

## 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).

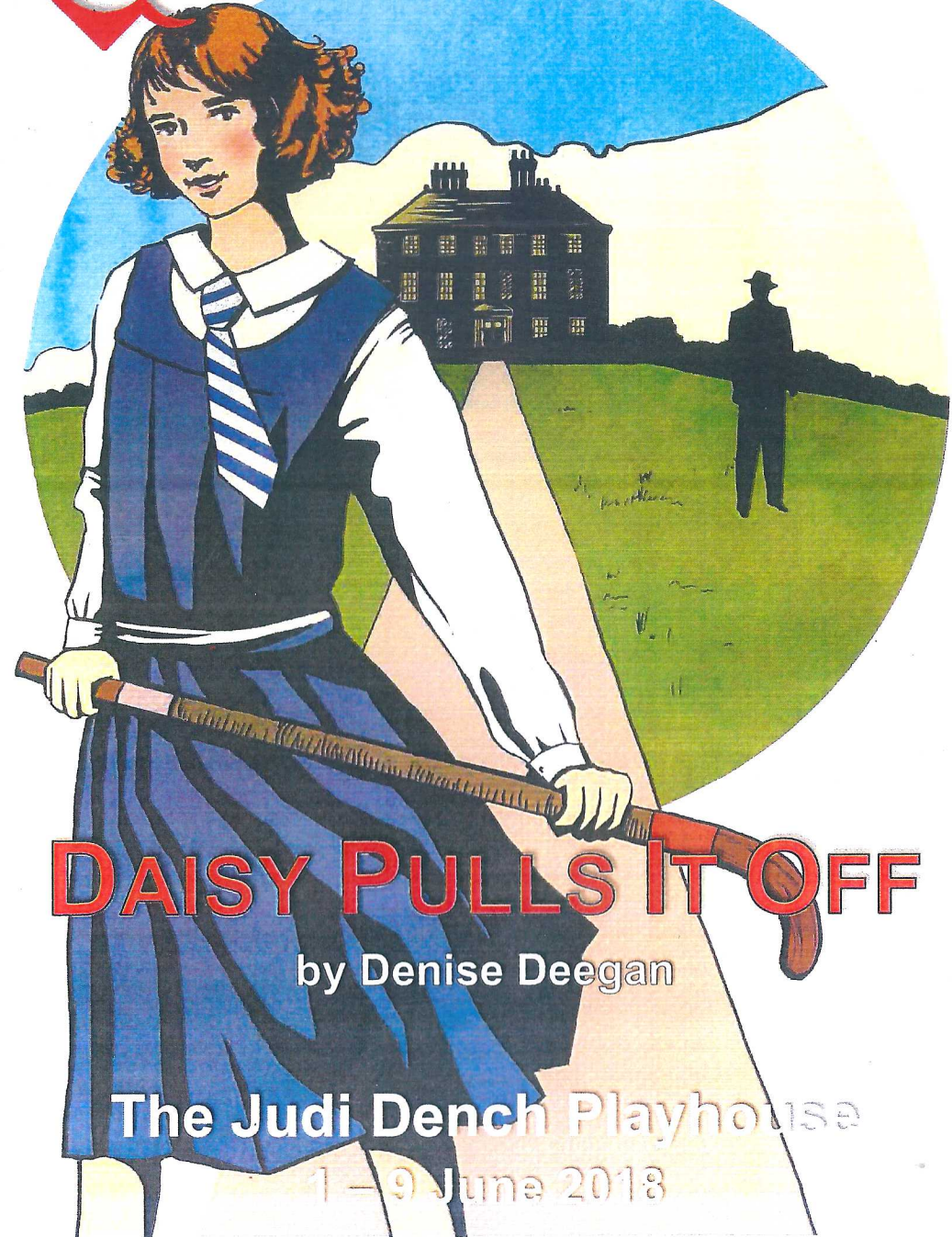
Cover Image: Carla Evans

The Questors Theatre  
12 Mattock Lane, Ealing, W5 5BQ  
Registered Charity No. 207516

Programme: Nigel Bamford

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# Questors, Ealing's Theatre



## DAISY PULLS IT OFF

by Denise Deegan

The Judi Dench Playhouse

1-9 June 2018



## Fields at The Questors

Fields at The Questors serves Italian coffee, fine teas, hearty meals and handmade cakes, and is the perfect spot for a pre-theatre meal or intermission ice-cream.

