

Productions for Early 2013

Clybourne Park

by **Bruce Norris**

Opens 11 January in The Studio

Blue Remembered Hills

by **Dennis Potter**

Opens 26 January in The Playhouse

Mary Stuart

by **Friedrich Schiller**

Opens 8 February in The Studio

The Questors Youth Theatre: Annual Production

Opens 13 March in The Playhouse

The Questors Student Group: First Production

Opens 15 March in The Studio

Sophocles' Antigone

translated by

R. Fainlight & R.J. Littman

Opens 12 April in The Studio

Enron

by **Lucy Prebble**

Opens 20 April in The Playhouse

The Miser

by **Molière**

Opens 10 May in The Studio

Join Us as a Member

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 your 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
- ✓ Colour magazine three times a year
- ✓ Monthly Programme Card
- ✓ Access to iQ, the members-only website members.questors.org.uk
- ✓ Exclusive online news and email newsletter
- ✓ Voting rights in the company
- ✓ Membership of The Grapevine Club

* Reduced prices exclude certain events.

** Under 18; excludes certain events; maximum 4 per event; must be collected at the performance and accompanied by the adult member.

Introductory Offer – as a welcome for first-time members only, you can get your first 12 months' membership for the price of six.

For more details, news and to join our e-mail list, go to

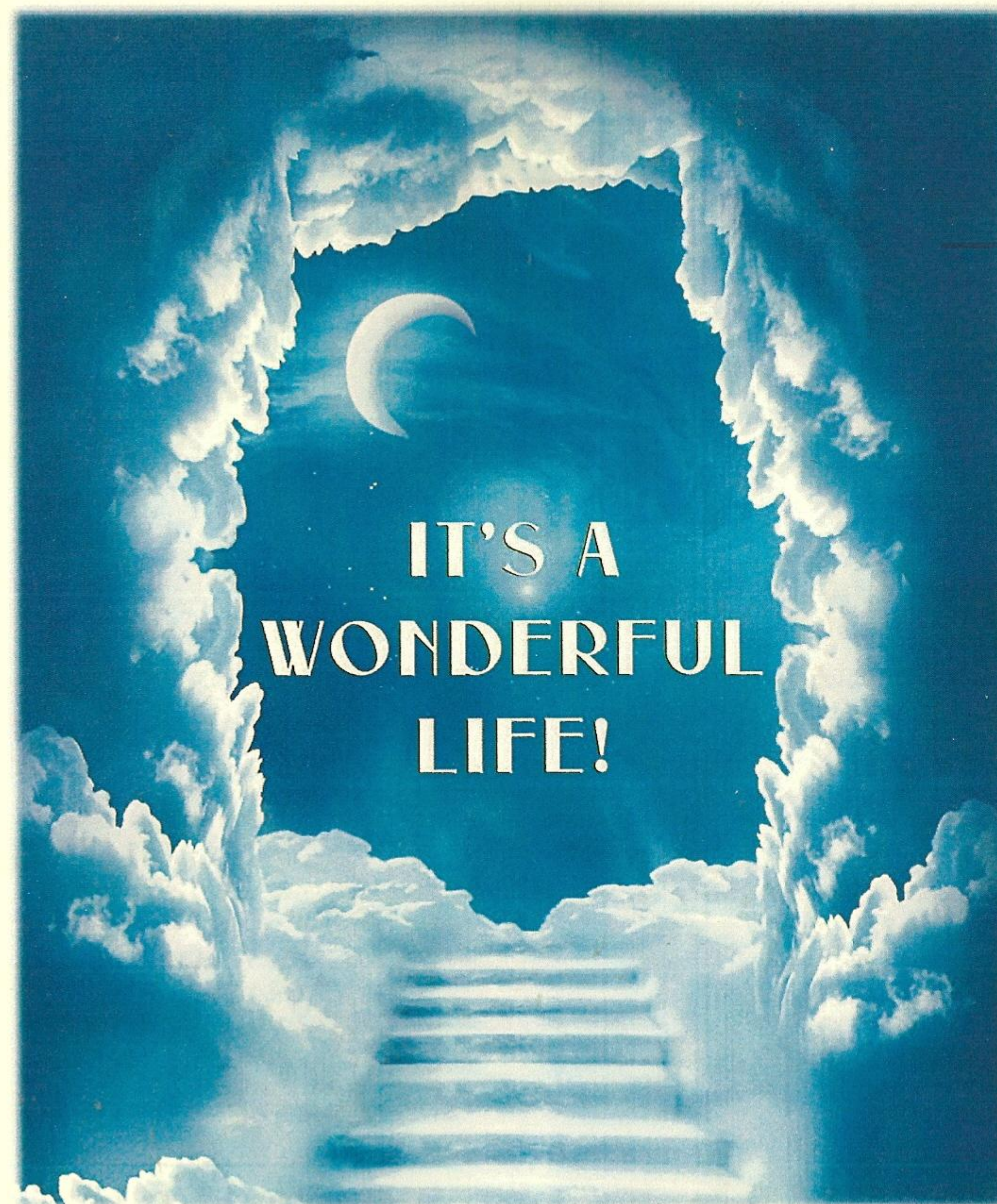
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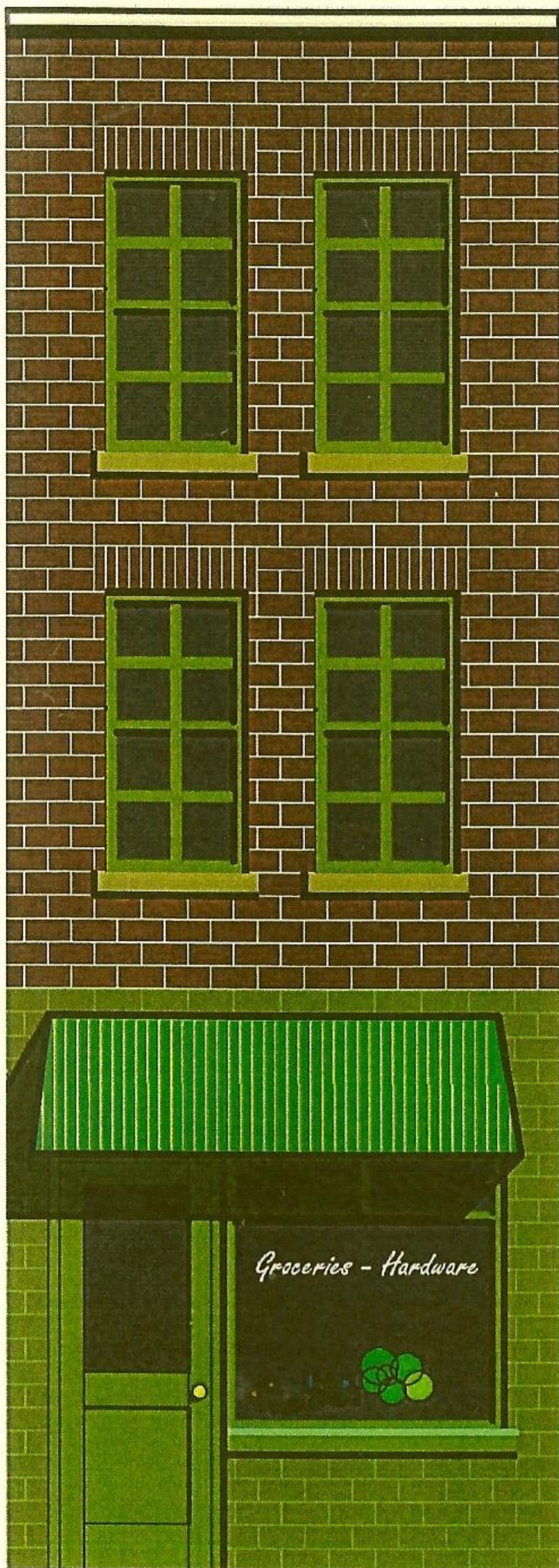
The Questors Theatre
12 Mattock Lane, Ealing, W5 5BQ
Box Office: 020 8567 5184
Theatre Office: 020 8567 0011

