and to risk bringing more attention to one male actor would imbalance the piece. I was also lucky enough to have plenty of talented men audition for the production, so was more than able to cast six men to play the small but lovely and important male roles.

In 2005, Ascot racecourse was being refurbished and so the whole summer event of Royal Ascot was relocated to York racecourse. This provides the stimulus for the story of a group of women working in a fish plant in Hull putting on their best hats and setting off to Ladies' Day. Taken away from their normal, relentless routine and into an unfamiliar and glamorous environment, they have the chance to pursue their own dreams and ambitions – be that meeting Tony Christie, rubbing shoulders with celebrities in the hope of making it as a star, catching a glimpse of the Queen or taking one last shot at a dream which is almost over.

On first reading the script, my initial concerns were that it may be difficult to relate to these working class women and take them seriously. I wanted audiences to be laughing with the women, not at them. However, it didn't take long for Amanda Whittington's wonderfully drawn characters to emerge and speak for themselves and by the end of my first reading I was convinced of this play's warm heart. There is plenty of humour drawn from the situation but not at the expense of these women and their very real troubles, secrets and dreams. Reminiscent of Victoria Wood's excellent series *Dinnerladies*, this similarly provides funny characters who we care a great deal about and who find courage to overcome their circumstances. Exploring the delicate balance which exists within female relationships, their friendships are tested to the limit and they all face life-changing decisions.

In their own ways, the ladies are all close to a boundary within their own lives and either pushing to break through or anxiously holding back. The situation fuels these changes and by the end nothing will ever be the same again.

This has really been a happy rehearsal process and is a testament to the gorgeous people on board. We've had fun playing with ways to show the fish factory (sans fish), discovering the tic-tac signals and immersing ourselves in the songs of Tony Christie whose songs are the inspiration for the choice of racing horses and feature heavily throughout the piece. The Hull accent has posed no problem for the actors, but has instead provided humour when discussing "cans of Kirk".

The challenge of portraying two very different settings in a small, intimate space like The Studio was no problem as we have been lucky enough to have a very experienced designer who has realised it all beautifully.

The cast and crew have all had great fun rehearsing this show and we wish you the same joy in watching it.

Dominique Gerrard

Featured Songs all performed by Tony Christie

(Is This The Way To) Amarillo

Solitaire

Avenues & Alleyways

I Did What I Did For Maria

Don't Go Down To Reno

Street Of Broken Dreams

Drive Safely Darlin'

Las Vegas

Home Lovin' Man

LADIES' DAY

by Amanda Whittington

First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 5 November 2010

CAST

In order of appearance

Pearl	Sarah Morrison
Jan	Kerri Logan
Shelley	Sherralyn Croft
Linda	Liz Jardine Smith
Joe	Robert Baker-Glenn
Fred	Evan Rule
Jim McCormack	David Hovatter
Patrick	Pedro Pinhal
Kevin	Will O'Connell
Barry	Barry Jones

The performance lasts approximately 2 hours 10 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	Dominique Gerrard
Set Designer	Philip Lindley
Costume Designer	Jennie Yates
Lighting Designer	Nigel Lewis
Sound Designer	Martin Choules
Stage Manager	Clare Watson
Deputy Stage Manager	Remi Smith
Assistant Stage Managers	Libbie Khabaza, Jamie King, Will Langleigh
Properties	Liz Cooper
Prompter	Jean Masters
Lighting Operator	Sarah Clopet
Sound Operator	Martin Choules
Heads of Construction and Get In	Philip Lindley, Clive Whitcroft
Constructors and Get-In Crew	Henry Broom, Steve Cowan, Alex Gougoilis, John Howe, Ellis McNorthey-Gibbs, Donna Noel
Scenic Artist	Elaine Hagan
Photographers	James Deverell, Richard Mead
Thanks to:	Brian Edwards, Tracey Fletcher, Liz Prior, The Bakers of Ealing, Safety Supply Company, Waitrose West Ealing, Studio House Services, The Questors Office Staff

Biographies

Robert Baker-Glenn – Joe

As well as acting, Robert has worked as a radio presenter, a director and a choreographer. His most recent appearances have been in *On Show* (a celebration of dance at the Royal Albert Hall), *Much Ado About Nothing* for Unmasked Productions and, for The Questors, *A Christmas Carol* (which he also choreographed) and *Otherwise Engaged*. He will be appearing in *Hobson's Choice* at The Questors in January.

Sherralyn Croft – Shelley

Sherralyn started acting at 5 years old, and since has studied drama at college and university. She has performed with frantic assembly in *The Service Charge* at the Lyric Theatre Hammersmith. She has also performed at a plethora of other theatres including The Beck, The Union Theatre and Battersea Arts. This is Sherralyn's third Questors production, the others being *The Accrington Pals* and *The Libertine* both directed by Mark Fitzgerald. Sherralyn has also been cast in *Hobson's Choice* which runs at the beginning of next year.

