

Productions for Early 2017

The Country Wife

by William Wycherley
Opens 27 January in The Playhouse

Bird on the Wire

by Brian Abbott
Opens 3 February in The Studio

The Questors Youth Theatre:

Emil and the Detectives

by Erich Kästner, adapt. Carl Miller
Opens 25 February in The Playhouse

Scarborough

by Fiona Evans
Opens 3 March in The Studio

The Ladykillers

by Graham Linehan
Opens 24 March in The Playhouse

The Questors Student Group:

First Annual Production

Opens 31 March in The Studio

Sweet Charity

by Coleman, Fields and Simon
Opens 21 April in The Studio

Pygmalion

by Bernard Shaw
Opens 5 May in The Playhouse

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.

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

questors.org.uk

The Questors Theatre
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Box Office: 020 8567 5184
Theatre Office: 020 8567 0011

Programme: Nigel Bamford
Set designs: Alex Marker
Email: enquiries@questors.org.uk
Registered Charity No. 207516



Image © Anna Velichomsky / Fotolia.com

Cinderella

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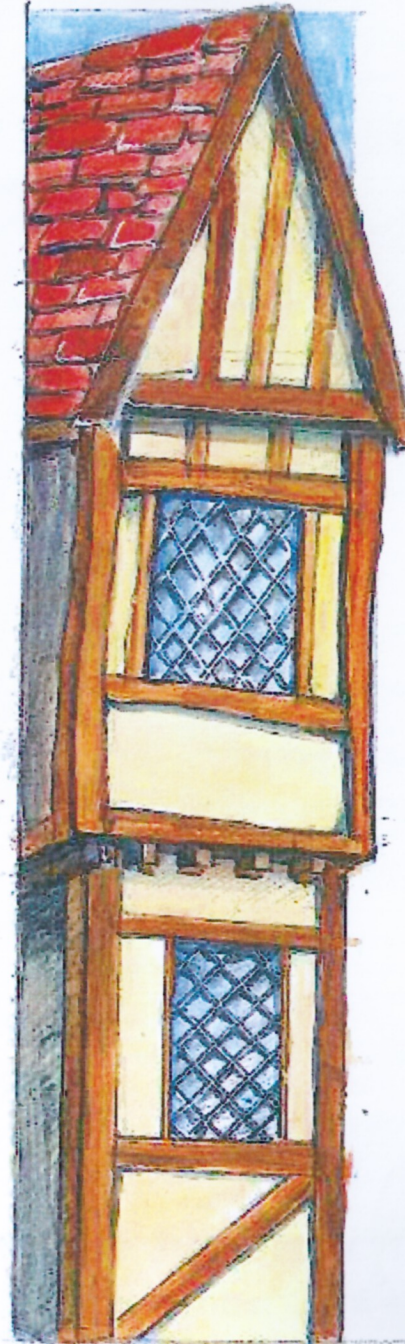
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Open Day

**Saturday 18th March 2017
10.00am - 12.00 noon**

Call now to reserve your place
or to arrange a private tour at
your convenience.



WELCOME TO CINDERELLA

On behalf of the membership, staff and trustees we are delighted to welcome you to this performance of *Cinderella*.

Cinderella is the fourth traditional pantomime to be produced in recent years by The Questors, following *Aladdin*, *Jack and the Beanstalk* and *Dick Whittington*. Every year the productions go from strength to strength and prove ever more popular with audiences. Even now, at the time of writing, ticket sales for *Cinderella* are outstripping those for all previous shows.

So we thank you, our audience, for sharing your Christmas and coming to appreciate the hard work, time and effort put in by our volunteer company of players. Don't forget that virtually everyone you see during your visit has given freely of their time to bring you this Christmas extravaganza and to ensure that your local community theatre flourishes.

We look forward to seeing you again during 2017. Some of our forthcoming productions are listed on the back of this programme, but you particularly might be interested in our Youth Theatre production of *Emil and the Detectives* in the Judi Dench Playhouse in early March.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and hope to see you next year for *Mother Goose*.

Andrea Bath
Executive
Director

Richard Mead
Chairman
of the Board

Oh, yes you can!


