

#### Productions for Early 2016

#### The Village Bike

by Penelope Skinner Opens 22 January in The Studio

#### The Cripple of Inishmaan

by Martin McDonagh Opens 29 January in The Playhouse

#### Directors' Showcases

Opens 19 February in The Studio

The Questors Youth Theatre: **Grimm Tales** 

by Carol Anne Duffy / Tim Supple Opens 27 February in The Playhouse

The Questors Student Group: First Annual Production Opens 11 March in The Studio

#### Twelfth Night

by William Shakespeare Opens 22 April in The Playhouse

#### A Little Night Music

by Stephen Sondheim Opens 29 April in The Studio

#### Don't Dress for Dinner

by Marc Camoletti Opens 13 May in The Playhouse

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

questors.org.uk

#### Join Us as a Member

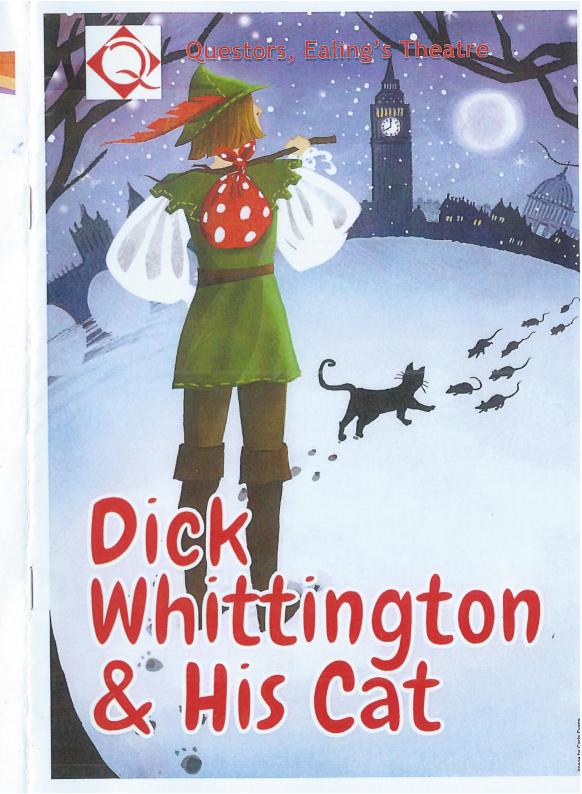
If you enjoy theatre, why not join us and benefit from membership:

- ✓ 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
- Opportunity to audition to join our company of actors
- Exclusive or discounted training courses
- Access to iQ, the members-only website members.questors.org.uk
- ✓ Colour magazine three times a year
- Exclusive online news and email newsletter
- ✓ Receive a regular programme leaflet
- Special invitations, events and offers not available to the public
- ✓ Voting rights in the company
- \* 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, when you pay by Direct Debit, get your first 12 months' membership for the price of six.

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

Programme: Nigel Bamford Costume drawings: Raymond Childe Email: enquiries@questors.org.uk Registered Charity No. 207516



# **WELCOME TO DICK WHITTINGTON & HIS CAT**

On behalf of the Questors membership and the Board of Trustees we are delighted to welcome you to this performance of Dick Whittington & His Cat.

Panto is the perfect time to visit The Questors and to discover all the excitement and enjoyment of community theatre. Find out about our youth theatre and adult drama classes or why not become a member and benefit from being able to participate in all aspects of live theatre both in front of and behind the curtains. As we sit here laughing, singing and cheering, our thanks go out today to all those who have made a commitment to this remarkable theatre both now and over the years.

So a thank you to everyone who has been involved in creating this wonderful show - and to you, our audience - thank you for coming and supporting your local theatre. We look forward to welcoming you to The Questors for an entertaining 2016.

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

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





#### Junior Chefs Academy

Come and join us in our professional kitchens Saturdays 9.30am-12.30pm for Junior Chefs Academy or Junior Asian Chef Academy or Thursdays 5-8pm for Junior Cake and Bake Academy. For year 9/10/11 students.

