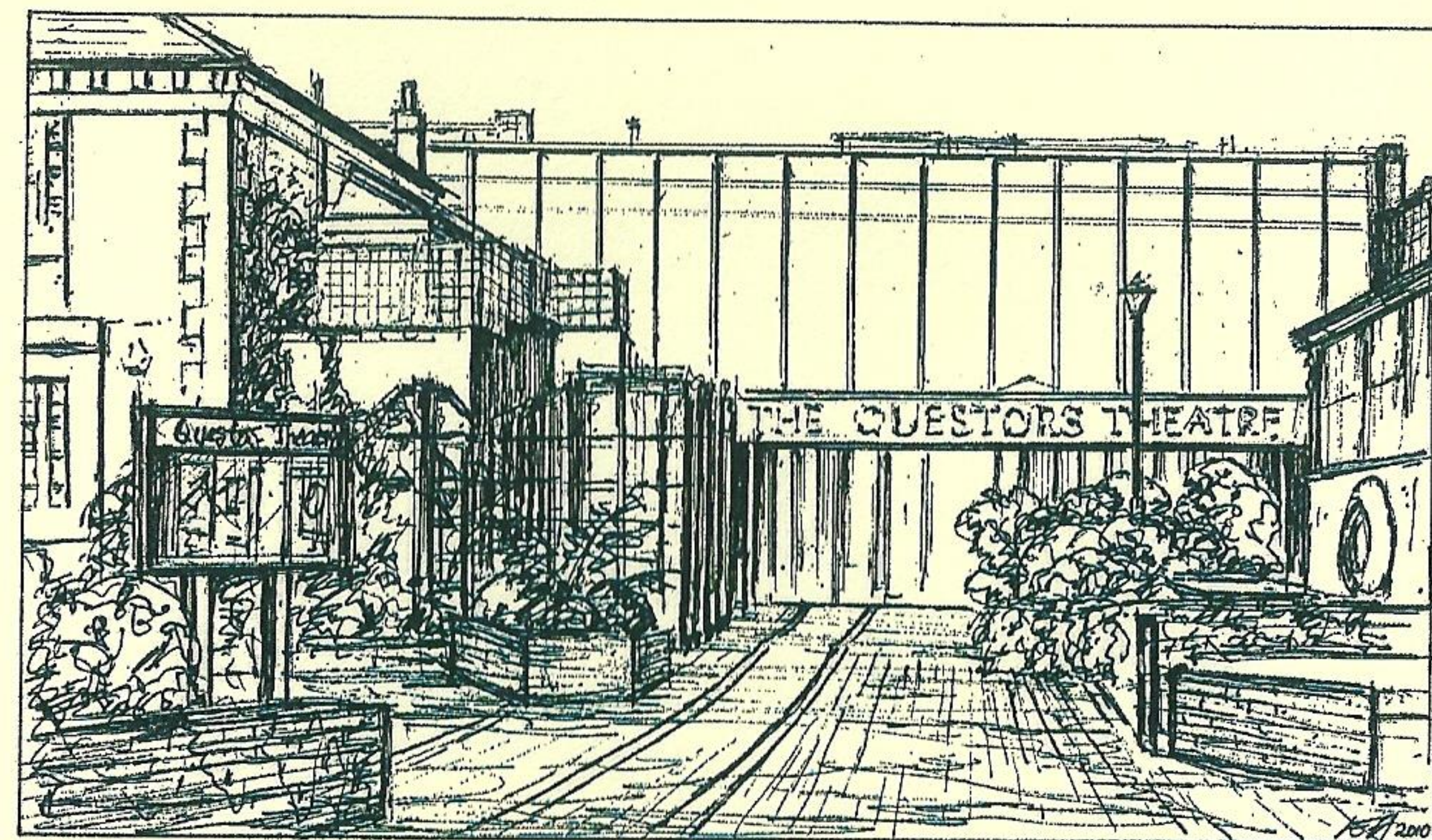




Questors, Ealing's Theatre



NIGHT OF THE SOUL

by David Farr

The Studio

25 May – 2 June 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

Spring Mini-Beer Festival 7 – 9 June 2012

See questors.org.uk/grapevine for more details

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



Pieter Bruegel's *The Triumph of Death*, detail (c.1562)

NIGHT OF THE SOUL

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25 May – 2 June 2012

Night of the Soul

The Black Death

News didn't travel fast in 1348 by modern standards, but it travelled. By the beginning of that year, almost everyone in England had heard of a terrible disease that was sweeping across Europe, killing almost half of the entire population. It was a plague that caused a hideous death in almost everyone who caught it.

