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

- ✓ Half price personal tickets for Questors productions\*
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- ✓ Children's FREE tickets†
- ✓ Opportunities to be actively involved in our productions
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- ✓ Exclusive or discounted training courses
- ✓ Access to *iQ* – the members-only website: [members.questors.org.uk](http://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, **when you pay by Direct Debit**, 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.

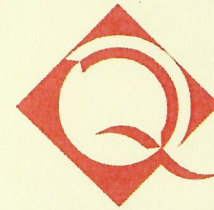
The Questors has a high standard of acting and, to maintain this, everyone wanting to act must first take an audition. These are held every month – call the Theatre Office for details of forthcoming auditions.

## The Questors Youth Theatre – QYT

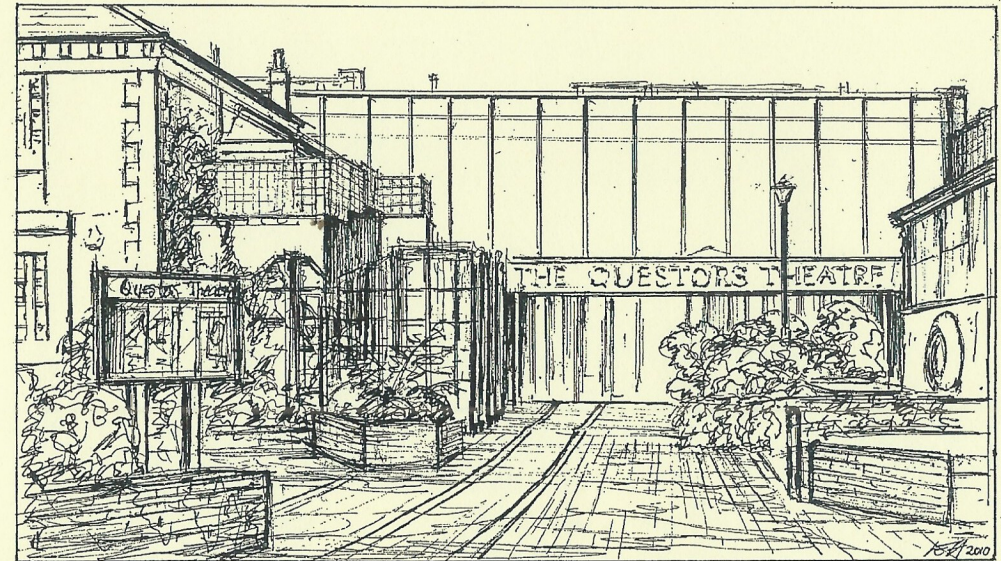
Our Youth Theatre, QYT, runs weekly drama classes for all ages from 6 to 18. Younger groups meet on Saturday mornings and older ages at weekday teatime. There's often a waiting list for membership, so put your name down now! Details are online at [questors.org.uk/qyt](http://questors.org.uk/qyt).

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The Questors Theatre  
Box Office: 020 8567 5184  
Email: [enquiries@questors.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@questors.org.uk)

Programme: Nigel Bamford  
12 Mattock Lane, Ealing, W5 5BQ  
Theatre Office: 020 8567 0011  
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## Questors, Ealing's Theatre



# THE LYING KIND

by Anthony Neilson

## The Studio

18 – 31 December 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                      midday – 5:00 pm  
Saturday (term time)                    9:00 am – 5:00 pm

For Judi Dench Playhouse productions:

Hot meal menu up to 6:30 pm (not Sundays) with drinks, ice creams and snacks during the first interval.

Sunday matinees midday to 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 2016 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](http://questors.org.uk/grapevine) for more details



The Grapevine now accepts payments by card (contactless only).

