



Questors, Ealing's Theatre



Jack and the Beanstalk

WELCOME TO JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

On behalf of the Questors membership and the Board of Trustees we are delighted to welcome you to this performance of *Jack and the Beanstalk*.

This year we celebrated the Playhouse's 50th birthday and our President Dame Judi Dench graciously agreed to the theatre being named in her honour – the Judi Dench Playhouse at The Questors Theatre. The playhouse building took one year to construct following a decade of fundraising. It was on 22 April 1964 that **Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother** officially opened this amazing auditorium. So as we sit laughing, singing and cheering we would like to say a special thank you to all those people whose hard work, over many years, has made it possible for us to be here today.

In addition our thanks go out to everyone who has been involved in creating this show – especially you, our audience. Thank you for coming and supporting your local theatre. We look forward to welcoming you to The Questors for an entertaining 2015.

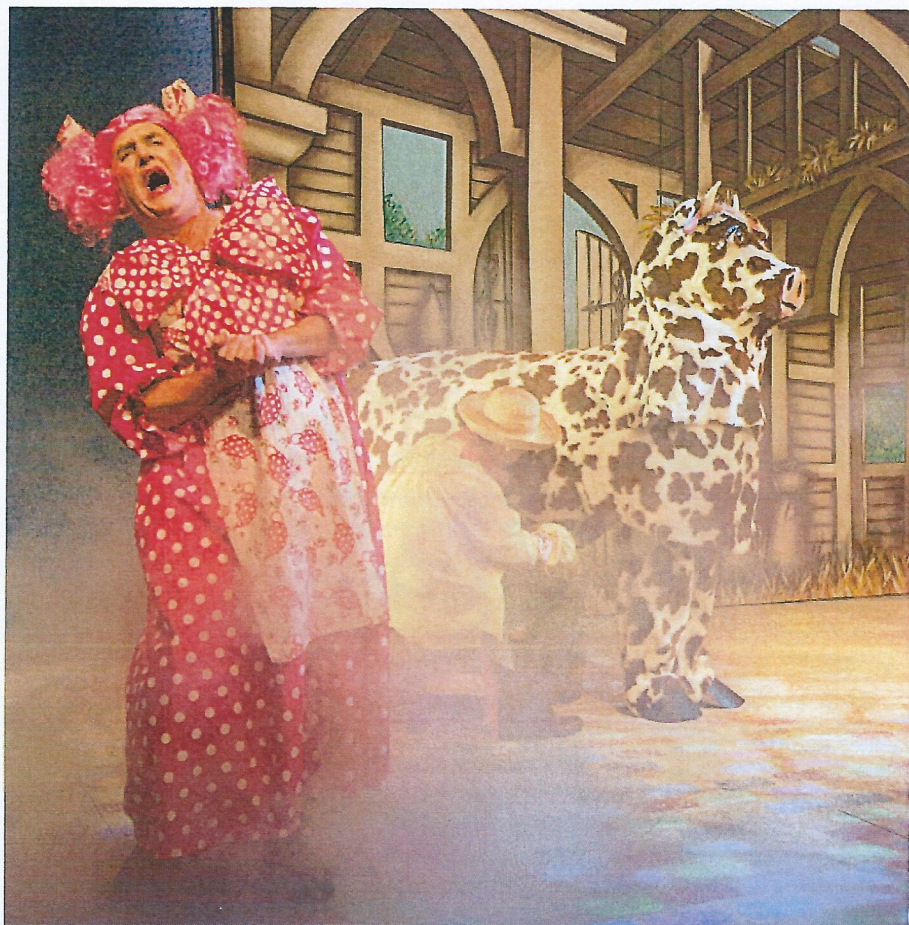
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Andrea Bath, Executive Director
Richard Mead, Chairman of the Board



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cast photos: Jane Salisbury

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

by Ben Crocker

The Judi Dench Playhouse

13 December 2014 – 3 January 2015

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

After the success of last year's pantomime, *Aladdin and his Wonderful Lamp*, it was decided that another one should be done this year – and I was asked to direct. Having never directed a panto before, but loving them, I thought I'd choose my personal favourite, so it just had to be *Jack and the Beanstalk*.

We have always wondered what is up above us in the skies and today we can go up into the clouds just as easily as we walk on the ground. But the desire to travel skywards is as old as the Tower of Babel and Jacob's Ladder, and in Asia there is the Bodhi of Buddha which grows rapidly towards the sky once planted. *Jack and the Beanstalk* is not as old as these stories, but his tale of climbing a beanstalk is another fanciful fable of travelling up into the skies.

