

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
- ✓ 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
- ✓ 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.

Cover Image: Elaine Hagan

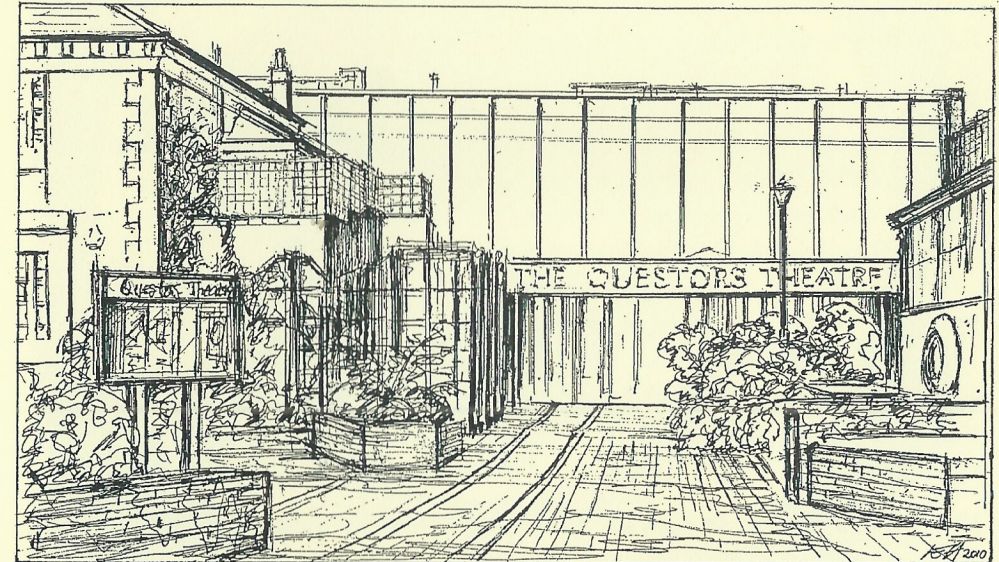
The Questors Theatre
Box Office: 020 8567 5184
Email: enquiries@questors.org.uk

Programme: Nigel Bamford

12 Mattock Lane, Ealing, W5 5BQ
Theatre Office: 020 8567 0011
Registered Charity No. 207516



Questors, Ealing's Theatre



RHINOCEROS

by Eugène Ionesco
translated by Derek Prouse

The Studio

2 – 10 October 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 12:00 am – 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 12:00 am 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

Autumn Beer Festival 29 to 31 October 2015

See questors.org.uk/grapevine for more details



Neither the Qafé nor the Grapevine is able to accept credit or debit cards.



Image © Aleksandra Samulova / Shutterstock.com

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The Studio

2 – 10 October 2015



proudly support

The Questors Theatre

Rhinoceros



2 Oct – 10 Oct 15

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Rhinoceros

Ionesco's *Rhinoceros* was written in 1959 and can be interpreted as an absurdist poking of the finger at the monstrous effects of mass hysteria, the inexorable slide of humanity from rationalism and logic into violence and destruction. At the time, Ionesco was making a veiled attack on the society that can allow any sort of ism (i.e. fascism or communism) to gradually take over a small community and wipe out all traces of humanity. It was first performed in this country in a production starring Laurence Olivier and directed by Orson Welles, and most recently Benedict Cumberbatch played the central character at the Royal Court. The first time I saw the play was in the film version made in 1973 with Gene Wilder and Zero Mostel, and I was inspired by that production largely because it eschewed the whole political overtone and just made it a comedy about human beings turning into rhinoceroses. Having said that, I decided to set the play around the time of the Paris riots in 1968 so that we could tap into the notion of a rather tired and old-fashioned France, set in its ways, confronted by a new wave of young people questioning the hackneyed dogmatism of their elders.

A major influence on this production was the work of Jacques Tati, and as a cast we all watched his classic 1958 film *Mon Oncle*, taking inspiration from his gentle and ironic observations of a bucolic France stuttering its way into the harsh modernism of the post-war years. In particular, we looked at the way he developed his characters, their movements and individual tics that made them both very funny and very human.

This is the third Ionesco play I've directed, and my experience is that he writes probably some of the most difficult dialogue for any actor to learn. Some characters have enormous amounts to say, mostly intellectual arguments or absurd logical statements, often repeating themselves, or saying endless variations on the same theme. Every actor I've worked with has had great difficulty absorbing his speech patterns and, to add to this, Ionesco employs numerous sound effects offstage, and/or he requests more and more objects to appear on stage (e.g. chairs, or rhinoceros heads) until the stage is overwhelmed. I think all the actors involved have found this one of the most challenging things they've done. It certainly has been for me.

David Hovatter, Director

Meet the Company – Wednesday 7 October

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

RHINOCEROS

by Eugène Ionesco, translated by Derek Prouse

This amateur production of *Rhinoceros* is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, LTD.

