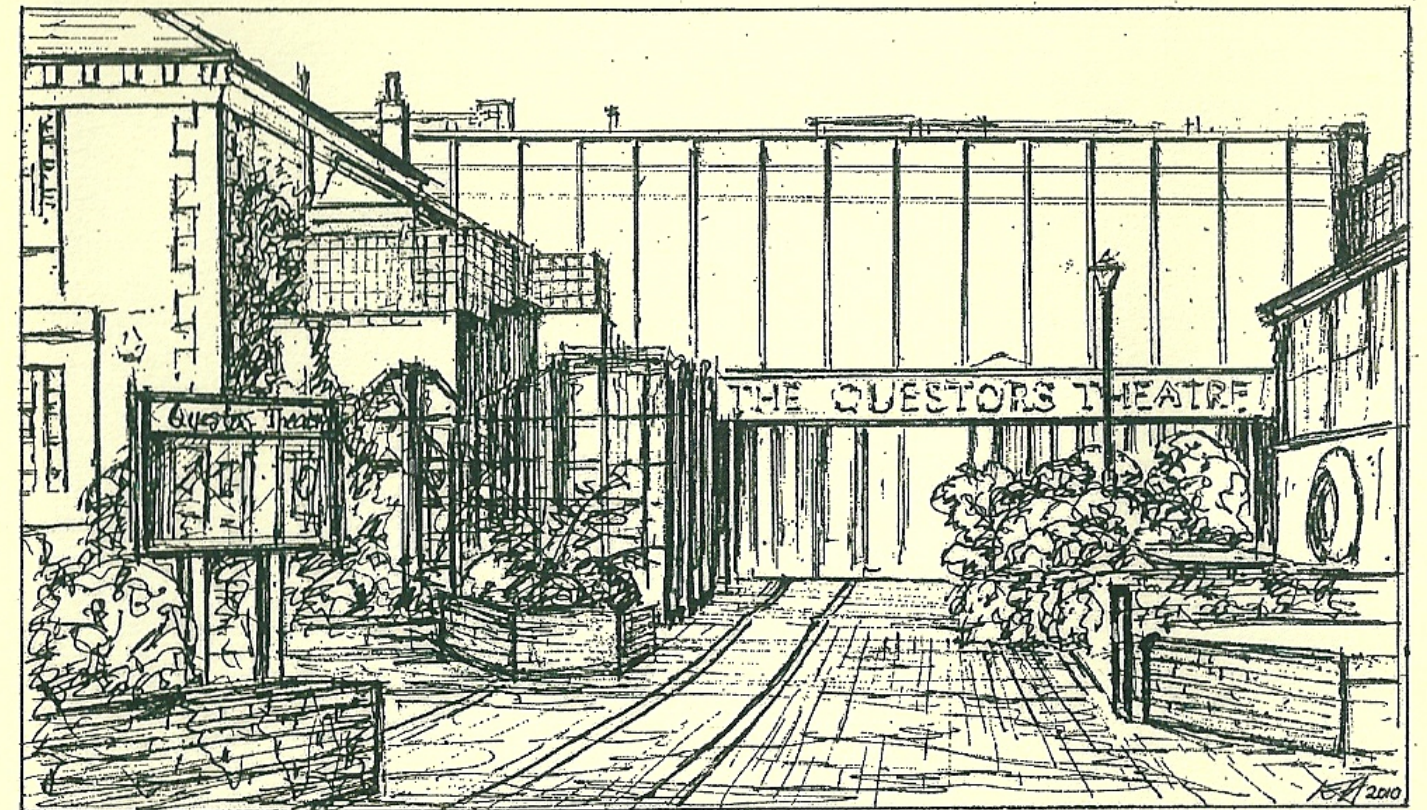




Questors, Ealing's Theatre



LUCA'S SPOON

by Andrew McGuinness

The Studio

17 – 25 June 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.**

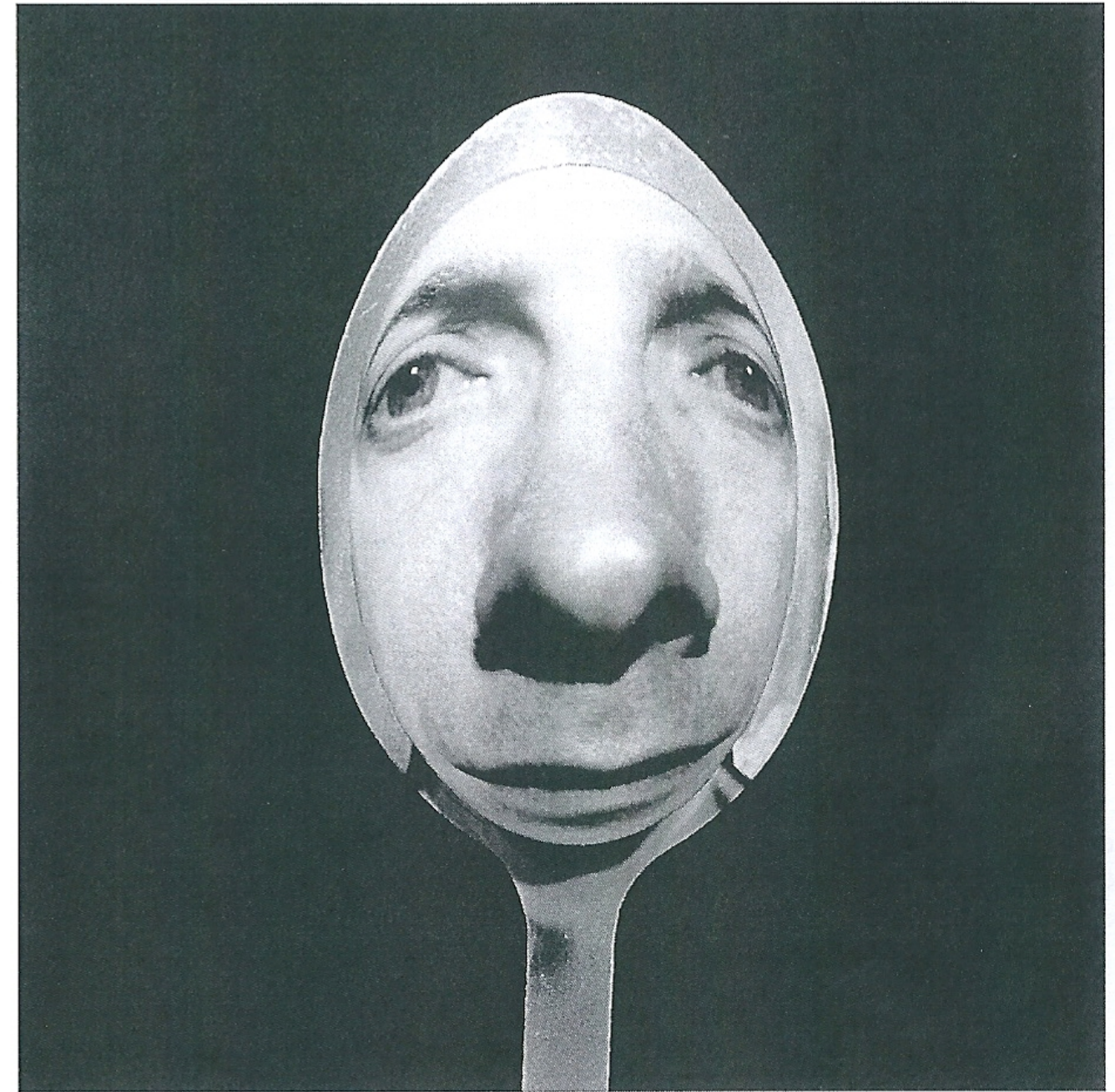


Image: Richard Mead

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Luca's Spoon

A Note From The Playwright

The first incarnation of *Luca's Spoon* lay at the bottom of my drawer for the best part of four years before, on a whim, I sent it to Peter Whelan in the hope of receiving some constructive criticism.

It is mainly due to his encouragement, advice and support, together with that of David Emmet, John Turner and all at Hydrae, that I was able to mould the script into the one you watch tonight.

It's been a long road and a steep learning curve. I hope you enjoy the results.