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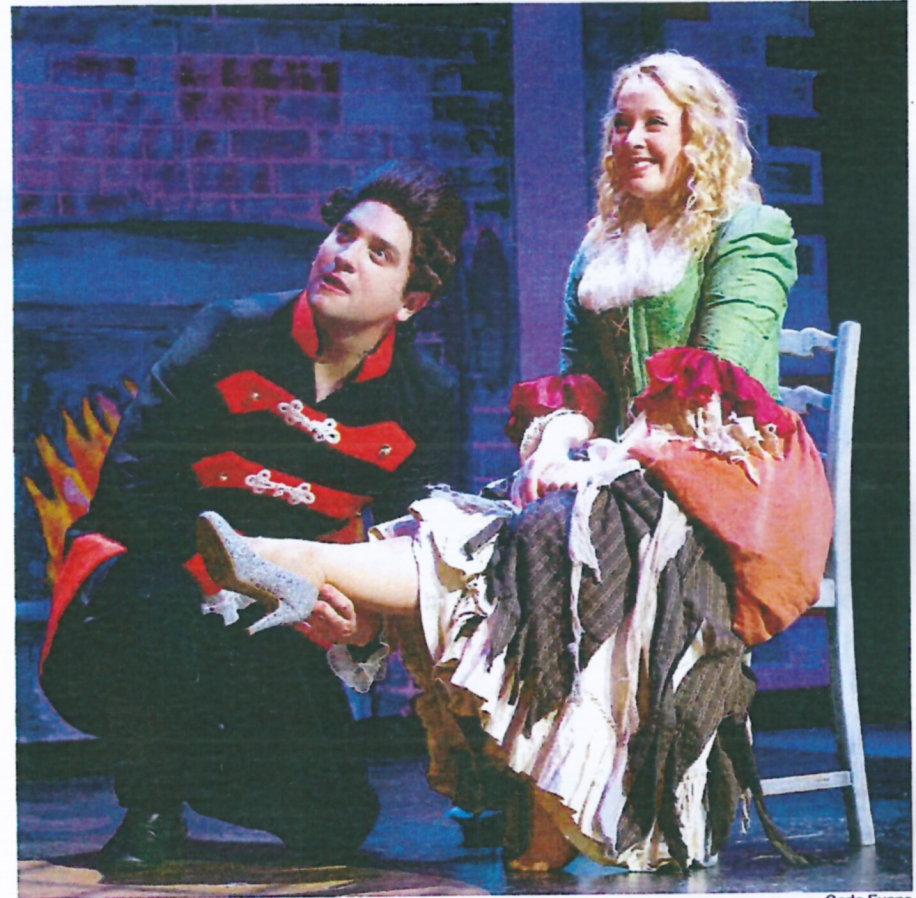
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Carla Evans

CINDERELLA

by Ben Crocker

The Judi Dench Playhouse

15 December 2016 – 2 January 2017

CINDERELLA

The story of *Cinderella* appears in many countries from Romania to Scandinavia. The story was originally called *The Story of Finetta, the Cinder Girl*. The first stage appearance of the story in England was at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane in 1804. This was written anonymously but based on a story by another French writer, Perrault, in *Mother Goose's Rhymes* and illustrated by Walter Crane.

By 1820 the story of *Cinderella* had become a comic opera: Rossini's *La Cenerentola*. This was the first version in which Cinderella's father was a Baron. It also featured Dandini, the prince's faithful servant. In 1860 H.J. Byron added the Ugly Sisters and Buttons to the tale. His Ugly Sisters were originally called Clorinda and Thisbe and both were played by men.

It was not until after the First World War that the principal boy in *Cinderella* became known as Prince Charming. Many versions of the Cinderella story exist, some of which are gruesome. In an old Swedish variation of the story, the Ugly Sisters cut off their toes in an attempt to force their feet into the glass slipper.

Although the core stories were traditional fairy or folk tales, pantomimes also reflected social aspects of their day usually delivered through jokes and ad libs by the comic roles or sneering jibes by the evil characters. Stars from stage and screen have joined the casts, sometimes at a cost to the story telling, to have their famous roles reflected in their pantomime character. Special effects have played an enormous part along with live animals and popular songs of the day.



