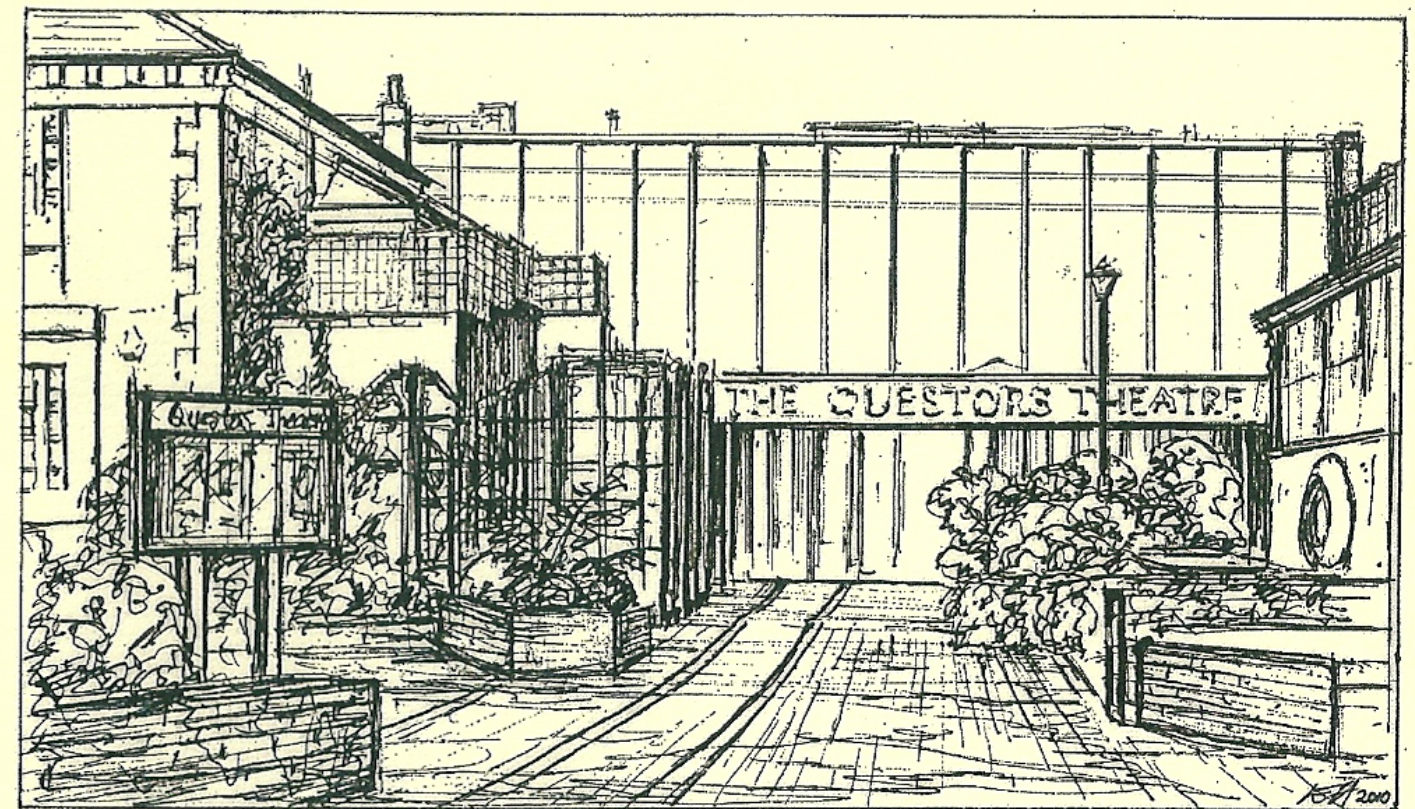




Questors, Ealing's Theatre



SUBURBAN MOTEL

by George F. Walker

The Studio

21 – 24 September 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.**



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SUBURBAN MOTEL

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Suburban Motel

George F. Walker

Though perhaps not as famous in the UK as in his native Canada, George F. Walker is among his country's most prolific playwrights.

Born in Toronto in 1947, Walker was working as a taxi driver when he heard a local theatre was looking for new authors. He submitted his first play, *The Prince of Naples*, in 1972 and it was selected to be performed by the company. This breakthrough with the Factory Theatre led to thirty further stage scripts, as well as many others for television, film and radio. Walker was made a Member of the Order of Canada in 2006 and in 2009 he received the Governor General's Performing Arts Award for Lifetime Artistic Achievement. His plays have been translated into French, Hebrew, Turkish, Polish and Czech.

Suburban Motel

Criminal Genius and *Risk Everything* are selected from the six one-act plays making up *Suburban Motel* (1997). Set in the same motel room, their compelling twists and dark humour are indicative Walker: odd, pathetic and dysfunctional characters struggle (and fail) to improve their lots in life, one moment defending and the next rebelling against the ties that bind them to their loved ones, never quite choosing or bringing themselves to break those ties. Some move from one play to another, some typify a single story; all unconsciously echo each others' themes, motifs and phrases of love, resentment and being trapped together.