Our *Jack* is typically English and this stock character is the best known of the *Jack Tales*, a series of stories. The earliest surviving written version is *The History of Jack and the Bean Stalk*, a book printed by Benjamin Tabart in 1807, but the story is almost certainly older. A burlesque entitled *The Story of Jack Spriggins and the Enchanted Bean* was included in the 1734 second edition of *Round About Our Coal-Fire*. In the classic version of the tale, the giant is unnamed, but in many plays based on this account, he is called Blunderbore, as he is in our pantomime. A giant of that name also appears in the 18th-century *Jack the Giant Killer*. (The giant's cry, "Fee! Fie! Foe! Fum! I smell the blood of an Englishman" appears in *King Lear* in the form, "Fie, foh, and fum, I smell the blood of a British man".)

Charles Dibdin had his version of the pantomime, called *Jack and the Beanstalk or Harlequin and the Ogre* which had its debut at Drury Lane theatre in 1819. Jack was played by Eliza Povey and in 1819 she may well have been the very first 'principal boy'.

Theatrical legend has it that the *Giant Beanstalk* was so tall that Miss Povey refused point blank to climb it, as it towered over the stage at Drury Lane, so this privilege went to a young boy named Sullivan.

Jack is a young boy living with his widowed mother and a cow they call Daisy, who is their only source of income. When Daisy stops giving milk, Jack's mother makes him take the cow to the market to be sold. On the way, he meets an old woman who offers a big bag of gold in exchange for the cow and Jack makes the trade. When he arrives home the gold has turned to beans, his mother becomes furious, throws the beans to the ground and sends Jack to bed.

The Dame has always mostly been known as Dame Trot – ‘trot’ being a nickname for an old hag! But the Dame has been also called Dame Durden. Dan Leno has played the Dame under both names. Only a few pantomimes have drifted from this tradition – Dame Dimple, Mother Hubbard, Dame Horner and Dame Lizzie Trotter to name a few. Ben Crocker, our author, has stayed with tradition, so Dame Trot she is.

A gigantic beanstalk grows overnight and Jack climbs up to the Giant’s land high in the sky to rescue a princess and steal a hen that lays a golden egg. Then Jack cuts down the beanstalk, kills the giant, and they live happily ever after... Simple! Oh no it’s not! But this humble tale is told in all the craziness that can only be panto!

Ben Crocker, the author of our pantomime, comes from a theatrical family. His father is the actor and pantomime script writer, John Crocker. Ben saw his first pantomime at the age of three (it was *Jack and the Beanstalk!*) and has been hooked ever since – although he can’t remember all of the show as he spent the frightening bits under his seat, pantomime is in Ben’s blood. Five years ago he started writing the scripts, which contain all his knowledge, expertise and love of the art form. They are very funny, fast moving, true to the story and Ben thinks they are quite possibly the best pantomime scripts in the world – oh, yes they are!

I have to mention my Assistant Director, Stephanie Pemberton, without whom I would not have been able to create such a great show. She has been there every step of the way and I would like to express a very huge thank you to her and say that I very much look forward to seeing her directorial debut at The Questors next April. I have had the privilege of working with some of the best that The Questors has to offer and the work and commitment that I have seen long before rehearsals even began is what makes The Questors so special.

We all hope you enjoy our performance of *Jack and the Beanstalk* (oh yes we do!) and wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Pam Redrup, Director

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.

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Jack and the Beanstalk



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THE BEANS



Jade Arklie, Kieran Brooks-Patel, Isla Collier, Connie Deehan,
Camille Derakhshan, Jasmine Emerson Aruta, Elizabeth Gibb, Jack Gillian,
Atiya Humphrey, Bianca Hurley, Kenza Hurley, Lilyella Ioannides,
Joseph Marshall, Harry Rakowski, Jude Richards, James Sampson,
Joshua Ward, Dana Wong, Lara Wong, Daisy Woolley

appearing Dec 13 (2:30), 14 (2:30), 17, 19, 20, 22, 27 (2:30), 28 (2:30), 30, Jan 2, 3

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

by Ben Crocker

First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 13 December 2014

THE PLAYERS

in order of appearance

Edena the Eco Fairy

Slimeball

Jack Trot

Princess Demelza

Chorus

Flunkit

King Bertram

Dame Trot

Simple Simon

Daisy the Cow

Giant Blunderbore

Sarah Morrison

Kerri Logan

Roann McCloskey

Emma Armstrong-Hawkins

Alan Chambers,

Zoe Ledwith,

Frances Sherwin

Chris Waldock

Derek Stoddart

James Goodden

Niall O'Mara

Dotti Lawson

Julian Casey

Villagers, Fairies, Ghosts and Goblins played by members of
Questors Youth Theatre

