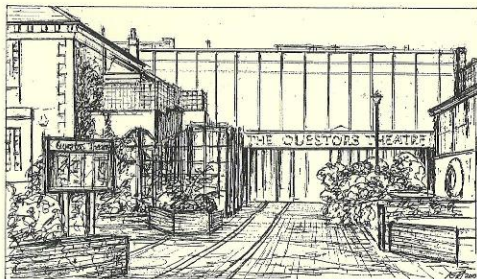




Questors, Ealing's Theatre



ENTERTAINING STRANGERS

by David Edgar

The Studio

2 – 9 April 2011

Qafé

Pop in for lunch or an afternoon snack – serving specialist teas and coffees, hot chocolate and soft drinks, with a selection of sandwiches cut to order.

Now open seven days a week.

Monday to Friday: 10:30 am – 7:00 pm

Saturday: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Sunday: 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm

For Playhouse productions:

Hot meal menu up to 6:45 pm followed by drinks, ice creams and snacks through the first interval.

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 2011 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.

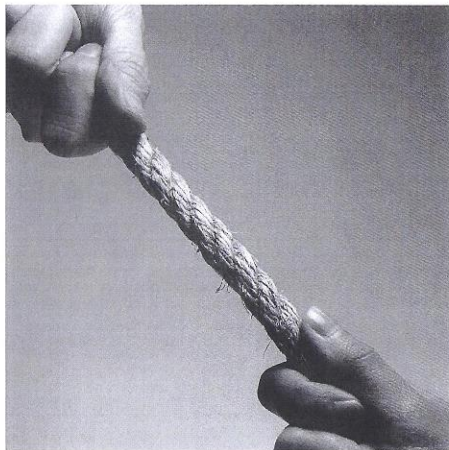
Opening Hours:

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

Sunday lunchtime: midday – 2:30 pm

See questors.org.uk/grapevine for more details

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



ENTERTAINING STRANGERS

by David Edgar

The Studio

2 – 9 April 2011

Entertaining Strangers

There was a time, over three decades ago, when the phrase 'Victorian values' represented – at least to a significant part of the public – something to which we would all do well to aspire. It meant personal industry, self-reliance, moral responsibility and good husbandry. To detractors, it represented narrow mindedness, greed, lack of charity and even bigotry.

The Victorian era comprised all these things and more. During that time, Britain changed, for good and ill, beyond recognition. Cities expanded, spreading wealth and great poverty; machinery, together with an exodus towards work in the mills and factories threatened the old rural way of life. Thomas Hardy wrote, '*Only a man harrowing clods/ In a slow silent walk/ With an old horse that stumbles and nods/ Half asleep as they stalk.*' He'd been confident that '*... this will go onwards the same/ Though Dynasties pass*' but he was wrong. Some might have sighed and looked back nostalgically to 'the good old days'; some might have looked forward to a 'brave new world'; some might have been pragmatic enough to see good and bad in both points-of-view.

During the 1980s, when *Entertaining Strangers* was written, I remember a parallel situation. The right wing applauded Margaret Thatcher's ethos of self-reliance and opportunity while the left criticised the notion that 'there is no such thing as society'. It was a decade when we saw an increasing number of new businesses, increasing wealth for some and an increasing number of people sleeping in doorways. This is why *Entertaining Strangers* could be said to be a play of its time but it presents these conflicts within a framework that, on another level, is just as riveting when simply seen as a thoroughly engaging story.

David Edgar wrote it at the behest of the Royal Court playwright, director and literary manager Ann Jellicoe. A small grant given to the Dorchester Community Play Association was in her gift and she had asked for a story that was pertinent to Dorset without resort to the well-used topics of Hardy or the Tolpuddle martyrs. It was to be a genuine community piece and originally had a cast of 150+ actors, drawn mostly from the dedicated amateurs with a handful of professionals in leading parts. After much research, Edgar came up with a 'historically plausible but undocumented struggle' between Sarah Eldridge – the founder of Eldridge Pope (later EP), a brewery that was to last until 1996 – and the strict, teetotal parson, Henry Moule. Both these characters – and the town itself – have an epiphany in the wake of the devastating epidemic of cholera that also has resonances with the 1980s in attitudes towards AIDS. Cholera, like AIDS, was an incurable disease, the causes of which were little understood; both were

seen as 'God's judgement on sin' and both were brought into check by a relatively few brave and far-sighted people who, literally and metaphorically, got their hands dirty. In both cases education eventually replaced condemnation and brought hope.

