

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
- ✓ Receive a full-colour members' magazine three times a year
- ✓ Access to exclusive news on *iQ* and email newsletter
- ✓ Receive the regular programme leaflet
- ✓ Membership of The Grapevine Club
- ✓ Special invitations, events and offers not available to the public
- ✓ Ticket reservation facility (conditions apply)
- ✓ Voting rights in the company

**Reduced prices exclude certain events. †Under 18, excludes certain events, maximum four per event. Must be collected at the performance and accompanied by the 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 computerised 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 lighting 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 18. 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.

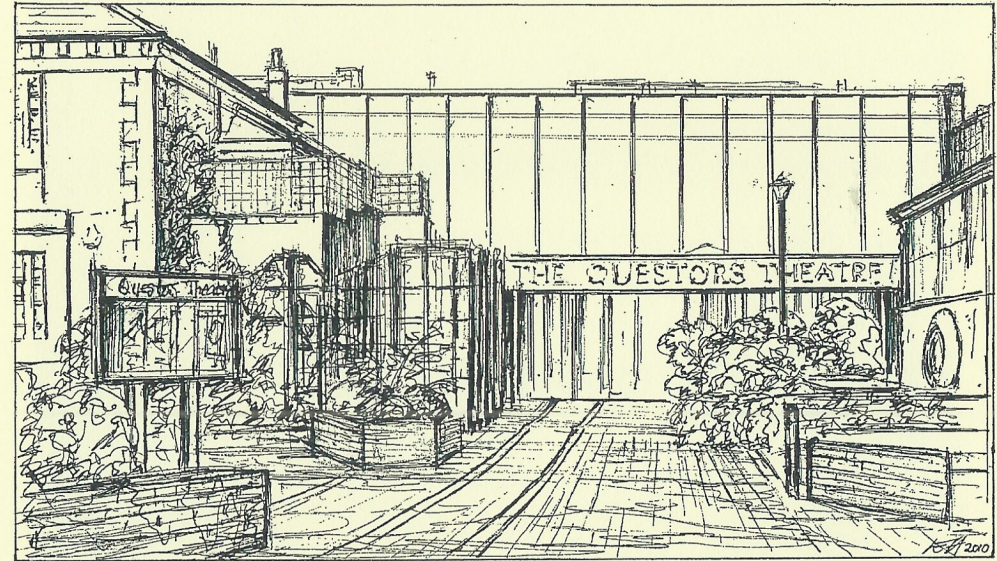
Cover Image: Elaine Hagan

The Questors Theatre
Box Office: 020 8567 5184
Email: enquiries@questors.org.uk

Programme: Nigel Bamford
12 Mattock Lane, Ealing, W5 5BQ
Theatre Office: 020 8567 0011
Registered Charity No. 207516



Questors, Ealing's Theatre



ROPE

by Patrick Hamilton

The Studio

17 – 31 December 2014

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 – 5:00 pm

Saturday (term time) 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

For Playhouse productions:

Hot meal menu up to 6:30 pm with drinks, ice creams and snacks during the first interval.

Sunday Cream Tea Matinees as advertised.

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 2015 edition of The Good Beer Guide and we are **CAMRA West Middlesex 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.

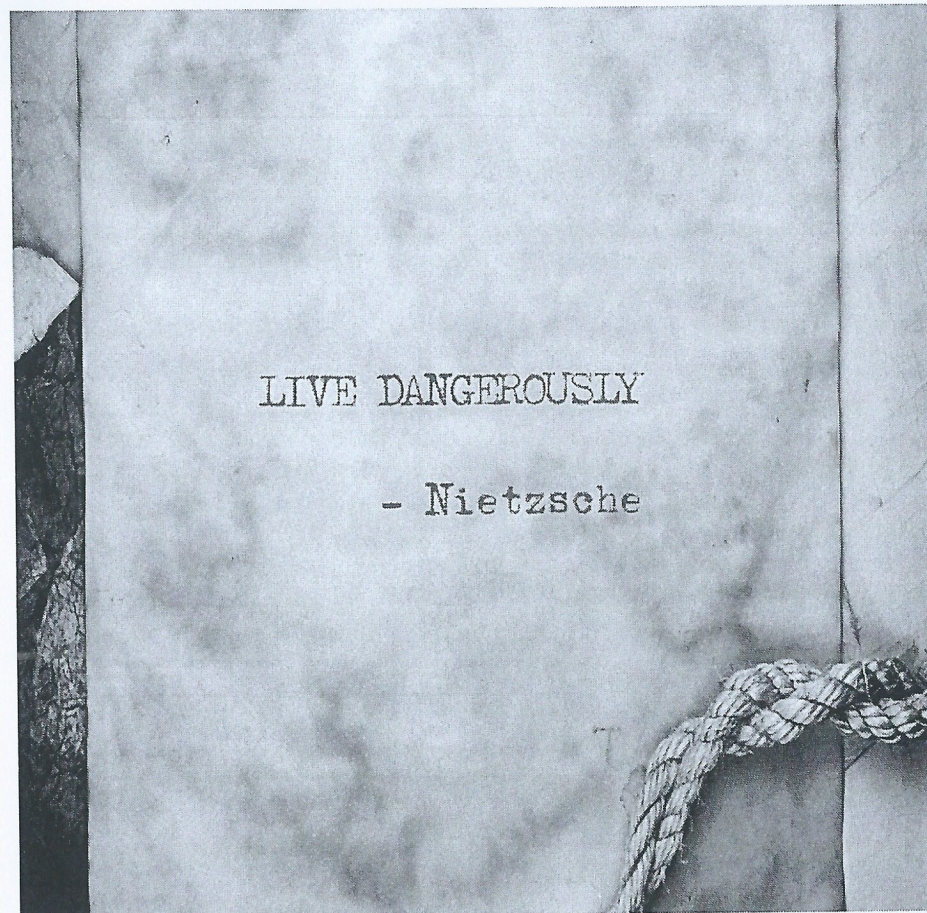
Opening Hours:

