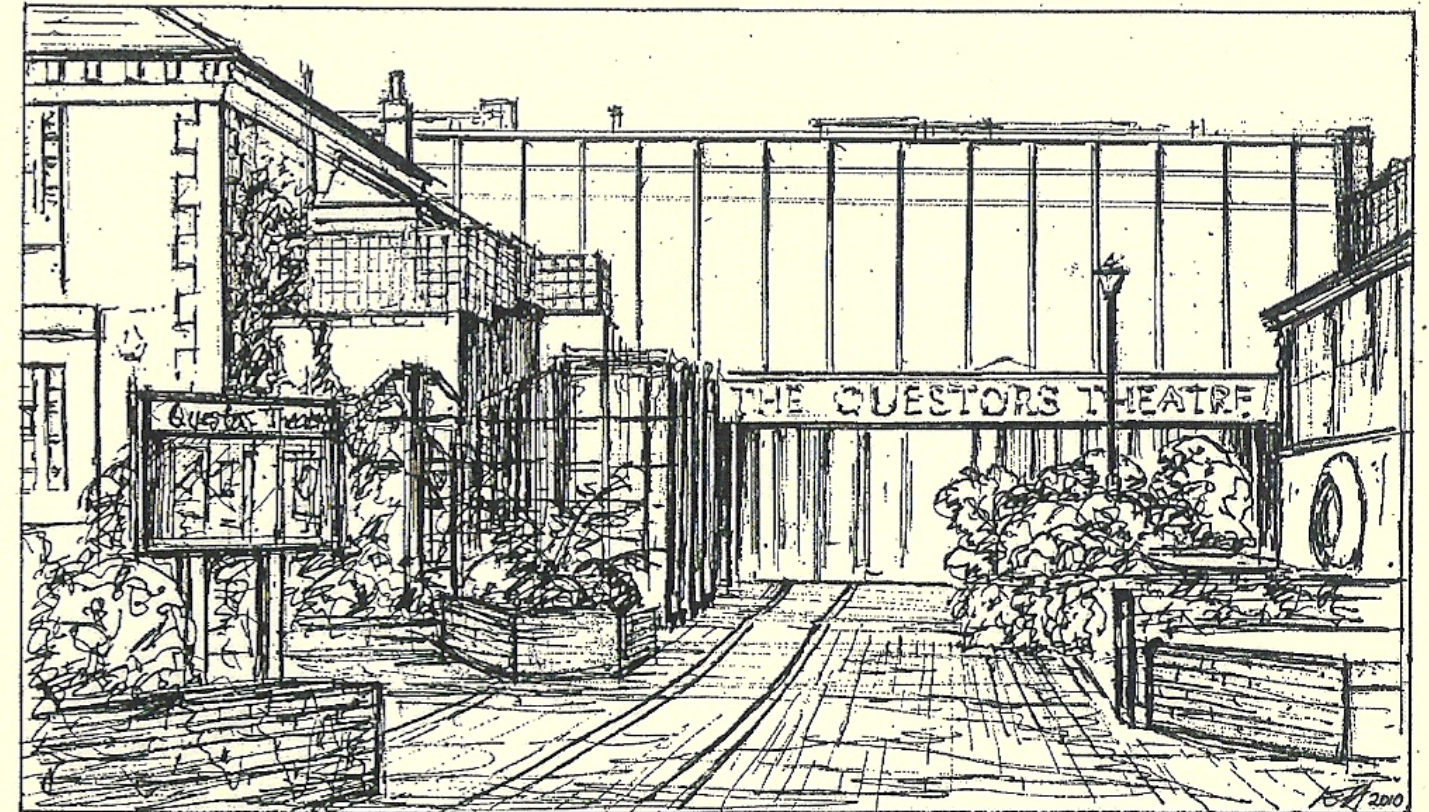




Questors, Ealing's Theatre



THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER

by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart

The Playhouse

16 – 23 July 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.

