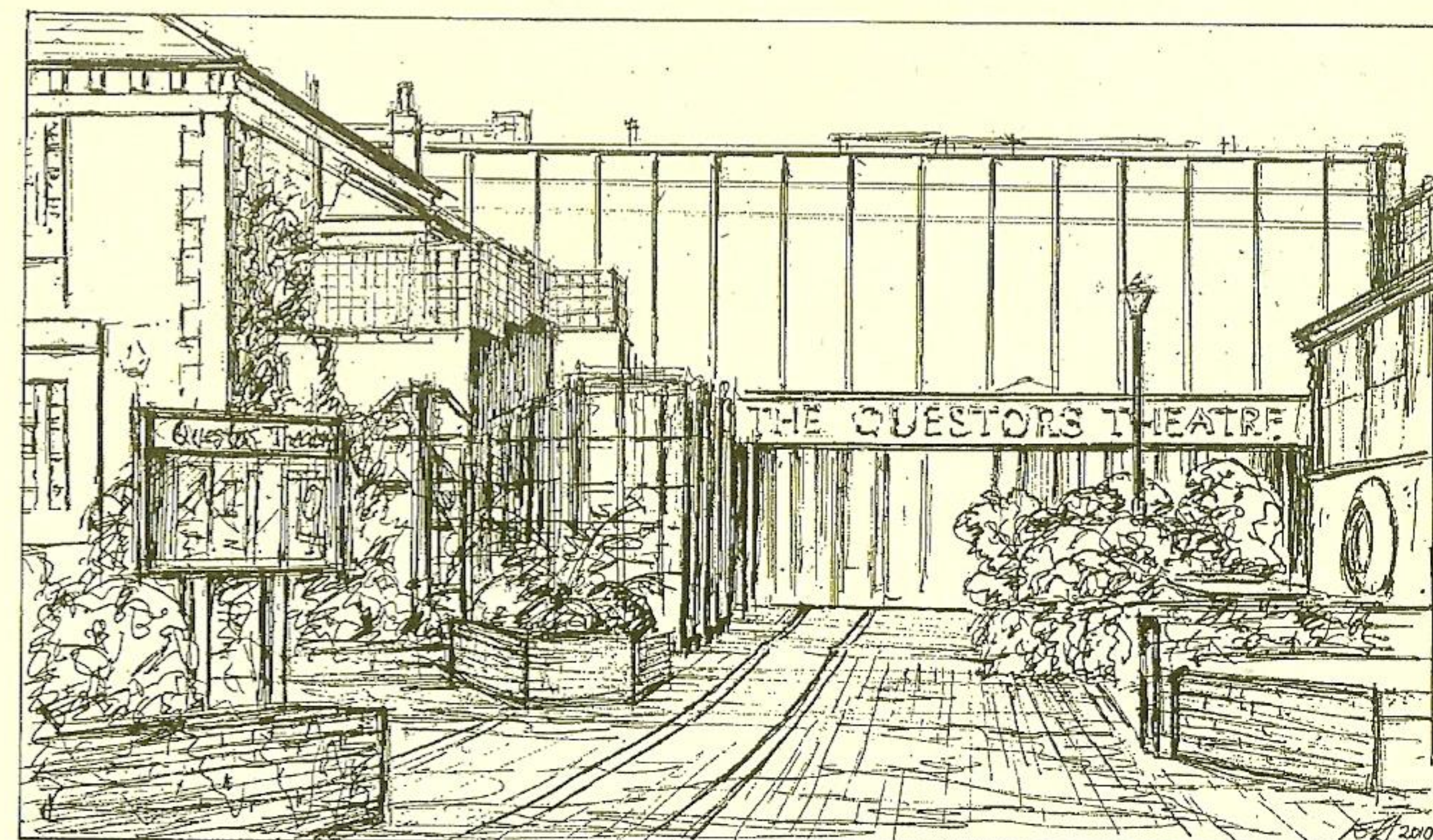




Questors, Ealing's Theatre



CALENDAR GIRLS

by Tim Firth

The Playhouse

3 – 10 November 2012

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 2:30 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 2013 edition of The Good Beer Guide and we are **CAMRA National Club of the Year 2012**. 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
is able to accept credit or debit cards.



