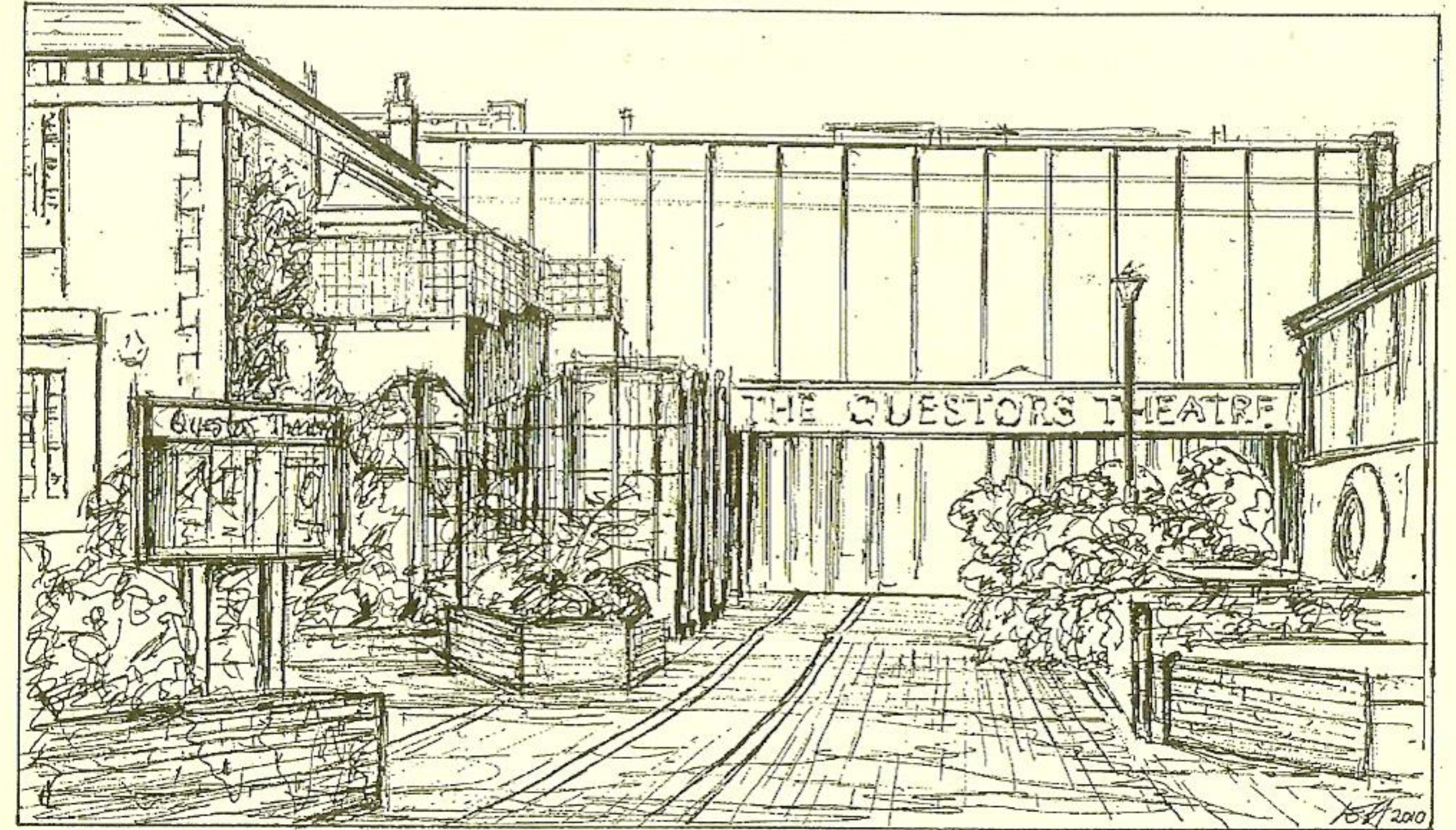




Questors, Ealing's Theatre



THE RISE AND FALL OF LITTLE VOICE

by Jim Cartwright

The Playhouse

19 – 26 April 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 – 7:00 pm*

Saturday 9:00 am – 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 2014 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.



Image © Sergey Nivens / Shutterstock.com

THE RISE AND FALL OF LITTLE VOICE

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19 – 26 April 2014

The Rise and Fall of Little Voice

The whole process of working on this production has been hugely exciting. From discovering that we had the rights, to casting each wonderful role (not least one of the most specialised roles ever written), to rehearsing Cartwright's incredibly poetic, brutal and funny text, to pulling together some very challenging elements with a brilliant design and production team...this has been a thrilling journey. I am incredibly grateful to everyone who has worked tirelessly to pull this big production together.

