

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.*

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

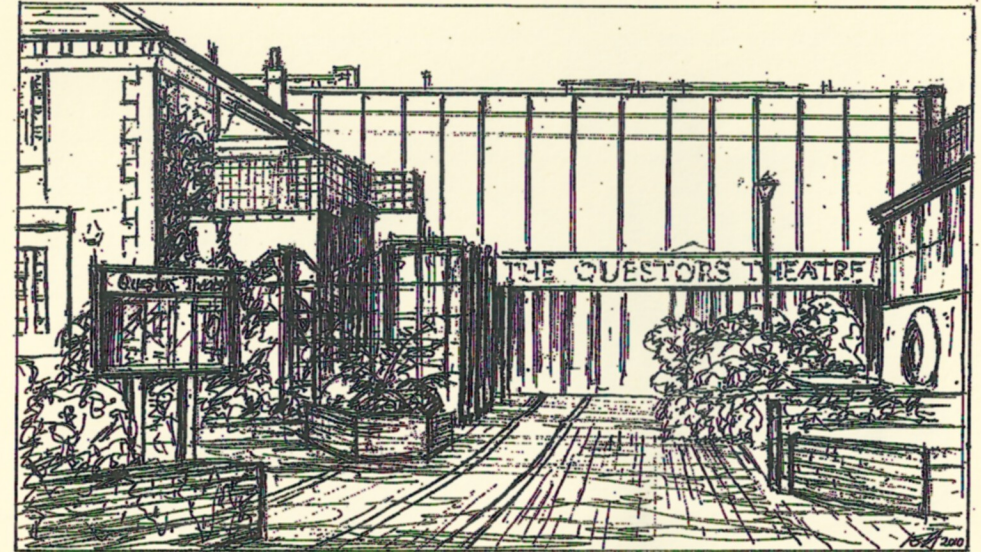
Our Youth Theatre, QYT, runs weekly drama classes for all ages from 6 to 18. Younger groups meet on Saturday mornings and older ages at weekday teatime. There's often a waiting list for membership, so put your name down now! Details are online at questors.org.uk/qyt.

Cover Image: Elaine Hagan
The Questors Theatre
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Registered Charity No. 207516



Questors, Ealing's Theatre



THE LADYKILLERS

adapted by Graham Linehan

The Judi Dench Playhouse

24 March – 1 April 2017



Vintage Tearoom at The Questors

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

Open Tuesday to Sunday, 11:00 am to 4:00 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 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 for more details

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



THE LADYKILLERS

adapted by Graham Linehan

The Judi Dench Playhouse

24 March – 1 April 2017

The Ladykillers

The original film version of *The Ladykillers* was released in 1955 and was the last of the great quintessentially British comedies that Ealing Studios was renowned for, following films such as *Kind Hearts and Coronets*, and *The Lavender Hill Mob*.

It was adapted for the stage in 2011 by Graham Linehan, who is better known as a writer of TV comedies including *Black Books*, *The Fast Show* and *Big Train*, as well as *Father Ted* and *The IT Crowd*. It premiered at the Liverpool Playhouse and transferred to The Gielgud Theatre in December 2011 where it ran for over a year. It then toured the UK until December 2012.

"We've been accused of sacrilege, of displaying a certain amount of brass neck in reworking something so revered as *The Ladykillers*. But to be honest, neck never really came into it. From the moment the idea was pitched to me, I knew it was a project I wanted to do. In adapting – often but not always – you must first plant dynamite around the ground floor of the original. After the detonation, you keep what's still standing and bid farewell to the rest." Graham Linehan, *The Guardian*.

As this quote suggests, Linehan's version of *The Ladykillers* is not simply a recreation of the film, it is very much an adaptation. What the writer and original director, Sean Foley, have done is to take the essentials of the original and then apply their own interpretation to that framework. But don't panic too much; Linehan also observed, "The film was great, and we all knew that, but there were enough possibilities to have fun with it, but also stay true to the film's original intentions".



Original film poster by Reginald Mount

The plot and characters are the same and some of the original running jokes remain. But there are additions, new running jokes and the action is confined to Mrs Wilberforce's house, all of which, I believe, help in the transition from screen to stage.

"None of them are good men; in fact they are 'the very worst'. But even so, faced with killing a little old lady, that tiny remnant of good within them brings about their doom." Graham Linehan, *The Guardian*.

On a personal level, one of the things I enjoyed most about the film was that I found it genuinely chilling as well as being very, very funny. Many of us have such fond memories of the film that it is sometimes easy to forget the darker resonances of its title. Alexander Mackendrick, who directed this great Ealing comedy film all those years ago, knew just what he, along with scriptwriter William Rose and his outstanding cast led by Alec Guinness, had achieved. "To be frivolous about frivolous matters, that's merely boring", he said. "To be frivolous about something that's in some way deadly serious, that's true comedy."

