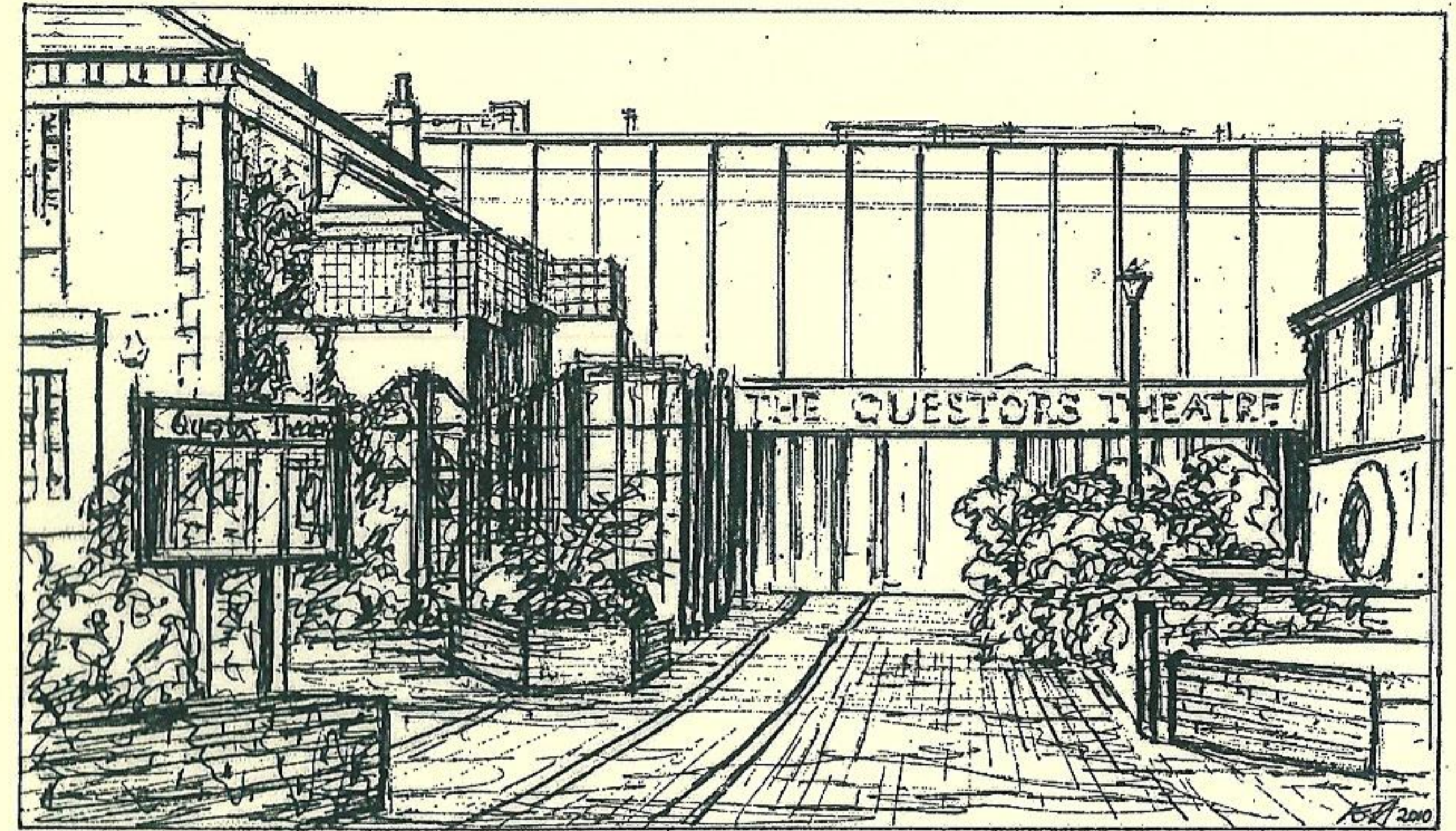




Questors, Ealing's Theatre



OTHELLO

by William Shakespeare

The Playhouse

28 February – 17 March 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.

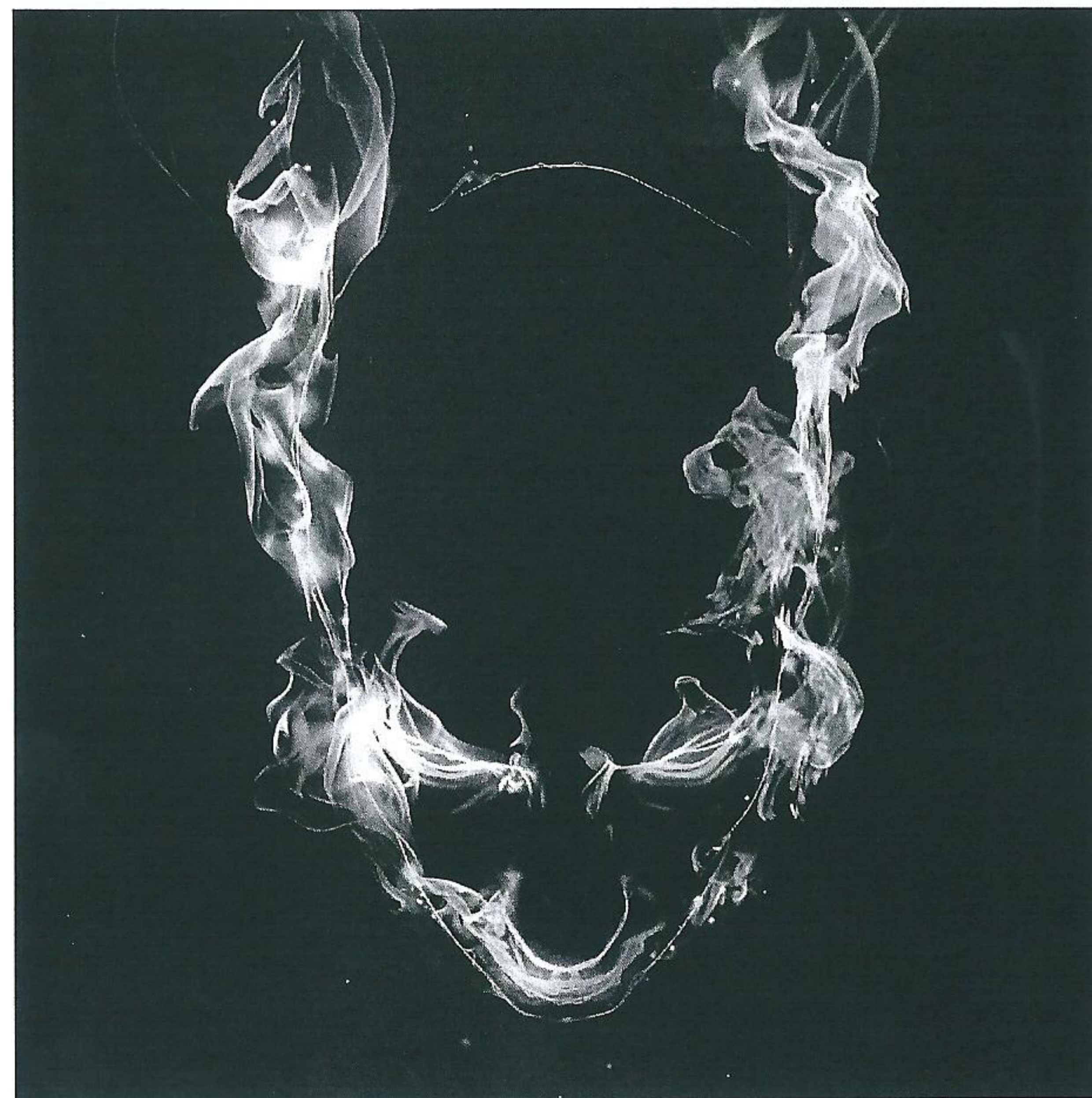
We are the proud holders of a Cask Marque award for the quality of our real ales, we appear in the 2012 edition of The Good Beer Guide and we are 2011 CAMRA Greater London Club of the Year. A choice of at least three real ales is usually available, including Fuller's London Pride. We also provide a range 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

See questors.org.uk/grapevine for more details

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



OTHELLO

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The Playhouse

28 February – 17 March

The Big Shakespeare Festival

It all started with a conversation ...

Around Spring 2010, I had a meeting with Executive Director Andrea Bath in which we were talking about the Olympic year. A lot of discussion had been had on the subject of the Cultural Olympiad and what might be planned. At this stage we had no clear indication from the Mayor's office. We heard, via a meeting with Richard Mead, Maggie Turner, Jo Matthews, and Anne Gilmour that the RSC may be doing something with amateur theatre companies, but again nothing firm. Suggestions were made about doing an international piece of theatre.

Having spoken to those mentioned above, Andrea said, "I think we should do something big on Shakespeare, you should lead it as you are passionate about his writing and maybe it should be three shows. What do you think?" "Emm", I said. "I will go away and think about it."

