

Productions for Early 2018

Sleepers in the Field

by Peter Whelan

Opens 26 January in The Playhouse

A Priest in the Family / The Bear

by Tony Rushforth, after Colm Toibin /

Brian Friel, after Anton Chekhov

Opens 2 February in The Studio

The Questors Youth Theatre:

Animal Farm

by Peter Hall, from George Orwell

Opens 21 February in The Playhouse

Taking Sides

by Ronald Harwood

Opens 23 February in The Studio

A Midsummer Night's Dream

by William Shakespeare

Opens 9 March in The Playhouse

The Questors Student Group:

Blood Sports / The Maids

by Richard Gallagher / Jean Genet

Opens 16 March in The Studio

Mojo

by Jez Butterworth

Opens 20 April in The Studio

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

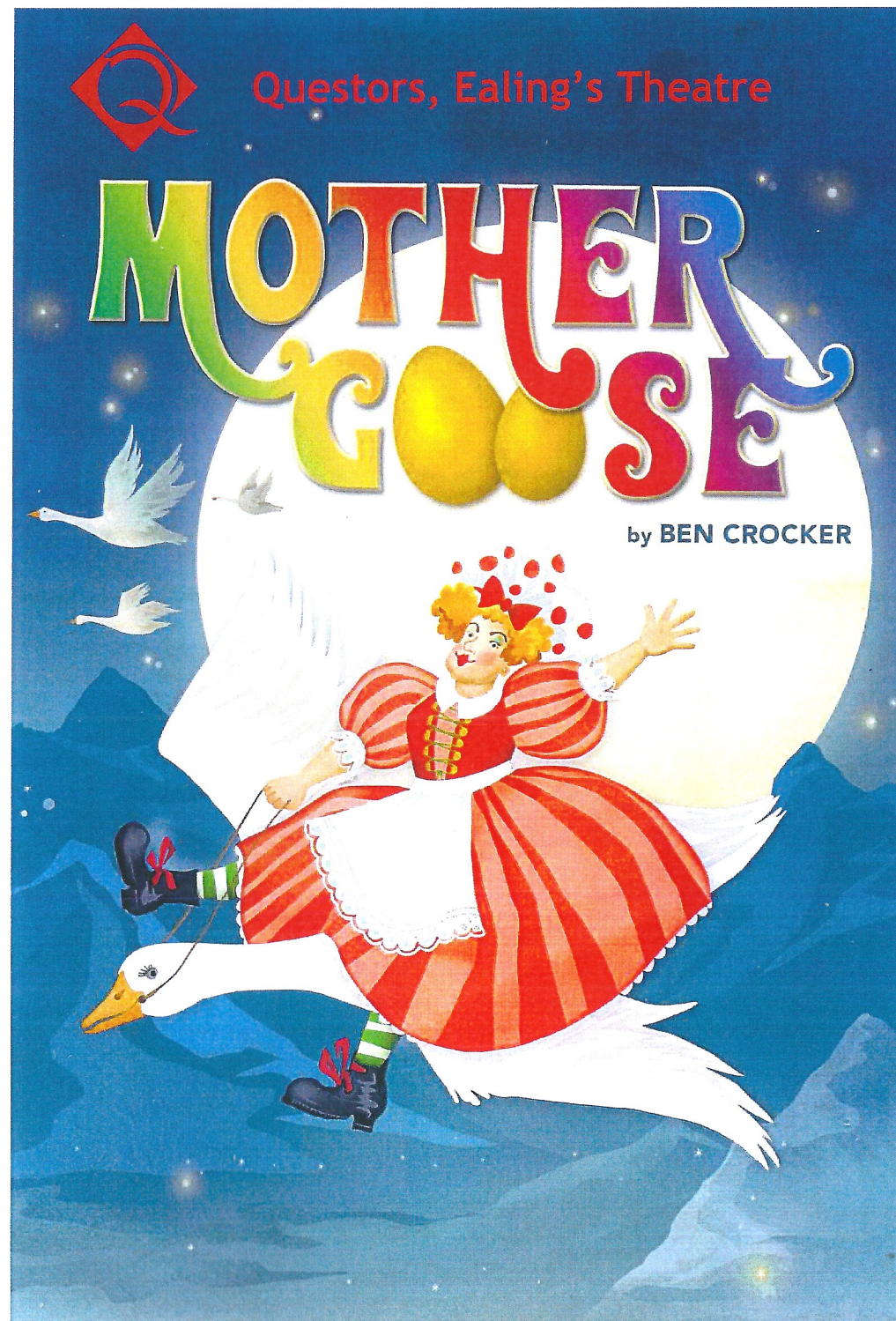
* Reduced prices exclude certain events.
 ** Under 18; excludes certain events; maximum 4 per event; must be collected at the performance and accompanied by the adult member.