THE ORCHESTRA

Musical Director/Keyboard 1

Keyboard 2

Percussion

Stephen Lethbridge

Andy Cowburn

Adam Trisk

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



THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Director

Assistant Director

Musical Director

Costume Designer

Lighting Designer

Sound Designer / Operator

Choreographer

Stage Manager

Deputy Stage Manager

Assistant Stage Managers

Properties

Prompter

Wardrobe Mistress

Wardrobe

Design Consultant

Set Design/Construction

Additional Scenic Painting

Cow design/creation

Giant's head design/creation

Tree design/creation

Video feeds

Assistant Lighting Designer

Lighting Operators/Assistants

Head of Make-Up

Make-Up Team

Photographer

Thanks to

Pamela Redrup

Stephanie Pemberton

Stephen Lethbridge

Raymond Childe

Nigel Lewis

Richard Eliot

Julia Timmons

Toby Burbidge

Frances Sherwin

Emma Clegg, John Gray, Sophie Haliburn,

Jesselyn Ng, Kevin Sebastianpillai

Jemma Auvache, Ian Black, Claudia Kees,

Shaan Latif-Shaikh, Gordon Miller,

Peter Salvietto

Debbie Abel

Denise Sheehy

Therese Anderson, Jane Arnold-Forster,

Ian Black, Jean Derby, Paulina Domaszewska,

Carla Evans, Anne Gilmour,

Shaan Latif-Shaikh, Moonika Leisson,

Claire Malyon, Sue Peckitt, Valerie Rudd,

Alison Simmons, Pam Smith, Sylvia Thomas,

Sylvia Wall, Jennie Yates, Annie Youshie

Alex Marker

Wellingborough Scenic

Elaine Hagan

Carla Evans

Sarah Weightman

Ian Black, Claudia Kees

Andrew Lumsden

Janine Hosegood

James Rosen, Emma Sampford

Elvira Warn

Yasmin Di Mario, Addy Frame, Livi Leppard,

Poppy Micklem, Cecily Sanders,

Ella van der Zwarts

Jane Salisbury

Lucy Aley-Parker, Andrea Bath and the

Questors office staff, Richard Fairhead,

Errol Hui, Carol King, Philip Lindley,

Lisa McAdam, John Pennicott,

Kingston and UWL Students

THE STALKS



Eva Burgess, Marcus Carr, Erin Coleman, Quinn Goodliffe, Sam Hall,
Dylan Jobar, Greta Keech, Isabella Le Bouëdec, Elizabeth-Anne Ledwith,
Arthur Lesle, Daniel Mackenzie, Louis Martino, Keira Morland,
Sophie Morland, Megan Elizabeth Nee, Emily Page, Olivia Patino-Sim,
Mak Selimovic, Lorena Taverner, Lily Ulvee

appearing Dec 13, 16, 18, 20 (2:30), 21 (2:30), 23, 27, 29, Jan 1 (4:00), 3 (2:30)



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Ealing Street Dance Academy
www.ealingstreetdance.com

Biographies

Emma Armstrong-Hawkins – Princess Demelza

Emma trained as a musician graduating from the Royal Academy of Music in 2010 and was subsequently a member of the Student Group 66. Previous roles at The Questors include Cassandra the prophet, an 18-year-old Austrian boy, and Liverpool's most famous hairdresser in *Educating Rita*.

Julian Casey – Giant Blunderbore

Julian joined The Questors in 2006 and made his debut in *Mouth to Mouth* by Kevin Elyot, playing Roger. Since then has appeared in 14 further productions for The Questors in diverse roles such as Iago, Petruchio, Dracula, Van Helsing as well as Ged Murray in *Comedians* and Mr West in *The Winterling*. He recently appeared in *Playhouse 50* in October 2014 as CSM Rivers in a scene from Peter Whelan's *The Accrington Pals*.

Alan Chambers – Chorus

Alan has acted in or directed The Questors Christmas show since the sixties. His favourite roles have been Albert the Horse in *The Wind in the Willows* and a polar bear in *The Snow Queen*. As *the Year Spins*, a twelve poem pamphlet in aid of The Questors Renewal Fund, is on sale now. Alan also directs the current Ghost Stories event.

Raymond Childe – Costume Designer

Jack and the Beanstalk is Raymond's 12th Christmas show at The Questors as Costume Designer. After training and working as a professional actor at the Bristol Old Vic and two years in Repertory, Raymond changed career and spent the next 30 years as a Costume Designer for Thames TV, Tetra Films, Granada and others. Highlights include: *Beauty and the Beast*, *Rainbow* and *T-Bag* and working with a number of well-known actors: Joan Collins, Penelope Keith, Benny Hill and Glenda Jackson to name but four. Shows at The Questors that he has costumed include: *Cinderella*, *A Little Night Music*, *Nicolas Nickleby*, *The Wizard of Oz* and *Mary Stuart*.