Programme: Nigel Bamford
Email: enquiries@questors.org.uk
Web: questors.org.uk
Registered Charity No. 207516



Questors, Ealing's Theatre





Welcome to The Questors Theatre

On behalf of the Questors membership and the Board of Trustees, we are delighted to welcome you to The Questors Playhouse for this performance of the UK theatre premiere of *It's a Wonderful Life*!

Last December we brought you *Annie*, which highlighted a whole nation suffering from an economic downturn. This year, following the Chancellor's annual statement, we bring you the tale of a good family man, a slum landlord, a mean shareholder, an affordable housing scheme, a run on a bank, bankruptcy and bank fraud. We are nothing if not timely.

Our thanks go out to all those who have been part of creating this production, not only the on- and back-stage stars, but also the front of house and box office teams that you will have seen and met, as well as those working away unseen behind the scenes whose contribution is vital.

Our entire company, from the very young to the young at heart, looks forward to welcoming you to The Questors for an entertaining 2013.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Andrea Bath
Executive
Director

Richard Mead
Chairman
of the Board

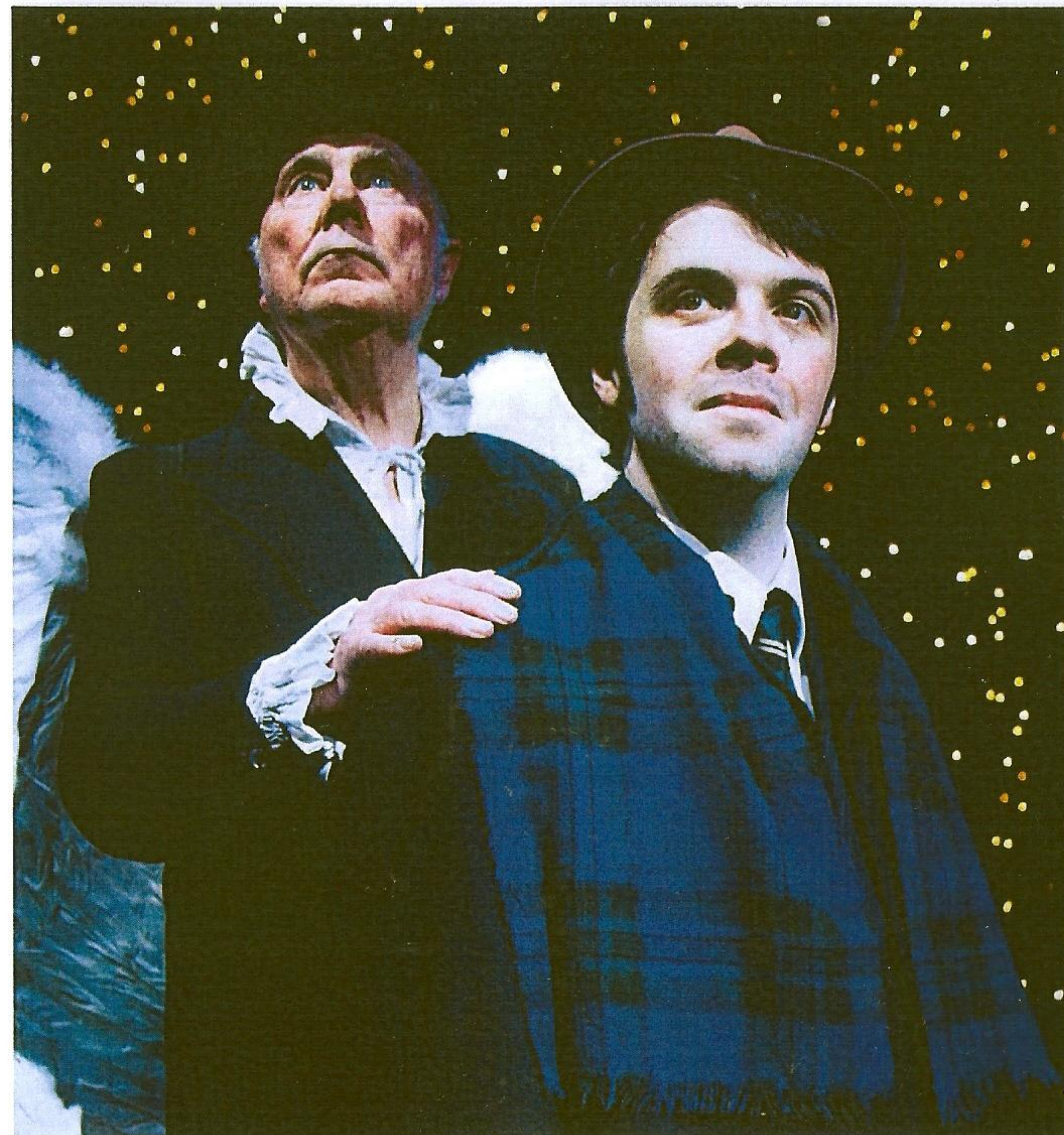


Image: Peter Gould

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE!

Adapted for the stage from Frank Capra's film by
Anthony E Palermo

The Questors Theatre Playhouse

8 – 30 December 2012

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE!

The original movie was adapted for the screen by Frank Capra from an original short story called *The Greatest Gift* by Phillip Van Doren. Believe it or not, it was not considered a success at the box office on its original release. Over the years it has become considered a masterpiece of cinema, particularly since the copyright lapsed and the movie could be shown on TV at no expense. It is now so familiar to Americans that it is now often voted the greatest Christmas film ever made.

On the surface, it would be a very difficult film to pitch to movie executives. On Christmas Eve, a man stands on a bridge contemplating suicide, set to a background of bank crashes and takeovers. This does not sound like a happy story.

Well there is more than money and banking to this story. It is about a man's life, his hopes, dreams and ambitions. He falls in love, has a family and gets on with life. Putting others before him, he sacrifices all his dreams to help others. We may believe that a lifetime of helping others means that we will have a lifetime of good luck. Not so for George Bailey. He has the most dreadful stroke of luck which jeopardises everything he and his family have done.

Adapter Anthony Palermo has this to say: "In order to present this play as something deeper than a nostalgia trip or mere rerun of Frank Capra's film, you must understand the themes working beneath the surface. While my adaptation abounds in exuberance and comedy, it is tempered with a thorough plumbing of the depths of sorrow, regret, sacrifice and redemption undergirding the story. Take note as I explain the subtext of the story and how my adaptation uses it to make the drama come alive.

"It's a Wonderful Life!" is an Americanized version of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* – only here, it is George Bailey's kindly Bob Cratchit-like character who meets the otherworldly visitor that re-educates him via a frightful 'Christmas Yet To Come'. If you can see how Frank Capra echoes Dickens, you can make the story resonate with audiences better – and come off as an engaging theatrical experience. So, if *Wonderful Life* seems to be a delightful 1940s romp, a 'trials and tribulations of George Bailey', dig a bit deeper to find Dickens' *Carol* beneath the Americana. While the miserly Mr Potter is the obvious Scrooge stand-in here, it is George Bailey who takes on many Scrooge-isms as the story progresses.

"For example: George was a dreamy youth, as was the young Scrooge, who was fascinated by the exotic worlds of *Robinson Crusoe* and *Ali Baba*. But for all George's longing for adventure, he, like Scrooge, winds up a money-lender. Both are tormented by desire and fear. For George, his deepest desire is to escape the humdrum life of Bedford Falls and see the big world out there. George's greatest fear is of being trapped in small town America forever.