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3 – 10 November 2012

CALENDAR GIRLS

"Sow these seeds on the hill and you'll see... that wherever light is, no matter how weak, these flowers will find it."

It's a tall order to find "wherever light is" in losing a loved-one to a disease where its very treatment eats away at quality of life, body, mind, identity. As John Clarke does not live to give his talk on sunflowers to his wife Annie's W.I., his final message – that the ability "is such an admirable thing, and such a lesson in life" – is left for Annie, Chris and their friends to read together, and to interpret into action.



Mike Hadjipateras and Barbara Christian

Annie knows that John would love their calendar for the obvious reasons; she also recognises the opportunity it offers to make the only kind of sense you can of the injustice of loss: using your experience to improve things for those who will face it in the future.



Sherralyn Lee and Hannah Whiteoak

Scratched once too often by the settee in the visitors' room of Skipton General, the ladies of Knapeley W.I. work with hospital porter Lawrence to create an 'alternative W.I. calendar' to raise money for a new settee in memory of John. Posing nude, they aim not only beat last year's 'Views of Local Churches' sales figures, but to draw attention to the individuals behind the buns – and the flowers, teapots, roles and stages of life.



Hannah Whiteoak, Sherralyn Lee, Rosalind Storey, Mike Hadjipateras and Lucy Aley-Parker

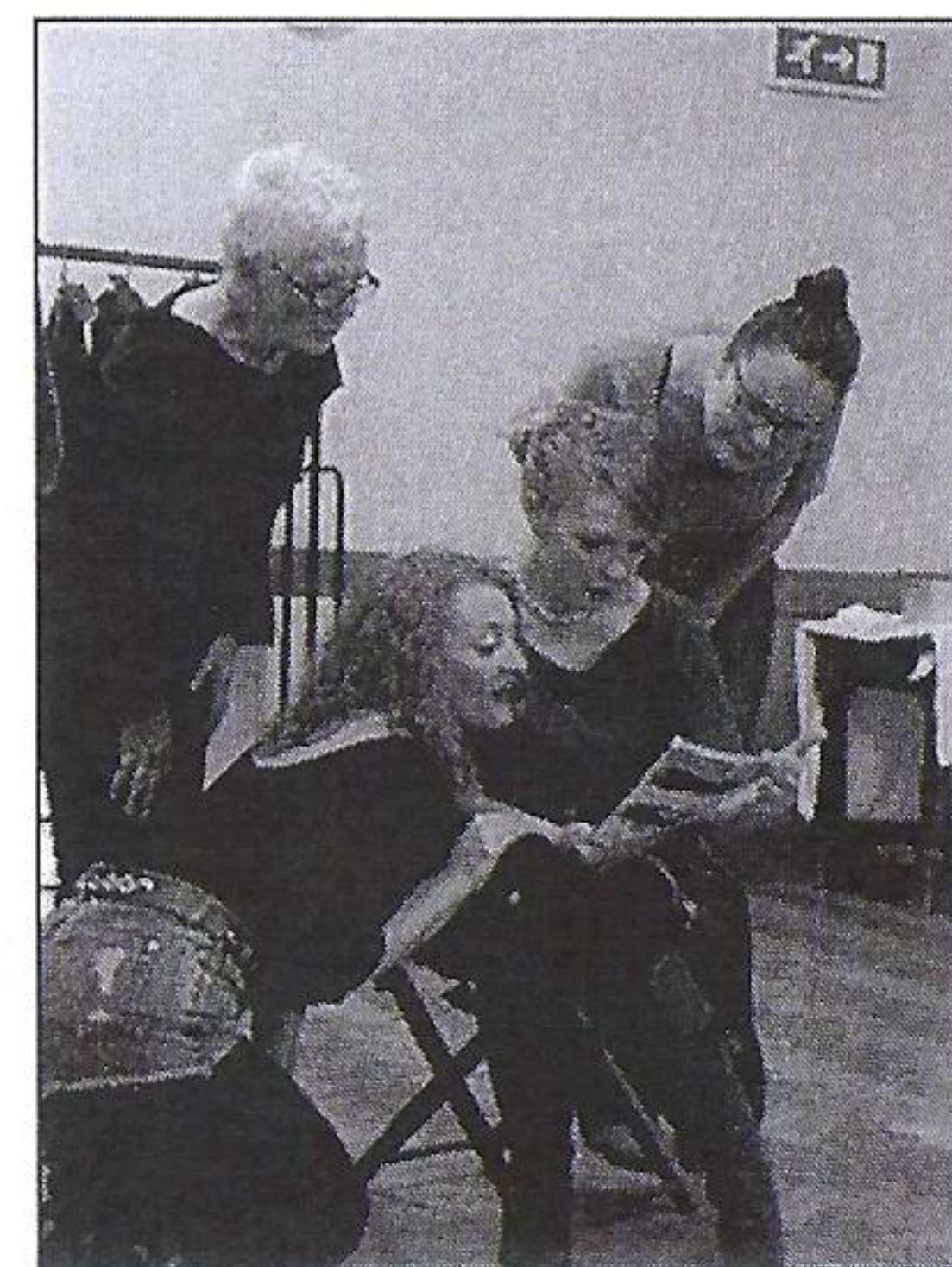
I have taken Tim Firth at his word that suggested ages are a guideline to character relationships and not a straightjacket for casting. As such, our W.I. was cast from the best auditions without age-discrimination. One particularly interesting reward was a new dynamic to Ruth's confrontation with Elaine, the beautician. By indicating less than a decade between them, the scene is freed to focus beyond the simplistic age-versus-youth aspect, so the difference between Ruth and Elaine (and the difference between Ruth before and after she meets Elaine) is one of self-worth: of ownership of your own body and image. So often seen played between an older, larger woman and younger, more-inclined-to-peroxide girl, it became about who *felt* beautiful. This scene shows more than any other point in the play the truth about beauty – it was never about age, and better still it was never about Eddie.