Andrew McGuinness

A Note From The Director

This production marks the premiere of Andrew McGuinness's darkly comic new drama. His previous play, *Five Card Trick*, also premiered at The Questors, and Time Out described its subsequent London Fringe production as "a finely executed and very enjoyable evening's drama".

A Questors member, Andrew has been working on this play for some time now, but through the good offices of the Hydrae meetings (the Questors new-writing forum) and following a few rewrites, he has come up with this exciting, engaging and intriguing new play.

I first came across it at a Hydrae meeting and felt that it was already ready to go into production. From the very beginning I have felt that this play is actor-driven and have spent the rehearsal period working with the actors to find the inter-relationship between their characters and the 'truth' in the motivations and emotions of the parts that they are playing. It's always refreshing when The Questors does new work and of course it gives actors the chance to create a role from scratch.

I am very fortunate to have been able to assemble a first-rate cast, who have helped to make the show an entertaining reality. My thanks to them and the crew for making it all so very enjoyable.

The play is set in a café called Luca's Spoon and came to life when Andrew McGuinness sat one day in a similar café and thought ... "what if?".

John Turner

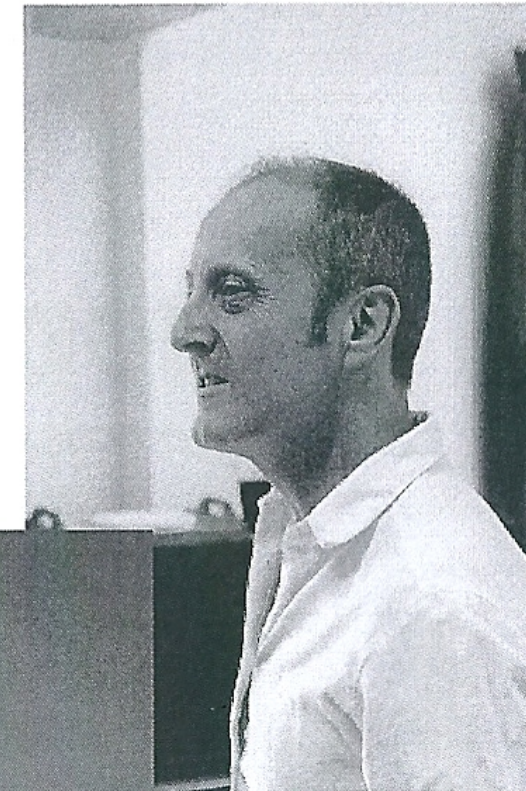
TALKBACK – Tuesday 21 June

Come and meet the Director, Cast and Crew for an informal discussion in The Studio as soon as possible after the Tuesday performance.

Rehearsal Photographs, by Peter Collins



Tom Cantwell



Derek Stoddart

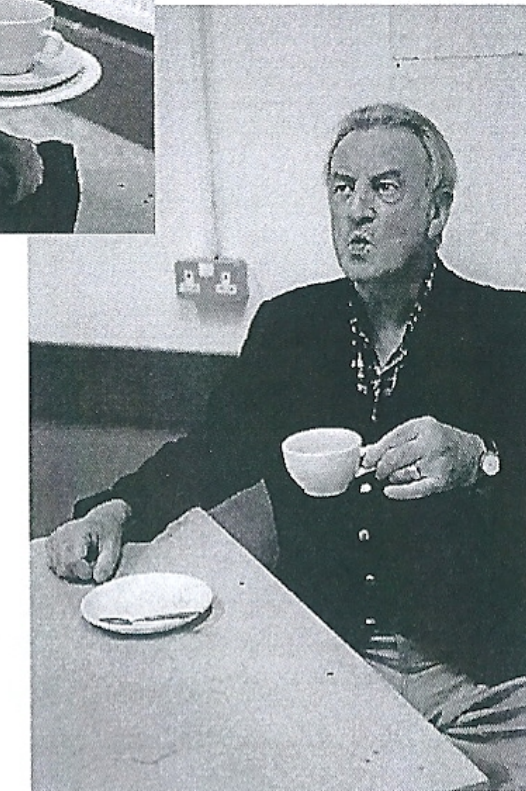


John Dobson

Jim O'Connor



Roz Storey



LUCA'S SPOON

by Andrew McGuinness

First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 17 June 2011

CAST

in order of appearance

Carl **Derek Stoddart**

George **Tom Cantwell**

Sandra **Rosalind Storey**

Man **John Dobson**

Mr Christopher Cumberbatch **Jim O'Connor**

Act 1: A greasy spoon café

Act 2: The same, five minutes later

The performance lasts approximately 2 hours and 25 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 **John Turner**

