

## 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.

## 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).

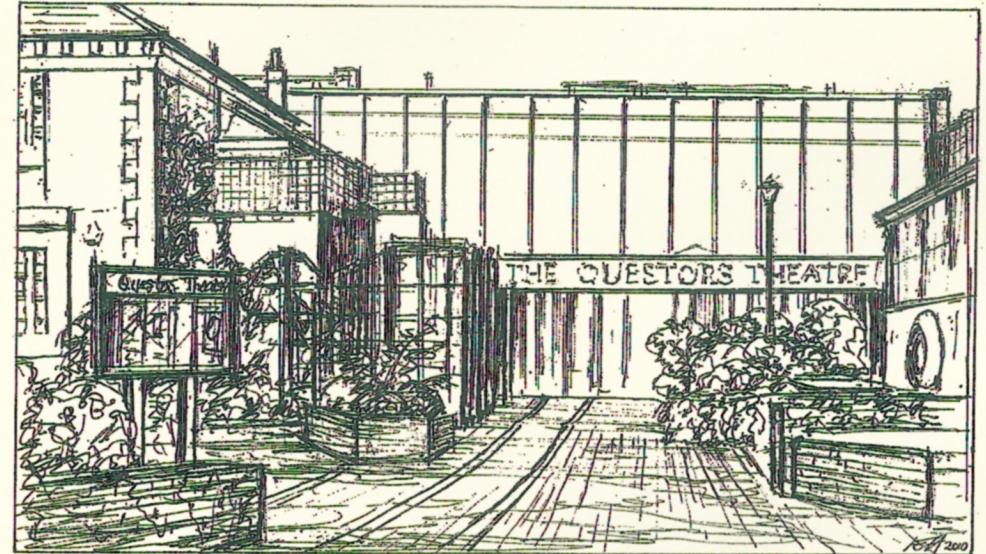
Cover Image: Elaine Hagan

The Questors Theatre  
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  
Registered Charity No. 207516



## Questors, Ealing's Theatre



# IMPROBABLE FICTION

by Alan Ayckbourn

## The Studio

16 – 31 December 2016



## Vintage Tearoom at The Questors

Come and relax in our vintage tearoom during your busy day.

Open Tuesday to Sunday, 11:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Serving light lunches and delicious cakes with a pot of tea or coffee, all using vintage china.

Also open before and during the interval of Judi Dench Playhouse evening and matinee performances, serving tea and coffee to takeaway, ice cream and a selection of cold drinks.

See [teadarling.co.uk](http://teadarling.co.uk) for more information about Tea Darling.

## 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 2017 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).



image © NKMANDIC / ISTOCK.COM

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The Studio

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## Oh, yes you can!


Did you know – you can now work at Questors and get a degree in 2 years?


### BA (Hons) Theatre Production (Design and Management)

Gain theoretical and practical experience whilst working backstage on shows at both **The Questors** and in the **London College of Music**.

This two-year accelerated course covers a wide range of theatre-related skills, including stage management, stage technology (lighting and sound) and design.

Apply now to start September 2017

 [uwl.ac.uk/questors](http://uwl.ac.uk/questors)

 [john.davey@uwl.ac.uk](mailto:john.davey@uwl.ac.uk)



## GREEN INK WRITERS' GYM

Boost your confidence and your word-count!

For writers of all genres and levels of experience. Inspiring exercises, quality time and space to write. Monthly sessions at Waterstones, Piccadilly and the Grange, Ealing. Bespoke sessions throughout London.

Create new material, develop new ideas and make new friends!



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Tel: 07870 630 788

# Improbable Fiction

'If this were played upon a stage now, I could condemn it as an improbable fiction' – *Twelfth Night*, Act III Scene 4

I met and fell in love with *Improbable Fiction* in 2006, at the Theatre Royal, Bath. It was the new Ayckbourn on its regional tour; I was a Creative Writing MA student at Bath Spa University. Of all the valuable things I learned that year, the most important was the life lesson of this play.

The Pendon Writers' Circle spend most of their meeting explaining to each other why they haven't done any writing and how great that writing would be, had they actually done it. A few have managed to bring work to share: some of it overwritten, some incomprehensible, one just the pictures. Through this work in progress (or lack of progress) we see the rivalries, dreams and hang-ups that both inform their fictional worlds and stop them completing them. What happens at the end of the meeting – and of act one – is theatrically spine-tingling; spookier by far is walking away with the self-knowledge this ostensibly light comedy punches into the would-be writer, or indeed the would-be anything else.

Writer, director, master of structure, commentator of social niceties and nastiness; Ayckbourn is also the first to say you shouldn't have to buy the programme to understand the play (he also says most people only read this stuff in bed afterwards anyway). You won't need programme notes to tell you that here but for the grace of God go all of us: that the immediacies in life can overshadow the important; that the achingly articulate tragedy in the light comedy is of lessons unlearned and lives unchanged; that the way to achieve your goal, literary or otherwise, is to dare to begin – and to keep going.