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Contact: carol.greenham@uwl.ac.uk or tel: 0208 231 2091

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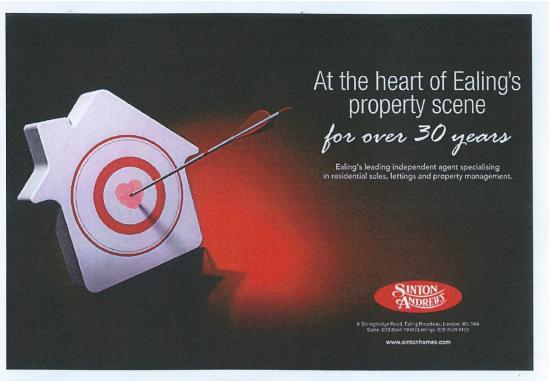
# The Questors Theatre

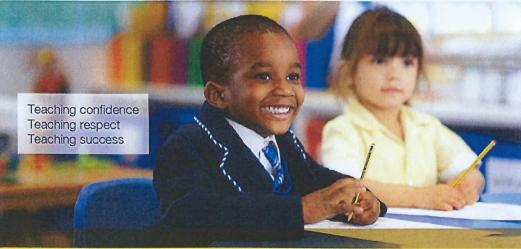
and their production of Dick Whittington & His Cat



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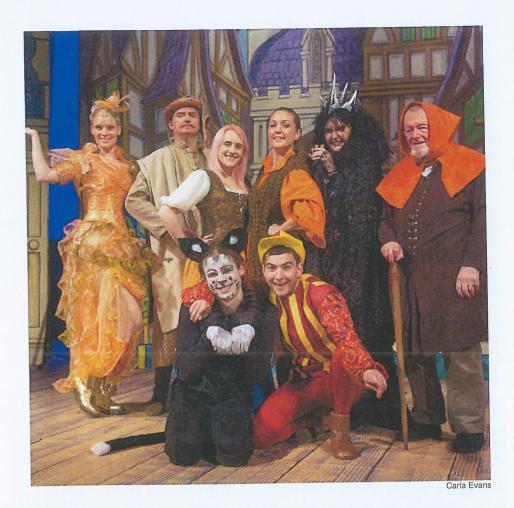
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# **DICK WHITTINGTON** & HIS CAT

by Ben Crocker

The Judi Dench Playhouse 12 December 2015 - 2 January 2016

# THE TALE OF DICK, THE CAT AND THE RATS

Based on the life of a real individual, the story of Dick Whittington is an unusual fairy tale. Indeed, when you know the true – and rather prosaic – facts about the man, he seems a most unlikely pantomime hero.

The Museum of London lists that Richard Whittington was born during the 1350s, the younger son of a Gloucestershire lord; so, not the poor man of legend then and clearly someone who had received a decent education. However, due to laws of primogeniture, his older brother inherited the family estate and young Dick was forced to get a job, which he did in London as an apprentice cloth merchant or mercer, eventually making a huge fortune from dealing in valuable cloth from abroad, such as silks, velvets and cloth of gold. His customers included two kings and he even lent money to the profligate crown. He did indeed marry Alice Fitzwarren, the daughter of a Dorsetshire nobleman (sorry, spoiler alert – Dick does eventually get his girl).

His career culminated in his being elected not three but, in fact, four times as Lord Mayor of London (presumably he gets short-changed in legend because the word thrice works so much better in song lyrics). This is an apolitical elected post, not to be confused with the political role of the Mayor of London – not the same as Boris then (although come to think of it, Boris would make an excellent future panto subject – or performer!).

Dying childless and at a ripe old age in 1423, Whittington bequeathed his great wealth to the creation of public works in the city, including the construction of a public lavatory known as Whittington's longhouse (can't help thinking someone missed a trick not including this in the panto plot). Doubtless it was this generosity that led to the legend of Dick Whittington. However, the true story makes no mention at all of a cat. Nonetheless, the chronicle of the poor boy made good and his helpful cat who lays waste to London's rat population took off, and by 1606 a play was produced on the subject.

So why has the tale enjoyed such enduring popularity? Well, I think, fundamentally, we all love a 'rags to riches' adventure, but this doesn't account for the inclusion of the heroic cat and the villainous rats.

I've been speculating that the story had a deeper purpose. Given that Richard Whittington was alive during the later outbreaks of bubonic plague in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, an epidemic which killed around 40% of the English population, maybe it was conceived as something of a revenge myth, a recreation of history in order to cover a painful collective memory: if only a magnificent cat could have saved London from its plague-carrying rats.