Calendar Girls is a comedy about grief, loss, infidelity and aging. To do justice to this with all appearance of lightness takes sturdy characterisation, and respect for how big a 'reveal' it really was.



Sherralyn Lee, Hannah Whiteoak, Julie Cruttenden, Lucy Aley-Parker and Lisa Day

who share it – friends, partners and organisations. It is also, as John tells Lawrence, a chance for a bunch of women (and men) "to get together and go nuts". I hope we have achieved this.



Julia Cruttenden, Sherralyn Lee, Rosalind Storey and Hannah Whiteoak

Nudity sells. But there is a difference between exploitation and celebration, and any production that rehearses *Calendar Girls* as if it's about women taking their clothes off will remove the difference between the W.I. calendar and page three of *The Sun* (and, as Firth says, have its scenes deflate like an undercooked soufflé).

At its best and most powerful, this concise, brave and beautiful script is a testament to finding life's meaning in those

Rachel Knightley, Director

CALENDAR GIRLS

by Tim Firth

First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre 3 November 2012

CAST

in order of appearance

Cora	Sherralyn Lee
Chris	Lucy Aley-Parker
Annie	Barbara Christian
Jessie	Julia Cruttenden
Celia	Rosalind Storey
Ruth	Hannah Whiteoak
Marie	Lisa Day
Brenda	Holly Gillanders
John	Mike Hadjipateras
Rod	Robert Gordon Clark
Lady Cravenshire	Gillian Jacyna
Lawrence	William Langley
Elaine	Holly Gillanders
Liam	Wesley Lloyd

