

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

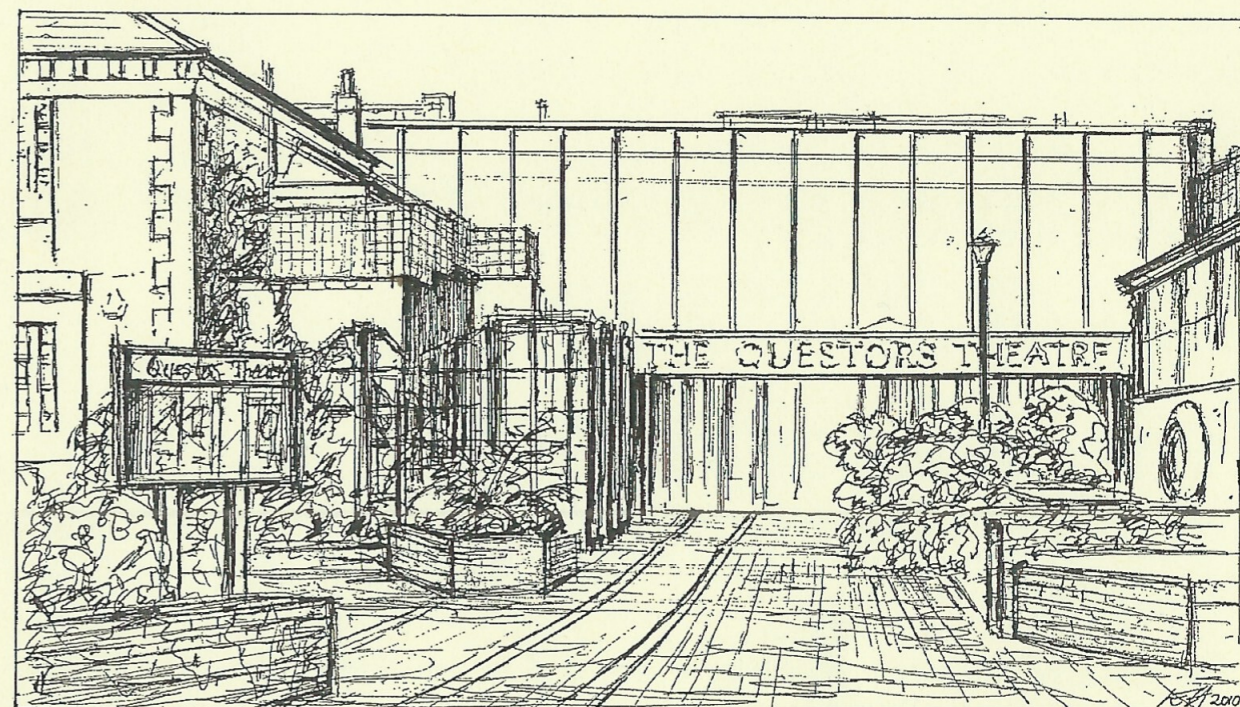
Our Youth Theatre, QYT, runs weekly drama classes for all ages from 6 to 18. Younger groups meet on Saturday mornings and older ages at weekday teatime. There's often a waiting list for membership, so put your name down now! Details are online at questors.org.uk/qyt.

