

## 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](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

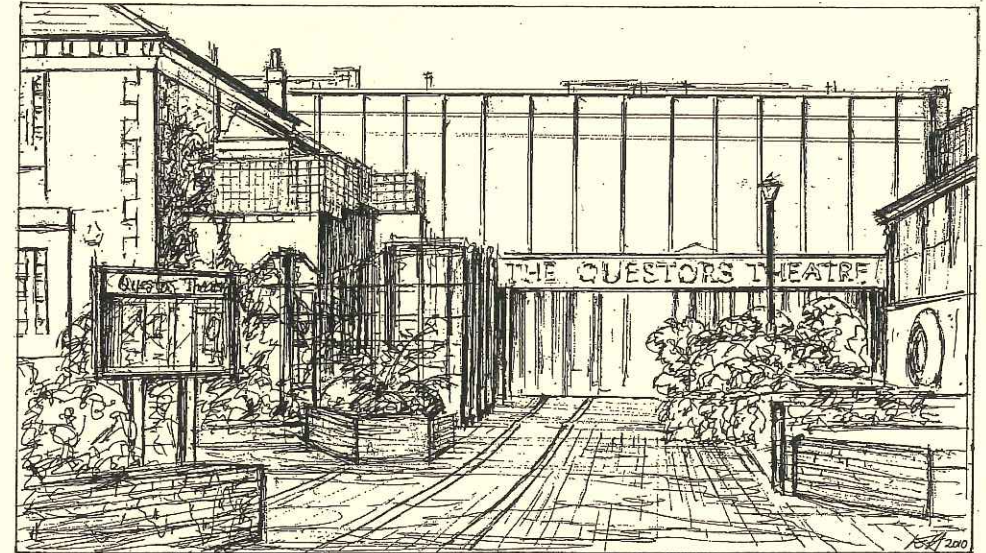
Our Youth Theatre, QYT, runs weekly drama classes for all ages from 6 to 18. Younger groups meet on Saturday mornings and older ages at weekday teatime. There's often a waiting list for membership, so put your name down now! Details are online at [questors.org.uk/qyt](http://questors.org.uk/qyt).

Cover Image: Elaine Hagan  
The Questors Theatre  
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Email: [enquiries@questors.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@questors.org.uk)

Programme: Nigel Bamford  
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Theatre Office: 020 8567 0011  
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## Questors, Ealing's Theatre



# BEAUTIFUL THING

by Jonathan Harvey

The Studio

3 – 11 June 2016



## 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.

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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.

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Sunday lunchtime: midday – 2:30 pm

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See [questors.org.uk/grapevine](http://questors.org.uk/grapevine) for more details

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## Beautiful Thing



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Image by Robert Vass

# BEAUTIFUL THING

by Jonathan Harvey

**The Studio**

**3 – 11 June 2016**

# Beautiful Thing

*Beautiful Thing* is the story of two young lads, Jamie and Ste, who live on the Thamesmead Estate in south east London and who happen to fall in love. Back in the early 90s, where I've kept the setting for this show, there are no mobiles, no internet and certainly no phones with internet. Back then things were a lot different, far less accepting. We follow the boys' story, along with Jamie's mum Sandra, her boyfriend Tony, and the boys' next-door neighbour and friend Leah, as a summer heatwave in London ignites the flames of first love.

I first came to know *Beautiful Thing*, as many people did, with the release of the 1996 movie. At the time I wasn't that much older than Jamie and Ste, had grown up on a council estate in Dundee and was gay. I was only out to a few friends at this point and certainly not out to my parents. The thought of them finding out terrified me, I was so scared of rejection and how they might react. Both Jamie and Ste, like me, are scared of their families finding out and what that might lead to: a beating, being thrown out of their home or worse. Unfortunately that was the reality for some people back then and I'm sure it is still a reality for some today. Attitudes and laws have progressed over the years, and different sexualities are not now such an issue as society marches forward. I'm continually impressed and proud of our young people today; hearing stories of friends' sons and daughters casually announcing their bisexuality, or seeing a young gay couple hold hands as they walk down the street.

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## Enjoyed the Show?

Let us know what you think, and connect with The Questors Theatre for updates on all upcoming productions and lots more.



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Things have certainly changed for the better since *Beautiful Thing* was written, but there is still ignorance, prejudice and abuse out there in the towns and cities of the UK and certainly in other countries. I'm amazed that there are still in excess of 75 countries in the world that have laws against homosexuality and that's why I think this play is still as relevant today as it was twenty years ago.

Working on this production has been a joy. The cast and crew have been amazing, everyone pulling together, chipping in ideas and working incredibly hard to bring you the production you see before you. We've had fun exploring the text, looking into people's characters and finding the truth in each scene. Challenges of the set and scenes and moving between them have been overcome. Authentic 90s props and costumes have been sourced from the theatre's stock, people's homes and wardrobes and, of course, eBay. I'm sure everyone's hard work will shine through.

