

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.

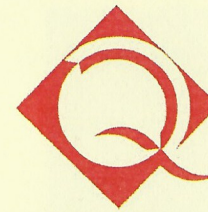
The Questors Youth Theatre – QYT

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.

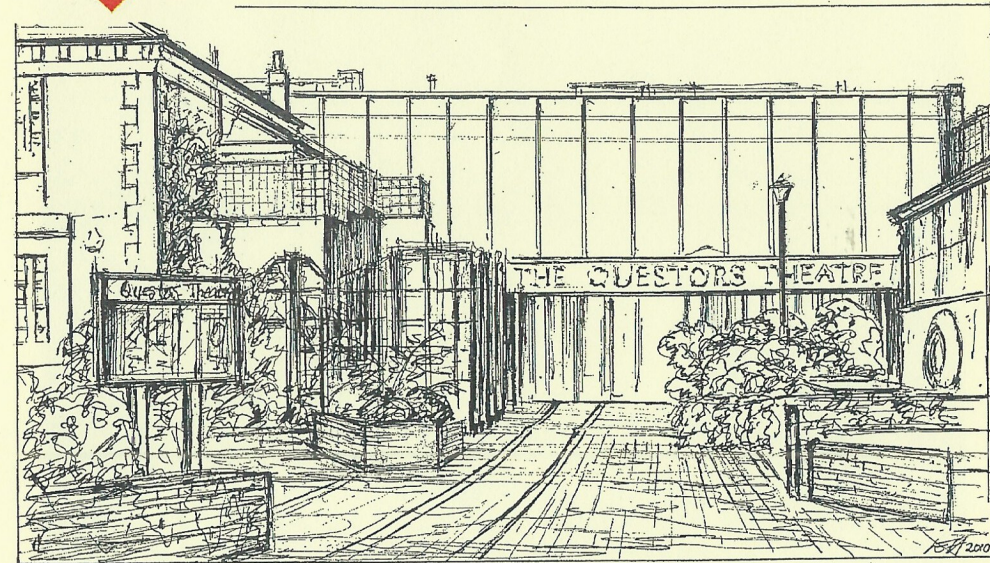
Cover Image: Elaine Hagan

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



EQUUS

by Peter Shaffer

The Judi Dench Playhouse

11 – 18 April 2015

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.



Image: Robert Vass

EQUUS

by Peter Shaffer

The Judi Dench Playhouse

11 – 18 April 2015

Equus

Peter Shaffer was inspired to write *Equus* in 1973 having heard about a crime in which a 17-year-old blinded six horses in a small town in Suffolk. Intrigued as to what might drive someone to commit such an act, Shaffer created a fictional account without any knowledge of the details of the real-life crime. As such, the play tells the story of a psychiatrist who treats the young man in question and together they explore both the events that led up to the crime and the themes associated with it, including religion. The play turns into something of a detective story as the child psychiatrist (Dr Martin Dysart) has to break through the barriers put up by the boy (Alan Strang) in order to pull apart (bit by bit with the help of others in Alan's life) the events and drivers leading up to the event. Doing so, however, causes Dysart to reflect on his own life, values and sense of purpose.

The play was first presented by the National Theatre at The Old Vic on 17 July 1973 and ran until 1975. When it closed in London it moved over to Broadway to much acclaim. Some of the original cast (including Peter Firth, who played Alan for a number of years) transferred with the show, but the role of Dysart was portrayed by several famous actors including, initially, Anthony Hopkins and then finally Leonard Nimoy in 1977. The run on Broadway was particularly well-received, picking up three awards (two Tony Awards and a New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best Play). That production ran for a total of 1,209 performances with Marian Seldes appearing in every single one, first in the role of Hesther and later as Dora.

It was 34 years before a major revival of the play; this took place famously in 2007 starring Daniel Radcliffe as Alan and Richard Griffiths as Dysart. This production attracted much attention, chiefly because Radcliffe was only 17 years old and the role requires total nudity for part of the play. It's likely his fame for

playing Harry Potter also attracted some to see the play. Again, in a parallel with the 1970s production, this also moved over to Broadway with both Radcliffe and Griffiths continuing in role. In another pleasing parallel the show was to attract another Star Trek actor to it – this time in the form of Kate Mulgrew playing Hesther.

The play has a number of themes running through it: the most obvious of these are those of religion and religious sacrifice – these can be clearly seen in the way Alan builds his own personal theology involving the horses and the supreme ruler, 'Equus'. Sex is another prominent theme with Alan confusing his sexual feelings with the adoration of this god.

