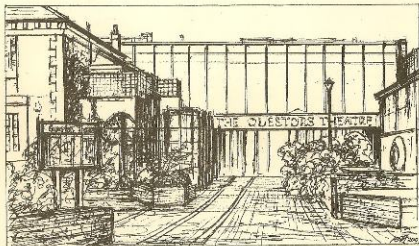




Questors, Ealing's Theatre



THE ROVER

by Aphra Behn

The Playhouse

17 – 24 April 2010

Qafé

Have you tried the Questors café experience yet?

Opening times Monday – 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 2010 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

Spring Mini Beer Festival: Thu 27th to Sat 29th May

See questors.org.uk/grapevine/ for more details

Unfortunately, neither the Qafé nor the Grapevine are able to accept credit or debit cards.



THE ROVER

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The Rover

What would Walt Disney do?

On being told I was to direct Aphra Behn's restoration comedy about Civil War Cavaliers on the razzle in a foreign country, this seemed to me a perfectly reasonable question to ask. I had some basic facts to guide me. Born a barber's daughter, Behn spent her teenage years in India, married a Dutchman and, after his death, spied on the Dutch on Charles II's behalf. After spending time in a debtors' prison she turned to writing plays to earn a living, becoming a successful and prolific playwright, before finally being buried at the age of 49 in Westminster Abbey.

Yes, but what about Disney? Back to the facts. Behn lived through four monarchies and a civil war (sounds like a film!). Charles II attended the premier of *The Rover* in 1677 and would have recognised the plight of noble men exiled abroad without money but out to party. I'm getting to Walt.

Behn based the play on Thomas Killigrew's *Thomaso*, a play written to be read in private, Cromwell having closed the theatres and outlawed fun. Behn took the plot (and a lot of the dialogue) but made *The Rover* her own by changing the way the female characters were represented. In fact, it is the depiction of female sexuality and the way men divide women into virgins or whores that Behn makes so interesting and so powerful. Hellena, a sex crazed nun-to-be, was fashioned out of some male characters in *Thomaso*, and Thomaso himself became Belville and Willmore. Behn made the courtesan, Angellica Bianca, a much stronger woman than Killigrew's version.

Behn emphasised the carnival atmosphere more than Killigrew had allowed himself and she used the carnival to allow the women to explore sexual freedom. Since Etherege's *The Man of Mode* there had been a shift of focus onto the women's roles, which Behn exploited. One topic especially close to her heart was the issue of arranged marriages and the woman's right to choose her own husband. Beginning with her first play, *The Forced Marriage*, she tackled the topic at least 11 times in her dramatic works.

Thinking about restoration theatre and the restoration of Charles II (who is present in the background of Behn's play), I wanted our version of *The Rover* to be as fun and high-spirited as possible. I turned to Disney's cartoon extravaganza *Fantasia* and, in the spectacle of dancing crocodiles, mincing pachyderms, amorous centaurs and drunken satyrs, I drew my inspiration.

I changed the setting of the play from Naples to Venice and dispensed with a set, traditional period costumes, and even standard Playhouse sound and lighting. I wanted the actors to create Venice before our eyes.

Behn's play has undergone a revival since John Barton and the RSC re-staged it in the 1980s. Recent versions have been set in India and in a girls' dorm, with four teenage girls staging it during a sleepover, using Ken and Barbie dolls and a floppy-eared toy dog.

David Hovatter

The Plays and Writings of Aphra Behn

Plays

- The Forced Marriage* (1670)
- The Amorous Prince* (1671)
- The Dutch Lover* (1673)
- Abdelazer* (1676)
- The Town Fop* (1676)
- The Rover*, Part 1 (1677) and Part 2 (1681)
- Sir Patient Fancy* (1678)
- The Feigned Courtesans* (1679)
- The Young King* (1679)
- The False Count* (1681)
- The Roundheads* (1681)
- The City Heiress* (1682)
- Like Father, Like Son* (1682)
- The Lucky Chance* (1686)
- The Emperor of the Moon* (1687)

Posthumously Performed

- The Widow Ranter* (1689)
- The Younger Brother* (1696)

Novels

- The Fair Jilt*
- Agnes de Castro*
- Love-Letters Between a Nobleman and His Sister* (1684)
- Oroonoko* (1688)

Short Stories

- The History of the Nun: or, The Fair Vow-Breaker* (1688)
- The Dumb Virgin: or, The Force of Imagination* (1700)

Poems

- Love Armed* (1677)
- The Disappointment* (1680)
- On Her Loving Two Equally* (1682)
- Poems upon Several Occasions* (1684)
- On Desire* (1688)
- To The Fair Clarinda, Who Made Love to Me* (1688)



A sketch of Aphra Behn by Sir George Scharif, first Director of The National Portrait Gallery, from a portrait believed to be lost.