Of course it was the fleas that carried the plague, but it would be churlish to shatter the myth by stating that cats are as likely plague-carriers as rats. The rats have always got the blame and remain in our collective consciousness as the creepiest of creatures. Possibly with good reason, for they are the most intelligent, sociable, fastidious and resistant of animals, able to go for weeks without water, withstand radiation and reproduce more prolifically than rabbits. They probably are capable of taking over the world and sending your average domestic moggie running for the hills. Therefore, maybe we need our rat-busting yarns, especially since the critters are at least as prevalent now as in the Middle Ages – according to urban legend, a rat is on average only six metres away from you at any time in London.

And if you are sitting at the edge of an aisle during our panto, you may find yourself closer still, but don't worry we promise that our all-singing, all-dancing rats are really quite sweet, definitely won't bite and have been thoroughly defleaed.

Wanda Duszynska, Director

# **More Dates for Your Diary**

# Questors Youth Theatre presents GRIMM TALES by Carol Anne Duffy / Tim Supple THE JUDI DENCH PLAYHOUSE

27 February to 5 March 2016

CINDERELLA

**Next Year's Pantomime** 

will be

by Ben Crocker

THE JUDI DENCH PLAYHOUSE

Dec 2016 / Jan 2017

#### The Oranges and Lemons Teams



Jane Arnold-Forster



Jane Arnold-Forste

# THE CREATIVE TEAM

Director
Assistant Director
Associate Director
Musical Director
Costume Designers

Lighting Designer
Sound Designer / Operator
Choreographer
Fight Choreographer
Magic Scene Consultant
Puppet Designer and Maker

Wanda Duszynska
Richard Gallagher
Dominique Gerrard
Steve Lethbridge
Raymond Childe,
Holly Merrick, Jennie Yates
Nigel Lewis
Richard Eliot
Jade Flannagan
John Fryer
Andrew Barnett Jones
Shaan Latif-Shaikh

# **MUSICAL NUMBERS**

Killer Queen (Freddie Mercury)

Queen Rat

Wonderful Day (Bricusse/Newley) Fitzwarren, Alice and Company

All About That Bass (Meghan Trainor)

Sarah and Chorus

There's A Rat In My Kitchen (UB40)

The Band

Uptown Funk (Mark Ronson)

Jack and the Company

Trust In Me (Sherman/Sherman)

Queen Rat and her Ratlings

Love Is An Open Door (Lopez/Anderson-Lopez)

Alice and Dick

One (Hamlisch/Kleben)

Archibald the Mouse

It Must Be Love (Labi Siffre)

Alice and Dick

Be Back Soon (Lionel Bart)

Fitzwarren and the Company

Rather Be (Clean Bandit)

Alice and Dick

What A Waste (lan Dury)

Sarah, Jack, Dick and Fitzwarren

Under The Sea (Menken/Ashman)

Sea Creatures

I Am Sailing (Sutherland)

Fairy Bowbells and Chorus

You Can't Stop The Beat (Wittman/Shaiman)

Whole Company

# **DICK WHITTINGTON & HIS CAT**

by Ben Crocker

First performed at The Theatre, Chipping Norton, November 2009 First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 12 December 2015

# THE PLAYERS

## **Principal Cast**

in order of appearance

Queen Rat

Fairy Bowbells

Tommy the Cat Fitzwarren / Horatio / Emperor

Alice Fitzwarren

Idle Jack

Dick Whittington

Sarah the Cook

Shop Customer / Moroccan Guard

Dotti Lawson

**Annabel Spinks-Jones** 

Jamie King

Rich Keeble

Claire Durrant

Will Langley

Georgina Parren

CJ

Alan Chambers

and Archibald Mouse as himself

Adult Ensemble

Puppet Vocalist

Voice of Tommy

Alan Chambers, Charlotte Greer,

· :

i

Andrea Little, Sharon Kinlock, Kevin Sebastianpillai,

**Annabel Spinks-Jones** 

Shaan Latif-Shaikh

Gareth Bevan

Wadah Mubgar

#### Musicians

Keyboards 1

Puppeteer

Keyboards 2 Bass/Vocalist

Drums

Steve Lethbridge

**Andrew Cowburn** Gareth Bevan

Mathias Bang Madsen

Young People's Chorus

of citizens, rats, sailors, and sea creatures

The Oranges Team†

Hirujaan Ajanthan Victoria Allder **Teodora Amanovic** Lydia Batalona Marcus Carr Renee Dawkins Reid