Set Designer **Cecily Johnson**

Costume Designer **Nichola Thomas**

Lighting Designer **Ben Sandford**

Sound Designer **Paul Wilson**

Stage Managers **Jane Arnold-Forster,
Alec Atchison**

Deputy Stage Managers **Andrew Morris, Penny Seyfert**

Properties **Liz Cooper, Claudia Kees**

Rehearsal Prompter **Pam Smith**

Lighting / Sound Operator **Toby Burbidge**

Constructors **Cecily Johnson, Philip Lindley,
Alex Marker**

Get In Crew **Shant Bablanian,
Tom Gorrie-Stone, Tony Smith,
Liorah Tchirout**

Lighting Riggers **Richard Mead, Chris Newall,
Mel Pereira**

Wardrobe Assistant **Kirsty Hussey**

Show Photographer **Peter Collins**

Thanks to **Mike Hagan, Chris Jervis
of The Questors Qafé,
Adrian Macdonald**

Biographies

Tom Cantwell – George

Tom is excited to have this opportunity to appear in the first on-stage showing of *Luca's Spoon*. This is only Tom's third production since completing Questors Student Group 61 in 2008 and appearing in *Macbeth* straight afterwards. *The Rover* would count among particular highlights, playing the parts of Frederick and Antonio, and being lucky enough to be part of the group taking it to both the Minack and Slovenia last year.

John Dobson – Man

John Dobson began the year as a trolley-wielding undercover Italian detective in the Studio production of *The Talented Mr Ripley*, following hard on his inebriated Irish undertaker in *Dublin Carol*. Having joined The Questors in 1981, he has played pretty well everything from an evil spider to a French maid and a Japanese biker in black leather. Highlights include *The Faith Healer*, *Breaking the Code*, *The Lesson* and *The Rover*. He edited the Questors club magazine for many years and pioneered the Questors website. Nowadays, in between acting, he looks after the Questors extensive archive of photos, programmes and other historic documents.

Jim O'Connor – Mr Christopher Cumberbatch

An acting member since 1992 Jim has appeared in a variety of productions, including five children's shows where he considers his role as Sleek the Mouse in *The Gingerbread Man* as being the most demanding. In more recent years Jim has appeared in *The Madness of George III*, *An Enemy of the People* and *The Lady in the Van*. When he is not busy collating his extensive elastic band collection, Jim is an occasional writer having had one play broadcast and several others produced at The Questors, including the reminiscence play *Rhythm of the Road* and the prize winning *A Touch of Rose Madder* which he directed himself. A proud graduate from 'The Arthur Mullard Academy for Ham Actors', Jim claims to be a versatile performer, prepared to take on anything providing it doesn't include morris dancing.

Derek Stoddart – Carl

Derek has acted in a variety of productions over the last 30 years with both The Questors Theatre and other local drama groups. His most recent appearance was as Widow Twankey in *Aladdin* and before that as the Priest in *Much Ado About Nothing*. Over the past few years he has appeared in a number of memorable productions, most notably as Smike in *Nicholas Nickleby* and, in complete contrast, as Delilah in *STIFF*.

Rosalind Storey – Sandra

Following the completion of Questors Student Group 61 in 2008, Rosalind has performed in *Madame Bovary*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *The Marvellous Land Of Oz*, *The Pierglass* and Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* to name a few. Rosalind was also in *The Rover* which toured to the Minack Theatre in Cornwall and the International Theatre Festival of Slovenia.

Jane Arnold-Forster – Stage Manager

Jane has been stage managing at The Questors since 2006, when she stage managed *The Weir*. Her most recent productions include *Festen*, *Two*, *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *Broken Glass*, *Abigail's Party* and *Doctor Faustus*. In recent years, Jane has been pursuing a professional career as a Production Manager and has since worked on *Othello* at the Ludlow Festival, *Anna Karenina* at the Arcola Theatre and the current Finborough Theatre production, *The Roar of the Greasepaint – The Smell of the Crowd*.