Order interval drinks before the show to beat the crowds.

Regular opening hours:  
Monday to Saturday,  
9:00 am to 7:30 pm

Also open before and during the interval of all Judi Dench Playhouse evening and matinee performances.

Find **Fields** on **Facebook**.



## 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

**Spring Mini Beer Festival: 14 – 16 June**

See [questors.org.uk/grapevine](http://questors.org.uk/grapevine) for more details.

**Fields and the Grapevine accept payments by card.**



image: Robert Vass

# DAISY PULLS IT OFF

by Denise Deegan

**The Judi Dench Playhouse**

**1 – 9 June 2018**



# DAISY PULLS IT OFF

*Daisy Pulls It Off* was a surprise hit, first performed at the Nuffield Theatre, Southampton in 1983, and then transferring to the West End where it ran for 1,180 performances. It won the Olivier award for best new comedy, and has since been regularly revived by both amateur and professional companies. An affectionate spoof of schoolgirl novels from the early 20th century, there is simply no other play like it – it is truly a one-off masterpiece.

The inspiration seems to be the novels of Angela Brazil (1868-1947) who wrote nearly 50 books of girls' fiction, the vast majority being boarding school stories. Amazingly, they were seen as disruptive and a negative influence on moral standards by some figures in authority during the height of their popularity, and in some cases were banned, or indeed burned, by headmistresses in British girls' schools.

However the basic plot of *Daisy Pulls It Off* is said to be derived from another author's work – *The Testing of Tansy* by Winifred Norling, published in 1939.

Denise Deegan, born 1952, studied stage management at East 15 Acting School, and was a freelance stage manager until the success of *Daisy Pulls It Off*, which launched her career as a writer. She has since written other plays and novels, but nothing has ever achieved the success of her debut.

This production of *Daisy Pulls It Off* is in effect a revival of our production 25 years ago, which opened on 31 December 1993, and toured to the Minack Theatre in August 1995. Having directed that production, I was unable to resist the offer to do it yet again. I am delighted to be able to recreate the original set design by Norman Barwick (sadly no longer with us); and especially grateful to Paul Clark for allowing us to reuse his original music.



The girl regarded Pen disdainfully. "I suppose," she said at length, "that you are the new servant?"

So it seems right to pay tribute to the original cast, who were:

Miss Gibson	Anne Sawbridge
Daisy	Georgia Mackenzie
Trixie	Amanda Haberland
Sybil	Sara Puce
Monica	Louise Isidoros
Belinda	Belle Perera
Dora	Lorraine Cook
Clare	Annabel Fisher
Alice	Glenda Kerney
Winnie	Allie Gerard
Miss Granville	Jennifer Tudor
Mother/Mademoiselle	Ann Forshaw
Mr Scoblowksi	Phillip Sheahan
Mr Thompson	George Martin

With these cast changes at Minack:

Sybil	Victoria Smith
Clare	Anna Wilcockson
Winnie	Louise Couchman
Miss Granville	Janet Egan
Mother/Mademoiselle	Helen Landau
Mr Thompson	Paul Vincent



But of course there is now a completely new cast, with one exception (can you spot it?), and this production belongs entirely to the current company, which includes so many actors making their debut at The Questors, or who have only appeared once before. They have created their own performances. I am proud of them, and I hope you will enjoy them.