Criminal Genius

When two criminals are hired to burn down a restaurant, a last-minute change of plan sets off a sequence of events with deadly consequences. The tightly-written comedy tracks events as the criminals return to their motel room to wait for the return of their boss. With dark themes and flawed characters, *Criminal Genius* manages to be both funny and tragic at the same time.

Risk Everything

Denise and her husband R.J. were just trying to turn their lives around when Carol, Denise's compulsive-gambling mother, called from the emergency room having been beaten up under mysterious circumstances. Carol claims it's her ex they're in hiding from, but when old underworld connections close in, Denise's relationships with those closest to her threaten to turn explosive in more ways than one.

Rachel Knightley and Simon Rudkin

The Directors' Showcases

The Workshops

Simon Rudkin (*Criminal Genius*) and Rachel Knightley (*Risk Everything*), along with nineteen others, began working towards the Directors' Showcases project back in 2009. A series of workshops was run for potential directors covering aspects of theatre production such as lighting, sound, wardrobe and approaching a rehearsal schedule.

Assistant Directing

After the workshops, interested potential directors were invited to work as Assistant Directors on Questors productions. Simon worked with Stuart Watson on *Rock 'n' Roll* at Christmas 2009 and Rachel worked with Mark Fitzgerald on Student Group 62's production of *Far From the Madding Crowd* in July 2009.

Rehearsed Readings

With their assistant director work behind them, potential directors were tasked with picking a one-act play and organising a rehearsed reading. Rachel's was J.M. Barrie's *The Twelve-Pound Look*; Simon cheated somewhat claiming directing and producing a late-night sketch-show in The Studio with *The Errors of Comedy* was a bit like directing a rehearsed reading, and so both passed through to the final challenge.

The Final Eight

In early summer 2011, Artistic Director Mark Fitzgerald called together all those who had completed the workshops, assistant directorships and rehearsed readings for a final challenge: to take the same script (*The Winterling*) and present him with a schedule and approach for rehearsing and directing it. After these interview and feedback sessions, Rachel was assigned to *Risk Everything*, Simon to *Criminal Genius* and Pamela Redrup was chosen to direct *Present Laughter* (coming up in The Playhouse, 29 October to 5 November).

Another Directors' Showcase is intended for next year's season, creating an ongoing opportunity for potential Questors directors.

Meet The Company – Thursday 22 September

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

A Questors Directors' Showcase
SUBURBAN MOTEL
by George F. Walker

First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 21 September 2011

CAST

in order of appearance

Criminal Genius

Rolly	David Hovatter
Stevie	Andrew McGovern
Phillie	Robert Vass
Shirley	Hannah Whiteoak
Amanda	Alice Marshall

Risk Everything

Carol	Lisa Day
Denise	Rosalind Storey
R.J.	Greg Smith
Michael	David Hovatter

PRODUCTION

Directors	Simon Rudkin (<i>Criminal Genius</i>) Rachel Knightley (<i>Risk Everything</i>)
Set Designers	Cecily Johnson, Barry Jones
Lighting and Sound	Ben Sandford
Production Coordinator	Jane Arnold-Forster
Stage Manager	Martin Choules
Deputy Stage Managers	Kate Townsend (<i>Criminal Genius</i>) Sinéad Lawler (<i>Risk Everything</i>)
Properties	Cecily Johnson (<i>Criminal Genius</i>) Sinéad Lawler (<i>Risk Everything</i>)
Properties Construction	Liorah Tchiprout
Wardrobe	Sarah Andrews
Prompter	John Barron (<i>Risk Everything</i>)
Constructors	Toby Burbidge, James Collins, Steve Cowan, Cecily Johnson, Barry Jones, Rachel Knightley, Philip Lindley, Alex Marker, Liorah Tchiprout
Lighting Riggers	Tim Hayward, Duncan Walduck
Sound Crew	Ellie Hopkins
Make-up	Anna Sargent
Accent Coach	Michael Hayes
Photographers	Richard Mead, Michael Smith
Thanks to	Mark Fitzgerald, Mike Hagan, Marianne Izen, Francesca McInally, Jennie Yates, Ealing Liberal Synagogue

The performance lasts approximately 2 hours and 50 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

David Hovatter – Rolly (*Criminal Genius*), Michael (*Risk Everything*)

David has been a member for nearly twenty years, appearing in a large number of productions at The Questors, most recently *Titus Andronicus*, *The Rover*, *Ladies' Day*, *Kvetch* and *The Taming of the Shrew*. He is also a Questors director, recent productions being *The Chairs* and *The Lesson*, *The Marvellous Land of Oz*, *The Rover* and *The Talented Mr Ripley*.

Alice Marshall – Amanda (*Criminal Genius*)

This is Alice's first appearance at The Questors since she played Helena in The Questors Youth Theatre's 50th anniversary production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in 2004 – and she is delighted to be back! Professionally, she will be appearing as Veronika in the upcoming run of *Veronika Decides to Die* at The Lord Stanley Theatre Collection and in the second series of Channel 4's *The Morgana Show*.