Well I did. In our next meeting I said, "I think we should do three Shakespeares in repertory; they should be *Romeo and Juliet* and *Othello* using one company of actors and a third play to be suggested by one of our directors should be an adaptation. Also I think we should have one directed by me and one directed by a director who has never directed one of the Bard's plays." Alex Marker, Head of Questors Youth Theatre and Design, shouted in, "The youth theatre should do *The Tempest* and I will design a set to serve all of the shows." To make things more difficult, I suggested that we become a company that is outstanding at performing Shakespeare. I offered to run open workshops on verse acting and classes to as many of our acting members as wanted them. Michael Langridge suggested we do the *Coarse Acting Shakespeares* by Michael Green as the third show.

Of course everyone went Hurrah!

Yeah, like that's going to happen.

Some people said, "What is the point of that? No one will be interested in doing that much Shakespeare. No one will commit to something that big. What does rep mean?" Well, some people took convincing. Chairman Richard Mead immediately stepped in to help make it happen and continued to help schedule the whole thing. The Board of Trustees and the Team of Managers backed the project and we were off!

Helped by Maggie Turner, we put together a document to communicate this to our active members. Just as we finished it we had a call from Anne Gilmour, our Little Theatre Guild representative, saying she was going to a meeting the next day where Ian Wainwright of the RSC was announcing the Open Stages project. The Royal Shakespeare Company invited all of the UK's

amateur companies to produce a production of Shakespeare's work or a themed play. Anne asked for a copy of our document. After the meeting she introduced herself to Ian and thrust the document in his hand with a "this is what we are doing". Ian read it and said, "This is a textbook example of what we would like to see on Open Stages". He then went on to say that he had already intended to speak to us about Open Stages.

RSC Artistic Director Michael Boyd had told him that he should contact The Questors. Unknown to us, Michael had grown up in Ealing and had been to The Questors to see shows. He felt we were a leading amateur company and that we should be the partner venue for the whole of the London Region. As one of only ten UK-wide partners and the only amateur company amongst them, he believed we were professionally organised and that we could deal with the giant task. Again Richard Mead stepped in to organise the mammoth task of communicating with the 57 theatre companies in the London region.

Two years on from the 'conversation', we have completed the open workshops (150 people attended) and we have trained 50 actors. Over 70 actors auditioned for the three shows. We are producing more Open Stages productions than any other company, seven in total. We did the first Open Stages show: *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)*. We have hosted two skills exchange weekends for the RSC, attended by 57 theatre companies (the RSC think ours were by far the best organised in the UK). We are now playing three shows in repertory. The youth theatre is on after that. In fact everything we set out to do, we have done.

We are part of the World Shakespeare Festival and one of the venues for the Cultural Olympiad. Next month we will host the London region Open Stages festival. Over three weeks, 22 amateur companies will perform on our stage. Just look at the list of Questors members who have supported and contributed to the Shakespeare project. Truly amazing!

Thank you to our members for making this happen.

I am proud to be a Questor.

We hope you enjoy the shows.

Mark Fitzgerald, Artistic Director

P.S. I am now very careful about the conversations I have with Andrea.

Meet The Company – Thursday 8 March

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

OTHELLO

by William Shakespeare

First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 28 February 2012

CAST

in order of appearance

Roderigo	Mark Hill
Iago	Julian Casey
Brabantio	John Downs
Servants to Brabantio	John Barron, Lewis Brown, Barbara Christian, Daniel Martin
Othello	Efe Abboh
Cassio	Scott Drummond
Duke	Derek Chandler
Gratiano	Paul Collins
Lodovico	Derek Stodddart
Desdemona	Lucy Waring
Montana	Nina Flitman
Emilia	Louisa Norman
Bianca	Gemma Galley

All other parts played by

John Barron, Lewis Brown, Barbara Christian and Daniel Martin

- Act 1:** Venice
Act 2: a week later in Cyprus
Act 3: the next day in Cyprus
Act 4: that evening in Cyprus
Act 5: the same night in Cyprus

The text used is the First Folio compiled by Patrick Tucker and Christine Ozanne.
It is available from friendlyfolio.com. Approximately 12 pages have been cut.

The performance lasts approximately 2 hours and 45 minutes including a 15-minute interval.