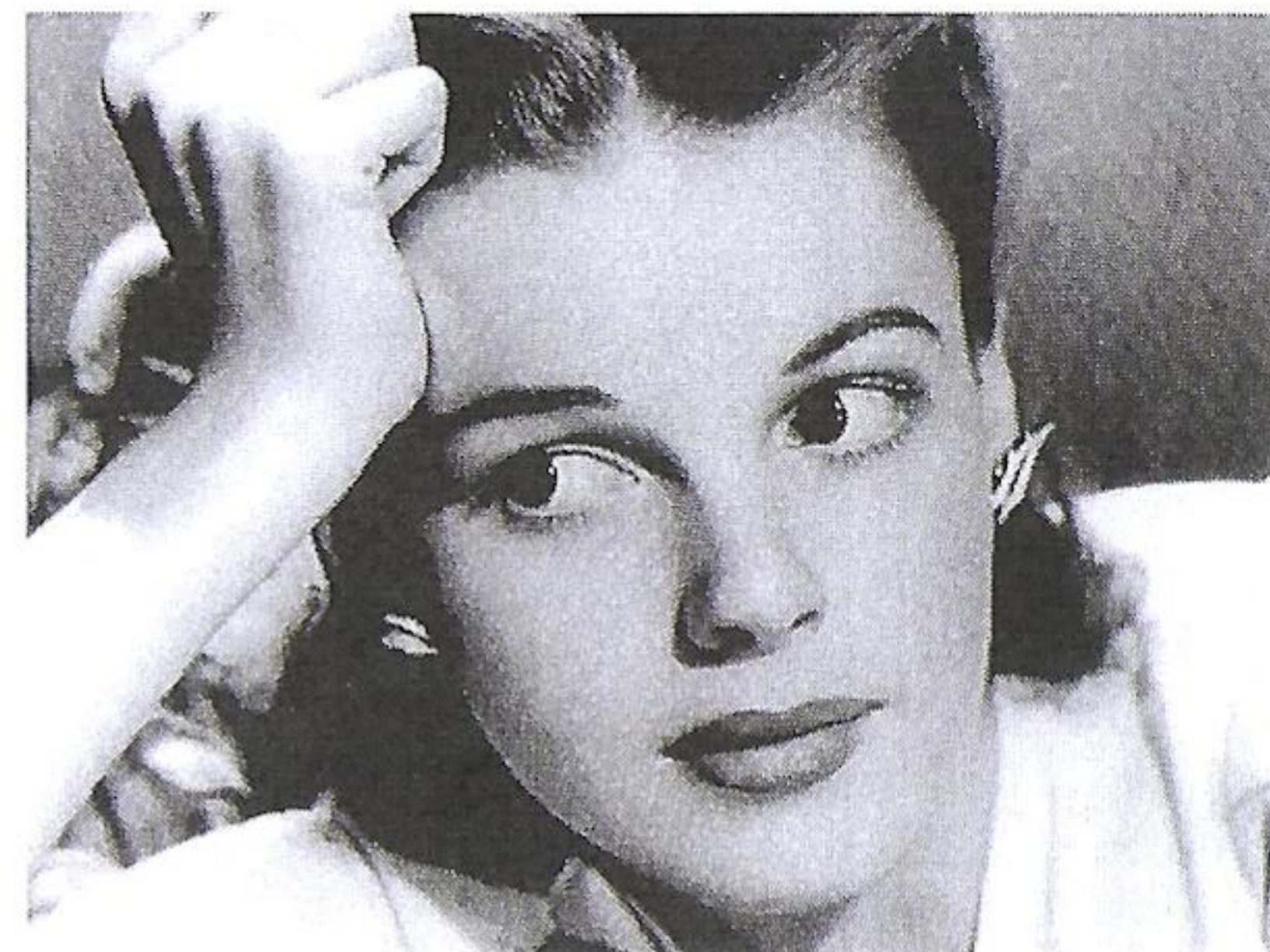
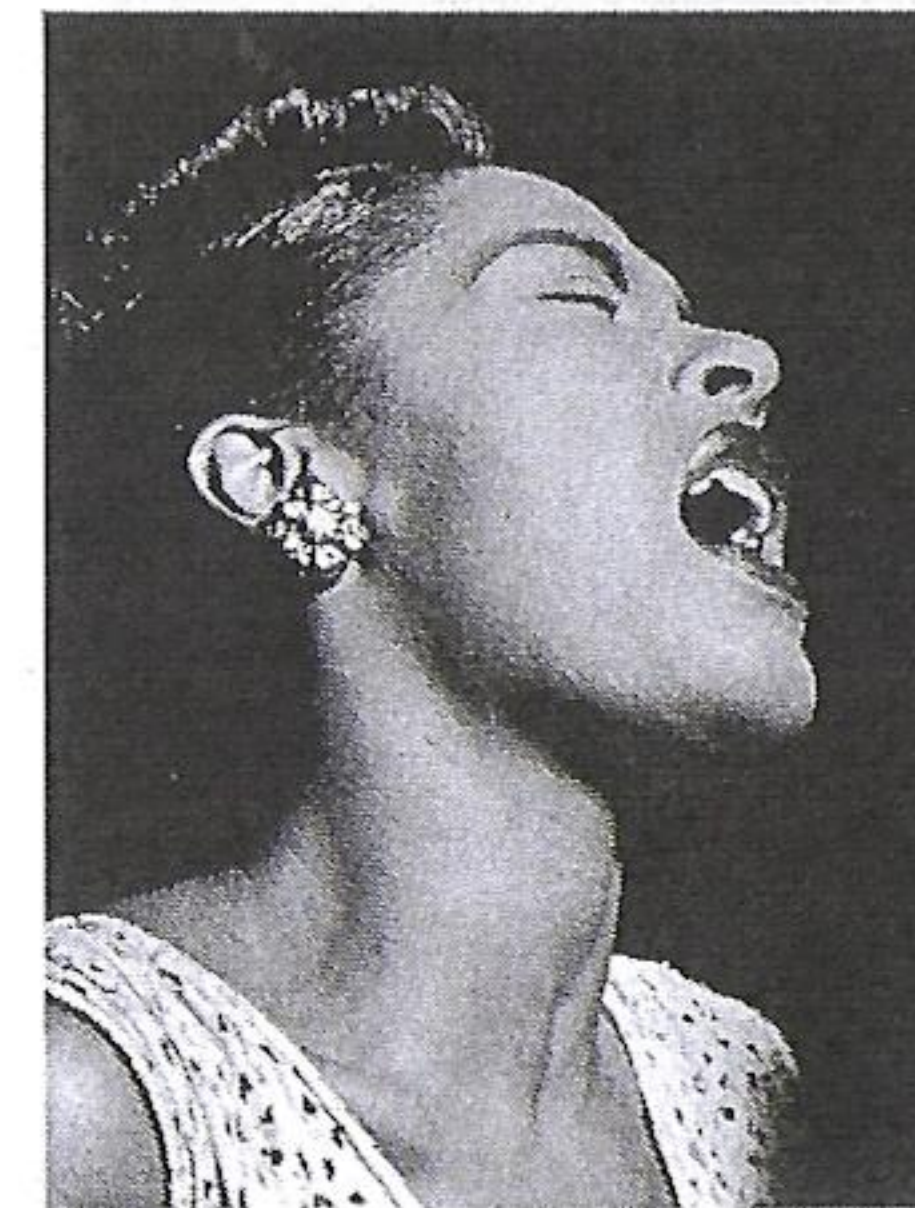
After overhearing Jane Horrocks mimicking stars such as Judy Garland and Shirley Bassey when warming up during the production of his play *Road*, which he was directing, Jim Cartwright decided to write a show especially for her, showcasing those very skills. Starting its life at the National Theatre in 1992, the show then transferred to the Aldwych. I was lucky enough to see this production which had a huge impact on me. A film of the play, entitled *Little Voice*, was then made in 1998 which is a reasonable (if slightly sentimental) version, although the edit understandably loses some of Cartwright's theatricality and unique language. I feel that the theatre is the best place to experience this extraordinary piece of writing and I'm frankly jealous of anyone witnessing it onstage for the first time.