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

questors.org.uk

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Programme: Nigel Bamford
 Costume drawings: Carla Evans
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 Registered Charity No. 207516



WELCOME TO MOTHER GOOSE

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

Mother Goose is the fifth traditional pantomime to be produced in recent years by The Questors, following *Aladdin*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Dick Whittington* and *Cinderella*. 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 *Mother Goose* 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 hope to see you back for some of our 2018 productions. You particularly might be interested in our Youth Theatre production of *Animal Farm* in late February, our delightful *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in March, *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* in April/May and *Daisy Pulls it Off* in June – all in the Judi Dench Playhouse.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year; enjoy this seasonal fun and we'll look forward to seeing you next year for *Sleeping Beauty*.

Andrea Bath
Executive
Director

Alec Atchison
Chairman
of the Board



MOTHER GOOSE

by Ben Crocker

The Judi Dench Playhouse

14 December 2017 – 1 January 2018

MOTHER GOOSE

Like all pantomimes there is a moral to the story
and the moral to our story is:

Beauty & Wealth cannot bring you happiness.

It seems that The Questors has hit on a big winner with the general public – pantomimes are a great Christmas tradition. Oh yes they are! This year's *Mother Goose* is the oldest pantomime story and dates back to an ancient Greek legend about a goose that laid golden eggs. It is also one of the earliest pantomimes to be seen in Great Britain, nearly two hundred years ago. The story now is not about Heidi the goose but about Mother Goose herself.

The pantomime story as we know it today does not go back as far – it's a mere 113 years old. It was at the Drury Lane Theatre, London in 1902 that the writer J. Hickory Wood created a new pantomime especially for the leading comedian of the day – Dan Leno. When the pantomime was finished it told the story that we know today, and created the biggest part for a Dame in any pantomime.

It tells how Mother Goose is about to be thrown off her land because she cannot pay the Baron the rent. Once he learns about Heidi and her golden egg laying, he plans to capture her for himself.

Mother Goose loves Heidi as a friend but doesn't know that she has been sent by the good fairy to help Mother Goose. When Heidi lays golden eggs, and Mother Goose is rich, along comes Smorg, our baddie troll, who has made a bet with the good fairy. Smorg claims there is no-one on earth who is happy with what they have got. No-one is content; they want more. The fairy disagrees, and uses Mother Goose as an example of goodness.

Then Smorg tempts Mother Goose with the one thing she doesn't have – youth and beauty. She persuades her to give her Heidi in exchange for a visit to the Bog of Beauty. Mother Goose signs Heidi away and enters the bog, emerging as (she thinks) a beautiful woman.

Her family and friends don't like her now; they want the old Mother Goose back. Too late she realises that beauty is NOT everything, and that she must get Heidi back no matter what. After a lot of trouble, she goes to Goose Court in Magic Mountain to plead for Heidi, gets her back and all ends happily ever after.

That's it in a nutshell but with lots of crazy characters, fun, laughs and boo's as we take you along for the ride.

Oh no, it isn't – oh yes, it is!

The audience participation experience draws from old Victorian music hall conventions, and it is such a key part to the panto experience that the audience is like another character in the show, keeping everyone in the cast on their toes. You are encouraged to boo and hiss at our villain Smorg (she loves it), cheer our hero and, of course, outdo each other in our singalong.