David Hovatter – Jim McCormack

David has spent most of 2010 on one play: directing and acting in Aphra Behn's restoration comedy, *The Rover*. After a week in the main Playhouse in April, the cast met regularly to adapt the production for the open-air Minack Theatre in Cornwall, where it ran for a week in September. Subsequently, the play was further revised to fit the time-slot in a theatre festival in Slovenia in October, where it received a standing ovation. The whole experience was beyond brilliant and the cast are now one big family, united forever by the shared memory. David will start directing *The Talented Mr Ripley* once *Ladies' Day* is finished

Liz Jardine Smith – Linda

Liz is a new member of The Questors and *Ladies' Day* is her first show here. She has previously appeared in *Paul McCartney is Dead* for the Broken Glass Theatre Company at the Camden People's Theatre and the Rag Factory; and in *Pleasance Lane* at the Pleasance Theatre (London). Other acting experience includes an open class at the Pleasance Theatre in July of this year and various school productions. She is really looking forward to getting more involved at Questors as an acting member.

TALKBACK – Tuesday 9 November

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

Barry Jones – Barry

Barry has performed at various theatres. Unity Theatre 1968: *The Feather Pluckers* with a young Mr Hoskins; *The Tigers are Coming*; *The Way of The World*; *Orchestra at St. Ovid*. Salon Varieties (Spain): *Don Quixote in Man of La Mancha*; *The Inspector in The Inspector Calls*. At The Questors: Journalist in *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*; The Old Man in *Crossfire*; Albert in *Mort*; Vimes in *Men at Arms*; Mr de Vere in *You Can't Take It With You*; The Husband in *Wedding Story*; Adolf Hitler in *Isle of the Departed*.

Kerri Logan – Jan

Kerri joined The Questors in 2002. Since then she has been involved in around a dozen productions, including *Nicholas Nickleby*, *Dolly West's Kitchen*, *After the Dance*, *Company*, *Two and Misery*. She is delighted to be working with such a lovely bunch of ladies (and chaps)!

Sarah Morrison – Pearl

Acting Member since 1980, has played many other working class Ladies. Some firm favourites: Minnie Gascoigne (*The Daughter-in-Law*), Marlene (*Top Girls*), Madame Knorr (*On the Razzle*), Toni (*Amongst Barbarians*), Mirandolina (*Mirandolina*), Christine Foskett (*Absolute Hell*), Truvy (*Steel Magnolias*), Ethel (*This Happy Breed*). Odds on Pearl fast becoming a frontrunner.

Evan Rule – Fred

Evan has been a member of The Questors for many years and this is his 15th play. In the event of this show completely selling out, he will be found out the front of the theatre, looking dodgy and touting tickets.

Will O'Connell – Kevin

Will joined The Questors in 2003, completing Student Group 59 in 2006. Previous roles include *Canterbury* in *Henry V*; Granddad in *Saturday, Sunday, Monday*; Catesby and Tyrell in *Richard III*; Waiter in *A Servant to Two Masters*; Mr Szepansky in *The Railway Children*; Thisbie in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; Trevor in *Bedroom Farce* and Blunt in this year's Minack show *The Rover*.

Pedro Pinhal – Patrick

An exciting young prospect in his first Questors production, Pedro is active in both theatre and film work. He recently completed *Winter Sun* (Southern Monkey Productions) and played the male lead in the stage production *Lifeslide* (Enkore Drama). Pedro currently studies acting at the Actors Centre London and enjoys long walks on the beach.

Dominique Gerrard – Director

Dominique is a professional actress currently working with The Impulse Company, specialising in the Meisner Technique. Recent acting roles include Rowena in *Euler's Circles* (Brockley Jack Theatre), Mary in *The Women's War* (Finborough Theatre), Charlotte in *Yellowing* (Theatre 503), Alex in *Dogs Barking* and Amy in *Company*, both at The Questors. Directing credits include *The Railway Children* (Questors), *The Pierglass*, *Cogner au Plafond* and *Scenes from the Fair* (Questors Youth Theatre). Dominique is also a freelance Drama Facilitator, currently working with The Old Vic Theatre, Pleasance Theatre, Arts Depot and Questors Youth Theatre.

Nigel Lewis – Lighting Designer

Nigel Lewis is Co-Head of the Lighting Department at The Questors. He has been lighting the stage for 25 years, owns his own theatre lighting company and is a member of The Association of Lighting Designers. Nigel has enjoyed the challenge of lighting *Ladies' Day* and working with the team.

Philip Lindley – Set Designer

Although trained as an architect, Philip began his theatre career as a set and lighting designer before joining the BBC TV Design Department. After 25 years at the BBC he moved to Lisbon designing for the theatre there. He has just returned to live in the UK despite the weather.

Next Questors Productions

DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

music by Alan Menken,
lyrics by Howard Ashman & Tim Rice,
book by Linda Woolverton
11 – 31 December 2010

The Playhouse

Songs, magic and romance on stage for all the family to enjoy.

DUBLIN CAROL

by Connor McPherson
11 – 23 December 2010
The Studio

A funny, compassionate play from the author of *The Weir*. Irish story telling at its best, bringing the characters to vivid life with a mixture of lyricism, realism and black humour.

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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