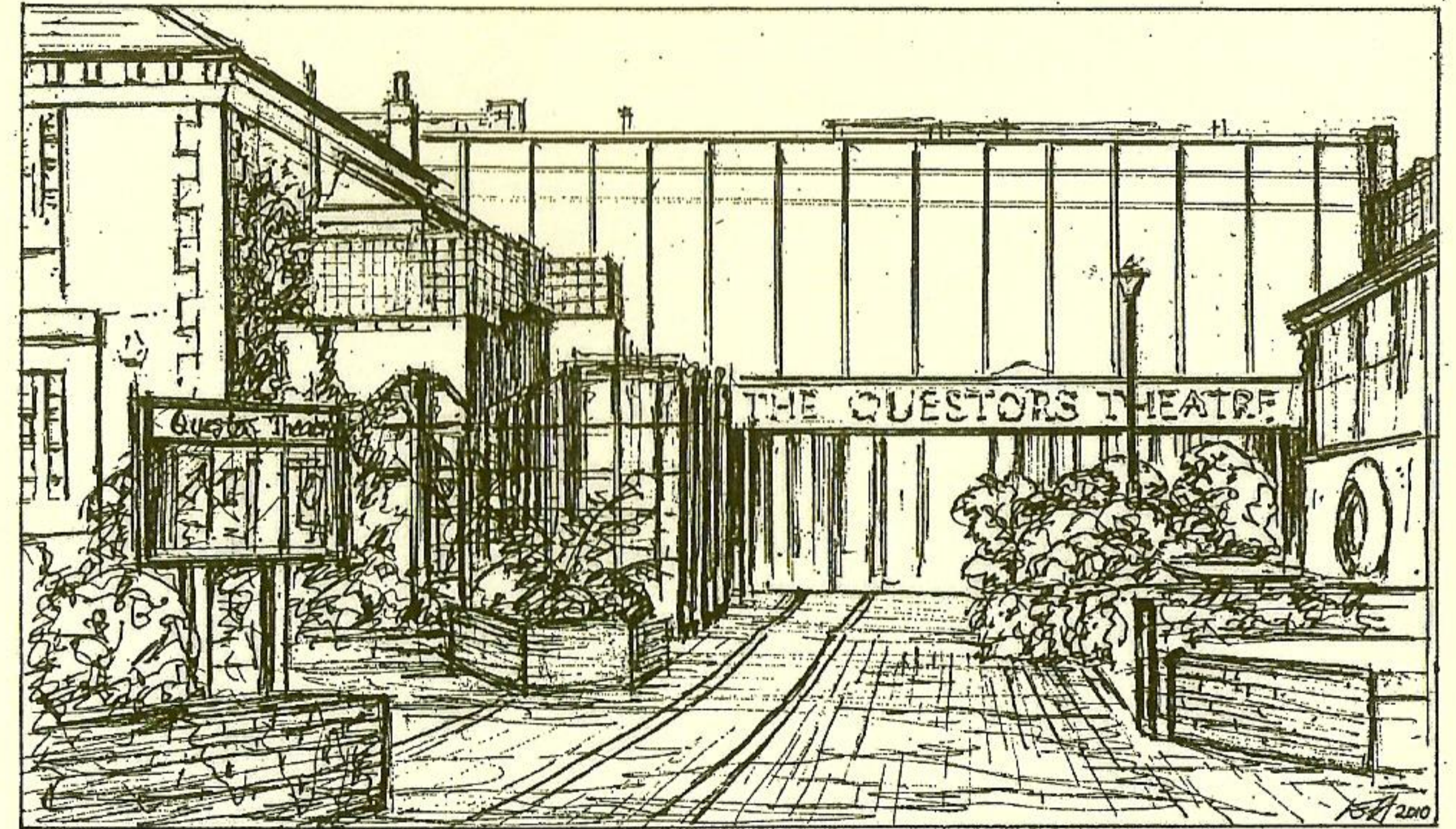




Questors, Ealing's Theatre



DEALER'S CHOICE

by Patrick Marber

The Studio

13 – 28 April 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	2:00 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 **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.**