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



THE CRIPPLE OF INISHMAAN

by Martin McDonagh

The Judi Dench Playhouse

29 January – 6 February 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.

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 for more details



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

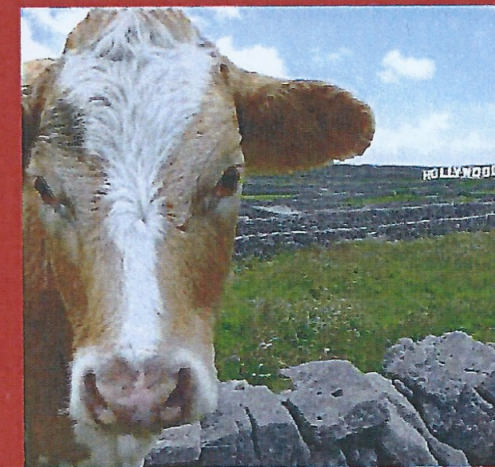


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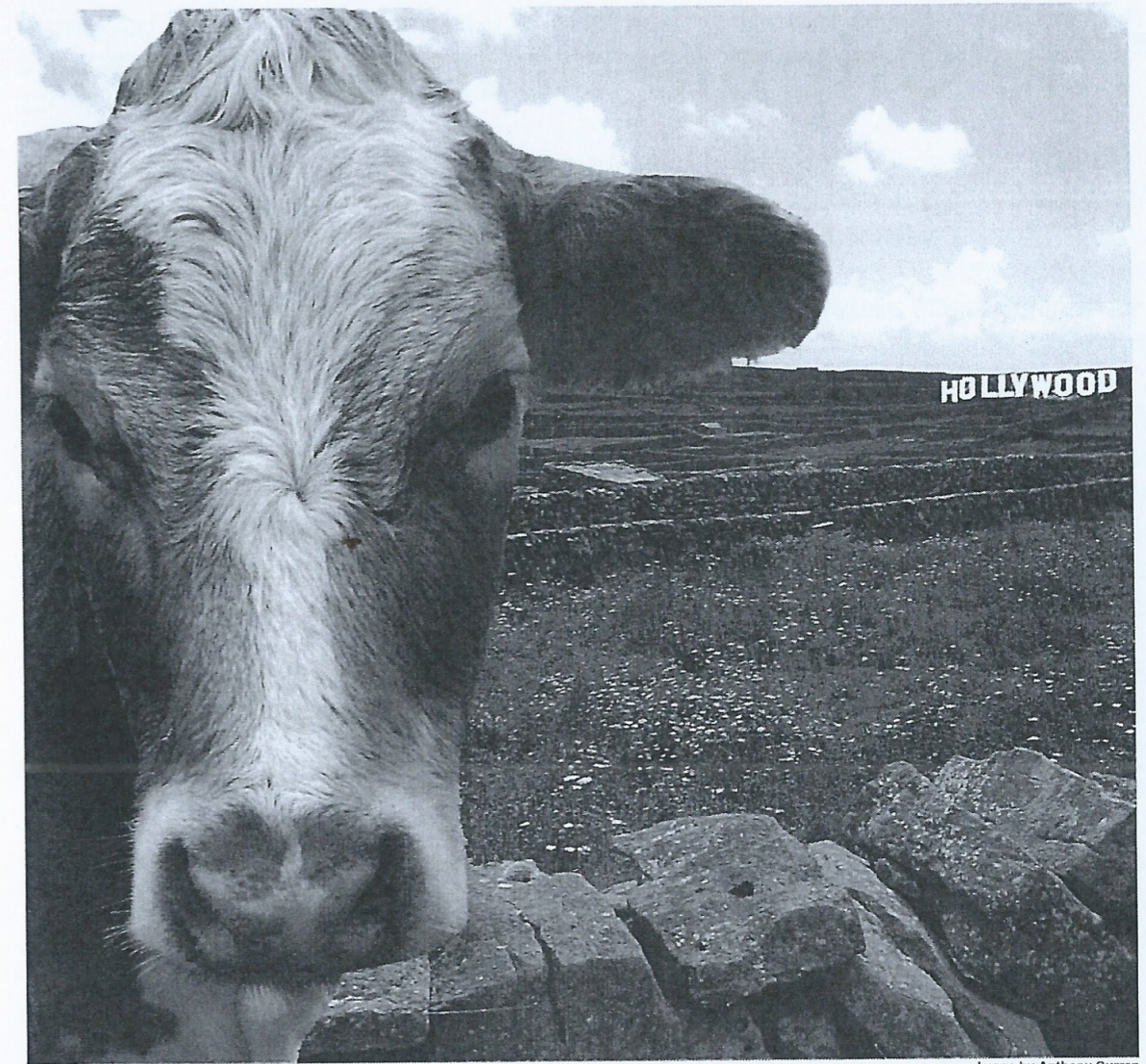


Image by Anthony Curran

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THE CRIPPLE OF INISHMAAN

by Martin McDonagh

The Judi Dench Playhouse

29 January – 6 February 2016

The Cripple of Inishmaan

Martin McDonagh, the wunderkind of modern Irish drama, was born in London to expatriate Irish parents. He left school at the earliest opportunity and did menial jobs for many years while developing his playwriting skills. His first success was with *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* for which he won the Most Promising Playwright Award in 1996. His other successes include: *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, *A Skull in Connemara*, *The Lonesome West*, *The Pillowman* and, of course, the brilliant film script for *In Bruges*. He has won the Olivier Best New Play Award, the Best New Comedy Award as well as a BAFTA for *In Bruges*. He has been resident playwright at the Royal National Theatre and his latest play *Hangmen* is currently enjoying critical acclaim in the West End. He is the only playwright other than Shakespeare to have four of his plays performed at once on the London stage.