PRODUCTION

Director	Mark Fitzgerald
Set Designer	Alex Marker
Costume Designer	Jennie Yates
Lighting Designer	Ben Sandford
Sound	Colin Horne
Production Manager	Michelle Weaver
Stage Manager	Toby Burbidge
Deputy Stage Manager	Alison Lemon
Properties / Set Dresser	Bron Blake
Rehearsal Prompter	Pam Smith
Lighting Operator	Peter Wallace
Fight Arranger	John Fryer
Set Construction	Colin Horne
Additional Joinery	Toby Burbidge, Mark Fitzgerald, Zyg Staniaszek, Paul Wilson
Scenic Painters	Alex Marker, Emilia Staniaszek, Zosia Staniaszek
Flute Music by	William Morton
Photographer	Peter Collins
Thanks to	Jeff Baynham, Henry Broom, James Gadstone, Mike Hagan, Tina Harris, Geoffrey Morgan, Mary and Tony Rushforth, Sylvia Wall

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

Efe Abboh – *Othello*

Efe joined The Questors as a member of Acting for All and then trained in Student Group 62, performing as Richard Duke of Gloucester in *Henry VI*, Farmer Boldwood in *Far from the Madding Crowd* and Aaron in *Titus Andronicus*. He also appears in *Romeo and Juliet*.

John Barron – *Servant to Brabantio*

John has been a member since 2004 and his appearances include: *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Dispute*, *Festen*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *Dogs Barking*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *The Flint Street Nativity* and as a writer/performer with *The Errors of Comedy* sketch show. He is also to be seen in *Romeo and Juliet*.

Lewis Brown – *Servant to Brabantio*

Lewis appeared as Naz in *Mercury Fur* before joining The Questors Student Group. Since graduating, Lewis has appeared in a number of plays including *The Libertine*, *The Talented Mr Ripley*, *A Flea In Her Ear*, the rock opera *Rent* and *Voyager & Lovers*. He also appears in *Romeo and Juliet*.

Julian Casey – *Iago*

For The Questors: *The Winterling* (West), *Three Sisters* (Vershinin), *The Taming of the Shrew* (Petruccio), *Two* (Various Men), *Knives in Hens* (Gilbert Horne), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Borachio), *Comedians* (Ged Murray), *Mouth to Mouth* (Roger). He is also to be seen in *Romeo and Juliet*.

Derek Chandler – *Duke*

Derek joined The Questors in the early sixties, first appearing in *Henry IV Part 1* in the Old Tin Hut. He has since appeared in many plays old and new, more recently in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Cinderella*, *A Servant of Two Masters* and *Bedroom Farce*. He appears as the Apothecarie in *Romeo and Juliet*.

Barbara Christian – *Servant to Brabantio*

Babs trained with Student Group 60 and appeared in *The Visit* and *Separate Tables*. She is delighted to be back on stage at The Questors and appears in *Romeo and Juliet*.

Paul Collins – *Gratiano*

An acting member since 1975. Productions include: *Broken Glass*; *The Seagull*; *Great Expectations*; *Comedians*; *Total Eclipse*; *A Flea in Her Ear*, *Early Shakespeare and the Late Marlowe*; *The Winter's Tale*; *Women's Writes*, *A Mad World*, *My Masters*; *Dancing Naked* and much Coarse Acting including *A Fish in Her Kettle*. Paul plays Friar Laurence in *Romeo and Juliet*.

John Downs – *Brabantio*

John has recently been involved with local groups in Buckinghamshire and environs. He directed *Good Things* with Bovingdon Players, and appeared as Becket in *Murder in the Cathedral* with Chiltern Actors and in two one-actor plays with Chesham Theatre Group. He appears as Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet*.

Scott Drummond – *Cassio*

For The Questors, Scott has performed in *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)*, *Three Sisters* and *Glengarry Glen Ross*. Outside of

The Questors, Scott has performed in many productions as well as directing and writing. He has a BA in Drama. He is also in *Romeo and Juliet*.

Nina Flitman – *Montana*

Othello is Nina's third production at The Questors after *The Flint Street Nativity* and *Titus Andronicus*. Nina was an active member of theatre groups at both Durham and Cambridge Universities, with roles including in *Alice in Wonderland*, *Julius Caesar* and *The Tempest*. She has also worked professionally for the Really Useful Theatre Company and the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre Company. Nina is an editor on a financial newspaper. She is also in *Romeo and Juliet*.

Gemma Galley – *Bianca*

Gemma made her Questors debut in *Sweeney Todd* in 2010 followed by *Rent*. She's worked extensively in film and theatre in Australia. She also worked in improvisation and comedy for Interactive Theatre Australia. She is also an award winning film-maker and a playwright, and was the head of Voice and Movement studies at The Actors Workshop, Australia for five years. Gemma is also appearing in *Romeo and Juliet*.