"In many of Frank Capra's films, there is a Christ figure – and a crucifixion. You can see this hero in *Mr Smith Goes to Washington*, *Mr Deeds Goes to Town*, *Meet John Doe* and, of course, *It's a Wonderful Life!* These martyrs must suffer before they can find salvation. Capra was a Catholic and the theme of Christ suffering on the Cross is as central to Capra's art as the plucky optimism of his wisecracking, down-home characters. On the Cross, as long as Christ held onto his mortal side – the fear of pain and death, the desire to escape his fate – he writhed and suffered. But at a pivotal point in his ordeal, Christ lets go of his resistance to his fate and gives himself up to his duty: sacrificing himself for mankind. This decision to surrender himself *willingly* is what allows Christ to transcend his mortal self and become one with the Divine. His humility is key. And that lesson permeates Capra's films.

"In *Wonderful Life*, George has been writhing on his *own* cross – from his frustrations at being 'trapped' in Bedford Falls, to fear of bankruptcy and prison over the missing \$8,000, to the incredible guilt engendered by the visit to Pottersville."

I have spoken to many people recently who love the film and many men who by the last scene end up sobbing like small children. I asked one of them what they thought the film was about and they replied, "Any man who, by the end of his life, can say he truly has friends has had a wonderful life."

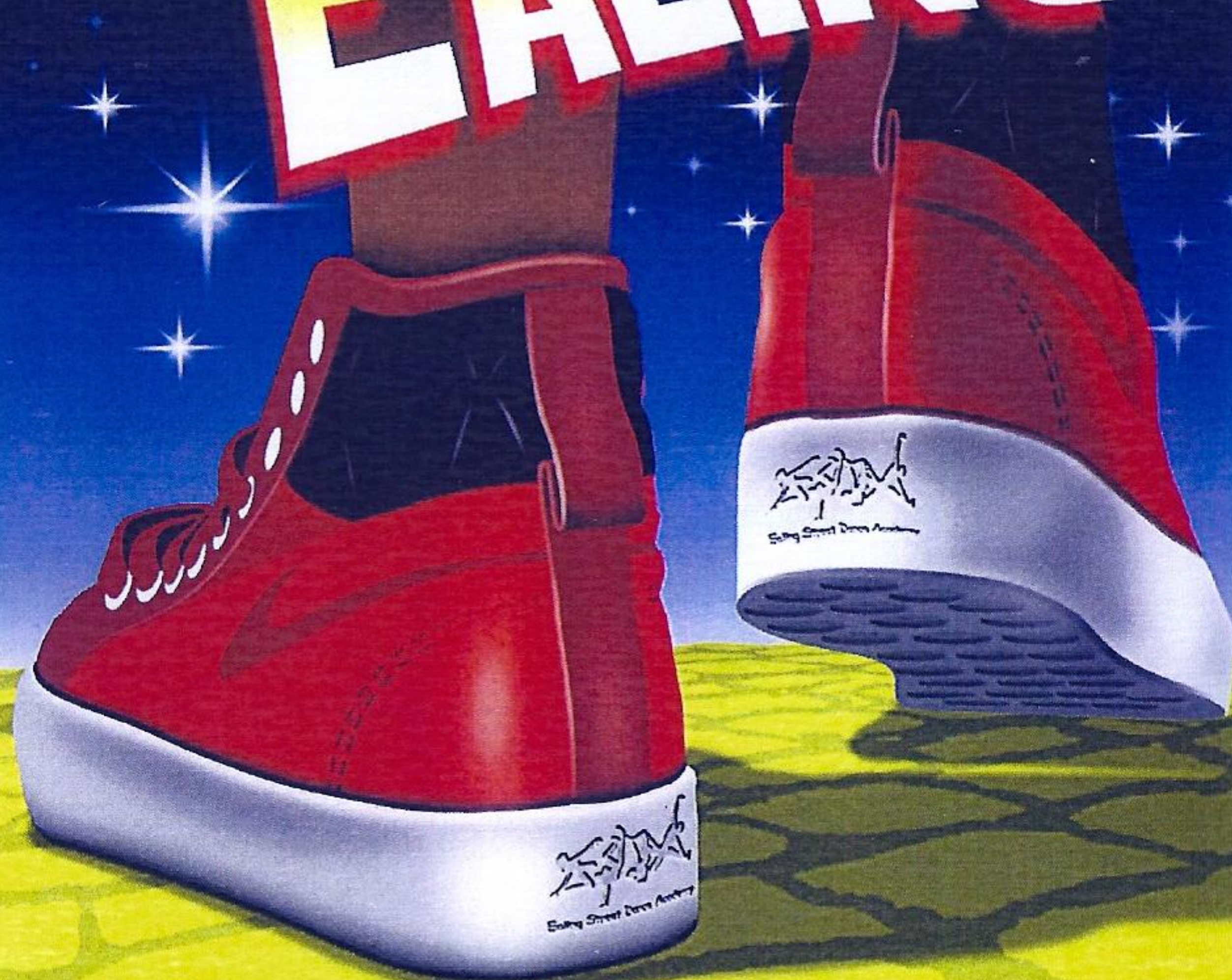
I cannot argue with that. We hope you enjoy our production.