THE ROVER

By Aphra Behn

First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 17 April 2010.

CAST

English Cavaliers

Belville, an English Colonel

Willmore, the Rover

Frederick, an English Gentleman

Ned Blunt, an English Country Gentleman

The Pedros

Don Pedro, a Noble Spaniard

Florinda, Sister to Don Pedro

Hellena, Sister to Florinda

Valeria, Cousin to Florinda

Callis, Governess to Florinda and Hellena

The Antonios

Don Antonio, the Viceroy's Son

Diego, Page to Don Antonio

The Courtesan

Angellica Bianca, a Famous Courtesan

Moretta, her Woman

The Wench

Lucetta, a Jilting Wench

Sancho, Pimp to Lucetta

Andy Naughton

Simon Rudkin

Tom Cantwell

Will O'Connell

John Dobson

Holly Marsden

Lucy Waring

Lydia Georgoula

Rosalind Storey

Tom Cantwell

Rosalind Storey

Hannah Whiteoak

Lydia Georgoula

Rosalind Storey

David Hovatter

PRODUCTION

Director

Set Creator

Costume Designers

Lighting Designer

Sound Designer

Stage Manager

Deputy Stage Manager

Trainee Deputy Stage Manager

Assistant Stage Managers

Properties Co-ordinator

Set Properties Assistant

Mask Makers

Set Constructors

Lighting Operator

Lighting Riggers

Sound Operator

Wardrobe Assistants

Photographer

Special thanks to

David Hovatter

Allison Gregory

Sarah Andrews, David Hovatter

Tim Hayward

Mark Lucek

Ben Sandford

Matty Wilson

Caz Thomson

Steve Cowan, Pip Egan

Harriet Parsonage

Alexandra Da Silva Jorge

Allison Gregory,

Alexandra Da Silva Jorge

Matthew Addison, Victoria Butler

Paul Robinson

Victoria Butler, Chris Newall,

Alan Smith

Martin Choules

Mary Davies, Bridgett Strevens,

Jennie Yates

Richard Mead

Barry Jones

The performance lasts approximately 2 hours and 30 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.

Biographies

Sarah Andrews – Costume Designer

Sarah joined Questors in 1977 as a member of Student Group 32 and since graduating has appeared in many plays at the Questors, most recently in *The Comedy of Errors*. Sarah is one of the triumvirate that runs the Costume Department and has designed and dressed a countless number of shows, most recently *A Christmas Carol*, *The Comedy of Errors* and *The Accrington Pals*.

Tom Cantwell – Frederick / Don Antonio

Tom completed Student Group 61 in 2008. He has played various roles in *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, including the doctor, Monk and Shauva, as well as Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Seyton in *Macbeth*. He is glad to be back at Questors.

John Dobson – Don Pedro

John was in Student Group 35 (decades ago) and has appeared in lots of Questors shows (63 and counting), notably *The Faith Healer*, *Breaking the Code*, *Nicholas Nickleby* and David Hovatter's recent production of *The Lesson*. After 10 years editing Questotopics, he is now looking after our archives.

Lydia Georgoula – Valeria / Moretta

Lydia joined The Questors Acting for All in 2006. As a member of Student Group 62 she had the opportunity to appear in *Cinderella*, *Henry VI* (numerous parts) and *Far From The Maddening Crowd* (Maryann Money). Since then, she has worked as a Deputy Stage Manager on *Misery* and performed in *A Christmas Carol*.

Alison Gregory – Set Creator / Mask Maker

Alison trained as a Set and Costume Designer at Wimbledon School of Art. Previous Questors productions as a Set Designer include *Misery*, *After the Dance*, *Habeas Corpus*, *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *Charley's Aunt*.

Tim Hayward – Lighting Designer

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

David Hovatter – Director / Sancho

David joined The Questors in the mid-1980s as an acting member, but recently has increasingly turned to writing and directing, devising *The Marvellous Land of Oz* last year and directing *The Chairs* and *The Lesson* by Ionesco. Most recently he was seen in Berkoff's *Kvetch* and Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*.

Mark Lucek – Sound Designer

As Director, David Hovatter had a very specific idea for the sound design: he didn't want any. In keeping with the Restoration theme, he decided to use music by the English composer William Boyce. Mark has worked on many Questors shows, most recently *Henry VI*.