James Goodden – Dame Trot

James joined The Questors in 1987 and has now appeared in nearly thirty productions, most recently *No Fairy Tale* and *House & Garden*. Despite a lifelong passion for pantomime this is the first time he has ever appeared in one. It will almost certainly not be the last.

Dotti Lawson – Daisy the Cow

Dotti has been an active, non-acting member of The Questors since the mid-80s, serving as a member of the Front of House team and later in the Grapevine. Many years ago she appeared in panto as one half of a horse and as Priscilla the goose and is pleased to be adding to her animal repertoire as the front of Daisy! Previous experience at The Questors includes the Empress of China (*Aladdin and his Wonderful Lamp*), Sadie (*The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*), several Playback Reminiscence Roadshows and as DSM for *The Duchess of Malfi* and *Blue Stockings*.

Zoe Ledwith – Chorus

Zoe is mother to three children who have all been members of Questors Youth Theatre. Embracing life before 50, Zoe responded to Pam's request for additional chorus members, assuming her input would only be vocal support and has never laughed so much. She has never been part of any stage production.

Stephen Lethbridge – Musical Director

Having played at various venues from the Royal Festival Hall and Wilton's Music Hall to the chapel at Kensal Green Cemetery and a converted Victorian toilet, and at various events such as the Edinburgh Fringe, Steve is now MD and keyboard player for the Questors panto. He has also been Organist at Eastcote and Northwood Hills UR Church for the last 24 years. He is a piano tuner/repairer by trade.

Nigel Lewis – Lighting Designer

Nigel has been lighting the stage for over 30 years. He spends most of his time as a lecturer in theatre lighting design to BTEC, HNC and BA (Hons) students. He is a Professional Designer with the Association of Lighting Designers and lights about 30 productions per year throughout the UK. His current commissions include a production on New York's Broadway, The West End Christmas Production and a production in Melbourne, Australia.

Kerri Logan – Slimeball

Kerri joined The Questors in 2002. Since then she has appeared in over a dozen productions including *Nicholas Nickleby*, *Company*, *Misery*, *Hobson's Choice* and, most recently, *Blue Remembered Hills*. This is her first pantomime since she was young enough to play principal boy back home in Northern Ireland.

Roann McCloskey – Jack Trot

This is Roann's first 'grown up' production at The Questors having re-joined last year. Many, many moons ago she was a member of the youth theatre appearing in *Godspell* in 1997 and *The Twits* in 1999. She is very excited to be back and hopes that being at the top of a beanstalk does not give her vertigo.

Sarah Morrison – Edena the Eco Fairy

An active acting member since 1980, Sarah has appeared in over 60 productions, performing many varied roles, Shakespearean and classical, modern, comedic and musical. Recently turning to directing, she will be Associate Director for the upcoming Studio production of *Uncle Vanya*. Sarah also serves on the Auditioning Panel.

Niall O'Mara – Simple Simon

Niall is performing in his first production with The Questors. With other groups, he has previously appeared in the pantomimes *Babes in the Wood*, playing the naive and sometimes stupid Tim, and *Snow White*, where he played Dopey. And now here he is, playing Simple Simon ... there's a trend here.

Stephanie Pemberton – Assistant Director

Stephanie has been acting for almost 40 years and has played a variety of roles including Sonya (*Uncle Vanya*), Hester Collyer (*The Deep Blue Sea*), Agnes (*Dancing at Lughnasa*) and Dorothy (*Stepping Out*). Musical roles include Fiona (*Brigadoon*), Maggie (*Forty Second Street*), Golde (*Fiddler on the Roof*). Directing credits include *Sweeney Todd*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Cabaret*, *Carousel* and *Calendar Girls*. This is Stephanie's second production at The Questors as Assistant Director and, having now completed the Directors' Course, she looks forward to presenting her Director's Showcase in April 2015.

Pamela Redrup – Director

Joining The Questors in 2006, Pam started out in stage management, managing *Lady in the Van*, *Arsenic and Old Lace* and *A Servant to Two Masters* which went on tour in 2009 to Venice. She has directed Noel Coward's *Present Laughter*, Denis Potter's *Blue Remembered Hills* and Alan Ayckbourn's *House & Garden*. She has loved every minute of directing *Jack and the Beanstalk*, even the ones that do 'er 'ead in. It's all been fab.

