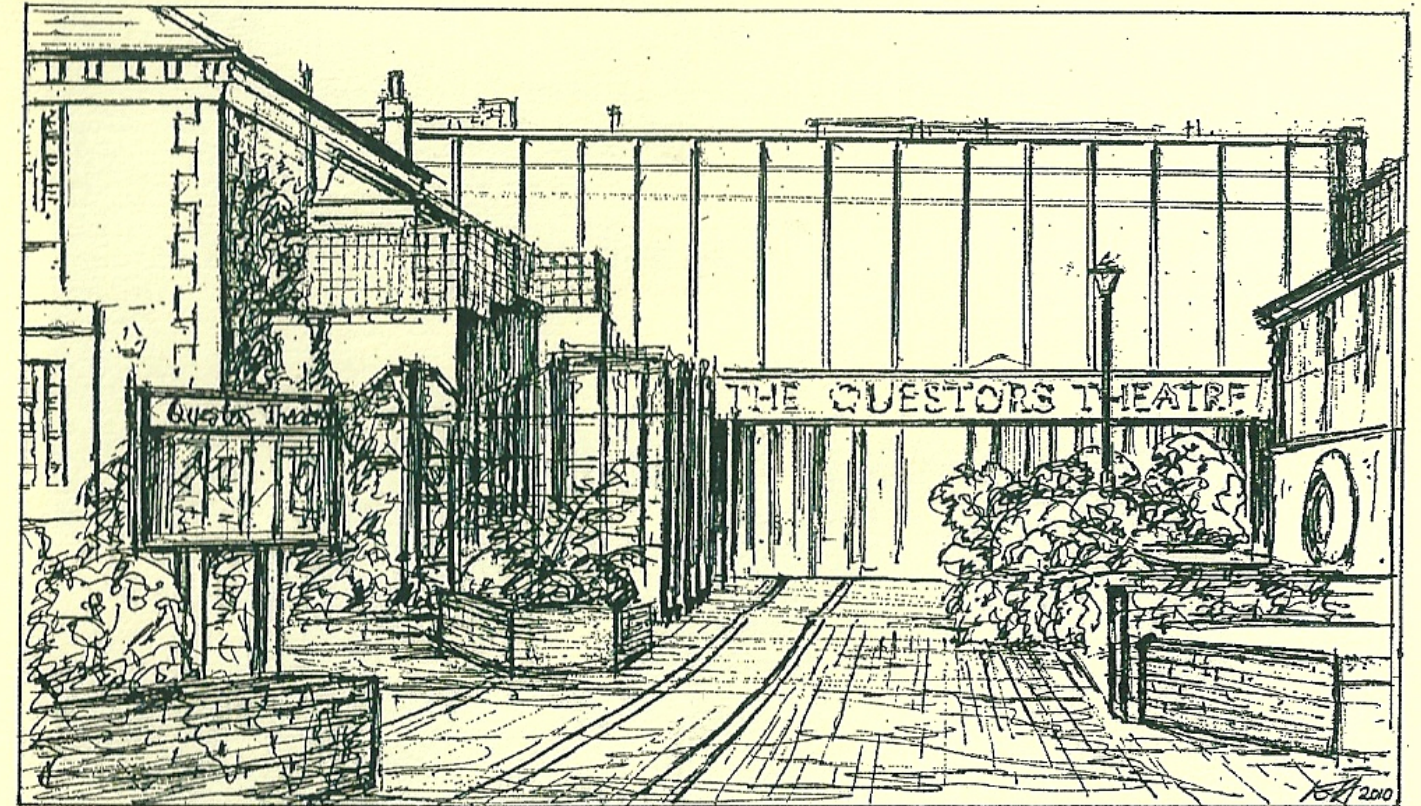




Questors, Ealing's Theatre



LADIES DOWN UNDER

by Amanda Whittington

The Studio

7 – 22 October 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: 11:30 am – 7:30 pm
Saturday: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Sunday: 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

For Playhouse productions:

Hot meal menu up to 7:00 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 2012 edition of The Good Beer Guide and we are 2011 CAMRA Greater London 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