Andrew McGovern – Stevie (*Criminal Genius*)

Andrew graduated from Questors Student Group 64 in July where he performed in *Entertaining Strangers* and *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. Andrew felt very nervous starting a play without his fellow students but was soon made to feel very welcome by the cast and director!

Robert Vass – Phillie (*Criminal Genius*)

Robert is pleased to be appearing in his first Questors show which doesn't involve singing! His most recent role was Cogsworth in *Beauty and the Beast*. A fan of Stephen Sondheim, he has played Beadle Bamford in *Sweeney Todd*, the Baker in *Into the Woods* and Harry in *Company*.

Hannah Whiteoak – Shirley (*Criminal Genius*)

Hannah began her life at The Questors in 2005 as part of Student Group 60. More recent roles have included Ophelia in the exciting *Hamlet Unseen*, Davina in *Otherwise Engaged*, Angellica Bianca in Aphra Behn's *The Rover* (which toured to the Minack and Slovenia) and Suzy in Playback's *A Little Patch of Ground*. She also enjoys getting involved in wardrobe, fixing, sewing, finding, and making bits and pieces.

Simon Rudkin – Director (*Criminal Genius*)

Simon joined The Questors in 2006 as part of Student Group 61. Most recently he has played Willmore in *The Rover* (which also toured to the Minack Theatre and Slovenia) and Gaston in *Beauty and the Beast*. Simon also founded *The Errors of Comedy* sketch group (which played the Camden Fringe this year) and will be starting to train professionally as an actor at The Poor School the week after *Suburban Motel* closes.

Lisa Day – Carol (*Risk Everything*)

'Carol' marks a departure from Lisa's recent run of well-meaning, socially-inept women (Wynne in *Dinner*, Susan in *Abigail's Party*, Mercy in *Humble Boy*) and is more akin to her favourite role of Blanche Dubois (*A Streetcar Named Desire*). A member of Student Group 41 in 1985, Lisa has spanned the classical (Isabella in *Measure for Measure*) and the ridiculous (Mrs Twit) via the scary (the Snow Queen).

Greg Smith – R.J. (*Risk Everything*)

Greg's previous productions at The Questors include *Sweeney Todd*, *The Marvellous Land of Oz* and *Macbeth*, though he has more frequently been seen as part of the Questors-based sketch-comedy group *The Errors of Comedy*. Non-Questors credits include *Crimewatch* and a *Go Compare* commercial. Really.

Rosalind Storey – Denise (*Risk Everything*)

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*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *Luca's Spoon* to name a few. Rosalind was also in *The Rover*, which toured to the Minack Theatre and the International Theatre Festival of Slovenia.

Rachel Knightley – Director (*Risk Everything*)

A graduate of Student Group 56 (and, as Assistant Director, of Group 62) and The Questors Youth Theatre, Rachel first trod the Studio boards eleven years ago as Hilda, the bossy but beautiful little sister of *Granville the Ugly Duckling*. She wrote and directed *Aftermath* and co-directed *Parva Vale* for The Questors Youth Theatre.

Cecily Johnson – Set Designer

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, she performed as an Ice Ghost in *The Snow Queen* (2001) and had one line in *Ernie's Incredible Illucinations* (2003). Cecily spent 14 years in The Questors Youth Theatre (one more year than is technically possible) and returned to The Questors this February as Design Assistant on *Alice Through the Looking Glass*. *Suburban Motel* is her second show as Set Designer after *Luca's Spoon*.

Ben Sandford – Lighting & Sound

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

Martin Choules – Stage Manager

Martin has recently stage managed *The Talented Mr Ripley*, *The Rover* (Minack and Slovenia), *The Marvellous Land of Oz* and *Brave New World*. He has also been Sound Designer on *Ladies' Day*, *Alice Through the Looking Glass* and *The Pierglass*. He has also operated lights and sound for *The Errors of Comedy*.

Kate Townsend – Deputy Stage Manager (*Criminal Genius*)

Kate has worked backstage on *Henry VI*, *Dogs Barking*, *The Taming of the Shrew* and *Abigail's Party*. She also stage managed *A Flea in her Ear* and *Too Fast*.

Sinéad Lawler – Deputy Stage Manager (*Risk Everything*)

Since playing a naughty school girl in *Once a Catholic* and sporting a Scrabble-board hat in *Far Away*, Sinéad has been pulling pints in the lovely Grapevine. She has loved helping backstage on *Suburban Motel*.

Production Music

Criminal Genius

<i>End Game</i>	Lalo Schifrin
<i>Papa was a Rollin' Stone</i>	The Temptations

Risk Everything

<i>East River</i>	Jeffrey Lewis
<i>Somebody to Love</i>	Jefferson Airplane
<i>The Mercy Seat</i>	Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds

Next Questors Productions

LADIES DOWN UNDER
by Amanda Whittington
7 – 22 October 2011
The Studio

The funny, heart-warming sequel to the enormously successful *Ladies' Day*, following the lasses from Hull on their adventures down-under.

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.

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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