

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: Carla Evans

The Questors Theatre
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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



SEASON'S GREETINGS

by Alan Ayckbourn

The Judi Dench Playhouse

3 – 11 November 2017

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 2018 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 accepts payments by card (contactless only).



SEASON'S GREETINGS

by Alan Ayckbourn

The Judi Dench Playhouse

3 – 11 November 2017

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Alan Ayckbourn was born in Hampstead in North London in 1939, and left school at the age 17. He has spent almost his entire working life in Scarborough, at the Library Theatre (now the Stephen Joseph Theatre). Beginning as an ASM, he became the Artistic Director in 1972, remaining in that post until 2009. He has written and produced more than seventy plays, all but four of which were premiered in Scarborough. More than 40 of his plays have subsequently been produced in the West End, at the Royal National Theatre or by the Royal Shakespeare Company, since his first hit, *Relatively Speaking*, opened at the Duke of York's Theatre in 1969. Among his plays to have been performed here at The Questors, the most recent are *Improbable Fiction* (2016), *Absurd Person Singular* (2012), *House and Garden* (2013) and *Bedroom Farce* (2008). Many of his best plays deal with the breakdown – or survival – of family life. Perhaps his own family history has played an important role in shaping his somewhat jaundiced view of domesticity. His parents (his father was an orchestral musician, his mother a writer of short stories) never married and separated shortly after the end of the War. In 1948, whilst Ayckbourn was at prep school as a boarder, his mother wrote to him to say that she was divorcing her first husband and marrying Cecil Pye, a bank manager. When he went home for the holidays, his new family consisted of his mother, his stepfather and Christopher, his stepfather's son by an earlier marriage. It does not appear to have been a particularly idyllic set-up. Ayckbourn's own marital life has been similarly unconventional. In 1957, he married Christine Roland, a fellow member of the Library Theatre Company. They had two sons, but the marriage ran into difficulties and they separated in 1971. He then set up home with another

actress, Heather Stoney, whom he had known for ten years. Despite this move, like his mother before him, he did not seek a divorce for many years, leaving it until 1997 that he and Christine finally divorced and he was able to marry Heather.

In *Season's Greetings*, which was first performed at Scarborough in 1980, Ayckbourn gives us the family gathering from Hell, in what is one of his finest – certainly his funniest – plays. It transferred to the Apollo in 1982, and was filmed for television with a distinguished cast, including Peter Vaughan and Geoffrey Palmer. In 2010 it was revived at the Royal National Theatre, with Catherine Tate as Belinda, Mark Gatiss as Bernard and David Troughton as Harvey.

The play was last performed at The Questors in 1998, a production memorable amongst other things, for a wonderful performance as Harvey by the late Roger Lewis. This production has been enormous fun to work on. It has been a particular joy to welcome back Keith Parry, back after a gap of 13 years, since he last appeared here as Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice*.

Francis Lloyd, Director

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](#).

SEASON'S GREETINGS

by Alan Ayckbourn

First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 3 November 2017

CAST

Neville	Julian Casey
Belinda, <i>his wife</i>	Rachel Griffiths
Phyllis, <i>his sister</i>	Alison Griffin
Harvey, <i>his uncle</i>	Keith Parry
Bernard, <i>Phyllis's husband</i>	John Dobson
Rachel, <i>Belinda's sister</i>	Ceri Jones
Eddie	Mark Hill
Pattie, <i>Eddie's wife</i>	Kerri Logan
Clive	James Burgess

The action of the play takes place in the home of Neville and Belinda Bunker, Christmas 1980.

Act One

Scene 1	Christmas Eve, 7.30 pm
Scene 2	Christmas Day, noon
Scene 3	Christmas Day, midnight

Act Two

Scene 1	Boxing Day, 3.30 pm
Scene 2	December 27th, 5.15 am

The performance lasts approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes including a 15-minute interval.

