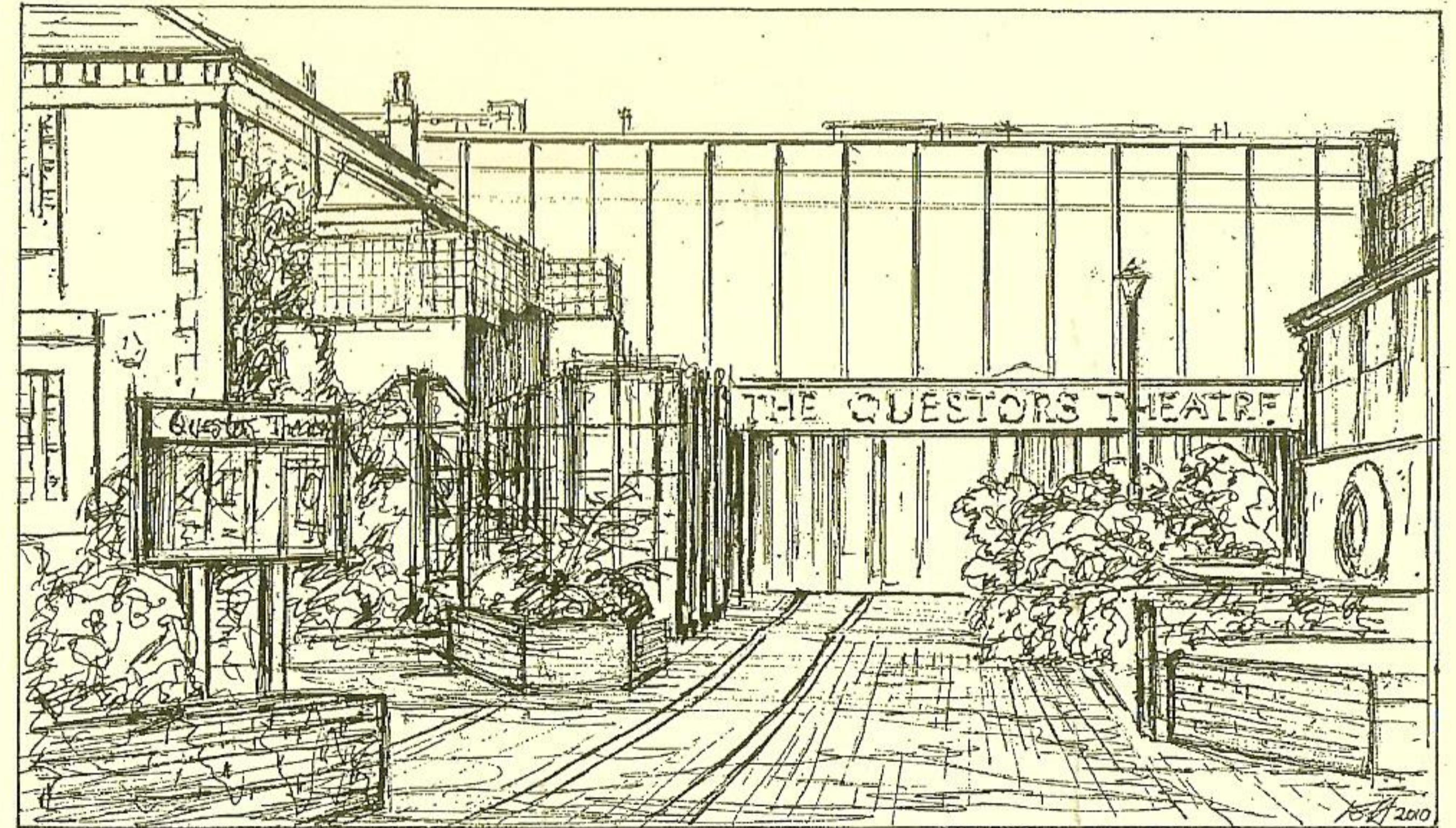




Questors, Ealing's Theatre



# CLYBOURNE PARK

by Bruce Norris

The Studio

11 – 19 January 2013

# 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 – 7:00 pm\*

Saturday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Sunday 2:30 pm – 5:00 pm

\*last orders for food at 6:30 pm

For Playhouse productions:

Hot meal menu up to 6:30 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](http://questors.org.uk/grapevine) for more details

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



Image © Denis Cristo / Shutterstock.com

# CLYBOURNE PARK

by Bruce Norris

The Studio

11 – 19 January 2013

# Clybourne Park

Bruce Norris, long associated with The Steppenwolf Theatre of Chicago, wrote *Clybourne Park* in 2010 in response to Lorraine Hansberry's play *A Raisin in the Sun* (1959). It portrays fictional events set before and after the Hansberry play, which was loosely based on historical events.

*Clybourne Park* premiered in February 2010 at Playwrights Horizons in New York. The play received its UK premiere at the Royal Court Theatre in London in a production directed by Dominic Cooke. It later transferred to Wyndham's Theatre in the West End and won the 2011 Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Play. As described by the Washington Post, the play 'applies a modern twist to the issues of race and housing and aspirations for a better life'. The play was awarded the 2011 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the 2012 Tony Award for Best Play.