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## The Lying Kind



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# THE LYING KIND

by Anthony Neilson

**The Studio**

**18 – 31 December 2015**

# The Lying Kind

*The Lying Kind* is the second play by Anthony Neilson that The Questors has staged this year, the first being *The Wonderful World of Dissocia*. At first glance the two pieces couldn't be more different: *The Wonderful World of Dissocia* is a powerful examination of one woman's experience of mental ill-health, whereas *The Lying Kind* is a classic British farce in the tradition of Ray Cooney. However, scratch the surface of *The Lying Kind* and Neilson's penchant for the darker side of human nature is soon visible – bereavement, sexual abuse and vigilantism form the basis of the plot. The story of two hapless policemen tasked with telling an elderly couple that their daughter has been killed in a car crash on her way home for Christmas, set against a background of an anti-paedophile witch-hunt, might not appear to be the stuff of a festive comedy, but throw in the elements of a misunderstanding, mistaken identity (twice), a batty old lady and a detrousured vicar and we have a knock 'em down, drag 'em out, laugh a minute comedy.

Neilson has crafted an homage to the great comedy duos in PCs Blunt and Gobbel. Shades of Laurel and Hardy on a backdrop of Delboy and Rodney, highlighted with spots of Abbott and Costello, and Morcambe and Wise can be detected on his broad canvas. The challenge was to reference this rich heritage without turning Gobbel into Mr Bean and Blunt into a pompous Carry On film character of the kind usually played by Kenneth Williams. Gobbel really isn't stupid, he just sees the world in a way that Blunt simply cannot perceive: lateral thinking taken to the extreme. Blunt, a man with dreams of a high-flying police career, watches as everything he expects to be done according to a set protocols disintegrates in the face of plain bad luck – be it informing a member of the public of a bereavement or the contents of his Christmas dinner. His frantic attempts to reimpose order on a world sliding into chaos leave him gasping for breath, as the gradual disintegration of his world (and career prospects) dawn only on him, leaving Gobbel blissfully unaware of his inner collapse. That Gobbel turns out to be right all along is the final humiliation, but the play ends before we can see this played out, sadly in my opinion.

Any play script is ultimately a set of instructions for assembling a finished product, but *The Lying Kind* has more in common with a set of

technical drawings than a recipe. This is not a play where you can leave out the salt, double the garlic, use black pepper instead of white and still end up with recognisably the same dish. Each component is precisely described and has to be crafted to the specifications or the machine will not work. There are moments of exquisite verbal comedy that need to be examined forensically and taken apart, only to be reassembled exactly. In so doing, we ran the risk of making the show unfunny, but the cast's frequent outbursts of laughter during rehearsals only prove that a good joke well performed will get a laugh no matter how many times one hears it. We did, however, have the luxury of choosing what colour to paint the casing, and have chosen a heightened palette to complement the heightened reality of the absurd situation in which the constables find themselves.

The play was written for the Royal Court and first performed there in 2002, directed by Neilson himself. The ages of the characters and the references to key historical events they experienced make it a necessity to keep the play in period, but the lure of certain anachronistic sound elements was too great to resist and we hope they contribute to the comedy, and that 'Outraged of Hanwell' will permit us some artistic licence.

Which brings us neatly to the overall thinking behind this, The Questors' 'anti-panto'. It felt important to me to ensure that the whole experience, from walking into The Studio at the start, to leaving the space at the end, contributed to the laughter. Our marvellous panto is designed, as are they all, to give children a good laugh and I wanted to do the same for their parents.

A final personal note from me and one for the Questors trivia archive. The very first full-length show I appeared in at The Questors was *Much Ado About Nothing* in 2007, directed by Steve Fitzpatrick. He set it in 1940's America and I played one of the watch – a comedy policeman – and the singer Balthasar. Now, Steve Fitzpatrick is appearing in the first full-length show I have directed at The Questors, one about comedy policemen, playing a character called Balthasar. What goes around, comes around...

**Russell Fleet, Director**

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## Meet the Company – Tuesday 22 December

Come and meet the director, cast and crew for an informal discussion in the Studio as soon as possible after the first Tuesday performance.