Mark Fitzgerald, Director

Meet The Company – Wednesday 12 December

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

THE WIZARD OF EALING



**Ealing Street Dance Academy presents
a hip-hop adaptation of the
classic Oz tale**

**The Questors Theatre, Ealing
Friday 8th February 2013, 7pm
Saturday 9th February 2013, 3pm and 7pm**

**Adults £12.50, Children £6 and Concessions £8
Book tickets at www.questors.org.uk**



THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Mark Fitzgerald
Set Designer	Peter Collins
Costume Designers	Jenny Richardson, Jennie Yates
Lighting Designer	Richard Mead
Sound Designer	Paul Wilson
Stage Managers	Toby Burbidge, Michelle Weaver
Deputy Stage Manager	Alison Lemon
Assistant Stage Managers	Esmae Ash, Emma Bugg, Irma Kent, Jaye Webster
Properties	Claudia Kees
Prompter	Bridgett Strevens
Accent Coach	Michael Hayes
Children's Coordinators	Sarah Clopet, Jessy Moat
Health and Safety	Mike Hagan
Construction Team	Toby Burbidge, Keith Butler, Gordon Miller, Joe Smith, Paul Wilson
Scenic Artists	Dennis Dracup, Elaine Hagan, Alex Marker
Set Dressers	Bron Blake, Sue Collins
Get-In Team	Adrian Asher, Jeff Baynham, Sally Beauchannon, Henry Broom, Daniel Cawtheray, Steve Cowan, Catherine Day, James Gadson, Doug King, John MacCarrick
Wardrobe Team	Diana Boydell, Sarah Clopet, Mary Davis, Mavis Trainer, Helen Karasiewicz, Moonika Leisson, Pauline Wilde
Lighting Operators	Cecily Johnson, Kiaran Kesby, James Lee-Cross
Lighting Team	Chris Edwards, Tim Edwards, Francois Langton, Nigel Lewis, Duncan Walduck
Sound Operators	Daniel Beilby, Steve Cowan, Matt Harmer
Hair and Make-up	Amanda Durkin, Olivia Beresford, Alex Cairns, Roxana Spinu, Tamara Tott
Photographer	Peter Gould
Special Thanks to	Alfonso at the Chiswick Bread Shop, Peter Salvietto, Genevieve Simmers, Pam Smith, Sylvia Wall, Kingston Students, UWL Students

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE!

Adapted for the stage from Frank Capra's film by Anthony E Palermo

First performance of this UK theatre premiere production at The Questors Theatre: 8 December 2012

THE PLAYERS

George Bailey
Clarence
Mary Hatch Bailey
Superintendent
Uncle Billy
Mr Potter
Ma Bailey
Violet Bick
Officer Bert
Ernie
Nick
Pop Bailey
Sam Wainwright
Gower
Mrs Hatch
Harry Bailey
Martini
Charlie
Tilly
Young George Bailey

Toll-Taker
Zuzu Bailey

Janie Bailey

Dr Campbell
Mr Welch
Bank Teller
Eustace
Carter
Petey Bailey

Daniel Carroll-Cawley
Derek Chandler
Renée Bourke
Paul Vincent
Robert Staines
Paul Collins
Catherine Day
Gemma-May Bowles
Paul Collins
Declan McAndrew
Paul Vincent
Geoffrey Morgan
Declan McAndrew
Paul Collins
Gemma-May Bowles
James Byrne
Declan McAndrew
Declan McAndrew
Catherine Day
Fergal Jeffreys*, Jake Wright†, Harry Young‡
Robert Staines
Alannah Williams*, Bella Whelan†, Georgia Coleman‡
Grace Kennedy*, Ruby Bird†, Amelia Hall‡
Declan McAndrew
Geoffrey Morgan
Catherine Day
Geoffrey Morgan
Robert Baker-Glenn
Eric Barth*, Joshua Ward†, Arthur Lesle‡

Mrs Davis
Nosey Neighbour
Randy
Mrs Thompson
Sheriff
Eddy
Tommy Bailey

Young Harry

Adult Ensemble

Children's Ensemble A*

Children's Ensemble B†

Children's Ensemble C‡

Gemma-May Bowles
Catherine Day
Geoffrey Morgan
Catherine Day
Timothy Scott
Paul Collins
Daniel Mackenzie*, Zak Jackson†, Anthony De Vitis‡
Josh Ward*, Arthur Lesle†, Louis Wilson‡
James Byrne, Sarah Koumis, Timothy Scott
Lydia Batalona, Idris Driver, Maliya Forde, Nina Goodland, Lily Moran, Savannah Navazesh-Verze, Olivia Williams
Bella Adams-Camacho, Nikhita Claerhout, Rosie Cox, Ethan Dahanayake, Kira Depal, Daniel Fayinka, Siobhan Jackson, Angelina Will, Temisan Wyse
Maria Banks-Pidoux, Lily Brenchley, Greeta Keech, Serena Kalsi, Sian Kalsi, Kaya Latif-Shaikh, Shaan Latif-Shaikh, Lucy Stebbings

* on December 8 (2.30), 11, 14, 19, 22 (2.30 & 7.00), 28

† on December 8 (7.00), 12, 15 (2.30 & 7.00), 20, 23, 29 (2.30)

‡ on December 9, 13, 16, 18, 21, 27, 29 (7.00), 30

The performance lasts about 2 hours and 35 minutes including a 20-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.