Camille Derakhshan

**James Duffy** Ciara Fulker

Lilah Golding Wood

Quinn Goodliffe Indiana Holden

Romy Hueale

Bianca Hurley

Laura Jacques

Sachein Mukunthan

Alex Rakowski

Harry Rakowski Lorena Taverner

Maud Wheldon-Posner

The Lemons Team\*

Jade Arklie **Nyeem Ayshford** Kieran Brooks Patel Mirvem Budak Felicia Crowle Alex Green

Pascale Kerley Hannah Lepper **Dylan Lewis** 

Francesca Marszalek

Ella Martino

Georgia May Jones

Bradley O'Neill Ollie Overy-Jones

Stella Round

Freya Sandys

**Daniel Stepanov** 

Sam Thompson Roche

Libby Voelcker **Charlotte Yardley** 

†appearing Dec 12, 15, 17, 19 (2:30), 20 (2:30), 22, 27 (2:30), 28, 30, Jan 2 (2:30) \*appearing Dec 12 (2:30), 13 (2:30), 16, 18, 19, 21, 23, 28 (2:30), 29, Jan 1 (4:00), 2

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

# THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Production Manager Stage Manager Performance Stand-In SMs Jane Arnold-Forster Ruth Parry

Steve Cowan, David Emmet, Doug King,

Cathy Swift, John Thompson

Tilly Benson-Reid, Jesselyn Ng Deputy Stage Managers Assistant Stage Managers

Joe Booth, Laura Clifford, Angus Duke,

Andrew French, Anthony Green,

Chanice Hird, Rory Hobson, Zac Karaman, Grace Lindley, Justine Louisy, Joe Sharp,

Philip Sindall, Rob Willin

Claudia Frey, Claudia Kees, John Owens, Properties

Laurie Swan

John Owens Constructed Properties Singing Coach

**Emma Finlay** 

Wardrobe Team

Mary Davies, Paulina Domaszewka, Carla Evans, Helen Karasiewicz,

Moonika Leisson, Claire Malyon, Sue Peckitt,

Jenny Richardson, Valerie Rudd, Alison Simmons, Pam Smith, Bridgett Strevens, Sylvia Wall, Justyna Wneck, Annie Youshie

Lighting Assistant/Operator

Lighting Operator

Lighting Riggers Additional Scenic Art

Hair and Make-Up

Christmas Decorations

Get-in Crew

Janine Hosegood James Byrne

Kieran Clarke, Alex Macquire, Elliott Surbey

Dennis Dracup

lan Black

Henry Broom, Tina Harris, Doug King Isabelle Cauthery, Stephanie Cole,

Emma Dunkerley, Molly Edgley, Anita Gerecs,

Isabelle Grigsby, Gabriela Hyde-Tetley, Yvette Le Brun, Kitty Noofah, Victoria Pipe,

Iris Saus, Shawna Smith, Anastasia Storey,

Roxana Taziyeva, Tasha Vincent

Photographer

Carla Evans Marketing

Claire Durrant, Liz Mead

Set Design/Construction

Wellington Scenic

Monitor Hire Drum Screen Hire Andrew Lumsden

Track Hire

John Henry Hawthorns

Thanks to:

Mike Hagan, Eric Logan, Joe Smith,

Alex Marker and the UWL and Kingston Technical Students

### **Biographies**

Gareth Bevan - Puppet Vocalist / Musician

Gareth has been a member of The Questors for nearly twenty-five years, but this is the first time he has had the privilege of voicing both a mouse and a crab - surely a highlight! He is looking forward to doing more work with Archibald in the future.

Alan Chambers - Shop Customer / Moroccan Guard / Ensemble

Alan Chambers has acted in or directed the Questors Christmas shows since the sixties. His favourite roles were Albert the Horse in The Wind in the Willows and a Polar Bear in The Snow Queen. 'Crumb Cake', a poem pamphlet for the young in aid of Questors Renewal Fund, is on sale now. He also directs the current Ghost Stories event.