Rachel Knightley, Director

## Meet the Company – Wednesday 21 December

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

# IMPROBABLE FICTION

by Alan Ayckbourn

*First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 16 December 2016*

## CAST

in order of appearance

Arnold Hassock (factual)	<b>Chris Waldock</b>
Ilsa Wolby (shop assistant)	<b>Lucy Coleshill</b>
Jess Bales (historical romance)	<b>Carmel Corcoran</b>
Grace Sims (children's fiction)	<b>Alison Griffin</b>
Clem Pepp (science fiction)	<b>Tom Cantwell</b>
Vivvi Dickins (crime fiction)	<b>Holly Gillanders</b>
Brevis Winterton (musical adaptations)	<b>Robin Ingram</b>

The performance lasts approximately 2 hours and 35 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	<b>Rachel Knightley</b>
Set Designer	<b>Charlotte Young</b>
Costume Designer	<b>Jennie Yates</b>
Lighting Designers	<b>Francois Langton, Halle Stephens</b>
Sound Designer	<b>Martin Choules</b>
Music Arranger	<b>Daniel Beilby</b>
Music Advisor	<b>Sarah Stoddart</b>
Stage Manager	<b>Russell Fleet</b>
Deputy Stage Manager	<b>Amanda Blake</b>
Properties	<b>Russell Fleet</b>
Prompter	<b>Debbie Abel</b>
Lighting & Sound Operator	<b>Meirian Hall-Jones</b>
Wardrobe Assistants	<b>Carla Evans, Holly Merrick</b>
Set Constructors	<b>Elizabeth Clark, Emma Clegg, Sadie Crowder, Jack Hanrahan, Fiona McKeon, Jesselyn Ng, Olly Potter, James Rosen, John Winters, Jack Yeoman, Charlotte Young</b>
Photographer	<b>Peter Collins</b>
Marketing Assistant	<b>Claire Durrant</b>
Thanks to	<b>Jane Arnold-Forster, Stuart Berry, Claudia Carroll, Dan Cawtheray, Keith French, Marc Morris, Jacek Przybyłko</b>

# Biographies

## Tom Cantwell – Clem

Prior to joining The Questors in 2006, Tom had not appeared on stage since secondary school although kept an active interest in acting through workshops at the Limelight Theatre (Queens Park Centre), Aylesbury. Since graduating from Student Group 61 in 2008, Tom has gone on to appear in a further ten productions as an acting member with his most recent role as Frid in *A Little Night Music*. Other roles have included Frederick in *The Rover*, George in *Luca's Spoon*, Tom Stone in *The School of Night*, Eric Cross in *No Fairy Tale*, Tony Lumpkin in *She Stoops to Conquer*, which visited Minack in June 2015, and John in *The Village Bike*.

## Lucy Coleshill – Ilsa

Lucy has been a member of The Questors since joining the youth theatre in 2009. She is qualified in both GCSE and A-Level theatre and graduated from Student Group 68 in July 2015. Lucy maintains her acting experience in student films and amateur theatre. At The Questors, she played Abigail Williams in *The Crucible* last season.

## Carmel Corcoran – Jess

Carmel recently played Molly in *Me and Gregory Peck* which was a part of this year's Questival. Having completed the Acting for All and Encore classes, Carmel has recently become an Acting Member. *Improbable Fiction* marks her first full production with The Questors.

## Holly Gillanders – Vivvi

Holly joined The Questors in 2011 when she appeared as the vengeful Angel Gabriel in *The Flint Street Nativity*. Other productions at The Questors have been *Don't Dress for Dinner* (Suzette), *The Village Bike* (Becky), *London Assurance* (Grace), *Calendar Girls* (Brenda/Elaine), *Engaged* (Minnie), *The Duchess of Malfi* (Cariola) and Joyce in *The Ruffian on the Stair*. She participated in the adrenalin-fuelled *24-Hour Plays* in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2016 and has performed with the Errors of Comedy and Interference comedy sketch shows.

## Alison Griffin – Grace

Alison's work as an actress includes touring productions such as *Noises Off* (RKO Productions) and *Bitter Fruit* (Trestle/Birmingham Symphony Orchestra) performed 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 Theatres resident company, directing many new plays. Productions for The Questors include *All My Sons*, *Rhinoceros*, *The Lying Kind*, *Questival II*, *All Joy of The Worm* and numerous 24-Hour Plays.

## Robin Ingram – Brevis

Robin was a member of Student Group 21, tutored by Alfred Emmet, and later trained at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and Manchester Theatre School. In his time at The Questors he has played Richard III, Macbeth, Prospero and Angelo, but is well aware that any fool can play tragedy, but comedy is a serious business. This is his first appearance in Ayckbourn's work.