Grapevine Autumn Beer Festival: 20 to 22 October 2011

See questors.org.uk/grapevine for more details

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

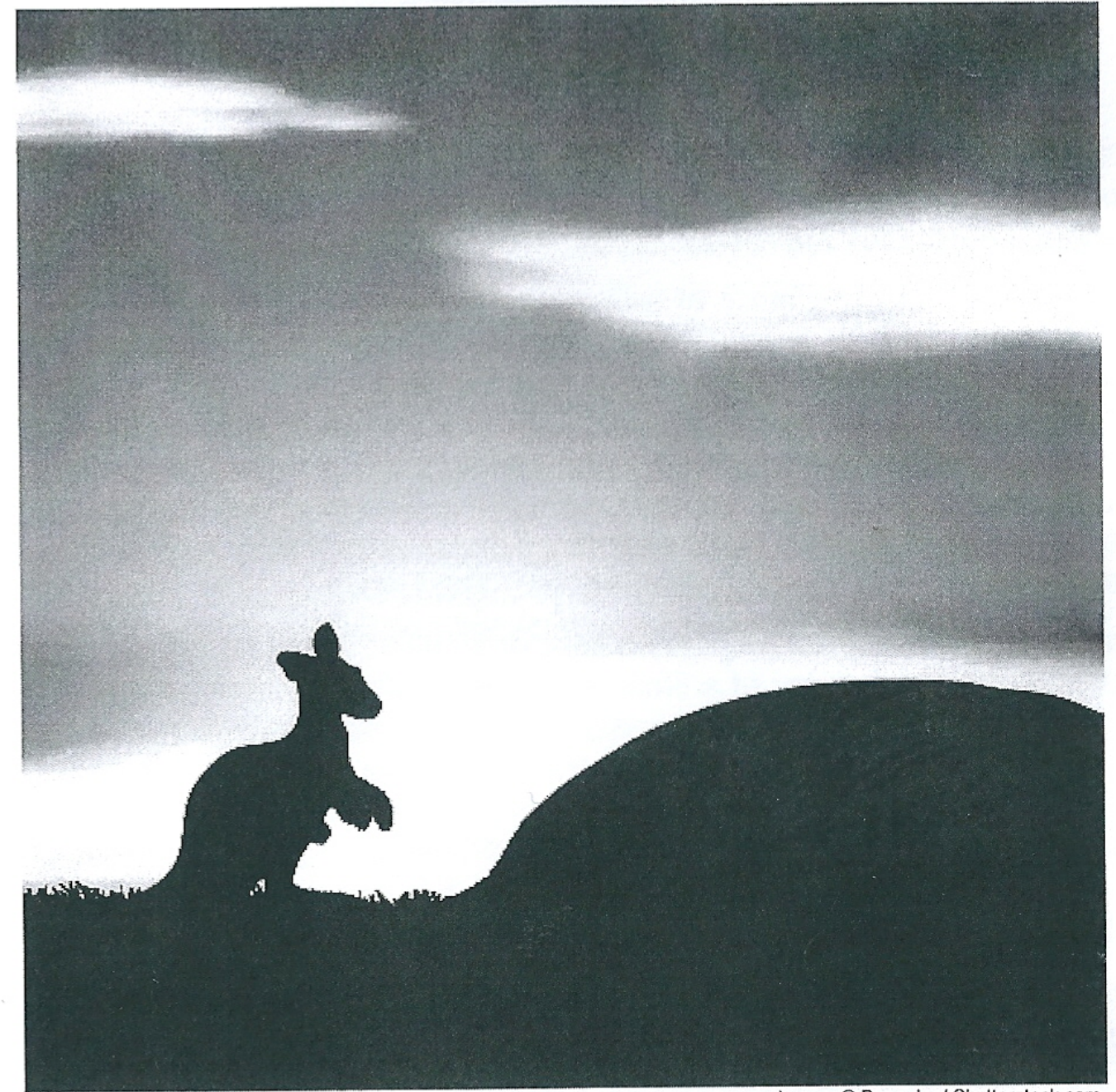


Image: © Banauke / Shutterstock.com

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7 – 22 October 2011

Ladies Down Under

Although *Ladies Down Under* is the sequel to *Ladies' Day*, it is a complete story in its own right and you don't need to have seen *Ladies' Day* to fully appreciate *Ladies Down Under*.