Cartwright generously allows Directors of this show to choose their own singers, styles and songs for LV to imitate, according to the actress and production. Whilst that freedom is useful, I felt strongly that I wanted to keep Judy Garland at the heart of it, as she remains such a tragic figure and parallels LV's arrested development, innocence and damage. *Somewhere Over the Rainbow* taps into a universal desire to transcend the harsh difficulties of our environment but is even more relevant to LV whose family and home situation clash horribly with who she really is. She truly is a bluebird trapped in a cage.

It's not an understatement to say that I was intimidated by the challenge of casting the role of Little Voice. Whilst I was lucky enough to have some highly talented actresses and singers audition for the character, seeing and hearing Lauren for the first time assured me that we had a star on our hands! I was then delighted to discover each and every other actor to complete this wonderful cast, as the characters and relationships in this piece are key. They are larger than life, yes, but more importantly they are driven by honest motivations. We worked hard to ensure that the comedy of the situations comes through whilst never losing the characters' integrity and truth.

This play balances comedy and tragedy, loud and quiet, brash and meek, fire and water. My role as director has been to bring all of those elements to life without ever allowing the scales to tip.

Dominique Gerrard, Director



THE RISE AND FALL OF LITTLE VOICE

by Jim Cartwright

First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 19 April 2014

CAST

in order of appearance

Mari	Wendy Megeney
LV	Lauren McGee
Phone Man	Robert Vass
Billy	Andrew McGovern
Sadie	Dorothy Lawson
Ray Say	Simon Roberts
Mr Boo	Robert Vass

The performance lasts approximately 2 hours and 25 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.

PRODUCTION

Director	Dominique Gerrard
Set Designer	Wanda Duszynska
Lighting Designer	Francois Langton
Sound Designer	Chris Reid
Music Arranger / Singing Coach	Jane Marlow
Stage Manager	Clare Watson
Deputy Stage Manager	Sarah Vass
Assistant Stage Managers	Lauren Attard, Angus Duke, Rich Keeble, Yvonne Monyer
Properties	Shaan Latif-Shaikh
Head Constructor	Zyg Staniaszek
Constructor	Toby Burbidge
Costumes	Helen Karasiewicz, Moonika Leisson, Jenny Richardson, Jennie Yates
Drapes	Carla Evans
Pyrotechnics Consultant	Adam Pritchard
Lighting Operator	Sarah Clopet
Sound Operators	Josie James, Russell Fleet
Lighting Riggers	Sarah Clopet, John Green
Get-In Team	Alexander Asher, Jeff Baynham, Paul Wilson
Photographer	Peter Collins
Thanks to	Ian Black, Eddie Stephens, House Services, The Questors Office

Biographies

Dorothy Lawson – Sadie

Dorothy joined The Questors in the mid-80s and is part of the front of house and Grapevine teams. She was ASM in *On the Razzle* and DSM for *The Duchess of Malfi*. In 2013 she appeared in *Calendar Girls* with the Pump House Theatre Company and became an acting member of The Questors. She was an interval singer in *Engaged*, has appeared in two PlayBack Reminiscence Roadshows and was the Empress of China in *Aladdin and his Wonderful Lamp*.

Lauren McGee – LV

Lauren is currently training at drama college in London for her degree in acting. Previous roles include Kate in *The Taming of the Shrew*, LV in *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*, Ophelia in *Hamlet*, Abigail Williams in *The Crucible*, Rose Maylie in *Oliver Twist*, Hatty in *Tom's Midnight Garden*, Ensemble in *4.48 Psychosis*, Lois/Bianca in *Kiss Me Kate*, Elizabeth Lavenza in *Frankenstein*, Harriet Westbrook in *Bloody Poetry* and Burglar's Wife in *The Virtuous Burglar*. This is Lauren's first appearance at The Questors.

Andrew McGovern – Billy

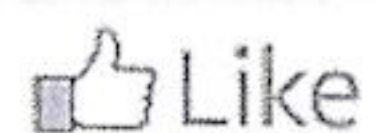
Andrew graduated from Student Group 64 where he played numerous parts in *Entertaining Strangers* and Banjo in *The Man Who Came To Dinner*. He was in *Surburban Motel* as Stevie as well as acting in *Heaven's Waiting Room* and *Martin Chuzzlewit*. Andrew has had a great time working with a great director and great cast and crew.

Wendy Megeney – Mari

Wendy's first acting role with The Questors was as Mucky Molly in *Tom Jones*, which went to the Minack in 1985. This was followed by Clea in *Black Comedy*, which was the British entry in an international drama festival in Japan. Roles since include Doreen in *Tartuffe*, Marjorie in the musical *Somewhere in England*, Andromache in *Trojan Women*, Olive in *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll*, Juno in *Juno and the Paycock*, Maureen in *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, Maureen in *Lovers* and Fay in *The Miser* in 2013.

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.

Simon Roberts – Ray Say

Recent appearances include Crofts (*Mrs Warren's Profession*), Peter (*Blue Remembered Hills*), Felix Humble (*Humble Boy*), Christian (*Festen*), Pip (*Great Expectations*) and Vladimir (*Waiting for Godot*). For The Questors, he has directed *Betrayal*, *Doctor Faustus*, *Abigail's Party*, and Jim Cartwright's *Two*. Simon is also a member of the Questors Artistic Team. As part of the 2014 LSE Literature Festival, he played Narrator in a performance of Stravinsky's *A Soldier's Tale*.