Voiceovers **Celine Boulhaya, Barbara Christian,
Joel Dyer, Ken Ratcliffe**

The performance lasts approximately 2 hours and 10 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	Rachel Knightley
Set Designer	Barry Jones
assisted by	The Questors Design Department
Costume Designer	Jennie Yates
Lighting Designer	Francois Langton
Sound Designers	Richard Halberstadt, Nigel Worsley
Stage Manager	Sarah Clopet
Deputy Stage Manager	Liz Prior
Assistant Stage Managers	John Barron, Camille Bortz, Jennifer Brown, Anne Gilmour, Carlotta Greer, Sue Kendrick, Sinéad Lawler, Jo Matthews, Melissa Reddin, Elizabeth Sexton, Clare Watson, Michelle Weaver
SM Link	Michelle Weaver
Properties	Peter Salvietto
Properties Assistant	Hannah Whiteoak
Rehearsal Prompter	Pamela Smith
Voice Coach	Emma Vane
Lighting & Sound Operator	Irma Kent
Construction	Toby Burbidge, Mike Hagan, Philip Lindley
Scenic Painters	Jake Alabaster, Annabel Aldridge, Jessie Batende, Rachel Colerick, Jasmine Fleming, Josephine Jones, Alex Marker, Niall Murray, Daniel Nairn, Kathryn Stonebridge, Gabby Wallace, Charlotte Walton
Hair and Make-Up	Christa Chappell
Photographer	Nicola Gaughan
Calendar produced by	Rob Blake, Elizabeth Lanceman, Hannah Whiteoak
Thanks to	Laura Davis, David Emmet, Mark Fitzgerald, Christopher Hodgson of CAMRA, David Hovatter, Allie Hunter, Marianne Izen, Sarah Morrison, Abi Oleck of Beaubronze, Ben Sandford, Frances Sherwin, Alan N. Smith, Michael Smith, Paul Wilson, the Box Office team, The Questors Office

Biographies

Lucy Aley-Parker – Chris

Since graduating from drama school some years ago, Lucy has worked in repertory, TV, radio and pantomime. This is her ninth appearance at The Questors, her first being the hugely enjoyable *A Servant to Two Masters* – which also toured to Venice. Following last season's *Brassed Off*, she is delighted to remain vocally in Yorkshire for this wonderful role.

Barbara Christian – Annie

Barbara is opera-trained and graduated from Student Group 60. She played Frau Schill/Stationmaster/1st Woman in Freidrich Durrenmatt's *The Visit* and Lady Matheson in Terence Rattigan's *Separate Tables*. Recently she appeared in *Romeo and Juliet* and *Othello* and was ASM on *RUR* (Rossum's Universal Robots), *Henry V* and *The Pierglass*.

Julia Cruttenden – Jessie

Julia hasn't acted in any Questors shows for about twenty years as she has been fully occupied assisting her daughter, Hannah, run the Greasepaint Make-Up School. Her last performance was Desiree in *A Little Night Music* by Stephen Sondheim – a Peter Field production.

Lisa Day – Marie

After 27 years on The Questors stage in various roles of powerful nastiness (the Snow Queen, Mrs Twit), social loneliness (Blanche Dubois in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Susan in *Abigail's Party*, Mercy in *Humble Boy*) and lofty status (Queen in *Coarse Shakespeare: The Final Folio*), Lisa combines all elements in Marie – but to her children's relief, avoiding the flesh exposure of Carol in *Risk Everything*.

Holly Gillanders – Elaine/Brenda

Holly joined The Questors in 2011 when she appeared as Gabriel in *The Flint Street Nativity*. This year she has performed at The Questors in Crucial Image's productions of *Macbeth* (Witch) and *Martin Chuzzlewit* (Mercy Pecksniff). Holly is proud to be involved in *Calendar Girls* with such a talented and courageous cast and crew.

The Questors Alternative Calendar for Sale

The original Alternative W.I. Calendar was created to raise money for Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research, which it did in spectacular fashion. The Questors *Calendar Girls* company have produced a calendar, inspired by the original.

On sale now at £19.95, all profits from our calendar will go to Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research.

<http://www.leukaemialymphomaresearch.org.uk/>

Robert Gordon Clark – Rod

Robert's 29-year acting career at The Questors peaked recently when he played a eunuch and a young lover in *Coarse Shakespeare: The Final Folio*. In the last few years he has also appeared in *Humble Boy*, *The Taming of the Shrew* and *Great Expectations*, in between running a PR company and doing Front of House duties.