**David Emmet, Director**

# DAISY PULLS IT OFF

by Denise Deegan

*First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 1 June 2018*

## CAST

in order of appearance

Pianist	<b>Graham Reid</b>
Miss Gibson, <i>Headmistress</i>	<b>Ceri Jones</b>
Daisy Meredith, <i>Upper Fourth</i>	<b>Charlotte Thompson</b>
Sybil Burlington, <i>Vice-Captain of the Upper Fourth</i>	<b>Georgie Turner</b>
Daisy's Mother	<b>Annabel Spinks-Jones</b>
Belinda Mathieson, <i>Captain of the Upper Fourth</i>	<b>Severine Simone</b>
Clare Beaumont, <i>Head Girl</i>	<b>Julia Marques</b>
Alice Fitzpatrick, <i>Deputy Head Girl</i>	<b>Nicole Kerr</b>
Trixie Martin, <i>Upper Fourth</i>	<b>Charlotte Sparey</b>
Monica Smithers, <i>Upper Fourth</i>	<b>Lisa Varty</b>
Dora Johnston, <i>Upper Fourth</i>	<b>Lindsay Pattison</b>
Miss Granville, <i>Form Mistress of the Upper Fourth</i>	<b>Anne Neville</b>
Mr Scoblowski, <i>Music Teacher</i>	<b>Phillip Sheahan</b>
Winnie Irving, <i>Second Form</i>	<b>Zara Hemati</b>
Mademoiselle, <i>French Teacher</i>	<b>Annabel Spinks-Jones</b>
Mr Thompson	<b>Tristan Marshall</b>

The play takes place in and around the Great Hall of Grangewood School for Girls.

At the end of the performance the School Song will be sung. The audience are invited to join in the chorus. Song sheets are provided.

The performance lasts approximately 2 hours and 25 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>David Emmet</b>
Original Set Design	<b>Norman Barwick</b>
Recreated by	<b>Stephen Souchon</b>
Original music by	<b>Paul Clark</b>
Musical Director and additional music	<b>Graham Reid</b>
Costume Designer	<b>Jenny Richardson</b>
Lighting Designer	<b>John Green</b>
Sound Designer	<b>Russell Fleet</b>
Stage Manager	<b>Pam Redrup</b>
Deputy Stage Manager	<b>Robert Eagle</b>
Assistant Stage Managers	<b>Ian Black, Julia Caldwell, Angus Duke, Ciara Foote, Sarah Vandervliet</b>
Prompter	<b>Debbie Abel</b>
Properties Makers	<b>Reiko Moreau, Shaan Latif-Shaikh</b>
Portraits by	<b>Vicky Saumarez</b>
Lighting Operator	<b>Carole Swan</b>
Lighting Assistants	<b>Tim Hayward, Andrew Whadcoat</b>
Set Constructors	<b>Toby Burbidge, Colin Horne, Doug King, Stephen Souchon, Rob Willin</b>
Scenic Painters	<b>Bron Blake, Rachel Gemaehling</b>
Get-In Assistance	<b>Bernd Gauweiler, Tina Harris, Shaan Latif-Shaikh, Kevin Sepastianpillai, Paul Souchon, Jon Webster</b>
Rehearsal Photographer	<b>Robert Vass</b>
Production Photographer	<b>Rishi Rai</b>
Thanks to	<b>Nichola Thomas</b>



# Biographies

## Zara Hemati – Winnie Irving

Zara joined The Questors as a student in Group 72, graduating last year after playing Moth in *Love's Labour's Lost* and Trafalgar Gower in *Trelawny of the Wells*. She has also worked backstage on *A Little Night Music* and as sound operator on *The Village Bike*. Elsewhere she has played Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing* and this year Sarah Jane in *Voices From Violence*, a play about domestic violence.

## Ceri Jones – Miss Gibson

Ceri first joined The Questors in 1986 and appeared in several productions, notably as Rita in *Educating Rita*, Sheila in *Benefactors* and in *D-Minus*, a one woman show which toured to the Edinburgh Fringe. She also appeared on the Fringe in our revived production of *Hello Paris*. After a 15-year gap she returned in 2017, since when she has played Mrs Eynsford-Hill in *Pygmalion* and Rachel in *Season's Greetings*.