An original Walter Crane illustration for Perrault's story



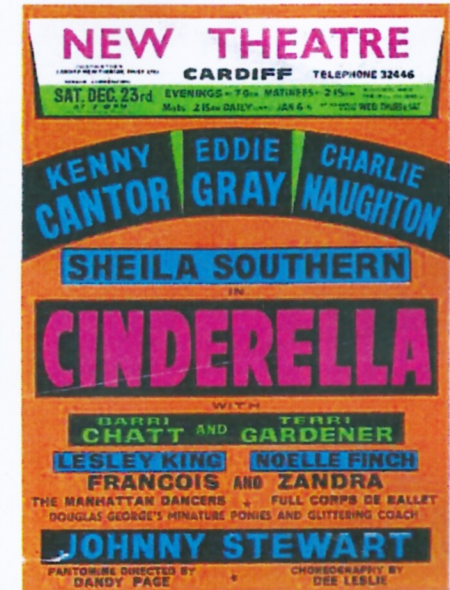
Rossini's *La Cenerentola*, 1817

My own childhood memories of going to the pantomime at the New Theatre Cardiff as a Boxing Day treat has played a great part in my love of pantomime, along with my experiences as a member of the cast in several productions. Looking at the poster for the production of *Cinderella* at the New Theatre Cardiff, I must have subconsciously remembered Douglas George's Miniature Ponies and Glittering Coach and that is why I insisted we had real ponies in my first production of *Cinderella*!

I hope you all enjoy our traditional pantomime and that it tells the story of Cinderella with equal fun, fear and romance and the inclusion of some very cute Shetland ponies is a magical moment for all the 'children' in the audience and is enough excitement until next year's pantomime.

May we wish you a very Happy Christmas and a very Happy New Year from the *Cinderella* cast and crew. Oh yes we do.....

Stephanie Pemberton, Director



With thanks to Kenny Cantor and arthurfloyd.co.uk

Alternative Christmas Entertainment

IMPROBABLE FICTION

by Alan Ayckbourn

16 – 31 December 2016

The Studio

Storms brew at the Pendon Writers' Circle as fictional worlds spring to life. Ayckbourn's exquisite, observational comedy and warmth for his characters are in plentiful supply – so come along and enjoy this perfect Christmas entertainment!

CHRISTMAS GHOST STORIES

18 and 19 December 2016

The Studio

Our Christmas Ghost Stories have become a favourite event of our Christmas calendar. Over two nights, actors narrate delightful tales of terror, with different stories and different readers on different nights – including a play rehearsed reading on the 18th. See questors.org.uk for final details.

The Grand Ball



Carla Evans



Carla Evans

The Pumpkins and The Mice



Carla Evans



Carla Evans

CINDERELLA

by Ben Crocker

First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 15 December 2016

THE PLAYERS

Principal Cast

Cinderella	Rebecca Collis
Beryl	Robert Vass
Cheryl	Simon Higginson
Buttons	Justin Jeffreys
Prince Charming	Jeffrey Chang
Dandini	Gerard Collis
The Baroness	Laura Moore
Fairy Godmother	Frances Sherwin
Mouse	Sinéad Ward
Major Domo	Alan Chambers
Security	Emily Page, Charlotte Yardley
The Big Bad Wolf	Kevin Sebastianpillai
The Groom	Rebecca Harris

The ponies are supplied by **Luckens Cinderella Ponies**
and are called **Lima** and **Petra**, both girls.

Musicians

Band Leader / Keyboards 1	Stephen Lethbridge
Keyboards 2	Drew Cowburn
Bass Guitar	Graeme Hollingdale / Alex Moore
Drums	Neil Saunders

The performance lasts about 2 hours and 10 minutes including a 20-minute interval.