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.



ROPE

by Patrick Hamilton

The Studio

17 – 31 December 2014

Rope

What subtlety! What silence! (Harold Pinter on *Rope* by Patrick Hamilton)

*Man is a rope stretched between the animal and the superman –
a rope over an abyss.* (Friedrich Nietzsche)

Patrick Hamilton

Hamilton (1904-1962) enjoyed phenomenal success with *Rope*, written when he was only in his 20s. It enjoyed a six-month run at the Ambassadors Theatre, London in 1929 before transferring to Broadway later in the year. Famous as a 1948 Hitchcock film (if more Hitchcock than



Patrick Hamilton at the height of his fame
photographed by Bill Brandt

Hamilton) and together with *Gaslight* (1938), Hamilton's wealth – and bottle-of-whisky-a-day drinking habit – was assured. Long-neglected since his death, Hamilton's work has lately enjoyed a rediscovery, championed by writers such as Nick Hornby and Lynne Truss. His plays and novels (check out *Twenty Thousand Streets Under the Sky*, *Hangover Square* and *The Slaves of Solitude* for the best of the bunch) form a distinctive, darkly humorous body of work that examines London society from the 1920s to the 1950s.

The Unities

Rope, notably, obeys the so-called 'unities', Aristotle's rules for drama contained in his *Poetics*: unity of action – aside from the burgeoning comic romance between Kenneth Raglan and Leila Arden, the focus of the play is exclusively on the murder committed by Brandon and Granillo; unity of space – here, a Mayfair apartment; and unity of time – *Rope* takes place over the course of a single evening in late winter/early spring. It's a compact, tightly-coiled spring of a play. Originally written in three acts, our production runs as a continuous movement with no interval. Hang on to your bladders as well as your seats!

Leopold and Loeb

Nathan Leopold and Richard Loeb, a pair of wealthy undergraduates at the University of Chicago, kidnapped and murdered 14-year-old Bobby Franks in 1924. Their motive? None, except a desire to commit the perfect crime. Their trial, in which they were defended by the celebrated lawyer Clarence Darrow, is well-documented. Their crime has clear parallels with Brandon and Granillo's killing of young, innocent Ronald Kentley, although Hamilton himself denied the Leopold & Loeb case as an influence on *Rope*. Nonetheless, Hamilton would have been well-aware of the much-publicised trial of a pair of well-heeled toffs obsessed with the writings of Nietzsche and convinced of their own intellectual superiority.

Festive Fayre?

A play that involves a murder committed purely for the thrill of it and then the body concealed in a chest on which a supper party takes place might not be considered an obvious choice for the festive season. Which is precisely the point. What better, amid the tinsel and the lights, the peace and goodwill to all men and women, than a piece of theatre that allows you to escape into a world tarnished by self-styled amoral supermen and idle rich airheads? And then to return to the comfort of your own home thanking your lucky stars that you only had to spend 90 minutes in their company? But if you *are* Vladimir Putin or Kim Kardashian, then hopefully you'll have experienced a pang of recognition (unlikely I guess).

On behalf of my lovely cast and crew, may I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Simon Roberts, Director

ROPE

by Patrick Hamilton

First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 17 December 2014

Rope is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, LTD

CAST

in order of appearance

Wyndham Brandon	Jolyon Houghton
Charles Granillo	Wesley Lloyd
Sabot	Richard Keeble
Kenneth Raglan	Andy Wolfe
Leila Arden	Lexi Wolfe
Sir Johnstone Kentley	Tony Diggle
Rupert Cadell	Mike Hadjipateras

The action takes place in a Mayfair apartment in 1929.