Robert Vass – Phone Man / Mr Boo

Robert was most recently seen as Pong in *Aladdin and his Wonderful Lamp*. Other recent roles include a Lehman brother and a security guard in *ENRON*, Raymond in *Blue Remembered Hills*, the Station Master in *The Railway Siding*, the Innkeeper in *The Flint Street Nativity*, Phillie in *Suburban Motel* and night watchman Terry in *Night of the Soul*. He has also played Beadle Bamford (*Sweeney Todd*), the Baker (*Into the Woods*), Harry (*Company*) and Cogsworth the clock (*Beauty and the Beast*).

Dominique Gerrard – Director

Dominique is a professional Director, Actress and Acting Coach. She runs Endpaper Theatre which produces new works inspired by literature. Questors directing credits include: *Ladies' Day*, *The Railway Children*, *The Pierglass* and *Too Fast*. Professional directing credits include: *A Knife in the Whale* (Compass Theatre, Tristan Bates Theatre), *Breathing Corpses* (Ye Olde Rose and Crown), *Grave Expectations* (South Hill Park, Compass Theatre, St Albans Signal Box), *Looking after the Pooters* (Canal Cafe, Compass Theatre, Maltings Arts Theatre), *Dick Whittington* (Harrow Arts Centre), *Sleeping Beauty* (Harrow Arts Centre), *Sid's Show* (National Tour), *Sleeping Dogs* (Barons Court). She is about to direct *Boiling Point for Give It Some Room* (Bridewell Theatre) and *Play for Keeps* for Endpaper Theatre (Compass Theatre, Etcetera Theatre).

www.dominiquegerrard.com

Wanda Duszynska – Set Designer

Wanda graduated from Student Group 52 in 1999. Since then she has designed 13 stage sets (most recently *The Miser*) and acted in ten productions, the latest being *House and Garden*. She has written and directed shows for Questors Youth Theatre including the award-winning *Cogner au Plafond* that was later performed by members of QYT to an international audience in a disused swimming pool in the Vienna woods.

Meet the Company – Wednesday 23 April

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

Chris Reid – Sound Designer

Chris has worked extensively as a sound operator and designer throughout the UK and internationally. For The Questors, Chris designed the sound for *RENT* and *Aladdin and his Wonderful Lamp*. Other productions include: *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (Theatre Royal, Drury Lane), *Black Watch* (2010-13, National Theatre of Scotland, tour Associate Designer), *Macbeth* (National Theatre of Scotland, Lincoln Centre, New York), *Vincent River* (Charmers Productions, The Old Red Lion), *The Not-So-Fatal Death of Grandpa Fredo* (Vox Motus, Societeats Theatre, Dresden) and several productions for the Regent's Park Open Air Theatre.

Zyg Staniaszek – Head Constructor

Zyg used to run a cabinet making business with clients that included Richard Branson and Adam Ant. He also built sets and props for TV and billboard advertisements. At The Questors, Zyg has built sets for *Tejas Verdes*, *Polish Shorts*, *Festen*, *Peter Pan*, *Parlour Song*, *Clybourne Park* and others, and made many elements for numerous other shows. For *The Lady in the Van*, he chopped up a Transit so that the lady could secretly climb in and out through the engine bay and enabling the back of the van to be detached and flown. Zyg also does a bit of directing and acting, and was last seen as Ping in *Aladdin and his Wonderful Lamp*.

Clare Watson – Stage Manager

Clare has been a member since 2004. She has been involved in over twenty-five productions varying from *The Libertine* to *Aladdin and his Wonderful Lamp* filling various roles including Stage Manager, Deputy Stage Manager, Assistant Stage Manager, Children's Liaison Manager and fleetingly a Follow Spot Operator. Clare is also Head of Stage Management and a member of the Production Working Group. She can also be found on occasion behind the award-winning Grapevine bar pulling the odd pint.

Next Questors Productions

THE PRIDE

by Alexi Kaye Campbell

2 – 10 May 2014

The Studio

Alternating between 1958 and 2008, *The Pride* examines changing attitudes to sexuality, looking at intimacy, identity and the courage it takes to be who you really are. A powerful debut play and winner of an Olivier Award.

WEST 5 STORY

by Richard Harris and
Denis King

10 – 17 May 2014

The Playhouse

We're proud to present the world premiere of a new musical by two of the country's most successful writers. It's funny, poignant and heart-warming – and takes place right here in Ealing!

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 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 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 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

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Programme: Nigel Bamford

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