Early in his career, a small but vociferous chorus of critics questioned his right as an outsider to anatomise Irish society in such a searingly satirical way. His response: "The less smart ones were set against me. Who the f--- is this English guy criticising us? They haven't quite got to grips with the diaspora, that we can be as critical as people who live there". In fact McDonagh spent most of his summer holidays as a child with his grandparents in rural Sligo and Galway, and even at his parents' Elephant and Castle house, they had the Kellys on one side and the Caseys on the other. He has a reputation for outspokenness and bad behaviour.

The Cripple of Inishmaan is a black comedy with the emphasis on comedy and McDonagh's 1934 Inishmaan is a community isolated by time and space, its people driven to cruelty by boredom and ignorance. The Catholic Church is a menacing presence, its priests abusing children and its indoctrination keeping the people in the dark. McDonagh seeks to puncture the sentimentality of Irish whimsy and the romanticising of the noble Irish peasant.

In the play, McDonagh's characters are intrigued by the arrival on the neighbouring island of the film crew making *Man of Aran**. It is the romanticising distortions of this film by Robert Flaherty, which bring out McDonagh's sharp scorn; one of the characters calls the film 'a pile of shite'. While the film depicts the heroic islanders battling the wild seas to scrape a living by hunting sharks, McDonagh's islanders face forces less elemental. They are not seen as heroic figures pitted against a barren landscape: rather they are represented as emotionally and physically

damaged individuals for whom verbal abuse, incidental cruelty, and casual violence seem to provide the only recourse to their empty lives. Much of this provides the comedy.

McDonagh uses negative stereotypes to counteract Flaherty's heroic imagery. Flaherty's hero, Colman King, is a fine looking 6'4" fisherman while McDonagh's Billy is a frail, deformed cripple living with his aunties. McDonagh satirises Flaherty's idealised version by offering an absurd and degenerated picture of the islanders. This is illustrated in *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, which engages with the issue of representation by letting the audience watch an anti-heroic stage audience watch a romanticized image of themselves.

McDonagh also has a highly developed sense of the absurd in the tradition of Beckett's *Godot*. There is much filling in of time with trivial gossip, humour and dogged humanity. He is also influenced by Scorsese and Tarantino. His characters are like monstrous children, crude in manner, thought and language –often shockingly violent, and their skewed Irish speech is similarly shocking, unnervingly repetitive, jaggedly rhythmic, joltingly and tastelessly comical. Politically correct it is not! Each scene has swift transitions from wild humour to dark pain which are breath-taking.

Rehearsing the play has been a joy. The humour has had the cast biting their cheeks to keep control. The precision and brilliance of McDonagh's language meant that any paraphrasing threw a line out of kilter. We worked very early with Jonne Wilson on the physicality of Billy's disability which is quite a strain on Nick Thomas but it is a central part of his character and needs to be right. Another aspect of the play which is so important is the sense of a close knit and almost claustrophobic community. Fortunately the cast seemed to bond very quickly. We have a mainly Irish cast who have been able to help the non-Irish actors with accents and the eccentricities of Irish life.

Alex Marker has designed a multi-level set to allow for swift transitions between scenes and Daniel Bielby has designed the soundscape to create the atmosphere of the piece.

No cats, cows or geese were harmed in the making of this play!

Anne Neville, Director

**Man of Aran* is a real documentary feature film directed in 1934 by American filmmaker Robert Flaherty. It depicts the supposed daily lives of the people of the Aran Islands. Many situations were fabricated such as the perilous shark hunt which takes up much of the film.

THE CRIPPLE OF INISHMAAN

by Martin McDonagh

This amateur production of The Cripple of Inishmaan is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, LTD.