Opening Hours:

Tuesday to Friday: 10:30 am – 5:00 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.**

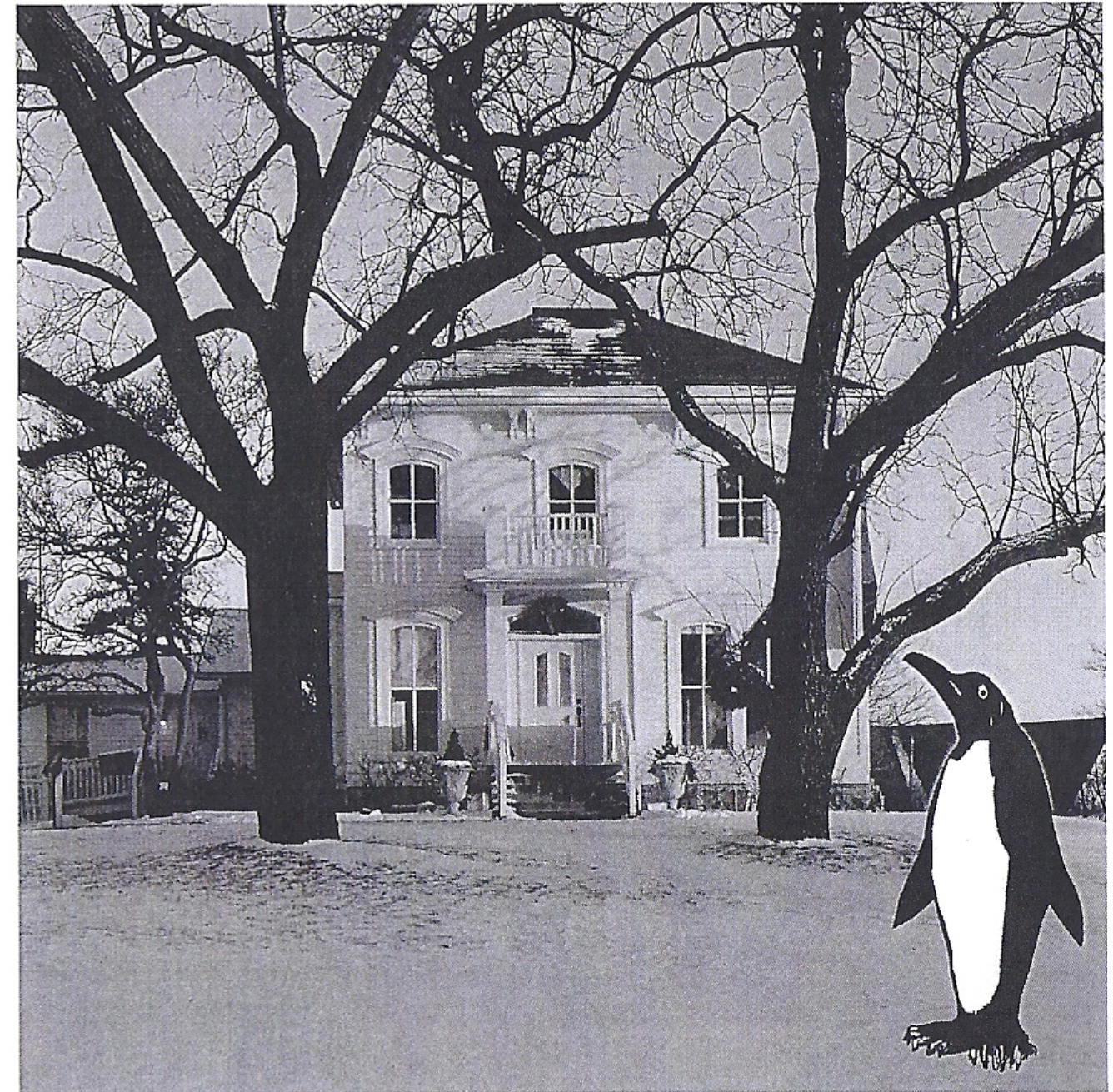


Image: © Nagel Photography / Shutterstock.com

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The Man Who Came To Dinner

Some time ago, I was commissioned to write a play about the American wit, Dorothy Parker. She was one of the famous faces who drank their afternoons away at the Algonquin Hotel in New York where they became such a feature that the manager invested in a special round table so – according to my version of Mrs Parker – they ‘could all be vicious and spiteful, face-to-face’. The heyday of the Algonquin Round Table was during the 1920s and ’30s, just before *The Man Who Came To Dinner* was written, but I mention it because among the founding members were Harpo Marx, Alexander Woollcott and George S. Kaufman.

Harpo Marx (the non-speaking harpist of the Marx Brothers) is the inspiration behind Banjo in *The Man Who Came To Dinner*, his alter ego is joined in the play by thinly disguised representations of Noël Coward and Gertrude Lawrence whose lifelong friendship has been transformed into the vituperative relationship between Beverly Carlton and the American version of Miss Lawrence, Lorraine Sheldon. Last in the list, but definitely not least, comes Alexander Woollcott.