## Nicole Kerr – Alice Fitzpatrick

Nicole joined The Questors in 2015, having previously been a member of the National Youth Theatre, and competed in multiple drama festivals. At The Questors she has appeared in *Rhinoceros*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Measure for Measure* and *Houdini and Bess* in the recent Questival. Elsewhere she has played in *The American Dream*, *The Love of the Nightingale* and *After Easter*.

## Julia Marques – Clare Beaumont

Julia joined The Questors a year ago and her first performance here was as Smorg in *Mother Goose*, for which she was so heavily made up you will not recognise her. Previously she was a member of a theatre society in Kenya, where she played in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Stepping Out* and several pantos. Julia recently graduated with an MA in Climate Change and is now working in the environmental sector. She tells us, ironically, that she didn't enjoy hockey at school!

## Tristan Marshall – Mr Thompson

Tristan joined The Questors in 2003, since when he has acted and directed. His recent appearances were as Horner in *The Country Wife* and Subtle in *The Alchemist*, while recent productions have been Webster's *The Duchess of Malfi* and Lucy Kirkwood's *NSFW*. Tristan is also a member of the Acting Auditions panel and the organiser of the Overnight Plays. Outside The Questors, he is a lecturer at Shakespeare's Globe and tells us "I've never lost my memory at sea – at least I don't think I have".

## Anne Neville – Miss Granville

Anne trained at Drama Centre and joined The Questors in 1981, since when she has acted in and directed more plays than it is possible to mention. Her most recent acting appearances were in *The Country Wife*, *Burnt by the Sun*, *A Little Night Music* and *The Crucible*. Her latest productions have been *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, *Larkin with Women* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Anne is currently The Questors' Artistic Director, and has previously been a member of AD teams – she can take the credit for being the person who originally suggested that we should do *Daisy Pulls It Off* in 1993.

## Lindsay Pattison – Dora Johnston

Lindsay began as a singer before discovering her love of acting. She fronted and managed the alternative rock band Tuff-Titti Ritzi in Glasgow and was a member of Aberdeen's all-female a capella group The Killer Quines, with whom she reached the finals of the UK Voice Festival in 2016. She was an actor and workshop leader with Centre Stage Theatre Company in Aberdeen. Lindsay joined The Questors in November 2017, and this is her first appearance here.

## Graham Reid – Pianist and Musical Director

Graham has a degree in Music from Edinburgh University, and joined The Questors in 2015. Since then he has been involved musically in five productions: *Red Peppers* as MD and pianist; *The Country Wife* as MD, composer, arranger and keyboard player; *Love's Labour's Lost* as MD, composer and keyboard player; *Lady Susan* as MD, composer, arranger and keyboard player; and most recently *Animal Farm* as MD and pianist.

## Phillip Sheahan – Mr Scobrowski

Phillip has been an acting member of The Questors since 1974, since when he has participated in over 80 Questors productions, as an actor, director and playwright. His most recent appearances have been in Stephan Berkoff's *Greek* and Molière's *The Miser*. He has been a contributor to The Questors' Reminiscence Project PlayBack, as a writer and actor, most notably as the author of the hugely successful *Soapsud Island*. Phillip is delighted to be reviving his role as Mr Scobrowski from 1993.

## Severine Simone – Belinda Mathieson

Severine joined The Questors in January this year and this is her first production here. She trained at the Cape Academy of Performing Arts in South Africa, and has worked in stage, theatre, film, commercial & corporate and immersive art platforms as a dancer, actress and performer. She is a dance and drama tutor with the Royal Academy of Dance and tutors and devises theatre for the Baked Bean Company. She is also a tutor for Questors Youth Theatre.

## Charlotte Sparey – Trixie Martin

Charlotte trained for three years at Arts Educational School (ArtsEd), gaining a BA in acting for film and television. She joined The Questors in 2016 and was immediately cast as Alithea in *The Country Wife*, which also went to the Minack Theatre last summer. *Daisy Pulls It Off* is her second Questors production. Charlotte is also a professional voice-over artist.