Raymond Childe - Costume Designer

Raymond has designed the costumes for twelve pantos. This year he has helped Jennie and designed the costume for the Dame. After training and working as a professional actor. Raymond changed career and spent the next 30 years as a Costume Designer for TV and films. Shows at The Questors that he has costumed include: A Little Night Music, Nicholas Nickleby, The Wizard of Oz and Mary Stuart.

Claire Durrant - Alice Fitzwarren

Claire graduated from Student Group 65 in 2012 and has performed on The Questors' stages in Teechers, Yerma, Dracula: Fangs of Destiny, Woyzeck, 4.48 Psychosis and most recently as Raina in Arms and the Man. Claire's highlight experience has been as a dancer and actor in the 2012 Olympic Closing Ceremony.

Wanda Duszynska - Director

Wanda trained at London's Central School of Speech and Drama in Applied Theatre. She works as a drama facilitator, teacher, director, designer and writer, specialising in shows for young people. To date, she has directed over 70 plays. At The Questors, she completed Student Group 52 in 1999, and has regularly acted in and designed shows. She has also written and directed productions for the Questors Youth Theatre, including the award-winning Cogner au Plafond, which performed to an international audience in a disused swimming pool in Vienna.

Richard Gallagher - Assistant Director

Richard's last acting appearances at The Questors were as Lady Bracknell in The Importance of Being Earnest and as Scrooge in A Christmas Carol. He is the second-year student group tutor and director, and wrote the 2013 pantomime. Aladdin and his Wonderful Lamp.

Dominique Gerrard - Associate Director

Dominique works as a Theatre Director and Drama Facilitator. She has been working for QYT for nearly 13 years and is also Deputy to the Artistic Director of Questors. She is so pleased to have been able to support this production which is full of original ideas and wonderful panto silliness!

CJ - Sarah the Cook

Since CJ wandered in from the street last February, he's made hot dogs for delusional characters, cocktails for Mayfair aristocracy, balconies for international lady-authors, beds for Bulgarian nobility and has scared a Russian officer with a wild gunshot. For his first time in front of the curtain, he's looking forward to some calm...

#### Rich Keeble - Fitzwarren / Horatio / Emperor

This is Rich's first production as a proper acting member at The Questors. In the past he's specialised in waiters, butlers, handymen, librarians and clueless policemen, when not working backstage. He is, naturally, relishing the creative opportunities offered by grocers, seamen and Eastern potentates. He hopes that you'll enjoy the show.

#### Jamie King - Tommy the Cat

Jamie was a member of the Intro Group and then QYT when he appeared in A Christmas Carol. As a member of Student Group 66 he played Sampson in Romeo and Juliet, and then Max and Talthybius in Trojan Barbie and Sonders in On the Razzle in his final year. Jamie has since played the Genie in Aladdin and his Wonderful Lamp, Andres in Woyzeck, and the roles of Nugget and Young Horseman in Equus. Jamie has taken part in a number of short films and web series, both in front of and behind the camera. He is also a member of The National Youth Theatre.

#### Will Langley - Idle Jack

Will has been acting at The Questors since the age of eight, when he joined QYT. During this time, he appeared in many productions including *Oliver!*, *The Railway Children*, *Brave New World*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Pierglass* and *Cogner au Plafond*, the half-French, half-English play written and directed by Wanda Duszynska and performed at the first World Youth Theatre Festival in Vienna. Will also appeared as Wishee-Washee in *Aladdin and his Wonderful Lamp*. He is passionate about acting and screenwriting.

#### Shaan Latif-Shaikh - Puppet Designer and Puppeteer

Shaan recently took part in the brand new QYTech course. Previously he has helped out backstage on several shows including *Aladdin and his Wonderful Lamp*, *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*, *Blue Stockings* and *Jack and the Beanstalk*. On this show Shaan has had the privilege of creating all the puppets and serving as Archibald Mouse's personal assistant.