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# THE LYING KIND

by Anthony Neilson

*First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 18 December 2015*

## CAST

in order of appearance

PC Blunt	<b>Matthew Tyrrell</b>
PC Gobbel	<b>Liam Hurley</b>
Gronya	<b>Alison Griffin</b>
Garson	<b>Linda Shannon</b>
Balthasar	<b>Steve Fitzpatrick</b>
Reverend Shandy	<b>John Dobson</b>
Carol	<b>Lizzy Humphreys</b>

### Disclaimer:

No dogs were harmed in the making of this production. The actors, however...

The performance lasts approximately two hours 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	<b>Russell Fleet</b>
Production Designer	<b>Fiona McKeon</b>
Lighting Designer	<b>Carole Swan</b>
Sound Designer	<b>Russell Fleet</b>
Stage Manager	<b>Sarah Louise Clopet</b>
Deputy Stage Manager	<b>Sarah Vass</b>
Assistant Stage Managers	<b>Guilia Giammona, Ella Hooper, Matthew Hurley, John Turner</b>
Properties	<b>Claudia Kees</b>
Prompters	<b>Debbie Abel, Bridgett Strevens</b>
Costume Supervisor	<b>Jenny Richardson</b>
Costume Assistant	<b>Nina Flitman</b>
Lighting Assistant	<b>Andrew Whadcoat</b>
Sound Operator	<b>Marcos Melo</b>
Lighting Riggers	<b>Tim Hayward, Terry Mummery, Chris Newall</b>
Set Construction Lead	<b>Robert Taubman</b>
Set Construction Team	<b>Jeff Baynham, Laurie Swan</b>
Marketing	<b>Liz Mead</b>
Photographer	<b>Robert Vass</b>
Thanks	<b>Lucy Aley-Parker, Andrew Dixon, Gary Reid, Julian Light Operatic Society</b>

# Biographies

## **Sarah Louise Clopet – Stage Manager**

Sarah Clopet has extensive experience in stage management, lighting and sound. Most recently at The Questors she was Deputy Stage Manager on *Fear and Misery of the Third Reich*, *The Wonderful World of Dissocia* and *Arms and the Man*, and Co-Stage Manager on the Student double bill *Hands across the Sea & The Young Idea*.

## **John Dobson – Reverend Shandy**

John Dobson joined The Questors in 1981 and has played pretty well everything from an evil spider to a French maid to a Japanese biker in black leather. Highlights include *The Faith Healer*, *Breaking the Code*, *Dublin Carol*, *Equus* and, most recently, *Rhinoceros*. He edited The Questors' newsletter for many years and is now custodian of The Questors' archives.

## **Steve Fitzpatrick – Balthasar**

Steve has played over 20 roles at The Questors. Favourite parts over the years include Jeff in *Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell*, Lucky in *Waiting for Godot*, Jacques in *As You Like It*, Antonio in *Twelfth Night*, Cornwall in *King Lear*, Horner in *The Country Wife*, Hotspur in *Henry IV* and Hamlet. He also directs, most recently the season-opener *Arms and the Man*.

## **Russell Fleet – Director and Sound Designer**

Russell trained as an actor in the 1990s and joined The Questors in 2006. Most recently he played the Carpenter in *I am the Walrus* which he also stage managed, designed sound for *Arms and the Man*, and directed *The Ruffian on the Stair*. He holds an MA (Actor Training and Coaching) from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

## **Alison Griffin – Gronya**

Having taken Acting for All classes and performed in three of The Questors 24-Hour Plays, Alison became an acting member last year, performing in *All My Sons* and *Rhinoceros*. A few of her productions, prior to 2001, include performances in *Noises Off* (RKO Productions), *Bitter Fruit* (Trestle) at the Queen Elizabeth Hall and an 18-month UK tour of her one-woman devised show, *Shaker*.

## **Lizzy Humphreys – Carol**

*The Lying Kind* will be Lizzy's first production since becoming a member of The Questors this time last year. Following her graduation from the LAMDA Foundation Course in 2010, where she appeared in a number of productions including *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Seagull*, she has appeared in a number of short films.