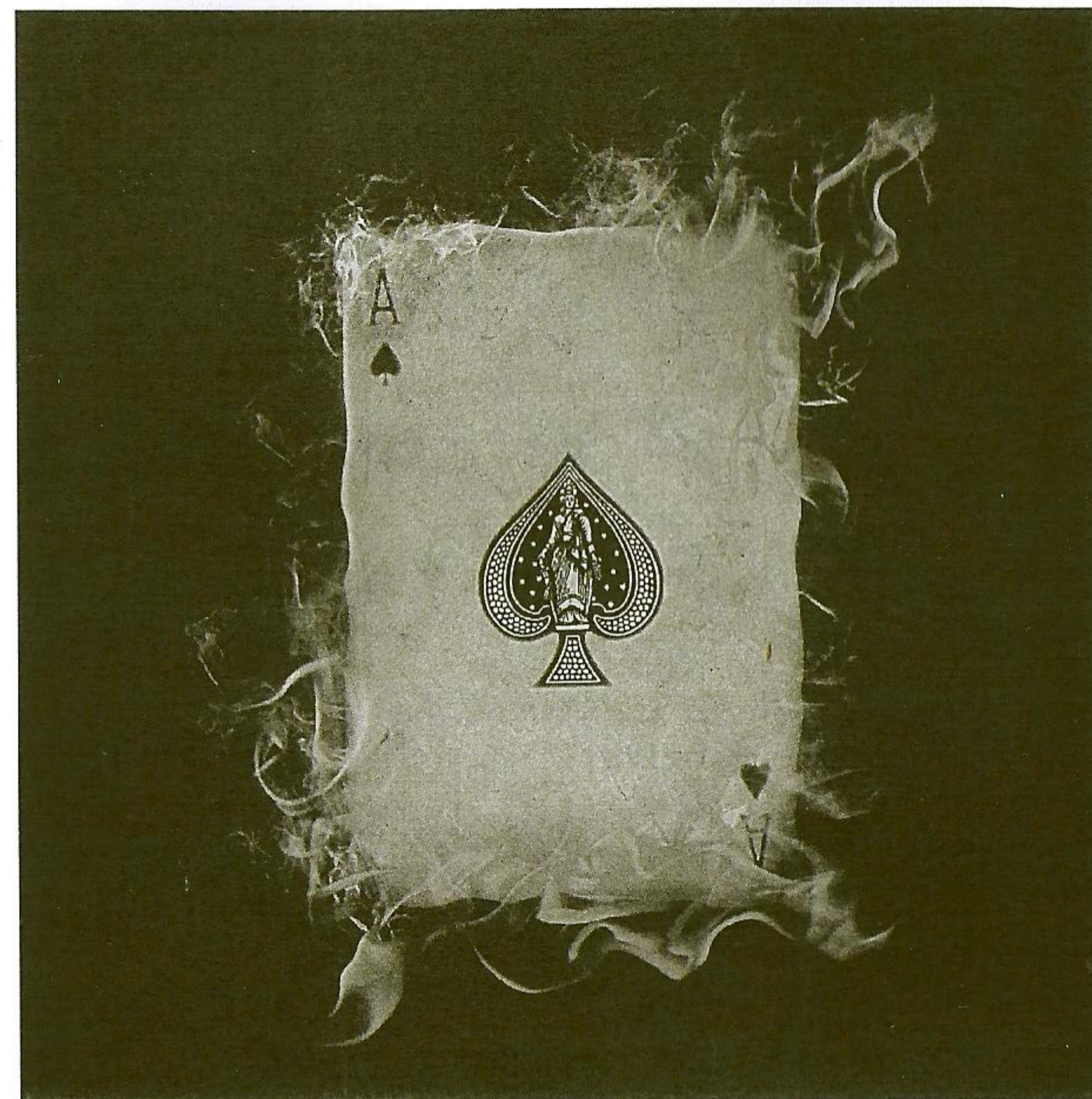


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Dealer's Choice

Patrick Marber

Patrick was born on the 19 September 1964 in London. He was educated at Cranleigh School before graduating from Wadham College, Oxford, with a degree in English.

Marber worked as a stand-up comic for a few years after graduation before moving into writing for radio and latterly TV. He worked with the likes of Stewart Lee, Richard Herring, Steve Coogan and Chris Morris on various shows: *On The Hour*, *Knowing Me, Knowing You* and *The Day Today*. Marber wrote for these shows as well as performing in various roles; he is perhaps most noted for Peter O'Hanrahan.

Since then, Marber has written several plays, completing *Dealer's Choice*, *Closer* and *After Miss Julie* in the space of two years (1995-1997). As a director, Marber (in addition to directing *Dealer's Choice*) has also directed *Blue Remembered Hills* (Potter) at the National, *The Old Neighborhood* (Mamet) at The Royal Court and *The Caretaker* (Pinter) at the Comedy Theatre, London.