No one knew where it came from or how to treat it. It was therefore the most fearful thing that people had ever faced. The population held its breath and hoped it wouldn't reach these shores. But it did. A contemporary chronicler tells us:

"In this year, 1348, in Melcombe [Weymouth] in the county of Dorset, a little before the feast of St John the Baptist, two ships, one of them from Bristol, came alongside. One of the sailors had brought with him from Gascony the seeds of the terrible pestilence, and through him the men of that town of Melcombe were the first in England to be infected."

It spread like wildfire:

"The seventh year after it began, it came to England and first began in the towns and ports joining on the seacoasts, in Dorsetshire, where, as in other counties, it made the country quite void of inhabitants so that there were almost none left alive. From there it passed into Devonshire and Somersetshire, even unto Bristol, and raged in such sort that the Gloucestershire men would not suffer the Bristol men to have access to them by any means. But at length it came to Gloucester, yea even to Oxford and to London, and finally it spread over all England and so wasted the people that scarce the tenth person of any sort was left alive."

We now know that the disease originated in China, and travelled to Europe along the silk road. It was caused by bacteria, which lived in the guts of fleas which dwelt on the skin of small mammals, mostly rats. When it attacked a community, the outbreak would typically last 3 or 4 months before dying out because the fleas had run out of hosts. But if the bacteria could find a suitable hiding place, it would break out again when conditions were right. Hence there were regular recurrences of the plague throughout the 14th century.

The effects of the plague were pretty horrendous. Boccaccio described what he saw in Florence in 1348:

"In men and women alike it first betrayed itself by the emergence of certain tumours in the groin or armpits, some of which grew as large as a common apple, others as an egg... From the two said parts of the body this deadly gavocciolo soon began to propagate and spread itself in all directions indifferently; after which the form of the malady began to change, black spots or livid making their appearance in many cases on the arm or the thigh or elsewhere, now few and large, now minute and numerous. As the gavocciolo had been and still was an infallible token of approaching death, such also were these spots on whomsoever they showed themselves."

Boccaccio was describing the bubonic form of the plague, whose symptoms are:

- Painful swellings (buboes) of the lymph nodes;
- These swellings, or buboes, would appear in the armpits, legs, neck, or groin;
- A bubo was at first a red colour. The bubo then turned a dark purple colour, or black;
- A very high fever;
- Delirium;
- The victim begins to vomit;
- Muscular pains;
- Bleeding in the lungs;
- Mental disorientation;
- The plague also produced in the victim an intense desire to sleep, which, if yielded to, quickly proved fatal;
- A victim would die quickly - victims only lived between two and four days after contracting the deadly disease.

But by the time it reached England it was mutating into the even more deadly pneumonic plague, which first attacks the lungs and combines the above symptoms with those of pneumonia (and this is what kills Joanna in our play).

The Black Death had major religious and social consequences in England. Not surprisingly the church held that the plague was a punishment from God for our sins. But when people saw that the disease was indiscriminate, taking the righteous and sparing the wicked just as much as the other way around, they started to lose their faith and their blind loyalty to the church.

Even more significantly, it brought an effective end to the feudal system. Because so many communities were wiped out, the feudal lords found they had no peasants to work their land, so they started to poach peasants from other villages and towns, bribing them with higher wages. So the system, by which peasants "belonged" to the land and therefore to their lord started to break down. The government passed the Statute of Labourers in 1351 to forbid peasants leaving their home village or masters paying them any greater wage than they had paid in 1346. The punishments were severe, and it was anger at this repression of a free labour market that boiled over in the Peasants' Revolt in 1381.

David Farr and *Night of the Soul*

David Farr is better known as a director than as a writer, though he has written a few plays. He was the artistic director of the Gate Theatre, Bristol Old Vic, and the Lyric, Hammersmith. He is now an associate director at the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Night of the Soul was first produced by the RSC at the Barbican Pit in 2002, directed by the author, with Tom Mannion as Francis and Zoe Waites as Joanna.

David Emmet, Director

NIGHT OF THE SOUL

by David Farr

First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 25 May 2012

CAST

Joanna	Francesca McNally
Francis	David Hovatter
Doreen, Francis's mother	Mary Davies
Liz, Francis's sister	Karen Singer
Tracy	Ania Alexander
Terry	Robert Vass
Widow	Christine Fox
Villagers	Ania Alexander
	Alex Cummings
	Sheri Desbaux
	Christine Fox
	Belle Perera
	Tim Pemberton
Joanna's mother	Christine Fox
Death	*Alex Dupuy
	†Sam Symes
Mrs Wasserman	Sheri Desbaux
Joanna's brother	Alex Cummings
Priest	Tim Pemberton
Thomas, Joanna's son	*Alex Dupuy
	†Sam Symes
Harold, Francis's father	Gareth Bevan

Hotel Guests: **Josh Broadhurst, Claudia Carroll, Marcelle Davis, Dylan Fryer, Annie Harris, Stephen Kavanagh, Rachel Knightley, James Kyle, Pamela Major, Andrew McGuinness, Jessy Moat, Anne Neville, Lindsey Pearson, Iain Reid, Katharine Williams, Alison Winter**

All other parts played by members of the cast.