Young People's Ensemble

The Pumpkins†

Charlotte Baird
Ollie Barnes-Holt
Ava Bileckyj
Marcus George Carr
Georgia Coleman
Grace Connett
Marianne Deutsch-Bruce
James Duffy
Lilah Golding Wood
Rory Hughes
Mia Ioannides
Lilyella Ioannides
Georgia May Jones
Grace Megan Jones
Lily Moran
Emily Page
Lola Annie Phillips
Giulia Sclano
Madeleine Tavaré
Lorena Taverner

The Mice*

Joshua Carr
Betty Elson
Paloma Fort
Ciara Fulker
Quinn Goodliffe
Bianca Hurley
Ilona Johnston-Bible
Alexandra Kern
Hannah Lepper
Sara Vasilija Mirkovic
Zairah Newth
Olivia Patino-Sim
Jessica-Lily Pournazari
James Rock
Hugh Sampson
Maia Smolar-Fourniol
Daniel Stepanov
Madeleine Taylor
Helena Von Roon
Charlotte Yardley

†appearing Dec 15, 17 (2:30), 19, 21, 23, 27 (2:30), 28, 30, Jan 1 (4:00)

*appearing Dec 16, 17, 18 (2:30), 20, 22, 27, 29, 31 (2:30), Jan 2 (2:30)

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 CREATIVE TEAM

Director / Choreographer	Stephanie Pemberton
Set Designer	Alex Marker
Costume Designer	Raymond Childe
Lighting Designer	Tim Edwards
Assistant Lighting Designer	Tom McGuire
Sound Designer / Operator	Richard Eliot
Musical Supervisor / Vocal Coach	Christina Wyse
Ballet Choreographer	Sara Page

MUSICAL NUMBERS

<i>Dancing in the Street</i>	Dandini & Chorus
<i>Sisters Are Doing it for Themselves</i>	Ugly Sisters
<i>Bib bidi Bob bidi Boo</i>	Buttons, Cinderella and Chorus
<i>Sun and Moon</i>	Cinderella and Prince Charming
<i>Keep Young and Beautiful</i>	Baroness
<i>Agony</i>	Prince Charming and Dandini
<i>Someone's Waiting for You</i>	Fairy Godmother
<i>The Last Night of the World</i>	Cinderella and Prince Charming
<i>Food Glorious Food</i>	Ugly Sisters, Baroness, Buttons & Chorus
<i>I'm a Believer</i>	The Company
<i>The Twelve Days of Christmas</i>	Buttons and Ugly Sisters
<i>Dancing in the Street</i>	The Company

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Production Manager	Doug King
Stage Managers	Sarah Vass, Clare Watson
Deputy Stage Manager	Sarah Louise Clopet
Assistant Stage Managers	Gunce Ates, Saz Bower, Michael Chislett, Jane Dwyer, Jane Higginson, Chanice Hird, Rory Hobson, CJ, Sue Kendrick, Huw Richards, Rob Willin, Freddie Zell
Children's Administrator	Jesselyn Ng
Properties	Harriet Parsonage, Peter Salvietto, Clare Watson, Nigel Worsley
Pyrotechnic Advisors	Nigel Lewis, Nigel Worsley
Wardrobe Management	Janet Auvache, Ian Black
Wardrobe Team	Jean Darby, Pauline Domaszenska, Carla Evans, Alison Germany, Anne Gilmour, Stefanie Heeg, Helen Karasiewicz, Moonika Leisson, Claire Malyon, Kevin McGovern, Holly Merrick, Sue Peckitt, Jenny Richardson, Valerie Rudd, Alison Simmons, Pam Smith, Sylvia Thomas, Jennie Yates, Annie Youshie
Rehearsal Pianists	Richard Fairhead, Errol Hui, Peter Melling, Graham Reid, Carole Smith
Lighting Operators	Jane Arnold-Forster, Angus Duke, Tim Hayward, Cecily Johnson, Sally Milton, Clare Watson, Michelle Weaver, Andrew Whadcoat
Lighting Riggers	Andrew Dixon, John Green, Francois Langton, Terry Mummery, Chris Newall
Set Realisation	Toby Burbidge, Doug King, Alex Marker, Steve Souchon, Rob Willin, UWE students (Sadie Crowder, Oliver Potter, Victoria Smith, Abena Weston, Blajez Ziedzic), Kingston College students (Emily Collins, Molly Davies, Connor Hagerty, Charlie Hardwick, Alex MacQuire, Emily Jane Rankin, Shaan Latif Shaikh, Daniel Smith, Marie Ondogala)
Coach Restoration	Bron Blake, Sue Collins, Jenny Richardson
Get-in Crew	Alex Asher, Bernard Brady, Peter Collins, Bernd Gauweiler, Tina Harris, CJ, Geoff Moore, John Winters
Hair and Make-Up	Delamar Academy Students
Photographer	Carla Evans
Videographer	Natasha Vasandani
Marketing Assistants	Liz Mead, Tim Pemberton
Thanks to:	Simon Gandy, Simon Lasky, Fiona McKeon, Oliver Savidge, Emily Sions, Joe Smith, Bianca Sokolov, Ting To, Paul Wilson, AD Light, TS Lighting, Pharos Controls