Twenty years ago, *Beautiful Thing* gave me hope. It was the first positive image of young gay people I'd seen on film or television. I completely related to Jamie and Ste's struggle, their fears and the challenges they faced. I was lucky when I finally came out to my parents (it took a few more years). They'd already guessed some years before and were patiently waiting for me to feel comfortable enough to tell them. Even my late Gran knew. I felt a bit silly and wished I'd done it earlier but was relieved and glad to be accepted and loved. Even though I'd taken time to tell them, *Beautiful Thing* was the starting point, the foundation of my confidence. If through this production I make people laugh or shed a tear, I'll be glad they enjoyed it, but if through this production I give one person a foundation to build on, I will be immensely proud.

Unfortunately my parents are no longer with us and I am sad that they didn't have the opportunity to see the show I said I'd always do. Instead I dedicate the production to them, Phyllis and Richard Reid and, from wherever they are watching in the cosmos, I hope I made them proud.

Gary R. Reid, Director

# BEAUTIFUL THING

by Jonathan Harvey

*First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 3 June 2016*

## CAST

in order of appearance

Jamie	<b>Will Langley</b>
Leah	<b>Ore Sanderson</b>
Sandra	<b>Sherralyn Lee</b>
Ste	<b>Matthew Tyrrell</b>
Tony	<b>Tom Redican</b>

### ACT 1

Scene 1: Walkway on the Thamesmead Estate, late afternoon  
Scene 2: Walkway on the Thamesmead Estate, late evening  
Scene 3: Jamie's bedroom, that night  
Scene 4: Walkway, mid-afternoon a few days later  
Scene 5: Jamie's bedroom, later that night

### ACT 2

Scene 1: Walkway, mid-afternoon later that week  
Scene 2: Walkway, early next morning  
Scene 3: Jamie's bedroom, later that night  
Scene 4: Jamie's bedroom, early hours of the morning a couple of days later  
Scene 5: Walkway, early evening the next day

The performance lasts approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes  
including a 15-minute interval.

## PRODUCTION

Director	<b>Gary R. Reid</b>
Set & Costume Designer	<b>Fiona McKeon</b>
Lighting Designer	<b>Nigel Lewis</b>
Associate Lighting Designer	<b>James Rosen</b>
Sound Designer	<b>Christopher Smith</b>
Fight Director	<b>Nicholas Jonne Wilson</b>
Stage Manager	<b>Sarah Vass</b>
Deputy Stage Manager	<b>Debbie Abel</b>
Properties	<b>Fiona McKeon, Sarah Vass</b>
Prompter	<b>Debbie Abel</b>
Lighting & Sound Operator	<b>James Rosen</b>
Lighting Riggers	<b>Inteqab Masum, James Rosen</b>
Set Constructors	<b>James Leach, Fiona McKeon</b>
Get-In Crew	<b>Gerard Healy, Rich Keeble, Doug King, James Leach, Terry Mummery</b>
Make-Up	<b>Abigail Harris</b>
Photographer	<b>Robert Vass</b>
Marketing Assistant	<b>Liz Mead</b>
Thanks to	<b>Dominique Gerrard, Jennie Yates, Pride in London</b>

Please turn off all mobile phones and similar electronic devices.  
The use of cameras, video cameras and recording equipment is strictly prohibited.  
Thank you.

# Biographies

## **Will Langley – Jamie**

Will has been a member of The Questors since he was eight, making this his fourteenth year here. Amongst other productions, he's been involved with *Oliver!*, *The Railway Children*, *Macbeth*, the half French, half English play *Cogner Au Plafond* (written by Wanda Duszynska and taken to Vienna for the first World Youth Theatre Festival), *Brave New World*, *The Pierglass*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Chatroom*, *Calendar Girls*, *London Assurance* and two pantos. He is a tutor with the Questors Youth Theatre and a passionate screenwriter. He is currently in the process of setting up a production company. You can check out his website at [willsworkshop.co.uk](http://willsworkshop.co.uk).

## **Sherralyn Lee – Sandra**

Sherralyn has performed in over 14 productions at The Questors in the last six years, including *The Accrington Pals*, *The Libertine*, *Rent*, *Greek*, *The Crucible*, *Annie*, *The Young Idea* and *The Wonderful World of Dissocia*. She has also worked professionally with a plethora of theatre companies such as DV8, Apples and Snakes, Frantic Assembly and Endpaper Theatre.

## **Nigel Lewis – Lighting Designer**

Nigel has been lighting productions for over 30 years, a Professional Designer with the Association of Lighting Designers and a lecturer in lighting design to BA (Hons). Nigel has enjoyed this production since first seeing it as a film and is excited to be lighting it at The Questors.

## **Fiona McKeon – Set and Costume Designer**

Fiona is a London-based emerging designer. She has recently worked with directors Linda Smith and Anthony Shrubbsall on new scripts including *Saffron Hill* at the Pleasance Theatre last year and *Realife TV* which was playing last month at the Barons Court Theatre. She designed *The Lying Kind* for The Questors in 2015. She trained at the Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne. In Australia she worked with a range of companies on productions including *Savage in Limbo*, *August: Osage County* and the farce *Funny Money*.