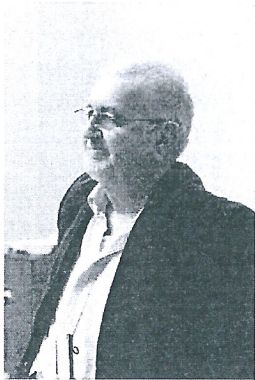
Please turn off all mobile phones and similar electronic devices.
The use of cameras, video cameras and recording equipment is strictly prohibited.
Thank you.

PRODUCTION

Director	Francis Lloyd
Set Designer	Stephen Souchon
Costume Designer	Sylvia Wall
Lighting Designer	Andrew Whadcoat
Sound Designer	Lizzie Turner
Production Manager	Jane Arnold-Forster
Stage Manager	James Peake
Deputy Stage Managers	Sarah Clopet, Sally Milton
Assistant Stage Managers	Blanche Bosman, Angus Duke, Mel Pereira, Paul Souchon
Properties	Harriet Parsonage
Puppet Maker	Shaan Latif-Shaikh
Christmas Decorations	Ian Black
Prompter	Debbie Abel
Wardrobe Assistants	Jan Auvache, Moonika Leisson, Sue Peckitt, Jenny Richardson
Lighting Assistant	Terry Mummery
Sound Operators	Lizzie Turner, Abena Weston
Constructors	Colin Horne, Doug King, Stephen Souchon, Halle Stephens, Rob Willin
Get-In Crew	Bernd Gauweiler
Photographer	Peter Collins
Videographer	Peter Gould
Thanks to	Bron Blake, Gemma Drummond, Alex Marker, Ollie Potter, Nigel Worsley, House Services, The Office

Rehearsal Photographs

by Peter Collins



Biographies

James Burgess – Clive

James's productions at The Questors include *The Country Wife*, *Measure for Measure*, *Titus Andronicus*, *All Joy of the Worm* and *The Overnight Plays*. Other theatre includes: *Dido*, *Queen of Carthage* and *The Alchemist* (Rose Playhouse); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Edinburgh Fringe); *Love's Labour's Lost* (touring); *Macbeth in Pitch Black* (touring).

Julian Casey – Neville

Julian made his stage debut as Hector in *Troilus and Cressida* for Leeds University Union Theatre Group in November 1987. Since then he has appeared in over 45 productions in the North of England and London, eight of which were plays by Shakespeare. He joined The Questors in 2006 and has played a variety of roles including Dracula, Iago, Petruchio and Vershinin. He played Mr Hardcastle in the Questors 2015 production of *She Stoops to Conquer* which toured to the Minack Theatre in Cornwall. He was last seen as Pompey the Tapster in *Measure for Measure* (2016).

John Dobson – Bernard

John Dobson joined The Questors in 1981 and has played everything from a French maid to a rhinoceros. Highlights include *The Faith Healer*, *Breaking the Code*, *Dublin Carol*, *Equus* and, most recently, *The Ladykillers*. He edited the Questors newsletter for many years and is now custodian of The Questors' archives.

Alison Griffin – Phyllis

Following a 15-year break from working as an actress and director, Alison began classes at The Questors in 2012. She became an acting member in 2015 and has been delighted to be able to perform again. Productions to date include *All My Sons*, *Rhinoceros*, *The Lying Kind*, *Questival II* and most recently another Ayckbourn, *Improbable Fiction*.

Rachel Griffiths – Belinda

Rachel joined The Questors in 2003 after graduating from Nottingham University with a degree in History and American Studies. She completed Student Group 61 in 2008 and has appeared in several productions since then, most recently in *Jumpers for Goalposts*, *Measure for Measure* and *Nothing Like a First Night* by Mark Hill (Eddie in *Season's Greetings*). She is also a member of The Questors' new writing team who work to discover and develop new writing talent.

Mark Hill – Eddie

Mark has acted at The Questors since 2008, including appearances in *Parlour Song* (Ned), *Dogs Barking* (Splodge/Ray), *The Flint Street Nativity* (Ass) and *Othello* (Rodrigo). He is also a writer and his self-directed production, *Nothing Like a First Night*, played to three sell-out crowds in the Studio in February 2017.