Cast Pictures



**Children's
Group A ***



**Children's
Group B †**



**Children's
Group C ‡**

Biographies

Robert Baker-Glenn – Carter

As well as acting, Robert has worked as a radio presenter, a director and a choreographer. His most recent appearances have been in *On Show* (a celebration of dance at the Royal Albert Hall), *Much Ado About Nothing* for Unmasked Productions and, for The Questors, *Heaven's Waiting Room*, *Ladies Down Under*, *Ladies' Day* and *A Christmas Carol* (which he also choreographed).

Renée Bourke – Mary Hatch Bailey

Renée has many Australian TV and commercial credits, including *Home and Away*, along with a number of short films, plays and musicals. Renée spent a year as a cast member at Disneyland Hong Kong and since arriving in the UK has been in *Aladdin*, performed at Jermyn St Theatre, done several commercials and a couple of corporate films. She recently toured with the children's TV show *In The Night Garden – Live!* Renée frequently works at the MET Film School (Ealing Studios) working with film students and helping them develop their skills.

Gemma-May Bowles – Violet Bick / Mrs Hatch / Mrs Davis

This is Gemma's first production with The Questors. She trained at The Bridge and has been in many theatre and film productions. Her previous theatre credits include; Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Ophelia in *Hamlet*, Claire Zachanassian in *The Visit*, Estelle in *Made In Spain*, Oliver Twist/Nancy in *Simply Dickens* and Fiona in *Matilda Liar*.

James Byrne – Harry Bailey

James joined The Questors in 2009 and has gone through Questors Youth Theatre and is now taking the Foundation Course. He has been in three productions: *The Pierglass*, *Titus Andronicus* and *Romeo and Juliet*. He is loving his first Christmas production.

Daniel Carroll-Cawley – George Bailey

A graduate of the MPhil(B) Playwriting Course at the University of Birmingham, Daniel's first performance at The Questors was Nicholas Skeres in *The School of Night*, but he has long experience performing at The Old Joint Stock, The Crescent and the MAC theatres in Birmingham. Daniel was invited to the National Student Drama Festival in 2009 for his performance as Creon from a Ted Hughes adaptation of *Oedipus*. He has performed at the Edinburgh Fringe for three years running, with theatre productions and improv troupes.

Derek Chandler – Clarence

Derek joined The Questors in the early sixties, first appearing in *Henry IV Part I* 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*, *Comedians*, *Bedroom Farce*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Othello*.

Paul Collins – Mr Potter/Officer Bert/Gower/Eddy

An acting member since 1975; recently, Gellburg in *Broken Glass*, Sorin in *The Seagull*, Comperson in *Great Expectations*, Eddie Waters in *Comedians* and, earlier, Verlaine in *Total Eclipse*, Chandebise/Poche in *A Flea in Her Ear*, Marlowe in *Early Shakespeare and the Late Marlowe*, Leontes in *A Winter's Tale*, the Editor in *The Journalists* and also in *Women's Writes*, *It's a Mad World*, *My Masters*, *Dancing Naked* and much Coarse Acting.

Catherine Day – Ma Bailey/Tilly/Bank Teller/Nosey Neighbour/Mrs Thompson

After joining The Questors in 2003, Catherine was ASM on *Road* and *A Streetcar Named Desire* in 2004. She completed Acting for All in 2005, was an extra in *Far Away* in 2006 and *Bloody Poetry* in 2007, and a member of the ensemble cast of *Great Expectations* in 2007.

Declan McAndrew – Ernie/Sam Wainwright/Martini/Charlie/Dr Campbell

Declan first performed at The Questors in the Artists Theatre School production of *Element Soup* in 2009. He subsequently appeared in a training film for school teachers, and local new writing productions. An active member of Acting for All, this is his first performance as an acting member.

Geoffrey Morgan – Pop Bailey/Mr Welch/Eustace/Randy

Geoffrey has been a member of The Questors since 2002, acting and being involved backstage and other thespish activities as well as singing with a G&S group until last year. This is his second Christmas show after *A Christmas Carol*, proving (after his much loved Maisie) that he can work with both children and animals.

Robert Staines – Uncle Billy/Toll-Taker

For The Questors: *A Little Night Music* (Count Magnus), *Private Lives* (Victor), *Amadeus* (Royal Librarian), *The Revengers' Tragedies* (Anthony Staxton-Billing), *Heartbreak House* (Hector Hushabye), *Noises Off* (Lloyd Dallas), *She Stoops To Conquer* (Hardcastle), *The Homecoming* (Lenny), *Privates On Parade* (Major Flack), *The Deep Blue Sea* (Bill), *Dead Funny* (Brian), *Blithe Spirit* (Doctor), *The Winter's Tale* (Camillo).

Paul Vincent – Superintendent/Nick

Paul Vincent has been an acting member since 1983. Recent productions include *Travesties*, *The London Cuckolds*, *Much Ado about Nothing*, *Black Comedy*, *A Flea in Her Ear*, *Titus Andronicus* and *Coarse Shakespeare – The Final Folio*. He also serves as a Front of House Manager and belongs to the Plays Evaluation Group.

Peter Collins – Set Designer

Peter has been an active member of 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 *Dealer's Choice* and *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)* at The Minack Theatre. He is also active in production photography.