Shaffer also plays with the classic conflict of Apollo and Dionysus; here we see Alan representing the Dionysian values with Dysart taking the Apollonian side of rationality and reason. It is this conflict between the two that challenges Dysart's own values; he's considered himself a Pagan but, as he works with Alan, he begins to question whether he's simply done this in a way that society accepts rather than truly embracing it.

Putting on *Equus* now, over 40 years since it was written, presents some interesting challenges. From a context perspective, there are far more violent images in our media today than 40 years ago whether they be in news reports showing beheadings or in the almost comedic epic violence of a Tarantino film. As such, in many ways, the play's ability to shock a modern audience is somewhat diminished so care needs to be taken over how this is achieved.

This change in audience perception may well extend to particular scenes in the play; one that became very apparent during the rehearsal process is where Alan (at 6 years old) is playing on the beach some way away from his parents. A young college man on a horse sees him and takes him for a ride. In the play, Alan's parents' chief concerns relate to his safety on horseback – it's hard to imagine that would be their prime worry these days.

Simon Rudkin, Director

EQUUS

by Peter Shaffer

Presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH LTD

First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 11 April 2015

CAST

in order of appearance

Martin Dysart	John Dobson
Alan Strang	Nick Thomas
Nugget / Young Horseman	Jamie King
Nurse	Elena Zagaglia
Hesther Salomon	Maggie Turner
Frank Strang	Robert Vass
Dora Strang	Lisa Day
Harry Dalton	Robert Gordon Clark
Jill Mason	Jessica Moat
Horses	Angus Duke Eamon Yates

The performance lasts approximately 2 hours and 20 minutes including a 15-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	Simon Rudkin
Set Designer	Peter Collins
Costume Designer	Jenny Richardson
Lighting Designer	Tim Hayward
Sound Designer & Operator	Christopher Smith
Associate Sound Designer & Operator	James Rosen
Stage Manager	Sarah Vass
Deputy Stage Manager	Sue Collins
Assistant Stage Manager	Mel Pereira
Movement Consultant	Nicholas Jonne Wilson
Lighting Operator	John Green
Lighting Crew	Terry Mummery, James Rosen, Carole Swan
Set Constructors & Painters	Ian Black, Peter Collins
Get-In Crew	Toby Burbidge, Tina Harris, Gerard Healy, Katt Roberts, Melinda Rozsa, Paul Wilson
Marketing	Liz Jardine-Smith
Photographer	Richard Mead
Thanks to	Bron Blake, Ellen Fallows, Putney Arts Centre for their kind loan of the horses' heads

Biographies

Peter Collins – Set Designer

Peter has been an active member at The Questors for more than 20 years. He began designing sets in 2003; notable designs have included *Henry V*, *Richard III*, *The Trojan Women* and *Further than the Furthest Thing*. Recent designs have been *Antigone*, *West 5 Story* and *London Assurance*. He is also active in production photography.

Lisa Day – Dora Strang

Lisa joined The Questors as a newlywed (to Robert GC) in 1985. Highlights range from the sublime (Blanche Dubois: *A Streetcar Named Desire*) to the ridiculous (Mrs Twit) via the scary (The Snow Queen), the ethereal (Elvira: *Blithe Spirit*) and the comedic (Susan: *Abigail's Party*). Lisa now seems to specialise in intense, high-minded, middle-aged women (previously Marie in *Calendar Girls* – the one who *didn't* strip).

John Dobson – Martin Dysart

John Dobson joined The Questors in 1981 and has played pretty well everything from an evil spider to a French maid and a Japanese biker in black leather. Highlights include *The Faith Healer*, *Breaking the Code*, *Dublin Carol* and, most recently, *London Assurance*. He also looks after The Questors' archives.

Angus Duke – Horse

Angus started at The Questors in 2014 as an Assistant Stage Manager, working backstage on a couple of productions. Since then he has been part of the Acting for All course and *Equus* marks his first appearance on stage.

Robert Gordon Clark – Harry Dalton

Robert has acted at The Questors since 1983, recently in *ENRON*, *Calendar Girls*, *Coarse Shakespeare – The Final Folio* and *Humble Boy* and many years ago was the front end of the horse in *On The Razzle*. He also does Front of House, occasional Grapevine bar duty and was part of the team that produced the celebration to mark the 50th anniversary event for the Judi Dench Playhouse.

Tim Hayward – Lighting Designer

Tim's recent shows at The Questors include a period working of W S Gilbert's *Engaged*, *Be My Baby*, the premiere of *West 5 Story* and a sell-out production of *Uncle Vanya*. The summer brings a festival and two open-air shows in St Albans.

Jamie King – Nugget / Young Horseman

Jamie started at The Questors as a member of the Intro Group, moving on to Questors Youth Theatre and then Student Group 66. He played Max and Talthylbius in *Trojan Barbie* and Sonders in *On The Razzle*. In 2013 Jamie played the role of the Genie in *Aladdin and his Wonderful Lamp* and took part in a mini show of *Woyzeck* as Andres.