First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 2 October 2015

CAST

in order of appearance

Jean	John Dobson
Berenger	Julian Smith
The Waitress	Alison Griffin
The Café Proprietor	Jolyon Houghton
The Logician	Wesley Lloyd
The Logician's Friend	Samantha Moran
The Housewife	Lydia Georgoula
Daisy	Nicole Williamson
Mr Papillon	Iain Reid
Dudard	Mark Hill
Botard	Robert Vass
Mrs Boeuf	Alison Griffin
A Fireman	Jolyon Houghton

PRODUCTION

Director	David Hovatter
Set Designers	Phillip Harrison, John Owens
Costume Designers	Anne Gilmour, Sue Peckitt
Lighting Designer	Terry Mummery
Sound Designer	Martin Choules
Stage Manager	Cathy Swift
Deputy Stage Manager	Jesselyn Ng
Assistant Stage Managers	Mel Pereira, Tilly Reid
Stunt Choreographer	John Fryer
Properties	Rosha Houston
Lighting Assistant/Operator	Carole Swan
Sound Operators	Manev Bir Singh, Pia-Antoinette Weston
Set Constructors	Toby Burbidge, Martin Choules, Terry Mummery, Jesselyn Ng, Nigel Worsley
Scenic Painter	Tilly Reid
Marketing	Peter Gould, Jennifer Nettles
Photographer	Peter Collins

The performance lasts approximately 2 hours and 45 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.

Thanks to: **Laura Clifford, Nigel Lewis, Amii Lowndes,
Alex Marker, Richard Mead, Christine Shirley,
Joe Smith, Andrew Whadcoat**

Rhinoceros footage used under licence from Shutterstock.com

Biographies

Martin Choules – *Sound Designer*

Martin is working with David yet again, having stage managed him on *The Talented Mr Ripley*, *The Rover*, *The Marvellous Land of Oz*, *Knopped Up by Naughty Helen* and a previous Ionescu double bill: *The Lesson & The Chairs*. In between, he has managed to provide sound for *The Duchess of Malfi*, *NSFW* and *Around the World in Eighty Days*.

John Dobson – *Jean*

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* and, most recently, *Equus*. He edited Questopics (the Questors newsletter) for many years and is now custodian of The Questors' archives.

Lydia Georgoula – *The Housewife*

Lydia joined The Questors through AfA and Student Group 62. She has appeared in various Questors productions and toured with *The Rover* to both Minack and Slovenia. She performed in *Blind Trust*, a dance/participatory production, in Brighton. With Crucial Image she has performed in *Confessions of a Pose Plastic*, in *Macbeth* as Lady Macbeth, and in the recent *Haunted Kimono*.

Anne Gilmour – *Costume Designer*

Anne has been a member of The Questors since 1983 when she worked on the costumes for *Bodies*. Most recently, she helped with the costumes on the 4D Directors' Showcase, *London Assurance* and *The Duchess of Malfi*. Anne was once the Chairman of The Questors and of the Little Theatre Guild, and is currently active in the International Amateur Theatre Association.

Alison Griffin – *The Waitress / Mrs Boeuf*

Having taken AfA classes and performed in three of the 24-Hour Plays, Alison became an acting member of The Questors and played Sue Bayliss in *All My Sons*. Prior to 2001 Alison worked as an actress touring productions such as *Noises Off* (RKO) and *Bitter Fruit* (Trestle/BSC) at the Queen Elizabeth Hall. Following an 18-month UK tour of her one woman devised show, *Shaker*, she was appointed artistic director of The Hawth Theatre, directing or performing many new plays.

Phillip Harrison – *Set Designer*

After designing the Student Group summer Playhouse production Phillip is back designing a set for the more intimate Studio. This is the fourth play Phillip has designed for The Questors, working this time with a partner set designer to give this excellent play the panache it deserves! Phillip works as an IT Programme Manager. He's lived in London for about a decade and is based in Northfields.

Mark Hill – *Dudard*

Mark has been acting at The Questors since 2008. His roles have included Ned in *Parlour Song*, Splodge/Ray in *Dogs Barking*, Rodorigo in *Othello*, Ass in *The Flint Street Nativity*, Uncle Henry/Gatekeeper in *The Wizard of Oz* and Herr Mann in *A Flea in Her Ear*. He has also appeared in *London Assurance*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Rock 'n' Roll*, *Doctor Faustus*, *The Miser*, *Widows* and *The Railway Children*.

Jolyon Houghton – *The Café Proprietor / A Fireman*

After completing Student Group 62, Jolyon studied Acting for Collaborative and Devised Theatre at the Central School of Speech and Drama. He has played roles such as Brandon in *Rope*, Sydney in *Absurd Person Singular*, and Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet*. He was also part of Crucial Image's devised Slovenia production, *Potter's Amazing Fleas*, and recently played Hastings in the 2015 Minack Show, *She Stoops to Conquer*.