In this National Theatre adaptation of the original play, we meet a large number of the characters who appeared in the original but, in our case, they are played by a company of thirteen, trebling and quadrupling roles as well as supplying narration in much the same way as was employed in Edgar's adaptation of *Nicholas Nickleby*.

The more we have examined the play, the more we have realised how expertly the themes are presented. Two overriding metaphors for the changes the characters go through are the seasons of the year and the 'mummers play': an entertainment in which a hero – in this case Saint George – is killed and resurrected. This is the journey Sarah and Moule both take with their 'resurrection' being their growing sense of humanity in the wake of tragedy. As Sarah says, this reflects the pagan 'Green George' who died and was born again. These ancient stories celebrate the earth's journey round the sun but possibly have a deeper significance when one considers winter is just as necessary as spring.

Richard Gallagher
Director

The Questors Student Group Tutors

Director of Studies and

First Year Tutor

Second Year Tutor

Voice Teacher

Movement Teacher

David Emmet

Richard Gallagher

Colin Farquharson

Nicholas Jonne Wilson

TALKBACK – Wednesday 6 April

Come and meet the director and cast for an informal discussion in The Upper Foyer as soon as possible after the Wednesday performance.

ENTERTAINING STRANGERS

by David Edgar

First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 2 April 2011

CAST

The Eldridge Household:

Sarah Eldridge	Juliette Bartelds
Charles Eldridge	Alexander Cummings
Christian, maid	Efthymia Kalyvides
Sophie	Amelia Glasgow
Emily	Eleanor Cox
Charles Jnr	Alexander Cummings
Sarah Albinia	Francesca McInally
Fanny Lock, maid	Elizabeth Sexton
John James Besant	Alexander Cummings
John Tizard	Gianluca Arcidiacono

Court and Gentry:

Capt William Henning	Szczepan Grebosz
Ann Henning	Eleanor Cox
Mary Frampton	Eleanor Cox
Henry Frampton	Lewis Brown
Robert Williams	Andrew McGovern

Trade:

James Brooks	Gianluca Arcidiacono
Ann Besant	Amelia Glasgow
Alfred Mason	Szczepan Grebosz
George Loder	Andrew McGovern
John Galpin	Gianluca Arcidiacono

Outsiders:

Capt Augustus Handley	Gianluca Arcidiacono
Mr Macarte	Andrew McGovern
Mr Hengler	Szczepan Grebosz
Mr Turnley	Szczepan Grebosz
Sergeant	Andrew McGovern

The Moule Household:

Henry Moule	Rodrigo Sanchez
Mary Moule	Francesca McInally
Ellen Wright, nurse	Elizabeth Sexton
George	Andrew McGovern
Horace	Lewis Brown
Charles	Alexander Cummings
Handley	Gianluca Arcidiacono
Young Horace	Ayden Mitchell

Professional:

Thomas Patch	Szczepan Grebosz
George Andrews	Lewis Brown
Dr Christopher Arden	Andrew McGovern
Labouring/Agricultural:	
John Lock	Andrew McGovern
Martha Lock	Fahmo Mahamud
Lewis Lock	Ayden Mitchell
Jane Whiting	Eleanor Cox
William Bartlett	Lewis Brown
William Fudge	Szczepan Grebosz
Edward Fudge	Alexander Cummings
Natty Seale	Andrew McGovern
Lizzie Sibley	Amelia Glasgow
Jane Sibley	Efthymia Kalyvides
Martha Whiting	Efthymia Kalyvides
Florence Chaffley	Elizabeth Sexton

The play spans the years from 1829 to the late 1850's and takes place in various locations in Dorchester, Dorset.