## Chris Waldock – Arnold

Chris first performed at The Questors in *Forty Years On* back in 1981 and, after graduating from Student Group 38 in 1985, appeared in a wide range of shows, most recently being seen as Barry in Alan Ayckbourn's *House & Garden*, Flunkit in *Jack and the Beanstalk* and Mike in *The Village Bike*. He once wrote a technical manual for computer equipment.

## Daniel Beilby – Music Arranger

Daniel joined The Questors in 2012 and has now become the theatre's 'house composer', writing and recording music for *Macbeth*, *The Crucible* and *The Cripple of Inishmaan* among others.

## Martin Choules – Sound Designer

Martin has recently designed the sound for *The Exonerated*, *Interference: Bernard*, the Directors' Showcase 2016, *Rhinoceros*, *Fear and Misery of the Third Reich* and *NSFW*. He also writes and techs for The Errors of Comedy.

## Rachel Knightley – Director

Rachel Knightley runs Green Ink Writers' Gym, resident at Waterstones, Piccadilly and the Grange, Ealing. As Green Ink Theatre, she produces an annual Sponsored Write and new writing showcase for Macmillan Cancer Support in memory of a fellow Questors Youth Theatre graduate. A member of the Directory of LAMDA Teachers, former QYT senior tutor and currently taking a PhD in creative writing, Rachel's productions for The Questors include the 'Dark and Scary' *Grimm Tales*, scenes in *All Joy of the Worm*, *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase*, *Educating Rita* and *Calendar Girls*.

[www.greeninkwritersgym.com](http://www.greeninkwritersgym.com) and [www.rachelknightley.com](http://www.rachelknightley.com)

## Russell Fleet – Stage Manager

Russell trained as an actor in the 1990s and joined The Questors in 2006. He was last seen on stage in 2015 as the Carpenter in *I Am the Walrus* which he also stage managed. Russell is also a sound designer and director and has just directed the season opener *Boeing-Boeing*. He holds an MA (Actor Training and Coaching) from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

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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.

Follow us on Twitter @questorstheatre and find us on Facebook.

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### Francois Langton – Lighting Designer

Francois is a freelance lighting designer with a variety of experience across theatre, opera, dance and live music. Recent shows include: *La Traviata*, *Madame Butterfly* and *Don Giovanni* for Regents Opera; *After the End*, *A Little Night Music*, *Grimm Tales*, *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase*, *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice* and *Calendar Girls* for The Questors; and *The Mikado* and *La Belle Hélène* for Julian Light Opera.

### Halle Stephens – Lighting Designer

Halle hails from Canada with an Honours Degree in Theatre Production, specialising in Lighting Design. She went on to work in television post-production but has now returned to her theatre roots, having been working backstage since the age of 10. This is Halle's first lighting design credit at The Questors, having operated and assisted on several shows.

### Jennie Yates – Costume Designer

Since joining The Questors in 2000, Jennie has worked on numerous productions, costuming from stock, making and designing. She is Head of the Costume Department, and the shows she has worked on are too numerous to list, but the most recent are *West 5 Story*, *No Fairy Tale*, *Macbeth*, *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase*, *The Wonderful World of Dissocia*, *Arms and the Man*, *Dick Whittington & His Cat*, *Grimm Tales* and *Dead White Males*.

### Charlotte Young – Set Designer

Charlotte is currently studying as a third-year undergraduate of Theatre Production at the University of West London. Alongside *Improbable Fiction*, she has been working as the Admin Intern at Paines Plough. This is her first full set design, but she has previously designed and constructed the 'Dark and Scary' truck for *Grimm Tales*, and assisted with the set for *After The End*, *Boeing-Boeing*, *Dead White Males*, *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase*, *Macbeth* and *Jack and the Beanstalk*. [www.charlotte-young.com](http://www.charlotte-young.com)

## Christmas at The Questors

### CINDERELLA

by Ben Crocker

15 December 2016 – 2 January 2017

#### The Judi Dench Playhouse

This Christmas meet Cinderella, left scrubbing the stairs while her scheming stepsisters go to the Ball. Will Cinders meet her handsome Prince? Whose foot will fit the slipper? And who ate all Beryl and Cheryl's sweets? Ealing's fun-filled pantomime.

### 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](http://questors.org.uk) for final details.

## Become a BEQUESTOR

This season, The Questors, Ealing's theatre, is presenting 18 productions – old and modern classics, challenging recent drama, comedies and our great annual Panto. 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. You're reading this because live theatre means a great deal to you too.

Ealing and West London 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. But we receive no public funding.

Please consider making a donation to help us continue to make our huge contribution to the cultural life of the capital. 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).

No gift is too small to help and any gift, either while you are alive or in your will, attracts tax relief. 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).

Your donation or legacy may be anonymous if you wish, or The Questors may acknowledge your generosity publicly – every gift of £1000 or more will be commemorated on the donor board in the foyer.

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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, or would like any further information, please feel free to speak in confidence to Andrea Bath, our Executive Director, on 020 8567 0011.