Biographies

Alan Chambers – Major Domo

Alan Chambers has produced and acted in many Christmas shows since the early sixties. His favourite roles were Albert the Horse in *The Wind in the Willows* and a polar bear in *The Snow Queen*. His pamphlet, *Winter: 12 Seasonal Poems* is on sale now with proceeds in aid of the Questors Renewal Fund.

Jeffrey Chang – Prince Charming

Cinderella marks plenty of firsts for Jeffrey: first pantomime; first show with The Questors, first show in London; and first time playing a prince! Originally from New Zealand, Jeffrey has a BMus (Hons) in Performance Voice from the University of Auckland, and has toured with the NZ Youth Choir and Voices NZ Sixteen.

Gerard Collis – Dandini

Gerard began acting upon the realisation that he would never become a sports star due to his body being made up, almost entirely, of glass. Gerard is really looking forward to *Cinderella*, which is his second full production with The Questors having recently played the role of Bernard in *Boeing-Boeing*.

Rebecca Collis – Cinderella

Rebecca holds a BA (Hons) Degree in Musical Theatre from Arts Educational. She made her West End debut in 2014 as Medea Redux in *BASH: Latterday Plays* at Trafalgar Studios. Other professional credits include Nabalungi in *The Book of Mormon* (LMTO) and as a featured dancer in the Olympic Games Opening Ceremony (Danny Boyle). Rebecca first appeared at The Questors in September as Gloria in *Boeing-Boeing*.

Simon Higginson – Cheryl

Simon is a long-time member of The Questors, but this is the first time anyone has asked him to play a woman. This is also his first Questors panto – he's done two previously elsewhere playing...an Ugly Sister and...er...an Ugly Sister. Hmm. Anyway he's had a ball (haha!) working with such a super, fun-loving cast and crew and hopes that you enjoy today's show as much as he has.

Justin Jeffreys – Buttons

Justin is delighted to make his Questors debut as Buttons, his all-time favourite pantomime role. By day a Publicity Manager for ITV (currently working on *The Voice UK* and *Saturday Night Takeaway*), his previous performance credits include Corny in *Hairspray*, Eddie in *Sister Act*, Schlomo in *Fame* and Warner in *Legally Blonde*. He dedicates his performance to the memory of Joanna Reyes.

Laura Moore – The Baroness

This is Laura's second Questors production, having performed in *The Exonerated* earlier this autumn. She is delighted to be playing the icy Baroness in *Cinderella* and hopes everyone will have fun booing her! Laura trained at the Central School of Speech and Drama and worked professionally as an actor in her twenties before gaining a PGCE (also at the Central School of Speech and Drama). She has had extensive experience as a teacher and practitioner of drama.

Kevin Sebastianpillai – The Big Bad Wolf

An active Questors member since 2009, Kevin has worked on over a dozen shows, predominantly backstage. He has recently ventured on stage for *Dick Whittington & His Cat* and *Twelfth Night*. Previously he was part of Youth Action Theatre at Hampton Hill Playhouse.