I must mention Ben Crocker who wrote this amazing script. Ben comes from a very theatrical background; his father was the actor and pantomime script writer, John Crocker. Ben saw his first panto at the tender age of three, which he recalls as being *Jack and the Beanstalk*, although he can't remember it all as he spent most of the time hiding under his seat. Pantomime is in his blood and he has continued to enjoy his love of this art form. He would say that his scripts are the best panto scripts in the world – oh yes they are!

And while we're talking about the best, I'd like to mention my talented Assistant Director, Annabelle Williams. Without her I would never have been able to get through the craziness that is this panto. She has been there right from the moment Anne Neville (our Artistic Director) asked if I would like Annabelle as my assistant. How lucky was I? Even before we started rehearsals, we could not stop coming up with ideas of how we were going to entertain you.

Annabelle's ability to re-write the songs to fit the show, her creative input in the whole process and special talent for keeping me sane has made her a joy to work with. So I'd like to say a very big thank you to her. I am looking forward to watching her tread the boards (did I say she is an actor too) in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as Puck later in our season in the Judi Dench Playhouse. I can't wait to see her in this production in what I consider a perfect role for her. Break a leg!

I would also like to thank all the creative team and backstage crew without whom we as a community theatre would not be able to stage these magnificent shows. Thank you all for your commitment and your input into the whole process.

We have had so much fun in our rehearsal period, we hope you have just as much fun watching and joining in. We would all like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Pamela Redrup, Director

Production Photographs



Young People's Ensemble



Team A



Team B

Production Photographs



Young People's Ensemble



Team A



Team B

MOTHER GOOSE

by Ben Crocker

First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 14 December 2017

THE PLAYERS

Principal Cast

in order of appearance

Smorg	Julia Marques
Fairy Aurora	Emmy Cam
Mother Goose	James Goodden
Freya Goose	Elizabeth Ledwith
Heidi Goose	Zoë Ledwith-Hoult
Baron von Rumpensmakka	Derek Stoddart
Gonk	Eamon Goodfellow
Postman / Ensemble	Andrea Little
Sven	Maddy MacConnol
The Grand High Snow Goose	Alan Chambers
Clock / Ensemble	Kevin Sebastianpillai
Boss Snowman / Ensemble	Shaan Latif-Shaikh

Musicians

Reeds	Simon Briggs
Guitar	Berni Messenger
Keyboard	Lee Dewsnap
Percussion	Dave Neville
Bass Guitar	John Hennessy

Young People's Ensemble

Team A†

Villagers/Trolls
Alexandra Kern,
Benjamin Lepper,
Ella Martino,
Georgia De Vitis,
Grace Scanlon,
Lilah Golding Wood,
Phoebe Wellington,
Sam Thompson Roche,
Shannon Carroll,
Stanley Watts,
Wilfie Goodliffe,
Zoe Kemp

Villagers/Guards
Luke Duffy,
Paddy Barry

Villagers/Snowmen
Chloe Kemp-Harper,
Hannah Duffy,
Hannah Lepper,
Indiana Holden,
Mia Lepper,
Olivia Carmichael

Goslings
Annie Sandhu,
Caoimhe Sheffer,
Charlotte Green,
Isobel Spurling,
Sara Pavicevic

Team B*

Aidan Bennebri,
Amelia Barwick,
Ava Bileckyj,
Daniel Mackenzie,
Giulia Sclano,
Matteo Dashi,
Milovan Mirkovic,
Ricky Hector,
Rory Hughes,
Rose Bonnor-Moris,
Sophia Antoniou,
William Green

Lara Tomovic,
Sara Mirkovic

Cara Stanislaus,
Ciara Fulker,
Grace Connett,
Kwanitah John Paull,
Martha Connett,
Rhianna Jackson

Aoife Hughes,
Emilia Farrell,
Ilianna Karageorgi,
Sophie Green,
Téa Tomovic

The performance lasts about 2 hours 20 minutes including a 20-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.