First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 29 January 2016

CAST

in order of appearance

Eileen	Caroline Bleakley
Kate	Margot Scannell
Johnny Pateen Mike	Anthony Curran
Billy Claven	Nick Thomas
Bartley McCormick	Niall O'Mara
Helen	Gabriella Pond
Babby Bobby Bennett	Niall Bishop
Doctor McSharry	Mike Langridge
Mammy	Wendy Megeney

The play is set in the spring and summer of 1934 on the remote island of Inishmaan off the west coast of Ireland and in Hollywood.

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	Anne Neville
Set Designer	Alex Marker
Costume Designer	Jenny Richardson
Lighting Designer	Andrew Dixon
Composer / Sound Designer	Daniel Bielby
Production Manager	David Emmet
Deputy Stage Manager	Penny Seyfert, Dorothy Lawson
Assistant Stage Managers	Amanda Blake, Matthew Creaby, Edem-Ita Duke, Anca Lacusteanu, Aeron Sylvester
Properties	Harriet Parsonage
Prompter	Bridgett Strevens
Movement Coach	Nicholas Jonne Wilson
Lighting Operators	Carole Swan, Tristan Bonsall, Marcos Melo
Sound Operator	Stefanie May Hammoudeh
Set Constructors & Painters	Toby Burbidge, Steve Cowan, UWL Students
Get-In Crew	Bernard Brady, Jane Dwyer, Bernd Gauweiler, Maggie Turner, Annabelle Williams, Rob Willin
Make-Up Advisor and Wigs	Natasha Bakhshov
Photographer	Michael Smith
Marketing	Nina Flitman
Thanks to	Madeleine Casey, Joe Foster, Sylvia Wall, Gumley House School, Tesco (Ealing)

Biographies

Daniel Beilby – *Composer / Sound Designer*

Daniel is a composer specialising in writing original music for theatre – whether it be an instrumental score, songs or the soundtrack to a video trailer. To listen to some of his work go to www.soundcloud.com/danbeilby. At The Questors he has produced music for *Macbeth*, *She Stoops to Conquer* and *The Crucible* amongst others.

Niall Bishop – *BabbyBobby Bennett*

A native of the west of Ireland, this is Niall's second appearance at The Questors following *No Fairy Tale* in 2014. Recent credits include *Major Barbara*, *Largo Desolato* (Theatro Technis), *Stones in His Pockets* (The Gatehouse) and *A Prayer* (Hen & Chickens). Recent film credits include shorts *Rot*, *Confronted* and *Pursued* which screened at the 2015 British Shorts film festival in Berlin. Niall trained at Central School of Speech and Drama, as well as with the Focus Theatre in Dublin.

Caroline Bleakley – *Eileen*

A Questors actor since 1984 and an assistant director since 2003, some productions include: *Henry IV pt 1*, *Tom Jones*, *The Hired Man*, *The Taming of The Shrew* (1990), *The Rivals*, *Yerma*, *A Little Night Music*, *The Beaux' Stratagem*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Heartbreak House*, *Macbeth* (1994), *The Winter's Tale*, *The Crucible* (1999), *Lady Betty*, *Nicholas Nickleby*, *Trojan Women* (2007), *Festen*, *The Seagull*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Mary Stuart*, *Mrs Warren's Profession*, *Shadowlands* and most recently as Kate in *All My Sons*.

Anthony Curran – *JohnnyPateenMike*

Anthony Curran is a graduate of Student Group 47, has been an Acting Member for over 20 years and has appeared in roles as diverse as Estragon in *Waiting for Godot* to Arlecchino in *The Venetian Twins*. He recently appeared as Sir Harcourt in *London Assurance*, and Ross and The Porter in *Macbeth*.

Andrew Dixon – *Lighting Designer*

In 2016, Andrew will have been lighting for 60 years – from amateur dramas to BBC epics, he finds them all equally exciting. He hopes his enthusiasm is picked up by new members of The Questors and is grateful to the excellent new crew on 'Inishmaan'. Andrew did the lighting designs for last year's production of *She Stoops to Conquer* (which we also took to the Minack Theatre), and, amongst others, *A Servant to Two Masters* and *ENRON*.