Woollcott was a writer, critic and broadcaster but could better be described in today’s terms as a ‘personality’: he was famous for being famous. He had an acerbic manner, a massive ego and a lethal sense of humour. Speaking with him was likened to petting a disagreeable Persian cat that had just sharpened its claws. He was also astonishingly well-connected and influential. (Indeed, it is reputedly his endorsement that was responsible for the lasting fame of the Marx Brothers, which has long since survived Woollcott’s own celebrity.) George S. Kaufman summed him up in one word: ‘improbable’.

Kaufman’s name, either as a writer or director, was consistently over one Broadway theatre or another from 1921 to only a couple of years before his death in the early sixties. He, like Woollcott, was a master of the ‘wisecrack’ (a witty one-line repost, often insulting) and the two also shared a general misanthropic view of the world. Kaufman collaborated with many other famous people of the day: Ring Lardner (the model for F. Scott Fitzgerald’s Abe North in *Tender is the Night*) and Edna Ferber (the adaptation of her novel, *Show Boat*, has become part of musical theatre history) being but two, although his most enduring partnership was with Moss Hart who has always been regarded as his most important collaborator.

Kaufman and Hart’s first hit comedy was *Once In a Lifetime*, in which the stars of the silent screen struggle over the arrival of the talkies. It was later to form the basis of the hit musical, *Singin’ In the Rain*. Nine years later,

after a string of successes, the pair were looking for a new plot when the curmudgeonly Alexander Woollcott arrived, unannounced and uninvited, at Hart’s estate in Bucks County. Although he and Hart were friends, Woollcott behaved appallingly, taking over the master bedroom, terrorizing the staff and leaving a note in the guest book that brimmed with ingratitude: ‘This is to certify that I had one of the most unpleasant times I ever spent.’ Hart was gracious enough to laugh at his friend’s dreadful behaviour, especially when Kaufman remarked that it was fortunate the man hadn’t broken his leg during his stay because then Hart would have been stuck with him for longer. In that moment, the monstrous Sheridan Whiteside was conceived.

It had not been the first time the pair had drawn on their friends for inspiration: Dorothy Parker had been furious with them after they had come too close to accuracy by portraying her as the drunken Julia Glenn in *Merrily We Roll Along* (later also to become a musical by Stephen Sondheim and George Furth). Woollcott, however, revelled in his own notoriety. He was too busy to take up the offer of appearing as ‘himself’ in the first Broadway production; the part was given to Monty Woolley who, in the 1942 film version, recreated his performance opposite Bette Davis as his secretary, Maggie, Ann Sheridan as Lorraine, Reginald Gardiner as Beverly and Jimmy Durante as Banjo. Woollcott did play the part later in a West Coast revival that also featured Harpo Marx as Banjo.

Sheridan Whiteside has been slipping on the ice outside Mr and Mrs Stanley’s house ever since. This 64th student company is pleased to invite you to look in on his protracted convalescence.

Richard Gallagher

The Questors Theatre presents for Christmas 2011



10 to 31 December – tickets on sale soon

THE QUESTORS STUDENT GROUP 64 PRESENTS

THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER

by **George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart**

First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 16 July 2011

CAST

in order of appearance

Mrs Ernest W. Stanley	Efthymia Kalyvides
Miss Preen	Fahmo Mahamud
Richard Stanley	Andrew McGovern
John	Szczepan Grebosz
June Stanley	Elizabeth Sexton
Sarah	Amelia Glasgow
Mrs Dexter	Eleanor Cox
Mrs McCutcheon	Juliette Bartelds
Mr Stanley	Rodrigo Sanchez
Maggie Cutler	Francesca McInally
Dr Bradley	Amelia Glasgow
Sheridan Whiteside	Gianluca Arcidiacono
Harriet Stanley	Juliette Bartelds
Bert Jefferson	Jed Chambers
Professor Metz	Juliette Bartelds
The Luncheon Guests	Joel Dyer, Jonathan Wells
Mr Baker	Rodrigo Sanchez
Expressman	Jonathan Wells
Lorraine Sheldon	Eleanor Cox
Sandy	Joel Dyer
Beverly Carlton	Szczepan Grebosz
Miss Wescott	Juliette Bartelds
Radio Technicians	Joel Dyer, Will Langley, Jamie Naylor, Jonathan Wells
The Singer	Clara Latham
Banjo	Andrew McGovern
Two Deputies	Joel Dyer, Jonathan Wells

The play is set in Masalia, Ohio in the early 1940s.