Ladies' Day told the story of four women, Pearl, Jan, Shelley and Linda, who work in a fish factory in 'ull in 'umberside. Pearl gets tickets for Ascot Ladies' Day (which at the time was in York while work was being carried out at Ascot). So the four of them get dolled up and go to the races. They bet, they drink, meet nice blokes, meet inappropriate blokes, get drunk, laugh, cry... The next day they are back at work at the fish plant when they discover that they have won half a million pounds on the accumulator. The End.

Ladies Down Under takes place a year or so later. The girls are off to Australia for the holiday of a lifetime, money in their pockets and not a care in the world. Well... not quite... The trip turns into a journey of discovery as they travel across Australia. They travel to the outback, see the sights and meet some interesting guys. They also begin to see themselves and each other in a different light...

Staging

I chose the traverse stage layout for *Ladies Down Under* as I felt it best reflected the many settings within the play. There are a number of quite different large open spaces – an airport terminal, a beach and the Australian outback (where quite a lot of the action takes place). There are also two long narrow settings – a street scene and an aeroplane cabin. Any attempt to portray these locations with scenery would have been cumbersome at best. Other layout options just felt too confined.

Zyg Staniaszek, Director

Meet The Company – Tuesday 11 October

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

Amanda Whittington

Amanda Whittington's plays include *Be My Baby*, which was first produced by Soho Theatre (1998) and subsequently staged by New Vic Stoke, Salisbury Playhouse, Oldham Coliseum, Hull Truck and the Dukes Theatre, Lancaster. It is widely studied in schools and colleges across the country.

Amanda has a close association with Hull Truck Theatre, who premiered *Amateur Girl*, a one-woman play about the amateur porn industry in 2009. *Ladies' Day* was produced by Hull Truck in 2005, breaking all box office records at the theatre. A successful national tour followed (2006) and the original cast were reunited in 2007 for the sequel, *Ladies Down Under* and subsequent national tour. Both the Ladies plays are a popular choice for amateur companies in the UK and beyond.

Bollywood Jane began as a screenplay, winning the BBC2 Dennis Potter Screenwriting Award (2001). Rewritten for the stage, it was produced by Leicester Haymarket (2003) and West Yorkshire Playhouse (2007). *Satin 'n' Steel* was co-produced in 2005 by Nottingham Playhouse and Bolton Octagon. *The Wills's Girls* was produced by Show of Strength at the Tobacco Factory, Bristol in 2002, returning by popular demand a year later. It was adapted from *Player's Angels*, which told of life at the Nottingham cigarette factory. *The Wills's Girls* became a BBC Radio Four Woman's Hour serial. Amanda's adaptation of *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning* was staged by New Perspectives in 2006.

Amanda has written extensively for radio, most particularly for the Afternoon Play slot. Work includes *Once Upon A Time* (2010) and *The Nine Days Queen* (2009). *Ladies' Day* and *Bollywood Jane* have also been adapted for radio.

Current work includes new commissions for Nottingham Playhouse, Splice Productions and Theatre Writing Partnership. Amanda has also adapted *Tipping the Velvet* by Sarah Waters, which was showcased at Guildhall School of Music and Drama in 2009.

Taken from www.amandawhittington.com

LADIES DOWN UNDER

by Amanda Whittington

First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 7 October 2011

CAST

Pearl	Sarah Morrison
Jan	Alex McDevitt
Shelley	Sherralyn Lee
Linda	Liz Jardine Smith
Tom, Bill, Shane, Danny, Bondi Bitch	Joel Dyer
Joe, Ben, Charlie, Koala Bare	Robert Baker-Glenn

The action takes place in the following locations:

ACT 1

- Scene 1:** Australia – bush fire
- Scene 2:** Manchester Airport
- Scene 3:** On the aeroplane
- Scene 4:** Sydney Airport
- Scene 5:** Surfers' Paradise
- Scene 6:** Edge of outback
- Scene 7:** Campsite Uluru

ACT 2

- Scene 1:** Campsite Uluru
- Scene 2:** Campsite same time
- Scene 3:** Campsite later
- Scene 4:** Campsite dawn
- Scene 5:** A street in Sydney
- Scene 6:** Sydney Airport

The performance lasts approximately 2 hours and 5 minutes including a 15-minute interval.