Frances Sherwin – Chorus

Frances joined The Questors in 2010 and has worked as Deputy Stage Manager on *Coarse Shakespeare: The Final Folio*, *Night of the Soul*, *Absurd Person Singular*, *Mary Stuart*, *Shadowlands* and *The Questors – 50 Years On*. As an acting member she has appeared as Mrs Lupin in *Martin Chuzzlewit* (for Crucial Images Productions) and as Mrs Bouncer in *Box and Cox*.

Derek Stoddart – King Bertram

Derek has acted in a wide range of productions over the last 30 years with The Questors. His last appearance was in *Shadowlands* and prior to that *House & Garden*, *Mary Stuart* and *The School of Night*. Other notable productions include *Sweeney Todd*, *Great Expectations* and *Nicholas Nickleby*.

Julia Timmons – Choreographer

Julia trained as a ballet dancer at the Bush Davies Ballet School. She danced professionally for 18 years and has since worked as a free-lance choreographer and teacher. Choreography includes *Beauty and the Beast*, *My Fair Lady*, *Bugsy Malone*, *Die Czardasfürstin*, *Joseph Süß*, *Die Fledermaus*, *White Horse Inn*. Julia is thrilled to be choreographing *Jack and the Beanstalk* for The Questors.

Chris Waldock – Flunkit

Chris became an acting member in 1985, having graduated from Student Group 38. He has appeared in a wide range of productions over the years, including *House & Garden* last season. Despite the suspicion that something is always behind him, this is his first pantomime. Oh yes it is.

Alternative Christmas Entertainment

ROPE

by Patrick Hamilton

17 – 31 December 2014

The Studio

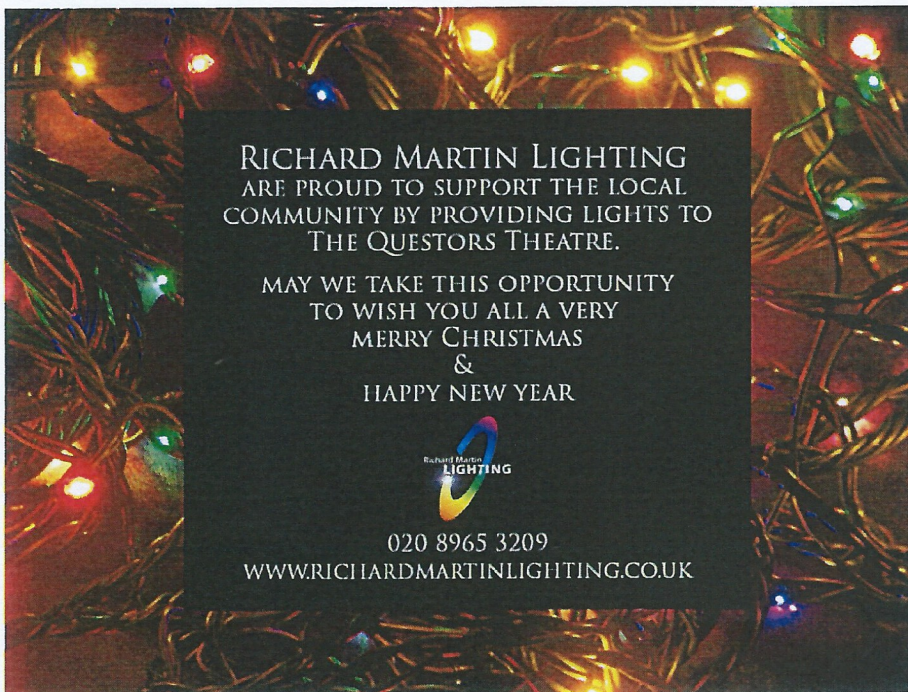
This 1929 thriller of Nietzsche, death and a dinner party was adapted into a celebrated film by Hitchcock in 1948. Most recently, it had a successful production at the Almeida Theatre.

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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.



Productions for Early 2015

4.48 Psychosis

by Sarah Kane

Opens 23 January in The Studio

Macbeth

by William Shakespeare

Opens 31 January in The Playhouse

Uncle Vanya

by Anton Chekov

Opens 27 February in The Studio

The Questors Youth Theatre: The Wolves of Willoughby Chase

by Russ Tunney

Opens 18 March in The Playhouse

The Questors Student Group: First Annual Production

Opens 20 March in The Studio

Equus

by Peter Schaffer

Opens 11 April in The Playhouse

Directors' Showcases

Opens 22 April in The Studio

All My Sons

by Arthur Miller

Opens 2 May in The Playhouse

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questors.org.uk

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- ✓ 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.

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