

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.

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

Programme: Nigel Bamford
Theatre Office: 020 8567 0011
Box Office: 020 8567 5184
Email: enquiries@questors.org.uk



Questors, Ealing's Theatre



MULTITUDES

by John Hollingworth

The Studio

12 – 20 October 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 2019 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

A Beer 'Event' – Thursday 1 November and following nights

See questors.org.uk/grapevine for more details.

Fields and the Grapevine accept payments by card.

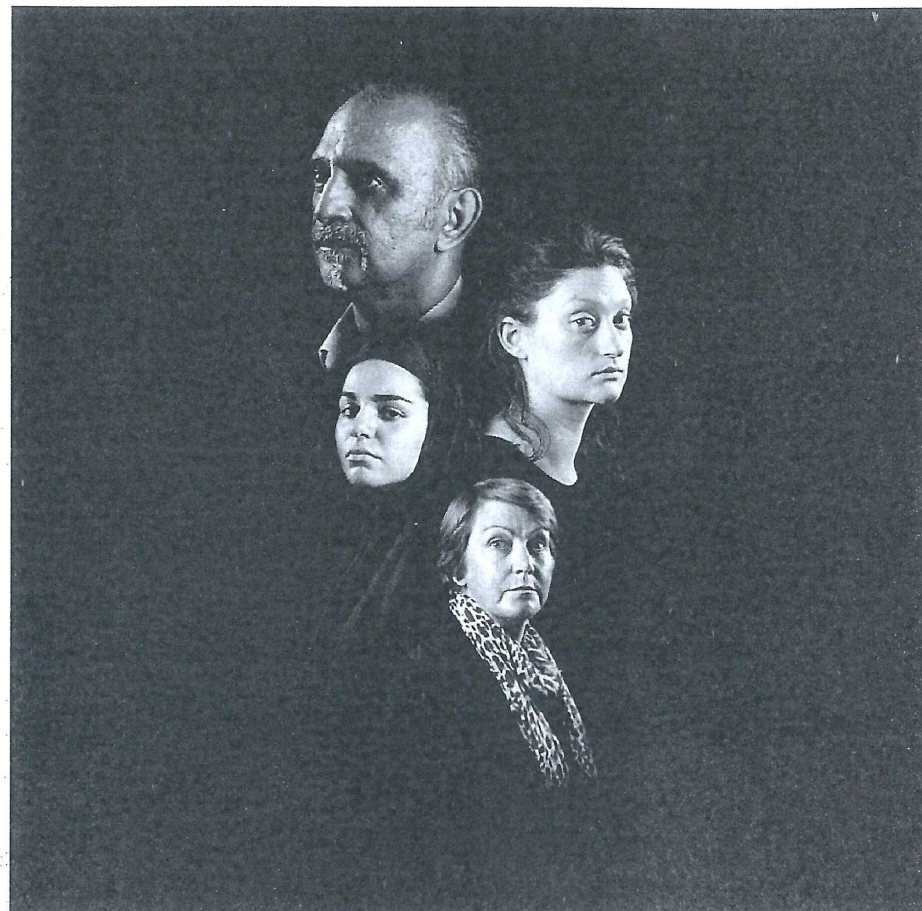


image: Jane Arnold-Forster

MULTITUDES

by John Hollingworth

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12 – 20 October 2018

MULTITUDES

'a large number of people or things'

'the mass of ordinary people without power or influence'

'the state of being numerous'

Multitudes is John Hollingworth's first full-length play, originally commissioned by Indhu Rubasingham, Artistic Director of the Kiln Theatre (formally known as the Tricycle Theatre) and premiered there in 2015.

The play is set in John Hollingworth's home town of Bradford. In the 19th century, Bradford became world renowned for its textile industry. After World War II, immigrants from Poland, Bangladesh, India and particularly Pakistan came and settled in Bradford, and, although there was a decline in the sector, many found jobs in the local mills. The population of Bradford has changed over time. Most recent statistics show that 63.9% identify as white, with 20.3% as Pakistani, the largest proportion in England. The religious make-up is 45% Christian and 24.7% Muslim.

This play explores the coming together of these groups, concepts of belonging, identity and ultimately what it means to be British. I found this play particularly poignant; much like the character of Kash, I too am a child of immigrant parents who came into this country in the late 60s with the belief that England would provide a better life and future for their families. What they came up against when they got here were signs saying 'No Dogs, No Irish, No Blacks'. I ask myself, have the signs really gone or has the list of who doesn't belong got longer? We are living in a volatile period. Before, it was clearer, we could call out bad people doing bad things. Many an immigrant's history, my Dad's included, was about fighting for their rights to belong, marching on the streets against far-right extremism. But the Windrush scandal proves we haven't moved on as far as we think we have.