I am delighted to have been given the opportunity to direct *The Ladykillers* for The Questors and I hope that our audiences enjoy the show as much as I have enjoyed working on it. It was filmed 'just down the road' from the theatre in which you are seated, so one might say *The Ladykillers* is coming home to Ealing – and about time too!

Roger Beaumont, Director

Next at The Questors

LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST

By William Shakespeare

31 March – 8 April 2017

The Studio

Questors Student Group 70 presents this wonderful mixture of wordplay and visual slapstick humour as the King of Navarre and his friends try to continue their studies and ignore the charms of the visiting Princess of France and her companions.

SWEET CHARITY

by Neil Simon, Cy Coleman and Dorothy Fields

21 April – 6 May 2017

The Studio

Charity Valentine, New York dancer-for-hire, finally finds her perfect man in shy accountant Oscar. Should she tell him what she does for a living and risk their romance? Come and enjoy this award-winning Broadway musical.

THE LADYKILLERS

adapted for the stage by Graham Linehan

from the motion picture screenplay by William Rose, by special arrangement with StudioCanal & by special arrangement with Fiery Angel Ltd, London.
This amateur production of *The Ladykillers* is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, LTD.

First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 24 March 2017

CAST

in order of appearance

Constable Macdonald	Christian Search
Mrs Louisa Wilberforce	Mary Davies
Professor Marcus	Simon Higginson
Major Courtney	John Dobson
Harry Robinson	Josh Lewis
One-Round	Chris Waldock
Louis Harvey	Mike Hadjipateras
Mrs Jane Tromleyton	Cathy Wallace
Mrs Wilberforce's Guests	Amelia Fairney, Dorothy Lawson, Claire Malyon
Voice of the Newsreader	Nigel Lawrence
Voice of General Gordon	Clare Watson

The action takes place in King's Cross, London,
from 5th to 9th November, 1956.

The performance lasts approximately 2 hours and 15 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	Roger Beaumont
Set Designer	Imogen Ffion Brown
Costume Designer	Claire Malyon
Lighting Designer	Tim Hayward
Composer / Sound Designer	Daniel Beilby
Stage Manager	Clare Watson
Deputy Stage Manager	Sally Milton
Stage Crew	Andy Broadbent, Cynthia Eke, Maria Gebhardt, Paul Souchon
Properties	Peter Salvietto
Animation	Roisin Tierney
Musical Advisor	Rowena Poole
Lighting Operators	John Green, Roisin Tierney
Sound Operator	Blazej Dziedzic
Lighting Riggers	Angus Duke, Terry Mummery, Chris Newall, Tim Pemberton, Kayti Wilta
Set Constructors	Steve Souchon, Emma Lee Clegg, Jack Hanrahan, Doug King, Alex Marker, Rob Willin, Jesselyn Ng
Photographers	Jane Arnold-Forster, Carla Evans
Marketing Assistant	Claire Durrant
Thanks	Mary Byers, Bob Cummins, Andi Dew, Dinah Irvine, Derek Stoddart, Audrey Thomas, Michelle Weaver, The Tower Theatre Company, National Theatre, Questors Wardrobe Staff

Biographies

Mary Davis – Mrs Louisa Wilberforce

Mary has been a member since 1978. Fast-forward to her old ladies, including Mrs Frola, Mrs Betterton, Doreen in *Night of the Soul* and Gladys in *Carer*. Her favourite: Lady Ganton, a green-stockinged aristo, ample of bosom and belly whose personality she would happily hijack to serve cream teas for all eternity.

John Dobson – Major Courtney

John joined The Questors in 1981 and has played pretty well everything from an evil spider to a French maid to a Japanese biker in black leather and a vicar in ladies underwear. Highlights include *The Faith Healer*, *Breaking the Code*, *Dublin Carol*, *Equus*, *Rhinoceros* and *The Lying Kind*. He edited The Questors newsletter for many years and is now custodian of The Questors' archives.

Mike Hadjipateras – Louis Harvey

Mike joined The Questors in 2003. His favourite roles are Trigorin in *The Seagull*, Faustus in *Doctor Faustus*, Gary Essendine in *Present Laughter*, Aaranow in *Glengarry Glenn Ross*, Abanazar in *Aladdin and his Wonderful Lamp*, Dr Jim Bayliss in *All My Sons*, John Proctor in *The Crucible* and most recently Kotov in *Burnt by the Sun*. Mike teaches history at the Rudolf Steiner School in Hertfordshire.

Simon Higginson – Professor Marcus

Simon has been a member of The Questors for 30 years, so if you can remember *Princess Ivona*, *A Life* and *The Man Who Shot the Tiger* then you saw a much younger version of him. In 1985 he played Brindsley in *Black Comedy* which The Questors took to Japan. More recently he played Gary in *Noises Off*, Laurence in *Abigail's Party*, Jeff Skilling in *ENRON* and Mark Meddle in *London Assurance*. He comes to *The Ladykillers* straight off the back of an exhausting but fun-filled stint as an Ugly Sister in the Christmas panto.