Ceri Jones – Rachel

After a 15-year break raising a family, Ceri returned to The Questors in 2017 to play the role of Mrs Eynsford-Hill in *Pygmalion*. She has taken two shows to Edinburgh, a one woman show called *D Minus* and *Hello Paris*. Her first role at The Questors was Rita in *Educating Rita*. She has been in *On the Razzle*, *Hobson's Choice* and *Benefactors*, to name but a few.

Kerri Logan – Pattie

Since joining The Questors some 15 years ago, Kerri has appeared in over a dozen Questors productions, including *Nicholas Nickleby*, *Company, Two*, *Misery*, *Ladies' Day*, *Hobson's Choice*, *Present Laughter*, *Blue Remembered Hills* and 2014's Christmas pantomime, *Jack and the Beanstalk*. Most recently, she appeared in *The Country Wife*, which The Questors took to the Minack Theatre in September 2017.

Keith Parry – Harvey

This is Keith's first Questors production since playing Shylock in the 2004 production of *The Merchant of Venice*. Following completion of the Questors Student Group in 1980, Keith appeared in many productions and is delighted to be back amongst friends in this wonderful theatre, working with a highly talented, creative and dedicated cast and crew.

Francis Lloyd – Director

At The Questors, Francis has directed *After the Dance*, *French Paste*, *Charley's Aunt*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Otherwise Engaged*, *Hobson's Choice*, *Engaged* and, most recently, two plays by Brian Abbott, *No Fairy Tale* and *Bird on the Wire*. Recent acting roles include Sir Robert Morton in *The Winslow Boy* and Vanya in *Uncle Vanya*.

Stephen Souchon – Set Designer

Stephen's productions for The Questors include *Don't Dress for Dinner*, *Kyoto & The Letter of Last Resort* at Jermyn Street Theatre, *Cinderella* and *The Country Wife* at both The Questors and Minack theatres.

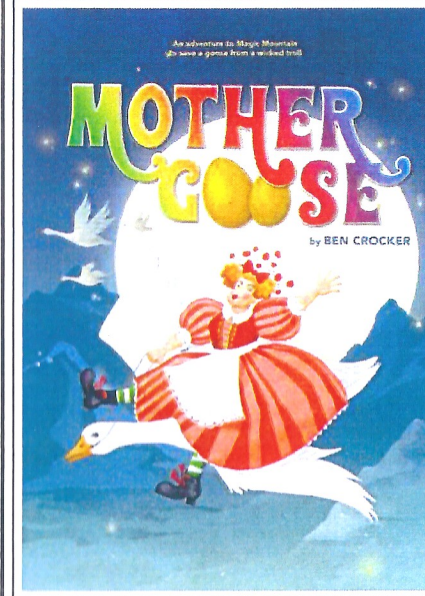
Sylvia Wall – Costume Designer

Sylvia joined The Questors in 1966 and was soon recruited into the stage management team. She trained as an ASM, promoted to DSM and then to SM during the following two years. She also became involved in props making and was persuaded into the wardrobe department to become a wardrobe mistress then a costume designer. Her last costume design was for *Pygmalion*.

Andrew Whadcoat – Lighting Designer

Andrew has worked in lighting since 2013, enjoying the variety of productions at The Questors. Recent credits are designing the lighting for *Scarborough*, *The Last of the Hausmanns* and *When the Rain Stops Falling* and, offsite, *The Letter of Last Resort* at the Printworks in London and *Red Peppers* at the Théâtre des Variétés in Monaco where The Questors represented Great Britain at the international Mondial du Théâtre.

Next at The Questors



MOTHER GOOSE

by Ben Crocker

14 Dec 2017 – 1 Jan 2018

The Judi Dench Playhouse

Adventure to Magic Mountain to save a little goose from a wicked troll. Join us on a fun, family adventure this Christmas with Mother Goose – our laugh-out-loud panto. Sing along, shout at the nasty troll, meet the Giant Geese of Boundtobiteyou and even do some yodelling! Oh – and don't forget to wear your Christmas jumper!



DIANA OF DOBSON'S

by Cecily 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. Rather than be sensible, 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.