PRODUCTION

Director / Designer	Zyg Staniaszek
Costume Designer	Sarah Clopet
Lighting Designer	Nigel Lewis
Sound Designer	Paul Wilson
Stage Manager	Sarah Clopet
Deputy Stage Manager	Barry Jones
Assistant Stage Managers	John Barron, Hunter Gibson, Tom Gorrie-Stone, Effie Kalyvides, Sue Kendrick, Jamie King, Kate Townsend, Sarah Vass
Properties	Peter Salvietto, Elizabeth McKay
Lighting & Sound Operator	Paul Wilson
Constructors	Philip Lindley, Zyg Staniaszek
Wardrobe Assistants	Sarah Andrews, Jennie Yates
Prompter	Peter Salvietto
Dialect Coaches	Gemma Galley, Scott Drummond
Make Up	Melissa Reddin
Photographers	Peter Gould, Zyg Staniaszek
Thanks to	Hania Whitty, BAA Airports Ltd – Central Trolley Operations, World Duty Free

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

Robert Baker-Glenn – Joe / Ben / Charlie / Koala Bare

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, *Ladies' Day*, *A Christmas Carol* (which he also choreographed) and *Otherwise Engaged*.

Joel Dyer – Tom / Bill / Shane / Danny / Bondi Bitch

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

Liz Jardine Smith – Linda

Liz joined The Questors in September 2010 and has since appeared in *Ladies' Day* and *Hobson's Choice*. She's also an acting member at the Tower Theatre Company and has recently appeared in *Macbeth* in London and on tour in Paris, playing Greymalkin and Fleance. With the Broken Glass Theatre Company she's played various roles including an old woman, several men and some nouns on the Camden Fringe and at the Rag Factory. She also writes a bit.

Sherralyn Lee – Shelley

Sherralyn started acting at a young age and since then 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 The Beck, The Union Theatre and Battersea Arts. Previous Questors productions were *The Accrington Pals*, *The Libertine*, *Ladies' Day*, *Hobson's Choice* and *Rent*.

Alex McDevitt – Jan

Alex has been a member of The Questors since 2007 and has appeared in a number of productions, including *The Talented Mr Ripley* as Aunt Dottie / Emily Greenleaf, Pinter's *The Homecoming* as Ruth, Dürrenmatt's *The Visit* as Claire Zachanassian and *The Wizard of Oz* as the Wicked Witch. Alex has been practicing her Hull accent whilst cycling to work, surprising lots of passers-by.

Sarah Morrison – Pearl

An active Acting Member since 1980, Sarah enjoys getting the chance to portray strong sassy women – Minnie Gascoigne in *The Daughter-in-Law* (1986), Jennet Jourdemaine in *The Lady's Not For Burning* (1987), Marlene in *Top Girls* (1986), Mirandolina in *Mirandolina* (1995), to name but a few. She is thrilled to be reprising the role of Pearl to add to that list.

Zyg Staniaszek – Director / Designer

Zyg has previously directed *Guards! Guards!*, *Tejas Verdas*, *Polish Shorts*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Homecoming*, and *Beauty and the Beast* for The Questors. Zyg has acted in *Peter Pan*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* and played Mme de la Grande Bouche (Mrs Wardrobe) in *Beauty and the Beast*. He is also a set designer and constructor and was Artistic Director of The Questors from October 2007 to September 2010.

Sarah Clopet – Stage Manager / Costume Designer

Sarah has been working at The Questors for the last two years covering most aspects of backstage work including set construction, scenic painting, lighting and sound operating, and assistant and deputy stage managing. This is Sarah's first time as Wardrobe Mistress and Stage Manager. Her most recent productions include *Rent* and *The Man Who Came to Dinner*.

Barry Jones – Deputy Stage Manager

Due to the lack of appreciation of my acting talents and the fact that I was killed off in my last two plays – as Adolf Hitler and as Pearl's bit of stuff on the side in *Ladies' Day* – I have resorted to set building and sharing the design credit for *Suburban Motel*. For this play, due to a broken metatarsal, I'm reduced to DSMing.