PRODUCTION

Director	Richard Gallagher
Assistant Director	Daniel Cawtheray
Set Designer	Philip Lindley
Costume	Jennie Yates
Lighting Designer	Tim Hayward
Sound Designer	Paul Robinson
Stage Manager	Michelle Weaver
Deputy Stage Manager	Hannah Webster
Assistant Stage Manager	Jean Masters
Properties	Harriet Parsonage
Prompter	Bridgett Strevens
Music Composition / Recording	Nigel Glasgow
Lighting Operator	John Green
Sound Operator	Matthew Wilson
Constructors	Mike Hagan, Alun Jones, Philip Lindley, John Webster, Alex Whitcroft, Clive Whitcroft
Wardrobe Assistant	Helen Karasiewicz
Movement Coach	Nicholas Jonne Wilson
Voice Coach	David Emmet
Photographer	Peter Collins
Thanks to	Victoria Butler, Benjamin Cox, John Dobson, David Edgar, Michael Langridge, Chris Newall, Ben Sandford, Joel Schrire, Alan N Smith, Dave Townsend, Paul Wilson, The Questors Office Staff

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

Gianluca Arcidiacono – *John Tizard / Handley / James Brooks / John Galpin / Capt Augustus Handley*

This is Gianluca's fourth play for The Questors. Previous outings include *The Comedy of Errors*, *Bent* and *Three Sisters*.

Juliette Bartelds – *Sarah Eldridge*

Juliette grew up in Holland where she appeared in school productions and has been acting in the UK since 1998. Some memorable parts include Nancy in *Oliver!* and Bella in *Gaslight*. She combines her passion for the theatre with looking after her two beautiful boys and has recently started a new job. She thoroughly enjoys being in the second year of this course and is excited to share the stage with her talented fellow students.

Lewis Brown – *Horace / Henry Frampton / George Andrews / William Bartlett*

Lewis' most recent productions at The Questors include *The Talented Mr Ripley*, *A Flea in Her Ear* and the student production of *The Libertine*. Other roles include Troy in *Far From the Madding Crowd* and Borachio in *Much Ado About Nothing* for Unmasked Productions.

Daniel Cawtheray – *Assistant Director*

Daniel joined The Questors two years ago. Having performed onstage, (both speaking and non-speaking) and worked backstage (DSM, ASM, lighting, set construction), Daniel has broadened his involvement to directing. Daniel was last seen on stage as Tournel in *A Flea in Her Ear*.

Eleanor Cox – *Emily / Ann Henning / Mary Frampton / Jane Whiting*
Eleanor joined The Questors after completing a degree at Bristol University. There, she performed in various productions, including *Closer*. Prior to this she was a member of The National Youth Theatre and performed with the Orange Tree Youth Theatre. At The Questors, she's appeared in *Three Sisters* and *I'll Leave It To You*.

Alexander Cummings – *Charles Eldridge / Charles Jnr / John James Besant / Charles / Edward Fudge*

Alex attended St Benedict's School and studied drama at GCSE and A Level. He joined The Questors in 2004 and has been a member of the Youth Theatre, Acting For All and the Student Group 64. He is currently auditioning for drama school and teaches acting to Year 9 of the Youth Theatre. He is a passionate film fan.

Richard Gallagher – *Director*

Trained at the Manchester Polytechnic School of Theatre. At The Questors, favourite appearances include *Twelfth Night* (Sir Toby), *Privates on Parade* (Terri), *Duet for One* (Feldman). He directed *Habeas Corpus* and

co-directed his own play, *French Paste*. More recently he played Lady Bracknell in *The Importance of Being Earnest* and directed *Misery*. His last appearance was as Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*.

Amelia Glasgow – *Sophie / Ann Besant / Lizzie Sibley*

This will be Amelia's first acting performance at The Questors. Prior to being accepted on the student course, she attended Acting For All. She is looking forward to becoming an Acting Member on completion of the course so that she can readily audition for future productions.

