



Questors, Ealing's Theatre

PRODUCTION TEAM

Producer	Dan Dawes
Lighting	Andrew Dixon, Terry Mummery, Chris Newall, Andrew Whadcoat
Sound	Emma Lee Clegg
Stage Manager	Jesselyn Ng
Deputy Stage Manager	Sarah Clopet
Assistant Stage Manager	Teri Quappe
Marketing	Nina Flitman
Photographer	Robert Vass

Next Questors Productions

BEAUTIFUL THING

by **Jonathan Harvey**

3 – 11 June 2016

The Studio

A summer heatwave on a rundown Thamesmead housing estate and passion is in the air. A classic modern drama combining outrageous comedy with an uplifting love story as the romance between neighbouring teenage boys blossoms.

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.

The Questors Theatre
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QUESTIVAL II

Day 3 – Saturday 4 June 2016

The Judi Dench Playhouse

QUESTIVAL II

"I, personally, would like to bring a tortoise onto the stage, turn it into a racehorse, then into a hat... One can dare anything in the theatre, yet it is the place where one dares the least." Eugène Ionesco.

There is one difference between theatre and cinema that fascinates me more than any other. Essentially, the mediums are the same; they both weave stories using threads of narrative that seek to entangle their audience. However, it is rare that we rush to the cinema to watch a film that we've encountered before. True, we may turn to recordings of our favourite films, but more often we crave the excitement of the latest release.

This isn't always the case with theatre. In the playhouses of Britain, it is often the familiar that sells. Many companies rely on re-hashing old titles – Gilbert & Sullivan musicals, Shakespeare, the 'modern classics'. There is of course a place for these great titles, but at some point theatre has become a safe haven of conservatism. We wish to see the same faces, playing the same roles, portraying the same stories.

Sometimes it's necessary to remember that, at one point in time, all of those tried and tested plays were pieces of new writing. They required theatre companies, directors, actors and, of course, audiences to take a risk.

When I took on the role of producing *Questival II*, I also wanted to take a risk. No fewer than seven pieces of theatre will be presented and almost all of them have never been performed before. More importantly, all of the pieces have been born out of something that we sometimes lack in commercially driven theatre: genuine passion to tell a story. Theatres are businesses that need to stay alive, but too often the emphasis is on selling tickets today rather than creating and nurturing the classics of tomorrow. Good theatres do both.

Not all of the pieces presented will appeal to everyone, but what chance does The Questors have of finding its next Michael Green, Tom Stoppard or Peter Whelan if we stop trying? We owe it to the history of this grand playhouse, once a hot-bed of innovation, to be bold in our approach. The eclecticism of *Questival II* is something of which we are immensely proud.

So, thank you for supporting us this evening. You are just as much a part of this project as we are. Now you can sit back, relax, and be safe in the knowledge that you are taking a risk.

Dan Dawes, Producer

STEEL TUMBLEWEED

written and directed by **Dan Dawes**

As the winds of desolation whistle through the empty streets, will four teenagers join the lost souls that inhabit their crumbling community? Is it a conspiracy, a coincidence, or simply a catastrophe that so many young people have gone from just one small town? Based on real events and genuine tragedies, *Steel Tumbleweed* highlights some of the struggles young people face in the unforgiving society that is modern Britain. This dark, stirring play touches on the very personal heartbreaks that reflect a broken community.

Boy 1	Rory Hobson
Girl 1	Lauren McGee
Girl 2	Hiral Varsani
Boy 2	Jeanluca Murphy

THE OVERCOAT

devised by the cast, directed by **David Hovatter**,
inspired by **Gogol's** short story

A few months ago I saw a mime company do a version of Gogol's *The Overcoat* in Warsaw. I was intrigued, and decided it might be interesting to have a go at adapting the story for theatre myself. For a while, I was going to do a very straight version of the story, but then, for some unknown reason, I got the idea to set the story in a concentration camp, take it out of the nineteenth century and into the twentieth, and also to change the gender of the central character.

Chorus	John Dobson, Jolyon Houghton, David Hovatter
Daughter/Chorus	Lydia Georgoula
Father	Robin Ingram
Mother/Chorus	Pamela Major