## **Tom Redican – Tony**

Having joined The Questors at the end of last year, Tom is thrilled to have worked on *Beautiful Thing* as his second production. Recent work includes *Twelfth Night* (The Questors), *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me* (Bridewell Theatre) and *Knives in Hens* (Mountview). He hopes you have as much fun watching the show as the cast have had in making it.

## **Gary R. Reid – Director**

Gary is the current Artistic Director of The Questors, where he has been involved as an actor and director for over 15 years. As an actor, he has appeared as Scavezzo in *The Fan*, Prison Chaplin in *A Clockwork Orange* and Sweeney in *Dealer's Choice*. He has directed *New Boy*, *Mouth to Mouth*, *Mercury Fur*, *Dogs Barking*, *Rent* and *Aladdin and his Wonderful Lamp*. Elsewhere (in London, Scotland and Canada) his directorships have included *Vincent River*, *The Crucible*, *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, *The Conversation* and *Time Switch*. In the West End, Gary has worked in various capacities on *Cats*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Bombay Dreams* and *War Horse*.

## **James Rosen – Associate Lighting Designer**

James has worked on plentiful productions both within The Questors and out. His most recent works were lighting on *A Vampire Story* at the Tabard Theatre and sound on *The Ladykillers* at Putney Arts Theatre.

## **Ore Sanderson – Leah**

This is Ore's second production at The Questors since completing Student Group 65 in 2012. Ore would like to dedicate the play to friends and family, specifically Simeon Rad, Amadi Sanderson and in loving memory of Effie Kalyvides, Paul Holland, Rebecca C. Taylor, Cathy Hammond, Catherine J. Sanderson and Rakeem Sanderson.

## **Christopher Smith – Sound Designer**

Chris has been designing sound at The Questors for three years, as well as working as a freelance sound assistant for the BBC, ITV and Channel 4 on a variety of programmes. As well as this, he does yearly shows with Amanda Redman's acting school, the ATS.

## **Matthew Tyrrell – Ste**

Matthew first joined The Questors in 2008, beginning in Group 10 of the Questors Youth Theatre, at which time he appeared in a number of productions including *Brave New World* and *The Tempest*. Following QYT, he joined Student Group 67, where he appeared in *The Balcony* and *Blue Stockings*. Since graduating in 2014, Matthew has appeared in *The Lying Kind*. He also did a stint with the Belmont Theatre Company in 2015, appearing as Nigel, Earl of Marshwood, in Noël Coward's *Relative Values*. Matthew desires to work professionally in both film and theatre.

## **Sarah Vass – Stage Manager**

Sarah belonged to another group for many years, gaining acting and stage management experience. She joined The Questors in 2011 and has stage managed *Dealer's Choice*, *Absurd Person Singular*, *An Ideal Husband* and *Equus*. She has been Deputy Stage Manager on several productions including *ENRON*, *Aladdin and his Wonderful Lamp*, *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice* and *The Lying Kind*.

### Nicholas Jonne Wilson – Fight Director

Jonne has worked professionally as a director, actor, teacher and writer for many years. For The Questors he has directed a long and eclectic list of plays, most recently Sarah Kane's *4.48 Psychosis*. Some years ago he created Theatrestorm, a physical theatre company focussing on his own writings and adaptations of the work of both Shakespeare and Lorca. *Hamlet*, *Nervous*, *Telling Rashomon* and *Blood Ties* received critical acclaim in London, Bath and Edinburgh. Jonne is also an established acting coach to the profession and is the creator of 'The Body Method'. He has worked on over 200 shows at The Questors as movement and fight director.

## Pride in London

The Questors Theatre is proud that this production of *Beautiful Thing* is part of **Pride in London**. The Pride Festival takes place from 10-26 June, with the big parade on Saturday 25 June, processing from near BBC Broadcasting House, down the length of Regent Street and ending in Whitehall. All details can be found at [prideinlondon.org](http://prideinlondon.org). **Pride in London** provides a platform for every part of London's LGBT+ community, to raise awareness of issues and to campaign for the freedoms that will allow them to live their lives on a genuinely equal footing.

## Next Questors Productions

### BURNT BY THE SUN

by Peter Flannery

24 June – 2 July 2016

#### The Studio

Adapted from the Oscar-winning film, *Burnt by the Sun* unfolds near Moscow during the summer of 1936. We might be in the world of The Cherry Orchard, but what unfolds is dark and sinister, a tense domestic and political drama leading to a shattering climax.

### STAGS AND HENS

by Willy Russell

16 – 23 July 2016

#### The Judi Dench Playhouse

The action of this classic modern drama unfolds in the ladies' and gents' toilets of a disco in the 70s. This is a raucous, vulgar and hilariously funny portrayal of working class values, presented by our second-year Student Group.

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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*

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.