Szczepan Grebosz – *Capt William Henning / Thomas Patch / Alfred Mason / William Fudge / Mr Hengler / Mr Turnley*

This is Szczepan's second play at The Questors, the first one being *Three Sisters*, directed by David Emmet. Since 2007, he has appeared in a number of short films and has been attending annual physical theatre seminars at The Grotowski Institute in Poland.

Tim Hayward – *Lighting Designer*

Tim's recent shows at The Questors include: *Misery*, *Jeffrey Barnard is Unwell* and *The Rover*, which toured in Cornwall and Slovenia. Other shows include *Volpone* at St Albans Town Hall and *Three Sisters* at the Pudding Lane Theatre.

Efthymia Kalyvides – *Christian / Jane Sibley / Martha Whiting*

This is Efthymia's second production at The Questors. She first appeared in *A Christmas Carol* as Miss Rosie (among other roles). After completing the final year of the student group, Efthymia hopes to go on to drama school.

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 twenty-five years at the BBC, he moved to Lisbon, designing for theatre there. He has recently returned to the UK and this design for The Questors follows *Ladies Day*, *Too Fast* and *The Winterling*.

Fahmo Mahamud – *Martha Lock*

This is Fahmo's first production at The Questors. She has appeared in *Romeo and Juliet* and *The White Devil* at West Thames College where she completed a BTEC national diploma in performing arts.

Andrew McGovern – *George / Robert Williams / Dr Christopher Arden / George Loder / John Lock / Natty Seale / Mr Macarte / Sergeant*

Andrew worked last year at The Questors as ASM on the amateur premier of Tom Stoppard's *Rock 'n' Roll*. He is making a return to the stage for the first time since he was eleven when he was in St Joseph's Primary School's groundbreaking production of *Joseph and His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

Francesca McInally – Sarah Albinia / Mary Moule

After completing a foundation degree at East 15, Francesca joined the student group in 2009. She looks forward to becoming an Acting Member at The Questors and has appeared in *Top Girls*, *The Winter's Tale* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Madder Market and Sewell Barn Theatre, Norwich.

Ayden Mitchell – Young Horace / Lewis Lock

This is Ayden's first production but he has been acting since he was five years old, regularly attending his after-school drama club. He wants to be one of eight things when he grows up, including being an actor, a scientist or a superhero.

Paul Robinson – Sound Designer

Paul has been a member of The Questors for a year-and-a-half and this is the fourth production he has designed after *Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell*, *The Accrington Pals* and *The Talented Mr Ripley*.

Rodrigo Sanchez – Henry Moule

Rodrigo graduated from the Central School of Speech and Drama and is a final year student on the Questors acting course. At Central, he performed at Minack and helped on several community theatre projects with Richmond and Bigfoot Arts Education. He now works as a Political Assistant for local government.

Elizabeth Sexton – Fanny Lock / Ellen Wright / Florence Chaffley

This is Elizabeth's first acting role at The Questors. She joined in 2007 as part of the Youth Theatre and successfully auditioned for the Introductory and Foundation Courses here. Other work at The Questors includes DSM on *A Christmas Carol*. Elsewhere she was part of the Lyric Youth Theatre and took part in their performance of *Cinderella* as part of the interval act.

Next Questors Productions

A LITTLE PATCH OF GROUND

by Andrew Whelan

5 – 14 May 2011

The Studio

The Questors PlayBack Group presents its latest piece of Reminiscence Theatre, this time based on memories of life on local allotments.

TITUS ANDRONICUS

by William Shakespeare

27 May – 4 June 2011

The Studio

Shakespeare's earliest and bloodiest tragedy, depicting the cycle of revenge between Roman general Titus and Tamora, Queen of the Goths.

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
- ✓ The full-colour *Questors Live* magazine three times a year
- ✓ The monthly *QNews* members' newsletter
- ✓ Monthly programme card
- ✓ Membership of The Grapevine Club
- ✓ Access to iQ – the members-only website <http://members.questors.org.uk>
- ✓ Voting rights in the company

*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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