Holly Marsden – Florinda

Having joined The Questors as an acting member this year, *The Rover* is Holly's Questors debut. Having completed a one-year acting course at LAMDA, other parts included Natasha in *Three Sisters* and Viola in *Twelfth Night*. She has loved rehearsing for *The Rover* and looks forward to more productions with The Questors.

Andy Naughton – Belville

Whilst taking his degree in music at Guildhall, Andy first took an interest in acting playing Krapp in *Krapp's Last Tape*. He played three small parts in *The Dog in the Manger* at The Questors, and was Music Director and played live instruments for *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*. He was in Student Group 62 during which he played *The Earl of Warwick* in *Henry VI* and *Henry Fray* in *Far From The Maddening Crowd*.

Will O'Connell – Ned Blunt

Will joined The Questors in 2003, completing the Student Group 59 in 2006. Previous roles include: *Canterbury in Henry V*; *Granddad in Saturday, Sunday, Monday*; *Catesby* and *Tyrell* in *Richard III*; *Walter* in *A Servant to Two Masters*; *Mr. Szojczpansky* in *The Railway Children*; and *Flute* in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. His last Questors appearance was as *Trevor* in *Bedroom Farce* (2008).

Simon Rudkin – Willmore

Simon graduated from Student Group 61 in 2008. Since then, he has appeared in a few shows – *Bedroom Farce*, *The Alchemist*, *The Marvellous Land Of Oz* and *Rock 'n' Roll*. He has also been working as an Assistant Director and produced *The Errors* of Comedy sketch show earlier in the year.

Rosalind Storey – Callis / Diego / Lucetta

Rosalind completed Student Group 61, during which she appeared in *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Hermia). Since then she has appeared in *Macbeth* (Murderer), *Madame Bovary* (Félicité), *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (Cécile), *The Marvellous Land of Oz* (Tip), and most recently, *The Pierglass* with just six days' notice.

Lucy Waring – Hollena

This is Lucy's second play as an acting member of The Questors, her first being *The Taming of the Shrew* in which she played Bianca. She completed Student Group 62 last summer, during which she played Lady Grey and Rutland in *Henry VI* and Liddy in *Far From The Maddening Crowd*.

Hannah Whiteoak – Angellica Bianca

Hannah has been an acting member of The Questors since her days in Student Group 60. Her roles have included Miss Cooper in *Separate Tables*, Clare Zachanassian in *The Visit*, *Widow in Three Polish Shorts*, *Ophelia* in *Hamlet Unseen* and, most recently, *Davina* in *Otherwise Engaged*.

TALKBACK

Come meet the Director and Cast for an informal discussion in The Playhouse as soon as possible after the performance on **Tuesday 20th April**.

The Questors at The Minack Theatre

The Questors Theatre is very privileged to have been invited to take this production of *The Rover* to the beautiful Minack Theatre, set in the cliffs of the Cornish coast at Porthcurno. This will be the 22nd production that we will have presented there since taking Alan Chambers' production of Racine's *Phaedra* in August 1987.

The creation of The Minack Theatre is largely due to the efforts of one very determined woman – Rowena Cade. It started in 1932 with a production of *The Tempest* on a simple stage lit by little more than battery-powered headlights before some very rough seating. But the seed was sown and, from then on, Rowena and her team of Billy Rawlings and Tom Angove strove to cut the present theatre from the rock face and to build the seating with cement made with sand dragged up from the beach. The dressing rooms were built using massive wooden beams blown ashore from a shipwreck and famously 'misappropriated' by Rowena. Billy died in 1966, but Tom continued until his retirement in 1993. Rowena passed away in 1983, just short of her 90th birthday, leaving extensive plans for future development, including sketches of how the theatre could be covered on wet days (it seems unlikely that these will be implemented). Since then, the theatre has been run by a trust and recent years have seen the addition of more seating areas, a restaurant and shop facilities, and all year opening for visitors. Technical facilities have been greatly enhanced and live webcams allow those left at home to monitor a production's progress.

The Rover runs from 6th to 10th September and tickets are already on sale from www.minack.com. If you're in the area, then come along and support The Questors. And if any Members wish to join the tour, helping either backstage or front-of-house, then please contact the Office for more details.

The Next Questors Productions

SWEENEY TODD

by Stephen Sondheim

1 – 15 May 2010

The Studio

Award-winning musical thriller of passion, love and revenge.

THE HOUSE OF BERNARDA ALBA

by Federico García Lorca

28 May – 5 June 2010

The Studio

Exploring the themes of repression, passion and conformity in an all-female household in Andalucía.

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
- ✓ Regular Members' Newsletter
- ✓ Regular programme card
- ✓ Vote at general meetings
- ✓ 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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