The performance lasts approximately 2 hrs 30 mins including two 15-minute intervals.

There will be smoking on stage during the performance.

PRODUCTION

Director	Richard Gallagher
Assistant Director	Daniel Cawtheray
Set and Costume Designer	Anna Sargent
Lighting Designer	Nigel Lewis
Sound Designer	Colin Horne
Stage Manager	Pam Redrup
Deputy Stage Manager	Susannah Trail, Michelle Weaver
Assistant Stage Managers	Will Langley, Jamie Naylor
Properties	Claudia Kees, Harriet Parsonage, Peter Salvietto
Prompter	Geoffrey Morgan
Lighting Operator	Sarah Clopet
Sound Operator	Faye Baker
Constructors	Peter Collins, John Feather, Mark Fitzgerald, Lucy Flach, Mike Hagan (staircase), Tina Harris, Cecily Johnson, Howard Sargent, Joel Schrire, Zyg Staniaszek, Paul Wilson
Scenic Painters	Dennis Dracup, Anna Sargent
Wardrobe Assistants	Jenny Richardson, Pam Smith, Sylvia Wall, Jennie Yates
Make Up Supervisors	Lucy Parker, Anna Sargent
Make Up Assistants	Caroline Fell, Nicola Gibson, Helen Lewis, Katy Lewis, Zehre Rusbey
Voice Coach	Michael Hayes
Photographers	Shant Bablanian, Peter Collins
Thanks to:	Bron Blake, Steve Cowan, Benjamin Cox, Jim Craddock, Alex Cummings, Fiona Johnson (for the piano), Don Kincaid, Philip Lindley, Keith Malkin, Alex Marker, Gordon Miller, Khiem Pham, Liorah Tchiprout, Tracey Wilkinson, Nigel Worsley, Corner Carpets (07850 716500), House Services, Malvern Theatre Players, The Questors Office Staff

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 – *Sheridan Whiteside*

This is Gianluca's fifth production at The Questors. Previous plays include *A Comedy of Errors*, *Bent*, *Three Sisters* and *Entertaining Strangers*.

Juliette Bartelds – *Mrs McCutcheon / Harriet Stanley / Professor Metz / Miss Wescott*

Originally from Holland and a mum of two, Juliette has been acting in the UK since 1998. In the previous student production, *Entertaining Strangers*, she played Sarah Eldridge, which was a real challenge. This time she plays four different characters and loves the eccentricity of some of them. (Not giving anything away!)

Jed Chambers – *Bert Jefferson*

Having graduated with Student Group 63 last summer, Jed is back to play Bert in this production. In the last year he has appeared in *The Accrington Pals*, *The Libertine*, *Dublin Carol*, *The Winterling* and *Titus Andronicus*.

Eleanor Cox – *Mrs Dexter / Lorraine Sheldon*

Eleanor was part of the National Youth Theatre before completing a degree at Bristol University. She then joined The Questors where she has performed in *Entertaining Strangers* and *I'll Leave It To You*. Next year, she is going to drama school to study for a one year postgraduate course in acting.

Joel Dyer – *Luncheon Guest / Sandy / Radio Technician / Deputy*

Joel has performed at The Questors since 2002, recently appearing in *The Accrington Pals* as Ralph and *The Libertine* as Charles II. He trained at RADA and whilst there played Portia in a gender-reversed *Julius Caesar* and Dr Tim Marcus in *Earthquakes in London*. He recently appeared in *Rent* and will next be seen in *Ladies Down Under*.

Amelia Glasgow – *Sarah / Dr Bradley*

This will be Amelia's second production at The Questors after *Entertaining Strangers* where she had the challenging task of undertaking seven different roles. After graduating from the student group, she hopes to pursue a career in teaching as well as auditioning for other acting roles.

Szczepan Grebosz – *John / Beverly Carlton*

This is Szczepan's third play at The Questors, after *Three Sisters* and *Entertaining Strangers*. Since 2009, he has frequently participated in acting seminars at the Grotowski Institute in Poland, pursuing his great interest in physical theatre.