Dorothy Lawson – Mrs Wilberforce's Guest

Dorothy's most recent appearances here were as Marina in *Uncle Vanya* and as Queen Rat in *Dick Whittington & His Cat*. She previously appeared as one of Mrs Wilberforce's friends at the Pump House Theatre, Watford in 2015.

Josh Lewis – Harry Robinson

Josh heralds from the South Wales valleys and joined The Questors in 2011. Since joining, Josh has played a number of fools in *Coarse Shakespeare: The Final Folio*, Christopher Marlow in *The School of Night* and The Cardinal in *The Duchess of Malfi* amongst other roles. Josh has a background in musical theatre and has had the pleasure of working with some of the genres most talented directors including Craig Revel Horwood, Ken Caswell and musical director Tim Rhys Evans. With a passion for music he occasionally organises evenings that help to showcase some of the vocal talent we have here at The Questors.

Christian Search – Constable Macdonald

The Ladykillers is Christian's sixth production with The Questors. His decidedly un-Scottish Constable is the latest addition to a rather unusual collection of past Questors characters, including a cynical Byron-esque Cavalry Officer, a ditch-dwelling drunken misanthrope, a highly-strung (and very busty) waiting woman, as well as a lecherous lusty horse doctor, a Prince and the thickest man in the village.

Learning through plays?

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

john.davey@uwl.ac.uk



The Volunteer Link Scheme
befriending housebound people



Could you spare a couple of hours a week to visit someone who may otherwise see nobody?

To find out more about volunteering with us call Bridget on 020 8434 3635 or email bridget@volunteerlink.org.uk

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Chris Waldo – *One-Round*

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 in *House and Garden*, *Jack and The Beanstalk*, *The Village Bike* and as Arnold in *Improbable Fiction*.

Cathy Wallace – *Mrs Jane Tromleyton*

Cathy has been a member of The Questors for more years than she cares to remember. Recent productions include *Uncle Vanya*, *Antigone* and *Brassed Off*. She is delighted to be having so much fun with *The Ladykillers*.

Roger Beaumont – *Director*

For The Questors: *Design for Living*; *A Streetcar Named Desire*; *Closer*; *Duet for One*; *Waiting for Godot*; *Festen*; *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*; *Humble Boy*; *All My Sons*. For The Tower Theatre: *Chapter Two*; *Aladdin*; *Neville's Island*; *Outside Edge*; *The Gay Detective*; *Speed-the-Plow*; *The Birthday Party*; *A Doll's House*; *Miss Julie*; *Blackbird*; *Endgame*; *The Winterling*; *The Last of the Haussmans*; *Hedda Gabler*; *Jeeves & Wooster in Perfect Nonsense*. For SEDOS: *Three Sisters*; *Boeing-Boeing*. Roger's next project is directing *Nell Gwynn* by Jessica Swale for The Tower Theatre at The Bridewell Theatre in December this year.

Daniel Beilby – *Composer / Sound Designer*

Daniel joined The Questors in 2012 and has since become its 'house composer', writing and recording original music for ten shows including *Macbeth*, *The Crucible*, *The Cripple of Inishmaan* and *Measure for Measure*. Visit www.danielbeilby.com.

Imogen Ffion Brown – *Set Designer*

Imogen is currently a third year undergraduate of Theatre Production. This is her third set design at The Questors, her previous being a co-designer on *Dead White Males* and set designer on *After the End*. She has previously worked in a range of roles in and outside of The Questors including ASM, DSM, props and construction.

Tim Hayward – *Lighting Designer*

Tim's shows at The Questors include a sell-out *Uncle Vanya* and a revival of Peter Shaffer's *Equus*. He recently lit the Student Group's *Stags and Hens* and our contemporary staging of *Measure for Measure*.

Claire Malyon – *Costume Designer / Mrs Wilberforce's Guest*

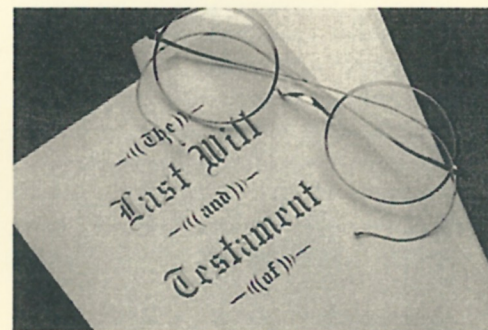
Claire is delighted to be working with so many old friends in the cast as well as returning to the stage after many years away. This is her first time costuming a good old fashioned comedy since joining the wardrobe team at The Questors and as ever thanks are due to all those who have assisted in any way.

Meet the Company – Wednesday 29 March

Come and meet the director and company for a discussion in the Upper Foyer as soon as possible after the Wednesday performance.

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.

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.

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.

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