In addition to his work on stage, he began to work on screenplays in 2004 starting with an adaptation of *Closer* with Julia Roberts, Jude Law, Natalie Portman and Clive Owen, then moving to work on *Asylum* (2005) and *Notes on a Scandal* (2006) which earned him an Academy Award nomination for Best Adapted Screen Play.

In 2004, Marber was Cameron Mackintosh Professor of Contemporary Theatre at Oxford University.

Dealer's Choice

Dealer's Choice was developed from the end of 1993 and well into 1994 though a series of rehearsed readings and improvisations in The Studio at The National Theatre. Marber was able to work with the likes of David Bark-Jones, Nigel Lindsay and Nicholas Day (who later went on to play Carl, Mugsy and Stephen). Guided by Sue Higginson (who ran The Studio), the play began to take shape.

Marber was told (by fax!) in February 1994 that the play would be performed in the Cottesloe Theatre the following year. Marber also decided to direct the production at the National but now describes that decision as 'stupid' – his sole directorial experience at the time was directing a Steve Coogan show at the Edinburgh Festival. Despite this, the play went on to

win the 1995 Evening Standard Award for Best Comedy and the 1995 Writers' Guild Award for Best West End Play. Marber also directed both the production at the National and its transfer into the West End.

The play was revived in 2007 at London's Menier Chocolate Factory Theatre later moving to the Trafalgar Studios.

Key Poker Terminology

Dealers Choice: A version of poker where the deal passes from player to player and the dealer can choose or invent the version of poker played that hand.

The Wheel Goes: Generally in a straight (see back page for poker hands) the Ace may not 'wrap around' and play both high and low: e.g. 5♠ 4♦ 3♦ 2♠ A♥ would be valid, but 3♠ 2♦ A♥ K♠ Q♣ would not. If the wheel goes, the ace is allowed to play both high and low making the second hand here valid.

Suicide King: The King of Hearts, as he is often pictured stabbing a sword through his head.

One Eyed Jack: Jack of Spades or Jack of Hearts.

Texas Hold 'em (also known as **hold 'em**): The game consists of two cards being dealt face down to each player and then five community cards being placed face-up by the dealer – a series of three ('the flop') then two additional single cards ('the turn' and 'the river' or 'fourth and fifth street' respectively), with players having the option to check, bet, raise or fold after each deal.

Omaha: This is a community card poker game similar to Texas hold 'em, where each player is dealt four cards and must make his best hand using exactly two of them, plus exactly three of the five community cards.

Mugsy's Nightmare: Mugsy describes this as, "Five card stud, hi-lo, two down, three up, whores, fours and one-eye jacks wild with a twist".

Simon Rudkin, Director

Meet The Company – Wednesday 25 April

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

DEALER'S CHOICE

by Patrick Marber

First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 13 April 2012

CAST

in order of speaking

Mugsy	Wesley Lloyd
Sweeney	Gary Reid
Stephen	Francis Lloyd
Frankie	Tony Steele
Carl	Andrew McGuinness
Ash	Russell Fleet

The action takes place over a Sunday evening and into Monday morning.

The Restaurant and Kitchen:

Act 1 – Early Sunday evening

Act 2 – Midnight

The Cellar:

Act 3 – Early Monday morning

All music is by *Kroke*, an instrumental ensemble from Kraków, Poland.

The performance lasts approximately 2 hours and 10 minutes including a 20-minute interval.

PRODUCTION

Director	Simon Rudkin
Set Designer	Peter Collins
Lighting Designer	Chris Newall
Sound Designer	Mark Lucek
Stage Manager	Sarah Vass
Deputy Stage Manager	Peter Wallace
Assistant Stage Managers	Alison Lemon Mel Pereira Huw Richards
Properties	Alison Lemon
Lighting Operator	Stefanie Alleyne
Sound Operators	Geoffrey Morgan Paul Wilson
Constructors	Peter Collins Paul Wilson
Wardrobe	The Company
Photographer	Robert Vass
Thanks to	Graham Firminger Terry Mummery Alan N Smith Butler's Thai, St Mary's Road

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

Peter Collins – Set Designer

Peter has been an active member at The Questors for 20 years. He began designing sets in 2003; notable designs include *Henry V*, *Richard III*, *The Trojan Women* and *Further than the Furthest Thing*. He designed *Beauty and the Beast* for Christmas 2010, and most recently *The Flint Street Nativity*. He is also active in production photography.