Meet the Company – Wednesday 3 February

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

Mike Langridge – *Doctor McSharry*

Mike is an actor, director and designer and has appeared in over 100 plays including *Hamlet*, *Macbeth* (1994), *Translations*, *Othello*, *Treats*, *Coriolanus*, *The Front Page*, *Bedroom Farce*, *Oedipus*, *Good, Faith Healer*, *Heartbreak House*, *A View From The Bridge*, *Festen*, *The Seagull*, *Broken Glass*, *Mary Stuart*, *Shadowlands* and most recently as Joe Keller in *All My Sons*. He has directed many shows including *Pack of Lies*, *Noises Off*, *Privates on Parade*, *The Crucible* (1999), *Lady Betty*, *Nicholas Nickleby*, *Great Expectations*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Mrs Warren's Profession* and *Shadowlands*.

Alex Marker – *Set Designer*

Alex has designed well over 35 productions for The Questors, including last year: *Macbeth*, *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase*, *Arms and the Man* and *The Crucible*. Trained as a professional stage designer, he recently designed *Can't Buy Me Love* (Salisbury Playhouse) and will shortly design the London premiere of Ernest Hemingway's play *The Fifth Column* at Southwark Playhouse. He has also designed set and costume for *The Meeting* currently playing at Hampstead Theatre.

Wendy Megeney – *Mammy*

Wendy's roles have ranged widely from comedy, such as Mucky Molly (*Tom Jones*), which went to the Minack in 1985 and Clea in *Black Comedy* (the British entry in an international drama festival in Japan), to tragedy such as *Andromache* (*Trojan Women*) and *Lady Macduff*, and singing in the musical, *Somewhere in England*. She was Maureen in another McDonagh play, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*. Most recent parts have been Mari in *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice* and Catherine in *Arms and the Man*.

Anne Neville – *Director*

Anne has been directing at The Questors since 1991, including *Macbeth*, *London Assurance*, *ENRON*, *A Servant to Two Masters*, *The Weir*, *The Trojan Women*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Faith Healer*, *Translations*, *The Venetian Twins*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *The Deep Blue Sea*, *The Beaux' Stratagem*, *The Recruiting Officer* and *The Secret Rapture*.

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.

Niall O'Mara – *Bartley McCormick*

This is Niall's second show with The Questors, following last year's pantomime, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, where he played Simple Simon. Showing his diversity, Niall will now have played two village idiots with slightly different accents.

Gabriella Pond – *Helen*

Gabriella joined Student Group 68 in 2014. She performed as the Jewish Wife (amongst other characters) in Bertolt Brecht's *Fear and Misery of the Third Reich*, as Cicely in *The Young Idea* and as Mrs Wadhurst in *Hands Across the Sea* by Noel Coward.

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

Margot Scannell – *Kate*

Margot's last appearance at The Questors was in *ENRON* in 2013. Roles in other theatre productions include *Agnes of God* (Dr Livingstone), *Torch Song Trilogy* (Laurel/Lady Blues), *Blithe Spirit* (Ruth), *Sharon's Grave* (Trassie), *Nunsense* (Sister Robert Anne), *Female Transport* (Charlotte), *Educating Rita* (Rita).

Nick Thomas – *Billy Claven*

Nick attended Questors Youth Theatre, where he learned everything he knows. He most recently appeared at The Questors in *Equus*, *NSFW* and *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Nick has been a huge fan of Martin McDonagh for many years and is honoured to be performing his work.

Next Questors Productions

DIRECTORS' SHOWCASES

19 – 27 February 2016

The Studio

Enjoy three one-act plays presented in one evening as a showcase by potential new Questors directors: *High Tea* written by Mari Lloyd, *George's Room* by Alun Owen and *Red Peppers* by Noël Coward.

GRIMM TALES

adapted by Carol Anne Duffy
dramatised by Tim Supple

27 February – 5 March 2016

The Judi Dench Playhouse

Questors Youth Theatre present these scary, thrilling and funny tales adapted from the Brothers Grimm, including *Hansel and Gretel* and *Cinderella*, along with less well known stories.

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Gunnersbury Park Centre Advice Evening

Tuesday, 2 February 2016 - 5.00pm to 7.30pm.

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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.

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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