## **Liam Hurley – PC Gobbel**

Liam was a member of the Student Group 68 in which he played Sholto in *The Young Idea* and various roles in *Fear and Misery of the Third Reich*. He was also a member of the RADA Youth Company (2011-2012) and played Macbeth. Most recently he played Parolles in *All's Well That Ends Well* with Youth Action Theatre at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

## **Fiona McKeon – Production Designer**

Fiona is a London-based emerging designer. She graduated from the Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne, in 2012. In Australia she worked with a range of companies on productions including *Savage in Limbo*, *August: Osage County* and *La Boheme*. This is Fiona's first design with The Questors after her UK debut design, *Saffron Hill* at the Pleasance, London.

## **Jenny Richardson – Costume Supervisor**

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 enjoyed a change of direction in costume design, recently for *The Pride*, *Macbeth*, *Equus* and *All My Sons*. Jenny can also be found working in Box Office, and is frequently in demand as an upholsterer.

## **Linda Shannon – Garson**

Linda joined The Questors in 1995 and has appeared in a wide variety of shows, amongst them *The Twits* (the musical), *Nicholas Nickleby*, *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Present Laughter*. Linda has also written and performed two one-woman shows about Jane Carlyle (wife of the Victorian writer Thomas) and about the 1950s comedienne Joyce Grenfell.

## **Carole Swan – Lighting Designer**

Carole joined The Questors just over a year ago and is very grateful to everyone in the lighting department who has since let her play with their toys. *The Lying Kind* is her first lighting design at The Questors after operating for shows including *4.48 Psychosis*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *Rhinoceros* and *The Master Builder*.

## **Matthew Tyrrell – PC Blunt**

Matthew has been a member of The Questors since September 2008 and has appeared in a number of productions including *The Tempest* and *Blue Stockings*, the latter with Student Group 67. *The Lying Kind* is his first production at The Questors after a year out.

## **Sarah Vass – Deputy Stage Manager**

Sarah joined The Questors in 2011, having gained experience with another group, and has stage managed *Dealer's Choice*, *Absurd Person Singular*, *An Ideal Husband* and *Equus*. She was DSM for *ENRON*, *Aladdin and his Wonderful Lamp* and *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*, and in June will be stage managing *Beautiful Thing*.

# The Lying Kind of Music

## Pre-Show Music

<i>If I Hear Another Song About Christmas</i>	Cynthia Crane & Mike Renzi
<i>Another Christmas Song</i>	Stephen Colbert
<i>Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer</i>	Elmo & Patsy
<i>Jingle Bells</i>	Dogs Singing
<i>Walking Round in Women's Underwear</i>	Bob Rivers & Twisted Radio
<i>Randolph the Brown-Nosed Reindeer</i>	Jarry Cannan
<i>We Wish You Weren't Living with Us</i>	Bob Rivers & Twisted Radio
<i>Wreck the Malls</i>	Bob Rivers & Twisted Radio

## Interval Music

*The Lying Kind* Abby Skye

## Post-Show Music

<i>12 Days of Christmas</i>	Bob and Doug McKenzie
<i>Christmas Tree on Fire</i>	Holly Golightly
<i>Present Face</i>	Garfunkel and Oates

# Christmas at The Questors

## DICK WHITTINGTON & HIS CAT

by Ben Crocker

12 December 2015 – 2 January 2016

### The Judi Dench Playhouse

This Christmas we're off on a magical journey with Dick and his amazing cat for our fun-filled panto for the whole family. Join us for this lively production to entertain both young and old at family-friendly performance times.

## 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.

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# Become a BEQUESTOR



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,

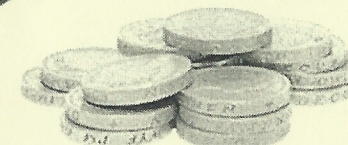
a live play can give us an experience which rewards us like no other – as theatre has been doing for thousands of years.

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](http://questors.org.uk/giving).

*giftaid it*

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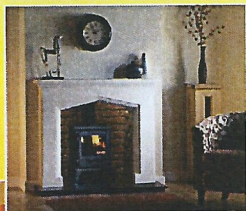
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