The performance lasts approximately 1 hour 40 minutes with no interval.

Please turn off all mobile phones and similar electronic devices.
The use of cameras, video cameras and recording equipment is strictly prohibited.
Thank you.

PRODUCTION

Director	Simon Roberts
Set Designer	Bron Blake
Costume Designer	Jennie Yates
Lighting Designer	Chris Newall
Sound Designer	Paul Wilson
Stage Manager	Clare Watson
Construction Manager / Technical Advisor	Colin Horne
Deputy Stage Manager	Rich Keeble
Assistant Stage Manager	Natasha Vasandani
Properties	Harriet Parsonage
Klee and Schiele Paintings	Geoff Moore
Scenic Art and Set Dressing	Bron Blake, Sue Collins, Geoff Moore
Furniture Paint Effects	Simon Edgington, Ben Marcelline, Charlie Ottman, Grace Quazar-Tighe, Kate Richards, Alex Marker (tutor)
Prompter	Bridgett Strevens
Fight Coordinator	Nicholas Jonne Wilson
Lighting Operators	Camille Bortz, Helen King, Bron Blake
Lighting Assistants	Alan Smith, Martin Stoner, Carole Swan
Sound Operator	Kamil Marek
Get-In and Fit-Up Crew	Jeff Baynham, Mark Fitzgerald, James Gadsden, Laurie Swan
Photographer	Jane Salisbury
Thanks to	Jananne Rahman, Jenny Richardson, Kingston & UWL Students

Biographies

Tony Diggle – Sir Johnstone Kentley

Tony Diggle has been a member since 1980. His first appearance was in *Murder in the Cathedral* (Knight / Tempter) in 1981 and his most recent in *Coarse Shakespeare: The Final Folio* (Sir Michael Davenport et al) in 2012. He has also written a number of unpublished plays, one of which, *Show Me the Money*, he produced at the Chelsea Theatre in October 2013.

Mike Hadjipateras – Rupert Cadell

Mike joined The Questors in 2003. His productions have included : *Bouncers, Conversations After a Burial, Richard III, A Dog in the Manger, 'Tis Pity She's a Whore, The Country, The Seagull, Glengarry Glen Ross, The Marvellous Land of Oz, A Flea in Her Ear, Doctor Faustus, Present Laughter, Calendar Girls, Mary Stuart, Mrs Warren's Profession, Betrayal* and last year's panto *Aladdin and his Marvellous Lamp*. Mike also teaches History and Drama at the Rudolf Steiner School in Hertfordshire.

Jolyon Houghton – Wyndham Brandon

Jolyon joined The Questors as part of Student Group 62 performing in *Henry VI Part III* and *Far from the Madding Crowd*. After finishing, he studied Collaborative Acting at Central School of Speech and Drama. Since then, he has appeared in *Absurd Person Singular, Romeo and Juliet, The Duchess of Malfi* and in several devised pieces at The Questors with Crucial Image. He also contributed to *The Marvellous Land of Oz* as a musician.

Richard Keeble – Sabot

Richard has previously appeared at The Questors in *London Assurance, Blue Stockings, No Fairy Tale* and *On the Razzle*. He has also worked backstage on many productions. He previously acted and worked backstage with the Wraybury Players.

Give a Questors Voucher for Christmas

A great gift or stocking filler for family and friends. Available for any value (within reason!), and redeemable as full or part-payment for tickets to productions by The Questors Theatre company for 12 months.

From Box Office, in person or by phone (020 8567 5184).

Wesley Lloyd – Charles Granillo

Wesley graduated from Student Group 62 in 2009 after playing the title role in *Henry VI* and *Joseph Poorgrass* in *Far From the Madding Crowd*. Last season, he worked behind the scenes on *Educating Rita* and appeared in *Somebody's Luggage* (Thomas) as part of The Questival and *Blue Stockings* (Edwards). Wesley also works in film and television.

Andy Wolfe – Kenneth Raglan

Andy Wolfe studied Classical Guitar at GSMD. He joined The Questors as a member of Student Group 62 and has performed as actor, musician and MD on several shows. He is currently focusing predominantly on screen acting, film making and editing. Keep up to date with Andy's projects online at www.andywolfe.net.

Lexi Wolfe – Leila Arden

Lexi grew up between Sheffield and Pakistan and obtained an MA in Acting from the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts. Before that, she was a regular student at the Sheffield Youth Theatre and appeared in many school productions, including as Peter in *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre as part of the Children's Festival. She has appeared on *Emmerdale* and has most recently appeared in her own one-woman show, *Witch in The Woods*, and upcoming epic short *Learning to Talk*. This is Lexi's first appearance at The Questors.