Mark Fitzgerald – Director

Mark is Artistic Director of The Questors Theatre. He trained as an actor in Student Group 44 and at Drama Studio London. Mark has over fifty directing credits, including *The Lichfield Mysteries* (Lichfield Cathedral and Market Square) and most recently at The Questors: *Othello*, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)*, *The Libertine*, *The Accrington Pals*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Henry VI*, *Far from the Madding Crowd* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He has also designed many sets for The Questors. Mark was the founding artistic director of The Drayton Court Theatre and now works as an acting coach for TV with over thirty credits to his name.

Richard Mead – Lighting Designer

At The Questors, Richard has done the lighting design for shows such as *The Glass Menagerie*, *King Lear*, *The Snow Queen*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Far From the Madding Crowd*, *A Christmas Carol* and *The Accrington Pals*, as well as video design for *Broken Glass* and *Voyager & Lovers*. He also does show photography and is the current Chairman of the theatre.

Jenny Richardson – Costume Designer

Joining The Questors in 1980, Jenny's first task was to make a six-foot telescope with eyelashes. It's been downhill ever since! Having enjoyed set design for many years (*Doctor Faustus*, *Abigail's Party*, *Broken Glass*, *Glengarry Glen Ross*, most recently with Bron Blake) a change of direction has been great fun.

Paul Wilson – Sound Designer

Paul has designed the sound for 41 productions at The Questors, most recently for *The Railway Siding*. He has also helped with the construction of many sets.

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 *Calendar Girls*, *Night of the Soul*, *Othello*, *Titus Andronicus*, *Entertaining Strangers* and *Ladies' Day*.

Alternative Christmas Entertainment

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.

THE MONSTER UNDER THE BED

by Kevin Dyer

24 – 29 December 2012

The Studio

Daytime performances of this entertaining and engaging play for children. Suitable for 6+.



It's A Wonderful Life! is an adaptation from a film to stage. Can you guess the names of the following famous films that have also been successful stage productions?

1) This orphan boy made the mistake of asking for more _____

2) Will The Emcee welcome you to this particular night club? _____

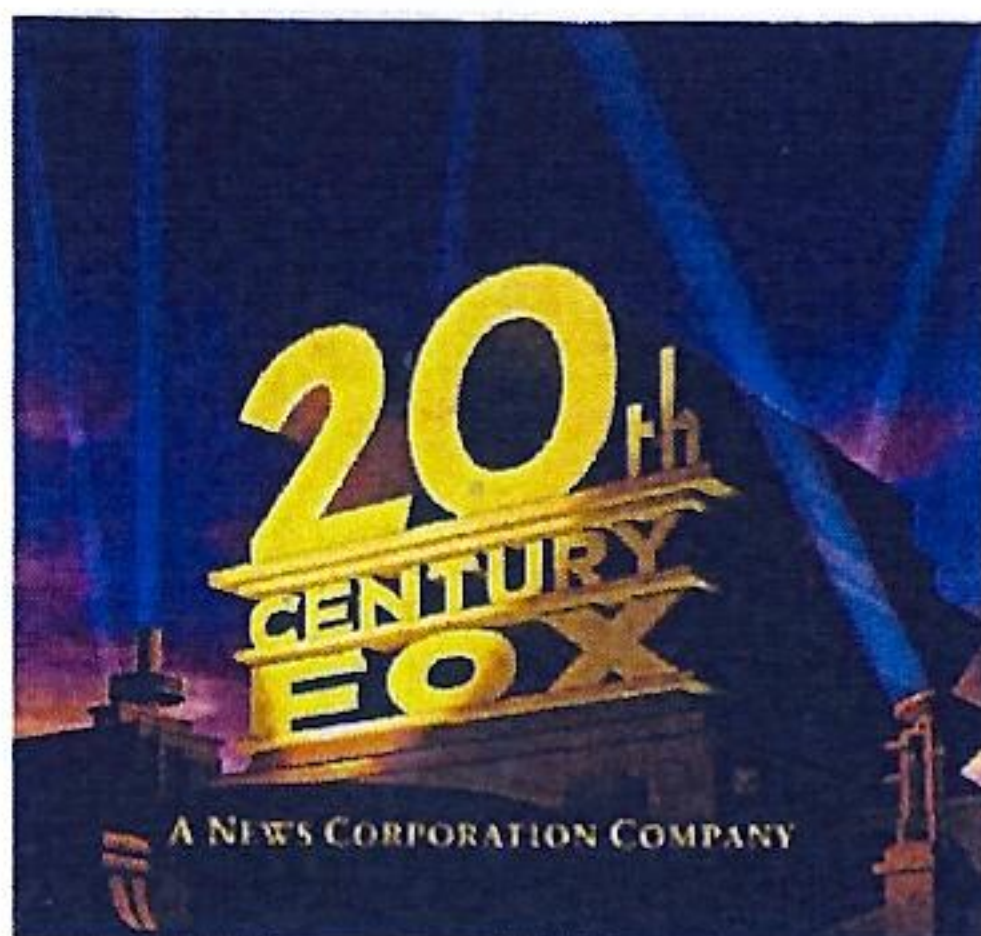
3) A running track is the focus for this Olympic tale of patriotism and loyalty

4) Yellow sunflowers have become synonymous with a group of ladies famous for their monthly attributes