Mike Hadjipateras – John

Mike joined The Questors in 2003. Productions include *Bouncers*, *Conversations after a Burial*, *Richard III*, *The Dog in the Manger*, *'Tis Pity She's a Whore*, *The Seagull*, *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *The Marvellous Land of Oz*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *A Flea in Her Ear*, *Doctor Faustus* and *Present Laughter*. He can currently be seen on the *Jaws* DVD in the documentary *The Shark is Still Working*.

Gillian Jacyna – Lady Cravenshire

Gillian has been a member of The Questors for some years after graduating from Student Group 53. She has appeared as a servant in *The House of Bernarda Alba*, the drunken friend in *French Paste* and a granny in *Into The Woods*. She is so happy to finally play a character closer to her true social standing.

William Langley – Lawrence

Will has been a member of The Questors since he was eight, making this year his twelfth as a Questors member. Productions include *Oliver!*, *The Railway Children*, *Macbeth*, *Brave New World*, *The Pierglass*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Chatroom*, the multilingual *Cogner Au Plafond*, written by Wanda Duszynska (also performed in Vienna representing Great Britain at the first World Festival of Youth Theatre) and *Romeo and Juliet*.

Sherralyn Lee – Cora

Sherralyn started acting at five years old and 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. Appearances at The Questors include *The Accrington Pals*, *The Libertine*, *Hobson's Choice*, *Ladies' Day*, *Ladies Down Under*, *Annie* and *Greek*.

Wesley Lloyd – Liam

Wesley graduated from Student Group 62. Last season he appeared in *Present Laughter* (Roland Maule) and *Dealer's Choice* (Mugsy). He is also

Meet The Company – Wednesday 7 November

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

involved with Questors offshoot group Crucial Image and has appeared in three productions: *Confessions of a Pose Plastique* as Adam, *Macbeth* as Malcolm and *Martin Chuzzlewit* as Tom Pinch.

Rosalind Storey – Celia

Student Group 61 performances: *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Postgraduate performances: *Macbeth*, *Madame Bovary*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *The Marvellous Land of Oz*, *The Pierglass*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Luca's Spoon*, *Suburban Motel* and *The Rover* which toured to the Minack Theatre, Cornwall, and the Linhart International Theatre Festival, Slovenia.

Hannah Whiteoak – Ruth

Actress, seamstress, prop-maker, since Student Group 60 Hannah's performance highlights range from Hotelier Miss Cooper in *Separate Tables* to Bad Girl 'Shirl' in *Suburban Motel* and Courtesan Angelica in *The Rover*, touring to the The Minack Theatre, Cornwall, and the Linhart International Theatre Festival, Slovenia.

Rachel Knightley – Director

Rachel's director's showcase was *Risk Everything*, half of last year's *Suburban Motel* double bill. She is a graduate of Student Group 56 and the Questors Youth Theatre of which she is senior tutor for Years 7-9. Favourite previous Questors roles include editor (programmes), sub-editor (Questopics) and duckling (*Granville the Ugly Duckling*).

Barry Jones – Set Designer

Barry has performed at various theatres. At the Unity Theatre 1968: *The Feather Pluckers* with a young Mr Hoskins, *The Tigers are Coming*, *The Way of The World* and *Orchestra at St. Ovid*. At Salon Varieties (Spain): *Man of La Mancha* and *The Inspector Calls*. At The Questors: *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, *Crossfire*, *Mort*, *Men at Arms*, *You Can't Take It With You*, *Wedding Story* and *Isle of the Departed*.

Next Questors Productions

AFTER OCTOBER

by Rodney Ackland

9 – 17 November 2012

The Studio

A bohemian tale of a chaotic household living life on credit in 1930's Hampstead by a rediscovered master of the British stage.

ABSURD PERSON SINGULAR

by Alan Ayckbourn

7 – 22 December 2012

The Studio

With three couples, in three kitchens, over three Christmases – chaos reigns as social climbing turns into domestic disaster.

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 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

The Questors Theatre

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Email: enquiries@questors.org.uk

Programme: Nigel Bamford & Anne Gilmour

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Theatre Office: 020 8567 0011

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