John Hollingworth mentioned that when they had their first read-through of *Multitudes* at the Tricycle, the Charlie Hebdo attack had just occurred, changing the course of how they shaped the play. Sadly, not much has changed; we still see continuous headlines relating to 'Islam' or 'Muslims'. I remember a Muslim friend of mine telling me that she dreads waking up to news reports of an attack by an extremist group, domestic or international, as it changes her whole day. She becomes anxious about leaving the house, she gets stared at when dropping her kids off at school, she feels genuine fear. The organisation Tell MAMA records anti-Muslim attacks and says that six out of ten victims of Islamophobia are women, often because they are visibly Muslim, and the perpetrators are usually men. Balbir Singh Sodhi, a Sikh man living in America, was murdered in a hate crime; one of the first people to be attacked after 9/11. As Lyn says in the play, 'It's not just the three of you that's been touched by this. It's all of us'.

For me, the heart of the play looks at how relationships are strained and challenged when the characters' individual sense of self comes into conflict with their sense of belonging and how others perceive them. The cast and I explored these concepts in some depth, and explored how they are irrevocably linked to power, privilege, religion, gender, race and politics with a big or small 'p'. We live in challenging times. Michelle Obama said, 'Right now, when we're hearing so much disturbing and hateful rhetoric, it is so important to remember that our diversity has been our greatest source of strength and pride'. Although she was talking about her own country, it's a powerful reminder that diversity enriches a nation not divides it.

John Hollingworth has managed to capture beautifully the soul of his home town and gives an authentic voice to a diverse but changing community. I would like to thank Anne Neville for her continued support, invaluable advice and friendship. And extra thanks to the wardrobe team who have really stepped up their support under difficult circumstances. I feel incredibly privileged to have worked with such an amazing production team and to have directed such a dedicated, hardworking and talented cast who have helped so beautifully to bring to life the complexity of the human condition.

Sukhi Kaur Kainth, Director

MULTITUDES

by John Hollingworth

First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 12 October 2018

CAST

Qadira	Sarah Assaf
Kash	Anil Goutam
Shafiq / Imtiaz	Harish Goutam
Lyn	Gillian Jacyna
Surgeon / Waiter	Shaan Latif-Shaikh
Natalie	Maya Markelle
Rukhsana / Samara / Monica	Neetu Nair
Harpreet / Sister	Aseese Nannar
Amir / Julian	Rajeev Soni

The play takes place in Bradford, mainly over a six-day period. Tensions build across the city as the characters anticipate the start of the Tory party conference and the arrival of the Prime Minister. A local demonstration is gaining numbers and momentum, and each character goes through a transformative journey as they decide which side they are on.

Act One: Friday, Saturday and Sunday

Act Two: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and then six weeks later

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

PRODUCTION

Director	Sukhi Kainth
Set Designer	Reiko Moreau
Lighting / Projection Designer	Terry Mummery
Sound Designer	Olly Potter
Stage Manager	Bernard Brady
Deputy Stage Managers	Jennifer Kerr, Douglas Willis
Properties	Jennifer Kerr, Douglas Willis
Wardrobe	Shaan Latif-Shaikh, Holly Merrick, Jennie Yates
Technical Operators	Terry Mummery, Abena Weston
Lighting Assistant	Andrew Whadcoat
Lighting Rigger	John Green
Get In Assistance	Monica Gilardi, Laurie Swan
Photographer	Jane Arnold-Forster
Videographer	Jennifer Kerr
Thanks to	Jan Auvache, David Emmet, Richard Gallagher, Sarah Hannah, David Hovatter, Georgina Keck, Alex Marker, Ann Neville, Harriet Parsonage, Amar Shah, Charlie Sloboda-Bolton, Cathy Swift, Questors Equality and Inclusion Group

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

Biographies

Sarah Assaf – Qadira

Sarah is looking forward to her first production with The Questors, especially in a play dealing with such important themes. She trained for stage and screen at City Academy and with the National Youth Theatre. Recently, she has appeared in productions of *Antigone* and *Arcadia* with the Tower Theatre Company.

Anil Goutam – Kash

Anil has been an acting member at The Questors since 2011 and has been in productions of *Romeo and Juliet*, *ENRON* and *Eventide*. He has appeared in various commercials, films, radio and TV and was last on television in *Our Loved Boy* and will be in *The Bisexual* on Channel 4.