Russell Fleet – Ash

Russell has been a Questors member since 2006. Roles include: Star (*The Flint Street Nativity*), Pirelli (*Sweeney Todd*), Harold Gorringer (*Black Comedy*) and Hysterium (*A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*). A versatile member, at various points he has also been Deputy Stage Manager, costumier, built bits of set, knocked them down again and made curtains!

Francis Lloyd – Stephen

Acting parts at The Questors include Henry Carr in *Travesties*, John in *Oleanna*, Wicksteed in *Habeas Corpus*, Mantolini in *Nicholas Nickleby*, Mr Wopsle in *Great Expectations* and Sir Robert Morton in *The Winslow Boy*. Plays directed include *After the Dance*, *Charley's Aunt* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Next season, he will be directing *Engaged* by W. S. Gilbert.

Wesley Lloyd – Mugsy

Wesley graduated from Questors Student Group 62 in 2009 after playing the title role in *Henry VI* and a dual role in *Far From The Madding Crowd*. He has since appeared in *The Marvellous Land of Oz*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Three Sisters*, *A Flea In Her Ear*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Talented Mr Ripley*, *Titus Andronicus*, *Confessions of a Pose Plastique* and this season as Roland Maule in *Present Laughter* and Malcolm in Crucial Image's production of *Macbeth*.

Andrew McGuinness – Carl

Previous Questors credits include Lenny in *The Homecoming*, First Waiter in *A Servant To Two Masters* and O'Hara in *Arsenic and Old Lace*. When he's not acting, Andrew enjoys eating crisps.

Chris Newall – Lighting Designer

Chris first joined The Questors in 1968 and has been an active 'techie' since 1995, mostly in lighting and maintenance. He has lit over 25 productions with authors ranging from Alan Ayckbourn to Tennessee Williams, most recently *Abigail's Party* and *Titus Andronicus* in the Studio, and *Doctor Faustus* and *Romeo and Juliet* in the Playhouse.

Gary Reid – Sweeney

This will be the first time Gary has been on the Questors stage in ten years. His acting credits include the Prison Chaplain in *A Clockwork Orange* by Antony Burgess and Scavezzo in *The Fan* by Carlo Goldoni. In the past ten years Gary has been directing for The Questors and professionally on the London Fringe. His directing credits include *New Boy* by William Sutcliffe, *Mouth to Mouth* by Kevin Elyot, *Mercury Fur* by Philip Ridley, *Dogs Barking* by Richard Zajdlc, *Vincent River* by Philip Ridley and *Rent* by Jonathan Larson.

Simon Rudkin – Director

Simon graduated from Questors Student Group 61 in 2008. Since then he has performed in a few plays including *Bedroom Farce*, *The Alchemist*, *The Rover* (touring out to The Minack and Slovenia), *Rock 'n' Roll* and *Beauty and the Beast*. *Dealer's Choice* is his first full length play as a director having directed the one act play *Criminal Genius* as part of *Suburban Motel* in the autumn. He also founded the Questors resident sketch group, *The Errors Of Comedy*.

Tony Steele – Frankie

Tony's previous productions at The Questors include: *A Winter's Tale*, *A Russian in the Woods*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *The Homecoming* and *The Winslow Boy*.

Sarah Vass – Stage Manager

Sarah joined The Questors in 2011 and has been Deputy Stage Manager on *Titus Andronicus* and Assistant Stage Manager on *Ladies Down Under* and *Flint Street Nativity*. She belonged to another group between 1984 and 2000, where she undertook many roles both on and off stage.

Winning Poker Hands

<p>Straight Flush</p>	<p>Straight</p>
<p>Four of a Kind</p>	<p>Three of a Kind</p>
<p>Full House</p>	<p>Two Pair</p>
<p>Flush</p>	<p>One Pair</p>
	<p>High Cards</p>

The nine winning poker hands in order of precedence.

Next Questors Productions

BRASSED OFF

by Paul Allen

12 – 19 May 2012

The Playhouse

Adapted from the massively successful film, *Brassed Off* portrays the difficulties of musical and personal survival for the Grimley Colliery Band in a Yorkshire mining town threatened with pit closure.

NIGHT OF THE SOUL

by David Farr

25 May – 2 June 2012

The Studio

A fascinating and powerful play about guilt, remorse, forgiveness and redemption – and also a ghost story.

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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Programme: Nigel Bamford

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