Efthymia Kalyvides – *Mrs Ernest W. Stanley*

After studying drama at school, including at A Level, Efthymia joined The Questors Student Group. This is her third Questors production, the first of which, *A Christmas Carol*, was followed by *Entertaining Strangers* where she played Christian and several other roles. After completing Student Group 64, she hopes to continue acting.

Clara Latham – *The Singer*

Clara has performed in a number of productions here and abroad. She sang alongside Dame Judi Dench and Sir Patrick Stewart in a performance of Shakespearean verse and song and has appeared at the Barbican and the Royal Albert Hall. She last appeared at The Questors in *Rent*.

Fahmo Mahamud – *Miss Preen*

This is Fahmo's second production at The Questors after *Entertaining Strangers*. 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 – *Richard Stanley / Banjo*

This is the second play Andrew has acted in at The Questors after playing several different parts in *Entertaining Strangers*. He also worked backstage as an ASM on *Rock 'n' Roll* (Christmas 2009). Andrew has had an amazing two years in the student group and looks forward to any reunions!

Francesca McNally – *Maggie Cutler*

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. She will next be seen at The Questors in *Present Laughter*.

Rodrigo Sanchez – *Mr Stanley / Mr Baker*

Rodrigo studied at Central where he gained a B.A.(Hons) in Drama, Applied Theatre and Education. He recently appeared as Henry Moule in *Entertaining Strangers*. He graduates from The Questors acting course after *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. Rodrigo continues to work as a political assistant for local government.

Elizabeth Sexton – *June Stanley*

This is Elizabeth's second production at The Questors. In *Entertaining Strangers* she appeared as Fanny Lock, Florence Chaffley and Ellen Wright. Elizabeth was an ASM on *A Christmas Carol*. She hopes to become an acting member of The Questors and, after completing her English degree, to go on to drama school.

Jonathan Wells – *Luncheon Guest / Expressman / Radio Technician / Deputy*

Jonathan has acted in plays at school, college and with the Criterion Drama Group. He was last seen at The Questors in *Titus Andronicus*. He joined Acting For All last September and is thinking of applying for the student group next year.

TALKBACK – Tuesday 19 July

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

Daniel Cawtheray – Assistant Director

This is Daniel's second foray into directing at The Questors, following his assistant-directorship on the previous student group production, *Entertaining Strangers*. Daniel has previously directed in various groups, with shows including *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, *A Murder is Announced* and the self-penned comedy *Up In Smoke*.

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 *Entertaining Strangers*, *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*.

Colin Horne – Sound Designer

Work at The Questors since 1976 includes: Company Treasurer '77-'79; Production Manager for *Nicholas Nickleby*; Stage Manager for *Lark Rise*, *Dead Funny* and *Translations*. Sound Designs include *Kennedy's Children*, *Equus*, *Absurd Person Singular*, *Just Between Ourselves*, *Woman in Mind*, *A Clockwork Orange*, *King Lear*, *This Happy Breed*, *Vincent in Brixton*, *Henry V*, *Richard III*, *Far from the Madding Crowd* and *The Libertine*. Set Construction for *Titus Andronicus*, *Doctor Faustus*, *The Winterling*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *Great Expectations*, *Translations*, *Dead Funny*, *The Boy Friend*, *Cabaret*, *Happy End*, *Cinderella*, *Sisters* and others. Also original sound design for all the Coarse Acting Shows at The Questors, Edinburgh Fringe and the Shaftesbury Theatre.

Nigel Lewis – Lighting Designer

Nigel is co-head of lighting at The Questors, he has been a professional lighting designer for 25 years and has lit several Questors productions in the past four years. He is delighted to be lighting *The Man Who Came to Dinner* this season.

Anna Sargent – Set and Costume Designer

Anna Sargent (MA Hons) is a graduate of the Greasepaint School in make-up, hair and prosthetics, and of the Central St Martin's College of Art short course in Costume Design (under Gary Thorne, RADA). This is her first set and costume design production for The Questors, having worked on make-up and prosthetics for previous shows: *A Christmas Carol*, *Bent*, *The Comedy of Errors* and *Beauty and the Beast* (the Beast's mask).

The Questors Student Group Tutors

Director of Studies and First Year Tutor
Second Year Tutor
Voice Teacher
Movement Teacher

David Emmet
Richard Gallagher
Hamish Pritchard
Nicholas Jonne Wilson

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

The Questors Theatre
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Programme: Nigel Bamford

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