Act I is set in 1959 and sees grieving parents Bev and Russ planning to sell their home in the white middle-class Chicago neighbourhood of Clybourne Park to a black couple, much against the wishes of their neighbours and the local community.

Act II is set 50 years later in the same home, with the same actors playing different characters. In the intervening fifty years, Clybourne Park has become an all-black neighbourhood, which is now gentrifying, and it's a white couple, Lindsey and Steve, that is seeking to buy the house, raze it to the ground and start again. Again, racial tensions soon come to the fore.

Lorraine Hansberry's play *A Raisin in the Sun* was based on the story of her parents' purchase of a house in the white Chicago neighbourhood of Washington Park in 1937, an action that resulted in a famous legal case. The play has become an American standard and is often used as the basis for school classes on civil rights.

In August 2010, Kirsty Lang talked to Bruce Norris on BBC Radio 4's *Front Row* just before the play opened at The Royal Court. At a time when house prices were plunging in Obama's America, she noted how topical the play was in exploring the fault lines between race and property in Obama's former city of Chicago.

Like many school children, Norris studied *A Raisin in the Sun* at school: he noted the importance of the play for American school children of his generation when the issues of the civil rights movement were so important.

Setting the play in two parts separated by 50 years enables him to look at race and property over a long period of time and see what, if anything, has changed. He suggests that superficially there has been huge change, but the underlying tensions and territorial concerns about property have not changed that much.

About the time of the Presidential election, Norris noted that Obama kept using the phrase 'hope and change' and much of the play is asking about those changes.



Bruce Norris and his Olivier Award

## Next Questors Productions

### BLUE REMEMBERED HILLS

by Dennis Potter

26 Jan – 2 February 2013

The Playhouse

Seven year olds play in the New Forest during World War II, but their games become darker and their loyalties are tested. Prepare to be disturbed.

### MARY STUART

by Friedrich Schiller

8 – 16 February 2013

The Studio

The premier of a new translation of Schiller's masterpiece, plunging into the dark world of religious fundamentalism and byzantine political intrigue.

# CLYBOURNE PARK

by Bruce Norris

*First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre 11 January 2013*

## CAST

Russ & Dan	<b>John Fryer</b>
Bev & Cathy	<b>Wanda Duszynska</b>
Francine & Lena	<b>Sheri Desbaux</b>
Jim & Tom & Kenneth	<b>Allan Soper</b>
Albert & Kevin	<b>Zac Sargusingh</b>
Karl & Steve	<b>Gianluca Arcidiacono</b>
Betsy & Lindsey	<b>Victoria Pringle</b>

**Act I:** 1959 – a living room on Clybourne Street, Chicago

**Act II:** 2009 – the same living room

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

## PRODUCTION

Director	<b>Zyg Staniaszek</b>
Set Designer	<b>Zyg Staniaszek</b>
Lighting Designer / Operator	<b>Martin Stoner</b>
Sound Designer	<b>Alexander Pemberton</b>
Stage Managers	<b>Emanuela Craveri, John Thompson</b>
Assistant Stage Manager	<b>Sasha Duszynska-Lewis</b>
Wardrobe	<b>Wanda Duszynska</b>
Wardrobe Assistant	<b>Penny Duszynski</b>
Sound Operator	<b>Irma Kent</b>
Lighting Rigger	<b>Lizzie Stoner</b>
Head Constructor	<b>Zyg Staniaszek</b>
Constructors	<b>Stephanie Clarke, Colin Horne, Alex Marker, Niall Murray, Kathryn Stonebridge, Gabby Wallace, Charlotte Walton, Paul Wilson, The Kingston College Students</b>
Photographer	<b>Richard Mead</b>
Thanks to	<b>Eric Logan</b>

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

### Gianluca Arcidiacono – Karl & Steve

This is Gianluca's sixth production at The Questors. As a member of Student Group 64 he appeared in *Entertaining Strangers* and *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. He has also appeared in *A Comedy of Errors*, *Bent* and *Three Sisters*.

### Sheri Desbaux – Francine & Lena

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*, *The Lady in the Van* and *Night of the Soul*. She has also played with other companies: *Stepping Out* with BROS and *Mort* with Point 303. She has also taken the directors' training course at The Questors and has worked as a Questors Youth Theatre tutor.

### Wanda Duszynska – Bev & Cathy / Wardrobe

Wanda completed the Questors student group in 1999. Since then she has designed 11 stage sets including *The Merchant of Venice* and *'Tis Pity She's a Whore* in the Playhouse, and *Suddenly Last Summer* and *The Enchanted Knight* in the Studio. She has acted in nine productions including this one. She has written and directed shows for Questors Youth Theatre including the award-winning *Cogner au Plafond* which was later performed by members of QYT to an international audience in a disused swimming pool in the Vienna woods. She has recently started to help with wardrobe and is enjoying learning about costume design.