Simon Roberts – Director

For The Questors, Simon has directed *Betrayal, Dr Faustus, Abigail's Party*, and Jim Cartwright's *Two*. Recent acting appearances include Ray Say (*The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*), Crofts (*Mrs Warren's Profession*), Peter (*Blue Remembered Hills*), Felix Humble (*Humble Boy*), Christian (*Festen*), Pip (*Great Expectations*) and Vladimir (*Waiting for Godot*). Simon is also a member of the Questors Artistic Team. He teaches English for Academic Purposes at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

As The Year Spins

12 poems to celebrate the turning year,
written by Alan Chambers.

Only £3.00 – an original stocking filler.

Copies are on sale throughout the theatre or directly from Alan.

All proceeds to the QReNew Fund.

Enjoyed the Show?

Let us know what you think, and connect with The Questors Theatre for updates on all upcoming productions and lots more.

Follow us @questorstheatre  and find us on Facebook  Like

Bron Blake – Set Designer

An active member since the early 1970s, Bron has been doing set design and scenic art since 2004. Productions include *Vincent in Brixton*, *The Seagull*, *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *Broken Glass*, *Doctor Faustus*, *Voyager & Lovers*, *The School of Night*, *After October*, *Betrayal*, *Have I None & Box and Cox* and *Be My Baby*.

Chris Newall – Lighting Designer

Chris, who first joined Questors in 1968, has lit over 30 productions, including *Doctor Faustus*, *The Duchess of Malfi*, *An Ideal Husband* and an RSC Showcase in the Playhouse, and *Abigail's Party*, *Betrayal*, *Have I None* and *The Pride* in the Studio; plus several children's summer musical theatre shows. *Rope* is right up his street.

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 costume design credits include *Antigone*, *Around the World in 80 Days*, *It's a Wonderful Life!*, *Calendar Girls*, *Dracula – Fangs of Destiny*, *West 5 Story* and *No Fairy Tale*.

Alternative Christmas Entertainment

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

by Ben Crocker

13 December 2014 – 3 January 2015

The Judi Dench Playhouse

Will Jack get a good price for Daisy the Cow? Will the Princess be forced to marry the nasty Giant? And will the nasty Giant manage to enjoy his nap without being disturbed? Join us for this lively panto to entertain both young and old.

CHRISTMAS GHOST STORIES

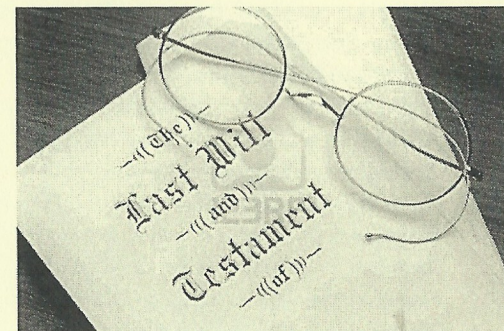
27, 28 & 29 December 2014

The Judi Dench Playhouse

Our Christmas Ghost Stories have become a favourite event of our Christmas calendar. Over three nights, actors narrate delightful tales of terror, with different stories and different readers on different nights.

Become a BEQUESTOR

This season, The Questors, Ealing's theatre, is presenting 20 plays. This is a tremendous undertaking for our members, many of whom have demanding full time jobs. Everyone appearing on stage, and working unseen in our creative and technical teams, gives their hard work and dedication out of love of theatre. Even with modern media, a live play can give us an experience which rewards us like no other – as theatre has been doing for thousands of years.

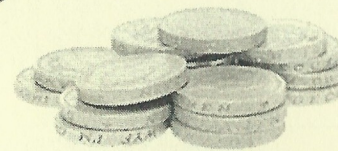


We receive no help from public funding for The Questors, although Ealing and London are hugely enriched by our work. Ealing would be a lesser place without The Questors at its heart. And local children and young people would be deprived of opportunities without the Questors Academy, which provides classes for over five hundred children and teenagers every week.

Please consider making a donation to help us continue to make our huge contribution to Ealing's cultural life. You may prefer to do this while you are alive. Or you may prefer to leave a legacy in your will (or in a codicil if you have already made a will).

No gift is too small to help and any gift, either while you are alive or in your will, attracts tax relief. You can find a Gift Aid form and an example of simple forms of legacy on our website at questors.org.uk/giving.

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Your donation or legacy may be anonymous if you wish, or The Questors may acknowledge your generosity publicly.

The Trustees of The Questors, which is a charity, will ensure that your gift is put to the best possible use. But if you wish to allocate it to a particular purpose, please feel free to speak in confidence to Andrea Bath, our Executive Director, on 020 8567 0011.