Setting: a town on the south coast of England, 2001

The performance lasts approximately 2 hours and 35 minutes, including a 15-minute interval.

* On 25, 27, 30 May, 1 June,

† On 26, 29, 31 May, 2 June

PRODUCTION

Director	David Emmet
Set Designer	Philip Lindley
Costume Designer	Jennie Yates
Lighting Designer	Francois Langton
Sound Designer / Operator	Joel Schrire
Music Composed by	Dennis Dracup
Choreographer	Natalie Allison
Fight Arranger	Nicholas Jonne Wilson
Stage Manager	Steve Cowan
Deputy Stage Manager	Frances Sherwin
Assistant Stage Managers	Josh Broadhurst
	Devesh Patel
	Lisa Varty
	Sarah Vass
	Fallon Lee
	Jelena Vijovic
	Moonika Leisson
	Luke Smeardon
	Toby Burbidge
	Philip Lindley
	James Collins
	James Gadsen
	Richard Mead
	James Collings
	Pip Egan
	Jenny Richardson
Properties	
Prompter	
Assistant Costume Designer	
Lighting Operator	
Constructors	
Get-In Crew	
Photographer	
Thanks to	

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

Ania Alexander – Tracy / Villager

Joined The Questors as a teenager in Questors Youth Theatre, playing Anne in *The Dreams of Anne Frank*. She progressed to the Student Group and, as a member of Group 54, played Marya in *The Government Inspector* and Rose Trelawny in *Trelawny of the Wells*. She then did full-time professional training at Arts Educational School, before returning to The Questors to play an Ugly Sister in *Cinderella*, Clarice in *The Servant to Two Masters* and Sorel Bliss in *Hay Fever*.

Gareth Bevan – Harold

Gareth trained at Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and joined The Questors in 2000. His background was in musical theatre and he is a member of several local musical theatre companies. At The Questors he has acted or sung in *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Peter Pan*, *Further Than The Furthest Thing* and *Beauty and the Beast*, and various devised pieces with David Hovatter. He has also directed *Time and Time Again* and *Stiff* for The Questors.

Alex Cummings – Joanna's Brother / Villager

Alex joined Questors Youth Theatre in 2005 and then trained in Student Group 64, appearing in *Entertaining Strangers* as Charles Eldridge and other parts. He recently took part in the 24-hour plays and will be seen next in the Student Group production this July of *Doña Rosita the Spinster* and *Yerma*. He is also a current QYT tutor.

Mary Davies – Doreen

Mary has been a member of The Questors since 1978, appearing in numerous productions, including Evelyn in *A Wedding Story*, Mrs Betterton in *Playhouse Creatures*, Paulina in *The Winter's Tale*, Paulina in *Death and the Maiden*, Grace in *Faith Healer*, Martha in *Strange Snow*, Annie in *The Norman Conquests* and the Young Lady in *A Ghost Sonata*. Her most recent appearance was as Sloth in *Doctor Faustus*. Mary also takes part in PlayBack's reminiscence roadshows and helps in the costume department.

Sheri Desbaux – Mrs Wasserman / Villager

Sheri joined The Questors as a member of Student Group 50, completing the course with performances in *The Beau Defeated* and *Hard Times*. She has since appeared in *Pygmalion*, *Nicholas Nickleby*, *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *The Lady in the Van*. She has also played with other companies: *Stepping Out* with BROS and *Mort* with Point 303. She recently took the directors' training course at The Questors and has worked as a Questors Youth Theatre tutor.

Christine Fox – Widow / Joanna's Mother / Villager

Christine is making her first appearance at The Questors, having joined in January 2012. She trained at Mountview and Central School of Speech and Drama, and has acted for many years in classic and contemporary plays, improvised and devised work. Most recent roles were Miss Prism in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Xenia in Edward Bond's *Summer* and in *Table for Two*, a devised piece.

Alex Dupuy – Death / Thomas

Alex has been a member of Questors Youth Theatre for three years and is now in Year 6. He has appeared in QYT Look-In presentations and played leading roles in

plays at his school (St Gregory's). This is his first appearance in a Questors production. He is also learning to play piano and guitar.