#### Dotti Lawson - Queen Rat

Dotti has been an active member of The Questors since the mid-80s, working as Front of House Manager and behind the bar. Since becoming an acting member in 2013 she has been part of the Reminiscence Roadshow team and has also appeared in *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice* (Sadie), *Uncle Vanya* (Marina), *Aladdin and his Wonderful Lamp* (The Empress of China) and *Jack and the Beanstalk* (front of Daisy the Cow). She has worked backstage for *The Duchess of Malfi* and four of the Student Group productions. She has always loved pantomime and from her earliest childhood enjoyed seeing her father play the baddie. She is delighted to be appearing in a feminine version of his favourite role of King Rat. Dotti took part in her first panto at the age of eight as a 'junior sunbeam' so her birthday on our opening night marks her diamond anniversary of panto!

#### Steve Lethbridge - Musical Director

This is Steve's second Panto with The Questors. Having gone up the Beanstalk last year he is now all at sea and in London with Dick and company. Having MD'd for several local societies and played for more shows than he can remember he is also trying to run a piano tuning business and be a church organist. The only problem with this show is that the band can now be seen as well as heard.

#### Nigel Lewis - Lighting Designer

Nigel Lewis has been lighting the stage for over 30 years, a Professional Designer with the Association of Lighting Designers and a lecturer in lighting design to BA (Hons). Nigel writes editorials on lighting in several specialist magazines and has just recorded a programme for the BBC on entertainment lighting. Nigel is also the Production Director at The Questors.

#### Holly Merrick - Costume Designer

Holly joined The Questors less than a year ago to pick up a career she had left for commerce. Having worked at Stratford and with the Royal Opera House she was surprised how quickly it all came back. This is her fifth production here and her first pantomime.

#### Georgina Parren – Dick Whittington

Having recently graduated from an acting diploma at Central School of Speech and Drama, this is Georgina's first production as an acting Questors member. Previously she has performed with various amateur theatre societies, most notably as Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and last year as Jack in the pantomime *Puss in Boots*. She is proud to be appearing on stage as Dick Whittington with a very talented company and will try to fit in as many thigh slaps as possible

#### Annabel Spinks-Jones - Fairy Bowbells / Ensemble

Annabel is a real fairy and it is not advisable to tell her otherwise. Having attended Questors brilliant Acting for All and Encore evening classes, Annabel earned her wings this summer. She also cast a small spell in *Sith Happens*, one of this year's 24-Hour Plays: Questors annual Easter challenge.

#### Jennie Yates - Costume Designer

Since joining The Questors in 2000, Jennie has worked on numerous productions, costuming from stock, making and designing. She is Head of the Costume Department, and the shows she has worked on are too numerous to list, but the most recent are *West 5 Story*, *No Fairy Tale*, *Macbeth*, *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase* and *The Wonderful World of Dissocia*.

## **Alternative Christmas Entertainment**

#### THE LYING KIND by Anthony Neilson 18 – 31 December 2015

#### The Studio

Theatrical mayhem involving an angry female vigilante, a dead dog, a de-trousered vicar and two women called Carol, The Lying Kind is a hilarious, knock-about farce that makes the perfect 'antidote' to Christmas.

#### CHRISTMAS GHOST STORIES 28, 29 & 30 December 2015 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. Follows the pantomime performance at about 9:30.

#### **DICK WHITTINGTON WORDSEARCH**

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Jane Mason

#### The following words are hidden in any direction - can you find them using any letter no more than once?

BOWBELLS	PUPPET	ARRIVIDECHI	ALDERMAN	RAT
WHITTINGTON	HORATIO	SQUEAKY	SHANTIE	FAIRY
FITZWARREN	GOLD	PIRATE	MAYOR	SAILOR
LONDON	BALLOON	MOROCCO	MOUSE	CAT
COIN	QUEEN	DICK	TOWN	SHIP

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Tracey, former studen









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This season, The Questors, Ealing's theatre, is presenting 17 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). Our splendid new donor board in the upper foyer will record every gift or legacy of £1000 or more (anonymously if you prefer). But no gift is too small to help — they all mount up — and any gift, either while you are alive or in your will, attracts tax relief. We will acknowledge these gifts on the iQ website unless you prefer us not to. You

can find a Gift Aid form and an example of simple forms of legacy on our website at questors.org.uk/giving.

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.