†appearing Dec 14, 16 (2:30), 17 (12:00), 19, 21, 23 (2:30), 27, 29, 30, 31 (4:30)

*appearing Dec 15, 16, 17 (4:30), 20, 22, 23, 28, 30 (2:30), 31 (12:00), Jan 1 (4:30)

CREATIVE TEAM

Director	Pamela Redrup
Assistant Director	Annabelle Williams
Musical Director	John Hennessy
Costume Designers	Carla Evans, Claire Malyon
Set Designer	Claire Auvache
Lighting Designers	Andrew Dixon, Chris Newall
Sound Designer / Operator	Richard Eliot
Choreographer	Julia Timmons
Puppet Designer / Maker	Shaan Latif-Shaikh

MUSICAL NUMBERS

additional lyrics by **Annabelle Williams**

<i>Trouble</i>	Smorg
<i>Can't Stop the Feeling</i>	The Company
<i>All By Myself</i>	Mother Goose
<i>Busy Decorating</i>	Freya
<i>I Think I Love You</i>	Freya and Sven
<i>Vogue</i>	Mother Goose
<i>Nice Nice Baby</i>	Baron, Gonk and Mother Goose
<i>Ain't No Mountain High Enough</i>	The Company
<i>Magnificent Folk</i>	The Company
<i>Thriller</i>	Ensemble and Trolls
<i>Winter Wonderland</i>	Snowmen
<i>I Feel Good</i>	The Company

PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Manager	Toby Burbidge
Deputy Stage Managers	James Byrne, Robert Eagle, Kate Townsend
Assistant Stage Managers	Nicola Amory, Dilnaaz Kazi, Shaan Latif-Shaikh, Andrea Little, Kevin Sebastianpillai
Properties	Nicola Amory, Bron Blake, James Byrne, Robert Eagle, Geoff Moore
Wardrobe Mistress	Jenny Richardson
Costume Makers	Sarah Andrews, Jane Arnold-Forster, Anne Gilmour, Moonika Leisson, Alison Simmons, Shobi Springer
Wardrobe Assistants	Jan Auvache, Mary Davies, Helen Karasiewicz, Sue Peckitt, Sarah Pestana, Valerie Rudd, Sylvia Wall, Michelle Weaver
Dresser to Mr Goodden	Ian Black
Lighting Programmer	Francois Langton
Lighting Operators	Jane Arnold-Forster, Cecily Johnson, Sally Milton, Tim Pemberton, Halle Stephens, Lizzie Turner, Robert Walker, Clare Watson
Head Set Constructor	Toby Burbidge
Set Constructors / Get-In Crew	Bernd Gauweiler, Doug King, Stephen Souchon, Rob Willin
Set Painters	Claire Auvache, Tom Coates, UWL & Kingston Students with Alex Marker
Hair and Make-Up	Rebecca Calver, Inez Clark, Emma Crawford, Elisa De Micheli, Hannah Dearnley, Erika Freedman, Chloe Jackson, Madeleine Johansson, Sian Lewis, Jodie Llewellyn, Grace Luck, Claudia Mancini, Mollie Merrifield, Sophie Middleton, Harjit Minhas, Christina Moat, Manon Orance, Luciana Payne, Laura Randall, Marianne Widmer
Photographer	Robert Vass
Videographer	Peter Gould
Thanks to	Raymond Childe, Rory Hobson, Jennie Yates, The Office Staff, all the wonderful chaperones and anyone else we've forgotten

Biographies

Emmy Cam – *Fairy Aurora*

Despite being a part of numerous theatre productions whilst growing up, including *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Christmas Carol* and *God of Carnage*, this is Emmy's first theatrical involvement with The Questors and her very first pantomime.

Alan Chambers – *The Grand High Snow Goose*

Alan has acted in or directed the Questors Christmas show since the sixties. His favourite roles were Albert the Horse in *The Wind in the Willows* and a Polar Bear in *The Snow Queen*. A founder member of our affiliated Pitsinger Poets, his pamphlet *Making the Moon* is on sale now in aid of the Questors Renewal Fund. Alan recently retired from the Board of Trustees after about 50 years' service.