### John Fryer – Russ & Dan

Plays at The Questors have included *The School of Night*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Richard III* and *The Servant to Two Masters* (both in London and Venice). John also writes and produces radio dramas for community and hospital radio stations both in the UK and USA. Titles this year have included *I Thought It Might Be You*, *Playing A Part*, *The Chamber*, *After The Election* and *Where The Power Lies*. He also recently finished the last of the Snoozewurzle trilogy: *Snoozewurzle's Big Idea*, *Snoozewurzle's Next Big Idea* and *Snoozewurzle's Final Big Idea*. As soon as he has another big idea he'll write a fourth one.

### Victoria Pringle – Betsy & Lindsey

Victoria recently joined The Questors from Glasgow. A dedicated member of ST@G, she has had the pleasure of performing as Nurse in *Romeo and Juliet* and as Emcee in *Cabaret*. She has appeared at The Questors in last season's 24-Hour Plays and in this season's *The Railway Siding*.

### Zac Sargusingh – Albert & Kevin

Zac has made previous appearances at The Questors in the 1993 student productions of *Entertaining Strangers* and *You Can't Take It With You*. Following post-graduate training at the Arts Educational Schools Acting Company, Zac has worked professionally on tour and in television. He is delighted to be returning to The Questors.

### Allan Soper – Jim & Tom & Kenneth

Allan joined The Questors in 2003 and was accepted into Student Group 58. Productions with the student group included *The Love of the Nightingale* and *Lysistrata*. Since then he has appeared in *As You Like It*, *The Trojan Women*, *Breakfast With Emma*, *The Comedy Of Errors* and *Titus Andronicus*.

### Alexander Pemberton – Sound Designer

Alexander has over ten years' experience in line sound engineering. Before joining The Questors he accompanied a few bands, recorded music and operated at conferences around London. Alexander has been a member of The Questors for more than a year and designed and operated on *Annie* (2011), *The Tempest* (2012) and *Parlour Song* (2012).

### Zyg Staniaszek – Director & Set Designer

*Clybourne Park* is Zyg's tenth production at The Questors as a director. The others were *Guards! Guards!*, *Tejas Verdes*, *Polish Shorts*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Homecoming*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Ladies Down Under*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Parlour Song*. Zyg has acted in *Peter Pan*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* and played Mme de la Grande Bouche (the Wardrobe) in *Beauty and the Beast*. He has also designed and built a few sets. Zyg was Artistic Director of The Questors from October 2007 to September 2010.

### Martin Stoner – Lighting Designer

Martin has been a Questors lighting designer for many years. Recent productions include *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Kvetch*, *The Talented Mr Ripley* and *Greek*. He has also been a stage manager and has even appeared on stage in some small parts, the most recent being one of the servants in *The Seagull*.

---

## Meet The Company – Wednesday 16 January

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

---

## The House Hansberry Built

Lorraine Hansberry's classic American play, *A Raisin in the Sun*, was the inspiration for Bruce Norris's work *Clybourne Park*. While *A Raisin in the Sun* is a dramatic fiction, it is based on Hansberry's real-life experience as a child, when her family moved to Chicago's segregated Washington Park neighbourhood.

Restrictive covenants – realty laws expressly demanding or forbidding certain acts of new leasers – have dominated Chicago's history. In the 1930s, Washington Park's race-based covenants expressly forbade black lessees in its southern subdivision. When the African-American Hansberry family purchased and moved into their home at 6140 S. Rhodes Ave., the Woodlawn Property Owners Association filed claim, noting their disallowance of black tenants. Not only did the Owners Association, led by Anna M Lee, file for court, but repeated instances of violence haunted the Hansberrys. Two disgruntled neighbours threw bricks through the family's windows within a week of their moving in – causing police to be called on guard for the next several months. Tensions continually grew, forcing the Hansberry parents to carry a loaded pistol in their home. Carl Hansberry, Lorraine's father, fought a three-year legal battle to acquire their home on the South Side, culminating in the important Supreme Court decision *Hansberry v. Lee*. The decision led the way for the disbandment of restrictive covenants based on race. On February 10, 2010, the Chicago City Council's Committee on Historical Landmarks Preservation officially designated the Lorraine Hansberry House as a historical landmark.

**Evan Garrett**

The Steppenwolf Theatre, Chicago

[www.steppenwolf.org/watchlisten/program-articles/archive.aspx](http://www.steppenwolf.org/watchlisten/program-articles/archive.aspx)

## 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<sup>†</sup>
- ✓ 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](http://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. <sup>†</sup>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](http://questors.org.uk/qyt).

Cover Image: Elaine Hagan

The Questors Theatre

Box Office: 020 8567 5184

Email: [enquiries@questors.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@questors.org.uk)

Programme: Nigel Bamford & Anne Gilmour

12 Mattock Lane, Ealing, W5 5BQ

Theatre Office: 020 8567 0011

Registered Charity No. 207516