5) A handbag left at Paddington Station never held such meaning

6) Did the rain fall on the plain for the London flower seller? _____

7) A young boy realizes his dream despite his working class northern background



11) The Jets and the Sharks confront each other in 1960's New York

8) Thornfield Hall has been recreated on numerous occasions as the backdrop for a young governess

9) Tea served by two eccentric elderly aunts masks a multitude of sinister activities

10) Marlon Brando played the lead in both the 1947 Broadway stage production and the 1951 film of this American masterpiece



12) The colour pink and a law degree go hand in hand in this chick flick romantic comedy

13) A long climb leads to the Alfred Hitchcock classic spy thriller _____

14) There will always be a version of this story at the end of a yellow brick road

15) A trilogy of an epic and dangerous journey across Middle-Earth _____

16) Hakuna Matata is a famous phrase taken from this Disney classic _____

17) Four children and their magical adventures through a snow covered land

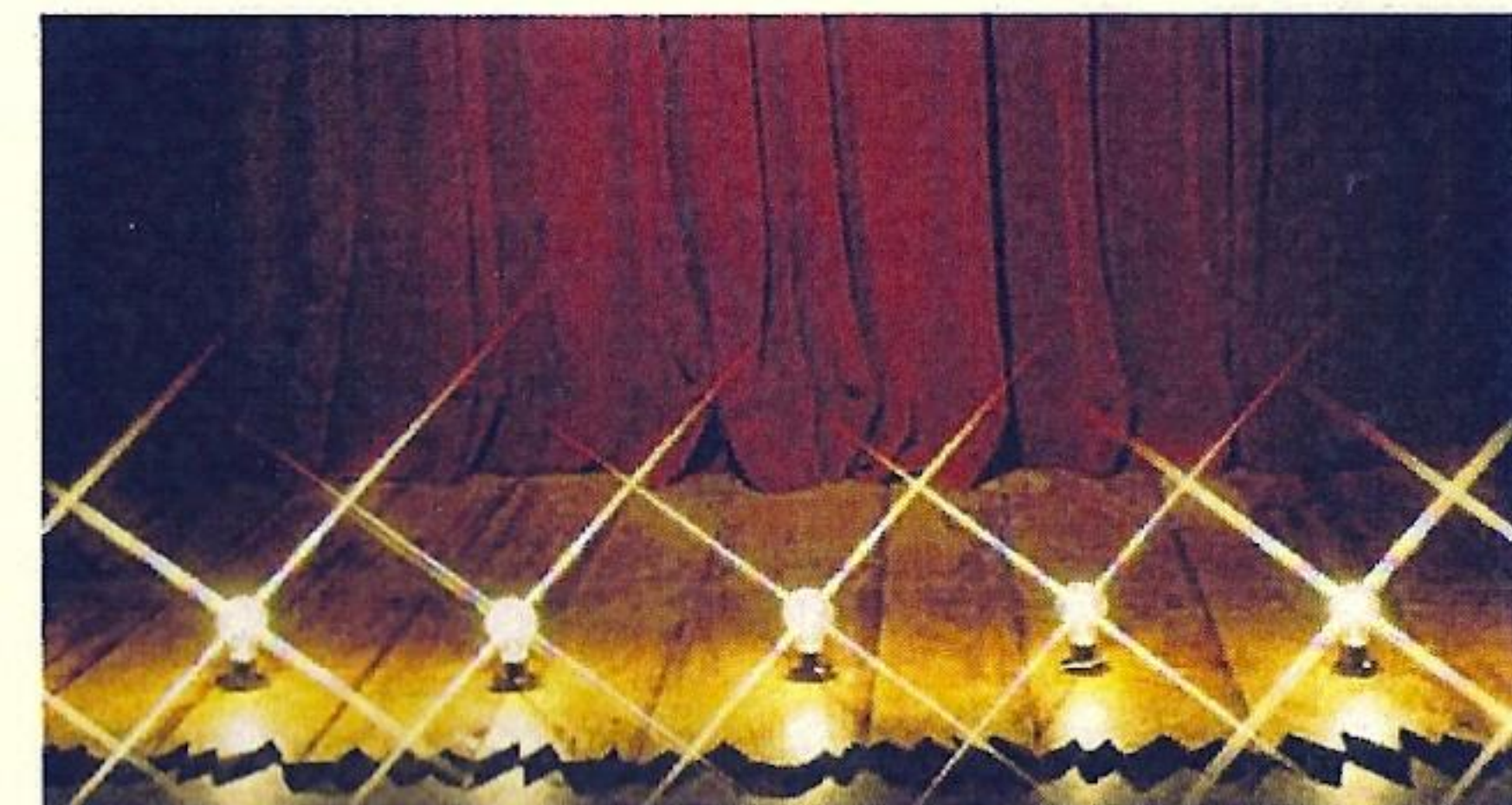
18) Young Pip may become a Gentleman and win his fortune but can he win the love of his life? _____



19) The comic endeavours of an accountant and a theatre impresario as they try to make a theatrical flop

20) An estimated 700-900 productions of this are staged each year in the United States and it was also a recent Christmas show at The Questors

21) Venice is the setting for this sinister and supernatural tale by Daphne du Maurier



Send your answers to Jane Mason, The Questors Theatre, 12 Mattock Lane, Ealing W5 5BQ or email jane@questors.org.uk. The first ten correct entries chosen at random will win two tickets to a future Questors production of their choice.