## Annabel Spinks-Jones – Mother/Mademoiselle

Annabel joined The Questors as a member of Acting for All in 2014, moved on to Encore the next year and became an acting member in 2015. Since then she has appeared in the Overnight Plays in 2016 and 2017, the Coarse Acting festival in 2017, and played Fairy Bowbells in *Dick Whittington & His Cat*, our Christmas 2015 pantomime. Elsewhere she has appeared in two indie feature films and several other short films and radio plays, and directed her first short film in 2017.



**Charlotte Thompson – Daisy Meredith**

Charlotte joined The Questors in January this year, so this is her first production. Previously she trained on the BA Acting course at the London College of Music (University of West London), playing Tanya in *Punk Rock*, Monk in *Canterbury Tales* and Elvira in *Blithe Spirit*. Elsewhere she has played Marina in *Pericles*, for Southsea Shakespeare Actors.

**Georgie Turner – Sybil Burlington**

Georgie joined The Questors in February this year, and immediately got involved in this year's Overnight Plays. She is a member of the National Youth Theatre and has acted before at The Rose Theatre in Kingston, Theatre by the Lake in Keswick and the York Theatre Royal.

**Lisa Varty – Monica Smithers**

After an MA in Theatre Studies at the University of Glasgow, Lisa joined Questors Student Group 66, graduating with performances in *Trojan Barbie* and *On the Razzle*. As an acting member, she has since played in *House and Garden*, *Be My Baby*, *Futures*, *Uncle Vanya* and this season's *Sleepers in the Field*. Elsewhere she has acted in *Hedda Gabler* (Upstairs at the Gatehouse) and *Galatea* (White Bear).

**David Emmet – Director**

David trained as an actor in Student Group 28, but has directed more often than he has acted at The Questors. *Daisy Pulls It Off* is his 57th production, not counting assistant directorships and fringe shows. Other recent outings as a director were *Scarborough*, *Don't Dress for Dinner*, *The Wonderful World of Dissocia*, *The Pride*, *Mary Stuart* (which he also translated), *Night of the Soul* and *Titus Andronicus*. David is also Director of Studies for the Student Group and teaches acting in the Foundation Year. He is also the Company Secretary, Casting Adviser, head of the Stage Management department and works in the Box Office. He has in the past been Artistic Director and Chairman of The Questors. David is delighted to have the chance once again to direct *Daisy Pulls It Off*.

**Jenny Richardson – Costume Designer**

After many years working in stage management, props and set design, Jenny enjoyed a change of direction to costume design, recently for *Equus*, *All My Sons*, *The Lying Kind*, *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, *Don't Dress for Dinner*, *Measure for Measure*, *Scarborough*, *Sweet Charity*, *Larkin with Women* and *Mojo*. Jenny can also be found working in Box Office, and is frequently in demand as an upholsterer.

**John Green – Lighting Designer**

John has had a lifelong interest in the use of light to sculpt a space, set a mood and direct the eye, but only got involved in stage lighting comparatively recently. In his seven years as a member of The Questors he has been involved with the lighting of numerous shows. Previous shows as Lighting Designer include *Dead White Males*, *Emil and the Detectives*, *Trelawny of the 'Wells'* and *Animal Farm*.



**UNIVERSITY OF WEST LONDON**  
London College of Music

# 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.

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



## Next at The Questors

**EVENTIDE**

by **Barney Norris**

26 – 30 June 2018

**The Studio**

In the back of The White Horse Inn, three people drink and chat and joke – about a ferret performing miracles; that smoking is really all about sex; and the true value of being an alcoholic. Has it all been missed chances and disappearing dreams for this trio? Or will the seeds of change bring new opportunities their way?

**ALBERT MAKE US LAUGH**

by **Jimmie Chinn**

18 – 26 May 2018

**The Studio**

Student Group 71 gives us Albert Nuttall, aged eleven. Some would say that he is backward and you might agree. But Albert is special – a poet and a visionary who, as he grows, inspires unexpected depths of emotion in those he comes into contact with; his classmates, teachers, social workers and family. A strange, touching and uplifting story.