James Goodden – *Mother Goose*

This is the second time that James has donned the frocks and the wigs at The Questors following his appearance as Dame Trott in *Jack and the Beanstalk* in 2014. James has been a member for over thirty years and outside of panto was most recently seen in *The Country Wife* and *The Crucible*.

Eamon Goodfellow – *Gonk*

Eamon is an actor and stand-up comedian who performs with a number of theatres in the south-east. He has appeared at The Questors as Robert in *Boeing-Boeing* and Malvolio in *Twelfth Night*. He loves playing Gonk as he's a loveable, gormless, loyal servant to the Baron who can really bust some moves!

Shaan Latif-Shaikh – *Puppet Maker / Boss Snowman / Ensemble*

At The Questors, Shaan has helped out in various departments though commonly ends up with puppets. His previous creations include an egotistical mouse, a sentient sausage, some neon sea creatures, three completely different pigs and a decapitating wolf. Outside of The Questors he works as a puppeteer with the Little Angel Theatre.

Elizabeth Ledwith – *Freya Goose*

Elizabeth, often known as Lily, has been a member of QYT for 11 years, and has appeared in previous Questors Christmas shows including; *Annie* as an orphan, *Aladdin and his Wonderful Lamp* and *Jack and the Beanstalk* as a chorus member. This is her first Questors show in a lead role.

Zoë Ledwith-Hoult – *Heidi Goose*

Zoë has supported The Questors since 2003, with her children attending youth theatre classes and participating in various shows (requiring chaperoning and costume repairs). Zoë actually works in theatre, but as a Staff Nurse. This is her second Questors Christmas panto with her daughter, Elizabeth.

Andrea Little – *Postman / Ensemble*

Andrea was in the Christmas panto *Dick Whittington & His Cat* at The Questors and has also been in various stage productions with other groups, operated sound and lighting as well as designing lighting. She is also a member of a film school.

Maddy MacConnol – *Sven*

Maddy is very excited to be performing in *Mother Goose*. Having only recently become an acting member, this is her first performance at The Questors. Maddy has previously performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival as Madame Diafoirus in the five-star reviewed adaptation of Molière's *The Hypochondriac* and played Cha Cha in *Grease*.

Julia Marques – *Smorg*

Apart from other pantomimes, Julia has been in plays such as *Stepping Out*, *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *Steel Magnolias*. She has just finished an MA degree in Climate Change, and is currently teaching and working in Ealing library.

Kevin Sebastianpillai – *Clock / Ensemble*

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

Derek Stoddart – *Baron von Rumpensmakka*

Derek has acted in a wide range of productions over the last 30 years with The Questors. He loves Christmas shows and the chance to interact with the audience. He was last seen as King Bertram in *Jack and the Beanstalk* and before that as Bob Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol*. Other recent productions include *Burnt by the Sun*, *Twelfth Night*, *Uncle Vanya* and *House & Garden*.

Claire Auvache – *Set Designer*

Claire graduated from RADA in 2010 and worked as a stage manager until 2013 when she became a designer and art director for TV, and a prop supervisor for theatre, for which she has had many professional credits.

Andrew Dixon – Lighting Designer

Andrew has been lighting for 60 years... from amateur dramas to BBC epics; he finds them all equally exciting. His role on this panto is mainly to ensure that we have three lighting operators for each performance!

Carla Evans – Costume Designer

Carla has been making frocks, props, puppets and very silly headdresses for Questors pantomimes since 2013. This is her first production as a Costume Designer, and thanks to the support of the wonderful wardrobe team she quite likes the idea of doing it again...

John Hennessy – Musical Director

This is John's third Questors production. He has supported major acts like Dire Straits, Queen and Motörhead, plus opening the 1981 Reading Festival. Latterly, he has worked on musicals at theatres from The Questors to the West End including *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Guys and Dolls* and many more. He has conducted *Joseph* and *Smokey Joe's Café*, recently composing the music for a play on Jesus Christ's life.

Claire Malyon – Costume Designer

This is Claire's largest production for The Questors since joining, although she has assisted on four previous Christmas shows. It has been delightful working with Carla as co-designer and huge thanks go to all the loyal wardrobe assistants.