Alec Atchison – Stage Manager

Alec joined The Questors in 1977. He was a member of the Committee of Management for many years and was Vice Chairman, Company Secretary and Stage Director at different times. He has worked on, helped with, follow-spotted on or stage managed numerous shows, including several productions taken to the Minack Open-Air Theatre in Cornwall. He most recently stage managed *Dublin Carol*, last year's Questors Studio Christmas show.

Cecily Johnson – Set Designer

Seemingly predestined to work behind the scenes, Cecily's first involvement in a Questors production was at the age of three months as a sound effect in *My Mother Said I Never Should* (1991). Ten years after this peak of her career, she performed as an Ice Ghost in *The Snow Queen* (2001) and had one line in *Emie's Incredible Illucinations* (2003). Cecily spent 14 years in The Questors Youth Theatre (one more year than is technically possible). After what will hopefully come to be known as the 'lost years', she returned to The Questors this February as Design Assistant on *Alice Through the Looking Glass*. *Luca's Spoon* is her first show as designer, constructor and scenic artist.

Ben Sandford – Lighting Designer

Ben's recent credits at The Questors include Co-Lighting and Sound Designer for *The Winterling*, Technical Director for *Beauty and the Beast*, Stage Manager for *The Rover*, Sound Designer for *Sweeney Todd* and Lighting Designer for *The Homecoming*. He has also been Producer for *Much Ado About Nothing* (Unmasked Productions) and Set, Lighting and Sound Designer for *Bent* (The Etherics).

Nichola Thomas – Costume Designer

Nichola has worked on numerous shows at The Questors over the past nine years, including more recently *This Happy Breed*, *Dance of Death*, *Waiting for Godot*, *Separate Tables*, *Two*, *The Seagull*, *Hay Fever*, *Broken Glass*, *Sweeney Todd*, *The House of Bernarda Alba*, *Humble Boy* and *Doctor Faustus*.

John Turner – Director

John started in the Young Questors and has been a member since 1959. He has appeared in, or worked on, over 100 productions. This is the seventh play to have been directed by him, including Ibsen's *The Wild Duck*, John Mortimer's translation of Feydeau's *A Little Hotel on the Side* and Ayckbourn's *Bedroom Farce*.

Planned for Next Season

Suburban Motel

by George F Walker
In the Studio
Opens 21 September

Ladies Down Under

by Amanda Whittington
In the Studio
Opens 7 October

Present Laughter

by Noel Coward
In the Playhouse
Opens 28 October

Voyager and Lovers

by Tony Rushforth
In the Studio
Opens 4 November

Annie

by Thomas Meehan
In the Playhouse
Opens 10 December

The Flint Street Nativity

by Tim Firth
In the Studio
Opens 2 December

The Winslow Boy

by Terence Rattigan
In the Studio
Opens 13 January

Greek

by Steven Berkoff
In the Studio
Opens 24 February

Othello

Romeo and Juliet

by William Shakespeare

Coarse Acting Shakespeares

by Michael Green
In repertory in the Playhouse
Opens 28 February

Questors Youth Theatre

The Tempest

by William Shakespeare
In the Playhouse
Opens 22 March

The Questors Student Group

In the Studio
Opens 23 March

Antigone

by Sophocles
translated by R Fainlight & RJ Littman
In the Studio
Opens 13 April

Brassed Off

by Paul Allen
In the Playhouse
Opens 11 May

Night of the Soul

by David Farr
In the Studio
Opens 25 May

The School of Night

by Peter Whelan
In the Studio
Opens 15 June
The Questors Student Group
In the Playhouse
Opens 17 July

Next Questors Production

THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER by George S. Kaufman & Moss Hart

The Playhouse, 16 – 23 July 2011

The Questors Student Group presents the final Questors production of the season – a classic American comedy gem.

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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Email: enquiries@questors.org.uk

Programme: Nigel Bamford

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Theatre Office: 020 8567 0011

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