David Hovatter – Francis

David trained at Studio 68 and joined The Questors in 1982. He has since acted in a very large number of productions and directed quite a few as well. His most recent appearances were in *Suburban Motel* and as Saturninus in *Titus Andronicus*, and his most recent productions *The Rover* and *The Talented Mr Ripley*. David has a passion for devised theatre and is a founder of Crucial Image theatre group, which has presented many fringe shows at The Questors, including *Confessions of a Pose Plastique* and *Macbeth* within the last year.

Francesca McNally – Joanna

Francesca trained initially at East 15 drama school, but then came to The Questors, graduating last summer in Student Group 64, playing Mary Moule in *Entertaining Strangers* and Maggie Cutler in *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. She has since played Daphne Stillington in *Present Laughter* and various roles in *Coarse Acting – The Final Folio*. Francesca is also the tutor to the Young Studio.

Tim Pemberton – Priest / Villager

This is Tim's second performance at The Questors, following *Coarse Acting – The Final Folio*. His other recent roles include Sir Andrew Aguecheek in Chiltern Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* and speaking parts in two musicals – Lieutenant Brannigan in *Guys and Dolls* and Zoltan Karpathy in *My Fair Lady*, both with Beaconsfield Operatic Society. He also directs – most recently *Fiddler on the Roof* for Beaconsfield Operatic Society. With his wife Stephanie, Tim is a founder member of Chiltern Actors.

Belle Perera – Villager

Belle was in Questors Student Group 44 (along with Karen Singer), playing in *Moll Flanders* and *Stags and Hens*. She then appeared in *Pericles*, *Don Juan or the Love of Geometry*, *The Love of the Nightingale*, *Daisy Pulls it Off* at The Questors and at Minack, *Crossfire* and *Little Women* at The Questors and Minack. She was also a tutor for Questors Youth Theatre and has just returned to The Questors after a 14-year gap.

Karen Singer – Liz

Karen was in Questors Student Group 44 (along with Belle Perera), also appearing in *Moll Flanders* and *Stags and Hens*. She then went on to train at Drama Centre and acted professionally in *A Clockwork Orange* and *The Handmaid's Tale* for Solent People's Theatre, as Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth* and as Rosalind in *As You Like It* for Albion Shakespeare Company and in *An Ideal Husband* and *The Comedy of Errors* for the Anglo-Irish Theatre Company. Her last performance at The Questors was in *This Happy Breed*.

Meet The Company – Wednesday 30 May

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

Sam Symes – *Death / Thomas*

Sam is a member of Questors Youth Theatre (Year 6), having joined in Year 3. He goes to Fielding School, where he has acted in school plays, but this is his first appearance in a Questors production. He is also a keen tennis player.

Robert Vass – *Terry*

Robert was most recently seen as the Innkeeper in *The Flint Street Nativity* and, before that, as Phillie in *Suburban Motel*. At Christmas 2010 he appeared as the clock Cogsworth in *Beauty and the Beast*. A fan of Stephen Sondheim, he has also played Beadle Bamford in *Sweeney Todd*, the Baker in *Into the Woods*, Harry in *Company* and Lycus in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Other Questors appearances have included *Oh, What a Lovely War!*, *Oliver!*, *As You Like It*, *Peter Pan* and *The Marvellous Land of Oz*.

Dennis Dracup – *Music Composer*

Dennis joined The Questors in 2002, initially as a scene painter, going on to design *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. He composed the music and designed the sound for *Further Than the Furthest Thing*. Having studied piano from the age of 8, he has played keyboards for numerous bands. He has also created audio-visual installations and exhibitions in the UK and abroad, and given live sound-sculpture performances. He established the GROUNDupSOUND online production music library with Stephen Dracup.

David Emmet – *Director*

David trained as an actor in Student Group 28, but has directed more often than he has acted at The Questors. *Night of the Soul* is his 51st production, not counting assistant directorships and fringe shows. Other recent outings as a director were *Titus Andronicus*, *Contractions*, *Three Sisters* and *Further Than the Furthest Thing*. David is also Director of Studies for the Student Group and teaches acting in the Foundation Year. He recently retired after 36 years as tutor to Questors Youth Theatre Group 12.

Next Questors Productions

THE SCHOOL OF NIGHT

by Peter Whelan

15 – 23 June 2012

The Studio

Part Elizabethan tragedy, part le Carré spy thriller, with scenes of commedia dell'arte and fantastical masque, Peter Whelan has created a theatrical tour de force in this search for the truth behind Christopher Marlowe's death.

DOÑA ROSITA THE SPINSTER, YERMA

by Federico García Lorca

17 – 21 July 2012

The Playhouse

Questors Student Group 65 close the season with a double bill from Lorca, the great Spanish dramatist.

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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