Chris Newall – Lighting Designer

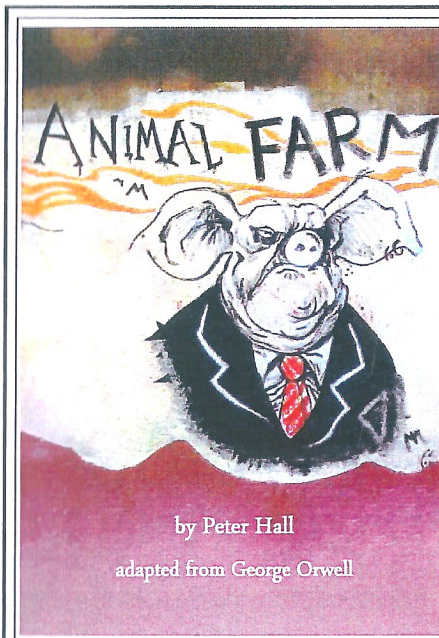
Chris has designed the lighting for over 40 Questors productions, several Musical Theatre Summer Schools and a couple of RSC Showcases. Most recently he lit *The Country Wife* in the Judi Dench Playhouse and at the Minack open-air theatre in Cornwall, and *The Village Bike* and *Endgame* in the Studio.

Julia Timmons – Choreographer

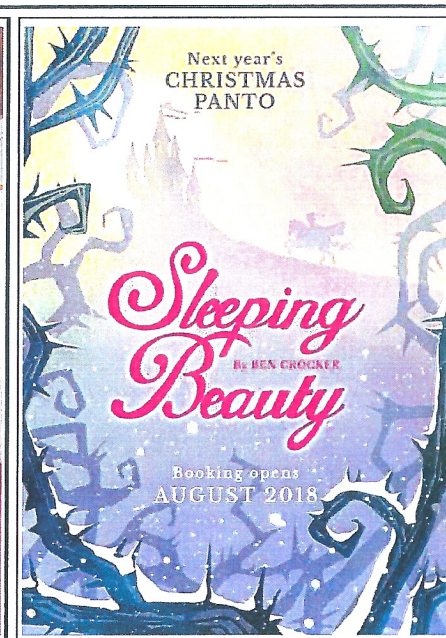
Julia danced professionally for 18 years before becoming a ballet teacher and choreographer and is now principal of The School of Dance Mortlake. Choreographic work includes *My Fair Lady*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Bugsy Malone* and, most recently for The Questors, *Jack and the Beanstalk* and *The Crucible*.

Annabelle Williams – Assistant Director

Annabelle has performed many roles on stage at The Questors over the last 21 years. This is her first go at assistant directing and, under the experienced wings of Pam and working with such a lovely team of talented and dedicated hard-workers, it has been an absolute pleasure. The cast of adults and children have been a joy to spend rehearsals with and the creative process we have all shared has been so exciting.



Questors Youth Theatre presents an adaptation of a classic novella in **The Judy Dench Playhouse.**
21 – 24 February 2018
Tickets on sale soon.



The Questors Theatre presents this classic fairy tale pantomime in **The Judy Dench Playhouse** for Christmas 2018.
Tickets on sale in August.

Alternative Christmas Entertainment

DIANA OF DOBSON'S

by Cicely Hamilton

16 – 30 December 2017

The Studio

Diana leads a dreary life as a shop-girl at Dobson's Emporium until she is left a legacy of £300. She decides to blow it all on fine clothes and a holiday in Switzerland where she finds herself pursued by two men. A rare and daring revival of this gem of the Edwardian theatre, Hamilton's work is as relevant today as it ever was.

CHRISTMAS GHOST STORIES

17 and 18 December 2017

The Studio

Get into the Christmas spirit by communing with the spirit world in our ninth season of Ghost Stories. Just make sure you don't walk home alone...
Listen to Questors actors reading ghost stories from some of the greatest writers of the genre – a different selection each night.
Tickets on the door.