Jessica Moat – Jill Mason

This is Jessica's first Questors production since graduating from Student Group 65 in 2012. Her student group productions were *Teechers* by John Godber and a double bill performance of *Doña Rosita* and *Yerma* by Federico García Lorca. Jessica is currently a tutor and teaching assistant for Questors Youth Theatre.

Jenny Richardson – Costume Designer

Jenny's first task on joining The Questors in 1980 was to make a six-foot telescope with eyelashes. After many years working in stage management, props and set design, she recently enjoyed a change of direction, designing costumes for *Have I None*, *The Pride* and *Macbeth*. Jenny can also be found working in Box Office, and is frequently in demand as an upholsterer.

James Rosen – Associate Sound Designer

James is currently studying Theatre Production at University of West London. The Questors Theatre has basically become his second home. He recently co-designed and operated sound for *Fear and Misery of the Third Reich*. He looks forward to working on many more shows at The Questors.

Simon Rudkin – Director

A member of Student Group 61, this is Simon's fifth show as a director at The Questors having previously directed *The Hound of the Baskervilles* last year. Simon is also a founding member of the Errors of Comedy and the Questors Sketch Group.

Christopher Smith – Sound Designer

Christopher first became interested in sound design at school, while working on musicals. After leaving University he got involved with The Questors, starting by operating sound on shows before moving on to designing. He is also involved in sound recording for television, working on several Sky and BBC shows including *The One Show*.

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.

Nick Thomas – Alan Strang

Nick attended Questors Youth Theatre where he learned everything he knows. He has recently appeared in Questors productions *NSFW* and *The Hound Of The Baskervilles*. He has been a huge fan of *Equus* for many years, and is relishing the opportunity to play a character as idiosyncratic as Alan Strang.

Maggie Turner – Hesther Salomon

Among many other roles since graduating from Student Group 22 in 1969, Maggie has the rare distinction of having performed in English in a Russian play on a Russian stage and in Russian in an English play on an English stage: the first as Sonya when *Uncle Vanya* toured to Moscow, the second as Nadya Lenin in Stoppard's *Travesties* in the Playhouse.

Robert Vass – Frank Strang

Robert's most recent role was as Mr Bradshaw in *NSFW*. He has also appeared as Mr Boo in *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*, Raymond in *Blue Remembered Hills*, Beadle Bamford in *Sweeney Todd*, the Baker in *Into the Woods*, Harry in *Company* and Cogsworth in *Beauty and the Beast*. He is a frequent production photographer.

Eamon Yates – Horse

Eamon is known for his on-screen roles including a nationwide commercial for Barclaycard, a leading role in a British feature length film called, *Safehouse* and the lead in numerous short films. His stage work includes the leading role in a production of *High School Musical* when younger.

Elena Zagaglia – Nurse

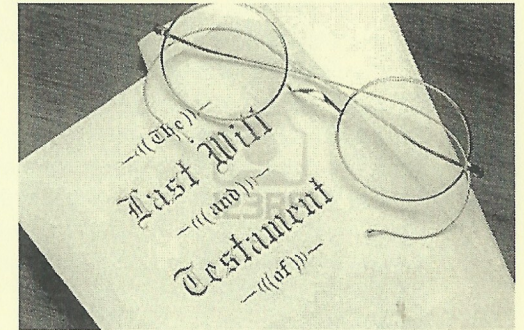
Elena's lucky star recently brought her to The Questors. *Equus* is her second production. She was one of the witches in *Macbeth*. She is in her element on the stage.

Next Questors Productions

<p>4D Directors' Showcase 22 – 25 April 2015 The Studio Four showcase productions by new Questors directors: <i>Carer</i> by Liz Jardine-Smith; <i>Talk to Me Like the Rain and Let Me Listen</i> by Tennessee Williams; <i>The Saliva Milkshake</i> by Howard Brenton; and <i>The Ruffian on the Stair</i> by Joe Orton.</p>	<p>ALL MY SONS by Arthur Miller 2 – 9 May 2015 The Judi Dench Playhouse This epic, moving play established Miller as a leading voice in post-war theatre. A searing drama of honesty, guilt and the corrupting power of greed – a powerful and timeless reminder of the need for social responsibility.</p>
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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



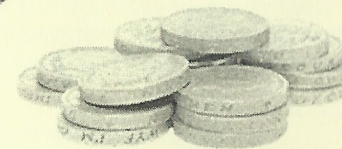
media, a live play can give us an experience which rewards us like no other – as theatre has been doing for thousands of years.

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.