Nigel Lewis – Lighting Designer

Nigel has been lighting the stage for more than 25 years, he is Co-Head of Lighting at The Questors and is a professional freelance lighting designer and a member of the Association of Lighting Designers. Nigel has lit many productions at The Questors, including last year's *Ladies' Day*, and is delighted to be lighting the sequel, *Ladies Down Under*.

Elizabeth McKay – Properties

Beth has recently returned to amateur dramatics at The Questors. In the past, she was an active member of the Edinburgh Players with several appearances in the Edinburgh Fringe, including *Whisky Galore*, *The Happiest Days of our Lives* and *Salad Days* to name a few.

Peter Salvietto – Properties

Since 2003, Peter has sourced props for shows from *Blithe Spirit* to *Oliver!* Others include *This Happy Breed*, *Shirley Valentine*, *Into The Woods*, *Vincent In Brixton*, *Peter Pan*, *A Servant To Two Masters*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Humble Boy* and *Doctor Faustus*. His greatest challenge to date has been a roast goose for *A Christmas Carol*.

Next Questors Productions

PRESENT LAUGHTER

by Noël Coward

29 October – 5 November 2011

The Playhouse

Coward's cut-glass humour and sparkling repartee combine to give you what is undeniably one of his funniest plays.

VOYAGERS and LOVERS

by Tony Rushforth

4 – 12 November 2011

The Studio

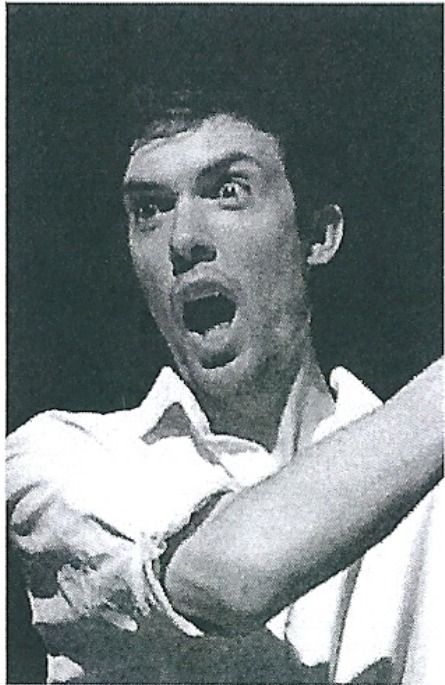
This premiere of two delightful and poignant new works by Tony Rushforth follows our previous premieres of his plays *Charade* and *Seascape* in 2005.

Rehearsal Photographs

by Zyg Staniaszek



Sarah Morrison



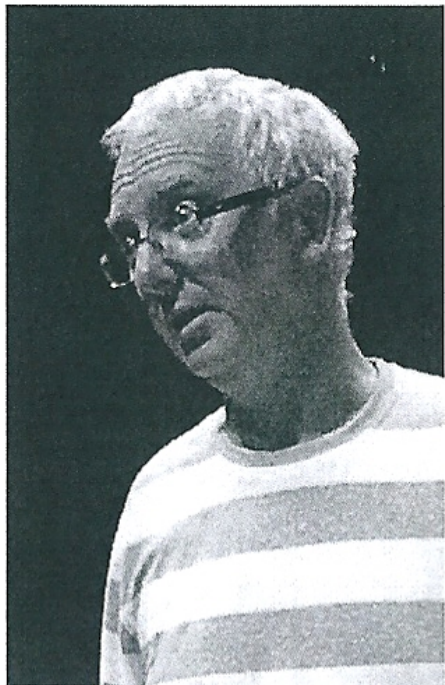
Joel Dyer



Alex McDevitt



Sherralyn Lee



Robert Baker-Glenn



Liz Jardine Smith

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
- ✓ Access to *iQ* – the members-only website <http://members.questors.org.uk>
- ✓ A full-colour members' magazine three times a year
- ✓ Access to exclusive news on *iQ* and email newsletter
- ✓ Monthly programme card
- ✓ Membership of The Grapevine Club
- ✓ 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, get your first 12 months' membership for the price of six.

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.

The 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

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Programme: Nigel Bamford

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