Mark Hill – *Roderigo*

Mark has been acting at The Questors since 2008. His most recent appearance was in *The Flint Street Nativity*. Previously he played Ray/Splodge in *Dogs Barking* and Uncle Henry/Gatekeeper in *The Wizard of Oz*, plus roles in *Doctor Faustus*, *A Flea in Her Ear*, *Rock 'n' Roll*, the Polish short *Widows* and, his first production, *The Railway Children*. Mark can also be seen in *Romeo and Juliet*.

Daniel Martin – *Servant to Brabantio*

Dan has acted in three previous Questors productions: *The Talented Mr Ripley*, *A Christmas Carol* and *Sweeney Todd*. He also performed in Unmasked Productions' *Much Ado About Nothing*. Dan's prior acting experience consists of over twenty different plays and musicals whilst at University (including tours of Europe and the USA) and extensive work with various theatre companies in his home county of Hampshire. He plays Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet*.

Louisa Norman – *Emilia*

For The Questors: *Trojan Women*, *Henry VI*, *Far from the Madding Crowd*, *The Twelve Pound Look* (rehearsed reading), member of Student Group 62. She also performs and has toured with the Tower Theatre and has appeared at the National Theatre in *Blood and Gifts*. Louisa also reviews theatre for OffWestEnd.com and appears in *Romeo and Juliet*.

Derek Stoddart – *Lodovico*

Derek has been acting for 30 years with both The Questors Theatre and other local drama groups. 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*. Most recently seen in *Luca's Spoon* and currently in *Romeo and Juliet*.

Lucy Waring – *Desdemona*

This is Lucy's third play as an acting member of The Questors, her first being *The Taming of the Shrew* in which she played Bianca followed by *The Rover*, which toured to Minack and Slovenia. She completed Student Group 62 during which she played Lady Grey and Rutland in *Henry VI* and Liddy in *Far From the Madding Crowd*. She can also be seen in *Romeo and Juliet*.

Colin Horne – Sound and Set Constructor

Work at The Questors since 1976 includes: Company Treasurer 1977-79; Production Manager for *Nicholas Nickleby*; Stage Manager for *Lark Rise*, *Dead Funny*, *Translations*. Sound Designs for numerous shows from *Kennedy's Children* in 1977 to last year's *A Little Patch of Ground*. Set Construction for many shows including the recent *Voyager & Lovers* and last season's *Titus Andronicus*, *The Winterling* and *Doctor Faustus*. Original sound designs for all the Coarse Acting Shows at The Questors, Edinburgh Fringe and the Shaftesbury Theatre.

Mark Fitzgerald – Director

Artistic Director of The Questors. Trained in Student Group 44 and at Drama Studio London as an actor. Over fifty directing credits, including: *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)*, *The Libertine*, *The Accrington Pals*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Henry VI*, *Far From the Madding Crowd*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Richard III*, *Henry V*, *This Happy Breed*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Twenty Nine* by Peter Vincent (Kings Head), *Reduced Mysteries* (Old Joint Stock). Founding Artistic Director of The Drayton Court Theatre. Works as an acting coach for TV. Over thirty credits including the award-winning, BAFTA-nominated *Seven Sins of England* and *The Enemy Within*, both for Channel 4. Also many TV and radio advertisements.

Ben Sandford – Lighting Designer

Ben joined The Questors in 2007 and is currently a member of the Board of Trustees and Co-Head of the Lighting Committee. His credits at The Questors include *The Flint Street Nativity*, *Sweeney Todd* (Sound Designer), *The Rover* (Stage Manager), *The Homecoming* (Lighting Designer), *The Taming of the Shrew* (Set Designer), *The Marvellous Land of Oz* (Set and Lighting Designer).

Jennie Yates – Costume Designer

Since joining The Questors in 2000, Jennie has worked on numerous productions, costuming from stock, making and designing. Her Questors productions are too numerous to mention, but recent design credits include *Titus Andronicus*, *Entertaining Strangers*, *Ladies' Day*, *A Flea in Her Ear* and *The Pierglass*.

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.

The Big Shakespeare Festival

OTHELLO

ROMEO AND JULIET

**COARSE SHAKESPEARE –
THE FINAL FOLIO
by Michael Green**

28 February – 17 March

The Playhouse, in repertory

The Questors Youth Theatre presents

THE TEMPEST

22 – 24 March

The Playhouse

Many Questors Youth Theatre members have gone on to become professional actors and directors over the years. So come and see our rising talent of today!

Cover Image: Elaine Hagan

The Questors Theatre

Box Office: 020 8567 5184

Email: enquiries@questors.org.uk

Programme: Nigel Bamford

12 Mattock Lane, Ealing, W5 5BQ

Theatre Office: 020 8567 0011

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