David Hovatter – *Director*

David has been a member since the early 80s and most recently has been involved in devising pieces such as *Confessions of a Pose Plastique*, *Potter's Amazing Fleas* and *The Haunted Kimono*, and adaptations of *Martin Chuzzlewit*, *Great Expectations*, *Moby Dick* and the poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins. He directed Ionesco's *The Chairs & The Lesson*, and also *The Marvellous Land of Oz*, *The Rover* and *The Talented Mr Ripley*. Both *The Rover* and *Potter's Amazing Fleas* performed in festivals in Slovenia.

Wesley Lloyd – *The Logician*

This is Wesley's eighth show with director David Hovatter, having previously appeared in *The Marvellous Land of Oz*, *The Talented Mr Ripley* and *Somebody's Luggage* and, for Crucial Image, *Confessions of a Pose Plastique*, *Macbeth*, *Martin Chuzzlewit* and *Potter's Amazing Fleas*. Last season he appeared in *Rope* as Charles Granillo.

Samantha Moran – *The Logician's Friend*

This is Sam's first Questors production. She has played a wide variety of roles including Ruth in *The Homecoming*, Gwendoline in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Rose Trelawney in *Trelawney of the 'Wells'* and every female part possible in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She was a member of the National Youth Theatre, has performed at the Edinburgh Fringe and appeared in numerous pantomimes. She is also an experienced voiceover artist.

Terry Mummery – *Lighting Designer*

Terry was born at a very young age and then aged rapidly. He has been a long-term member of The Questors, starting as an audience member, then working through the various jobs involved in the lighting department, culminating in designing the lights for a few shows. This is his first solo design for several years. He hopes you enjoy the play.

John Owens – *Set Designer*

John recently joined The Questors and *Rhinoceros* is his second production. During the day he works for UKTV but outside of work he likes to create. He joined the theatre as he wishes to use his engineering background to benefit The Questors, and at the same time develop his creativity. His work on *Rhinoceros* has helped him discover techniques that he hopes to take onto other exciting Questors productions.

Sue Peckitt – *Costume Designer*

Sue has been a member of The Questors for over 30 years and has served in wardrobe for a great many shows, most recently the 4D Directors' Showcase, *Jack and the Beanstalk* (last winter's pantomime), *Mary Stewart*, *The School of Night* and *Beauty and the Beast*.

Iain Reid – Mr Papillon

After graduating from Student Group 29 in 1976, Iain played in diverse productions from *The Boyfriend* to *Twelfth Night*, *The Fall of the House of Usher*, and the first PlayBack production, *Soapsud Island*, before taking a 20-year break. Since returning in 2013, he has played in *Aladdin and his Wonderful Lamp*, *West 5 Story* and *Macbeth*. He is a regular Reminiscence Roadshow performer and also appeared in *Foreign Field*.

Julian Smith – Berenger

Julian has recently returned after a long gap away from The Questors. One of his first shows was as an eager servant to John Dobson in *The Barber of Seville*. He still appears to be open mouthed and brow beaten by this Questors giant. Julian runs a touring slapstick company called Teatro Unfortunato – and has a passion for ukuleles, peanut butter and Thelonious Monk.

Robert Vass – Botard

Last season, Robert appeared as Frank Strang in *Equus* and Mr Bradshaw in *NSFW*. Other recent roles include Mr Boo in *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*, Pong in *Aladdin and his Wonderful Lamp* and a Lehman Brother in *ENRON*. He also played Beadle Bamford in *Sweeney Todd*, the Baker in *Into the Woods*, Harry in *Company* and Cogsworth the clock in *Beauty and the Beast*.

Nicole Williamson – Daisy

Nicole was a member of the National Youth Theatre and has played a variety of roles such as Grandma in *The American Dream*, Philomele in *The Love of the Nightingale*, Rose in *After Easter* and Scaramouche in *Scaramouche Jones*. She has also played in numerous drama festivals and showcases. Returning to the stage this year, she appeared in The Questors' very own 24-Hour Plays.

Next Questors Productions

THE CRUCIBLE

by Arthur Miller

6 – 14 November 2015

The Judi Dench Playhouse

In 1692 the God-fearing citizens of Salem are turned against one another when the innocent wife of John Proctor is falsely accused of witchcraft. This iconic drama of the Salem witch trials is a powerful and compelling drama of faith, truth and hysteria.

THE MASTER BUILDER

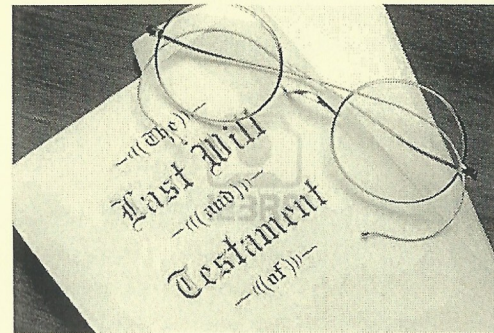
by Henrik Ibsen,
translated by Kenneth McLeish

27 November – 5 December 2015

The Studio

This classic drama of dreams, duty and buried desires is one of Ibsen's most powerful and emotional dramas, and one of his most personal plays – perhaps even autobiographical.

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.

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.

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