Frances Sherwin – Fairy Godmother

Frances trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Fairies. Having spent many years as a Changeling, she is delighted to at last be given a chance to earn her fairy wings. Frances is proud to be following in the footsteps of so many other great fairies that have graced The Questors' stage.

Robert Vass – Beryl

Last season, Robert appeared as Botard in *Rhinoceros*. Other recent roles include Frank Strang in *Equus*, Mr Bradshaw in *NSFW*, 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*.

Sinéad Ward – Mouse

...Squeak Squeak...

Stephanie Pemberton – Director / Choreographer

Stephanie's directing credits include *Sweeney Todd*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Cabaret*, *Carousel*, *Calendar Girls*, *Talk to Me Like the Rain* and *Let Me Listen* and *The Village Bike*. Stephanie was the Assistant Director on *Jack and the Beanstalk* and has played various characters from a rowdy pirate to a fairy in other pantomime productions over the years but this is her debut as the Director/Choreographer.

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.

Raymond Childe – Costume Designer

Cinderella is Raymond's 15th (and final) Christmas show for The Questors since the 70s, and his third costume production of *Cinderella* here. After drama school at the age of 18, he worked as a professional actor in repertory theatre, including the Bristol Old Vic. Changing careers, he spent 30 years as a professional television costume designer for Thames TV, Granada and Tetra films, working on shows that included *Miss World*, *The Benny Hill Show*, *Rainbow*, *The Bill*, *T-Bag* and many costume dramas. Over the years he has dressed and worked with many well-known actors such as Penelope Keith, Ian McKellen, Glenda Jackson, Joan Collins and David Jason. Shows he has costumed at The Questors include *Hedda Gabler*, *Nicholas Nickleby*, *The Wizard of Oz* and *Mary Stuart*.

Tim Edwards – Lighting Designer

Tim became a member of the theatre aged 16 and has been lighting shows at The Questors for over 15 years. His recent lighting design credits for The Questors include *Rent*, *Broken Glass*, *The Libertine*, *Mercury Fur* and *The School of Night*. Tim also runs a lighting design company for productions in the West London Area.

Alex Marker – Set Designer

Over the last 20 years Alex has designed over 40 productions for The Questors. Professionally trained at Wimbledon College of Art he has designed many productions for a wide variety of venues ranging from West End to the Fringe. His next production is *Dead Simple* at The Mill at Sonning. www.alexmarker.com

Sara Page – Ballet Choreographer

Sara joined The Questors in 2014 and has performed in *4.48 Psychosis*, *Office Song*, *The Crucible* and *A Little Night Music*. She is co-artistic director of Trip The Light Theatre, which created *Not Goodbye* for *Questival II*. Sara is currently training at The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

Christina Wyse – Musical Supervisor / Vocal Coach

Christina has a background in professional music performance and teaching that spans kids to adults, New Zealand to UK and across various instrument types. Although she loves performing on stage (credits include *Die Fledermaus*, *Carmen*, *Madame Butterfly*, *The Sound of Music*, *The Pirates of Penzance* and *The Questor's A Little Night Music*) and in various vocal ensembles and pit bands, she relishes her role as vocal coach to a great cast in *Cinderella*.

CINDERELLA WORDSEARCH

C	E	T	H	G	I	N	D	I	M	S	F	L
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A	C	B	R	E	P	P	I	L	S	F	U	N
F	A	L	L	E	R	E	D	N	I	C	S	I

The following words are hidden in the grid in any direction – can you find them, making sure you only use each letter once?

CINDERELLA	CHIMES	CHARMING	PRINCE	GROOM
BALL	FAIRYGODMOTHER	CARRIAGE	MOUSE	PONY
WOLF	BUTTONS	DANDINI	ROYAL	CLOCK
MIDNIGHT	SLIPPER	CHORUS	KITCHEN	PALACE
	INVITATION		UGLY	

Questors Youth Theatre present



EMIL AND THE DETECTIVES

Erich Kästner, adapted by Carl Miller

1-4 MARCH 2017

NEXT YEAR'S
PANTOMIME AT THE QUESTORS WILL BE

MOTHER GOOSE

By Ben Crocker



BOOKING OPENS AUGUST 2017