Harish Goutam – Shafiq / Imtiaz

Harish worked on the stage adaptation of *Four Lions* last year at the University of Oxford's Michael Pilch Studio, where he played Faisal. Recently Harish completed shooting for an independent modern adaptation of *Much Ado About Nothing*, where he played Friar Francis.

Gillian Jacyna – Lyn

Gillian was a member of the Student Group 53, since when she has appeared in several Questors shows including *French Paste*, *Calendar Girls*, *West 5 Story*, *Burnt by the Sun* and *The Country Wife* which toured to the Minack. This show sees her swop the Irish accent from *A Priest in the Family* for a Bradford dialect. Gillian apologises to both areas of the country. This production has been a joy to work on, both for the chance to act with newer members and also to learn from Sukhi's inspiring direction.

Shaan Latif-Shaikh – Surgeon / Waiter

Shaan joined the youth theatre in 2007 but since 2013 has worked predominantly backstage in various departments, including props, wardrobe and stage management. This is one of his first on-stage appearances in something other than a Christmas show and playing an actual human being.

Meet the Company – Wednesday 17 October

Come and meet the Director, Cast and Crew for an informal discussion in the Studio as soon as possible after the Wednesday performance.

Maya Markelle – Natalie

Maya was born in London and raised in India. Her interests include extreme prop building for the Notting Hill carnival and for productions without a budget. She has featured as Wendy in the award-winning short film *Happy Thoughts*, Sarah the maid in *Trelawny of the 'Wells'*, Susan in *Blood Sports*, Miss Celia Mint in *Albert Make Us Laugh* and now Natalie in *Multitudes*. This is her first play since graduating from Student Group 71.

Neetu Nair – Rukhsana / Samara / Monica

Neetu has participated in a variety of theatre productions over the past ten years. She is currently the Youth Coordinator for the Kerala Arts and Literary Association, where she writes and directs amateur productions (including *The Little Batsman*) for a group of 11 to 24-year-olds from South India. She has played a wide range of characters, from villains such as Yang Sun in Bertolt Brecht's *The Good Person of Szechwan*, to lovable classics such as the title role of *Cinderella*. The stage is where Neetu really feels that she comes alive, as she loves the thrill of escaping into a new world where she has the opportunity to take on new and challenging roles.

Aseese Nannar – Harpreet / Sister

Aseese has been performing and acting for most of her life, having completed the LAMDA examinations for Speech and Drama as well as taking part in school plays. This is her first show at The Questors and she hopes to take part in many more. Rehearsals have been such a pleasurable experience and she feels very lucky to share this with such a talented cast.

Rajeev Soni – Amir / Julian

Rajeev trained at the Actors Studio, based at Pinewood Studios, under Sarah Hanna. His first Questors performance was earlier this year in *Rafta Rafta* in the Judy Dench Playhouse. He worked on a short film last year, *In Humans We Trust*, as well as continuing his professional development with voice acting courses and clowning workshops.

Sukhi Kainth – Director

Sukhi has been a member of The Questors for a number of years and began life as Deputy Stage Manager on productions such as *Burnt by the Sun* and *Bird on the Wire*. She then went on to complete successfully a directing course at City Lit London. At The Questors, she worked on *Larkin with Women* as Assistant Director. *Multitudes* is her directorial debut.

Reiko Moreau – Set Designer

Reiko worked at the theatre design company HORIO in Japan before graduating from Central Saint Martins with an MA in Performance Design and Practice in 2015. She works for a variety of fringe theatres based in London. Theatre design credits include *Little Did I Know* (top three Bread and Roses Playwriting Award), *It Tastes Like Home* (Divergent Theatre Collective), *Holding the Man* (Big Boots Theatre Company), *OVERTURE: A Festival of Short Musicals* (Goldsmith MA Musical Theatre), *Nuns* (Perform & Give), *Dokei* (Dutch Courage Productions), *Romeo and Juliet* (East London Shakespeare Company).

Terry Mummery – Lighting Designer

Terry has been lighting productions at The Questors since the mid-1990s. In the last few years he has been exploring how special effects and projections can enhance the audience's experience of a production. His recent work as lighting designer includes *The Exonerated*, *Larkin with Women*, *Eventide* and *Krapp's Last Tape / Rockaby*.

Olly Potter – Sound Designer

Olly studied Theatre Production at UWL, before which he worked in stage management and front of house in venues in Hastings and around East Sussex. Since joining The Questors, he has worked as lighting operator and as assistant lighting designer on *Bird on the Wire*. This is Olly's second sound design for The Questors after *Love's Labour's Lost*.

Jennie Yates

It was with great sadness that the *Multitudes* company learnt of the death of Jennie Yates (Head of the Questors Wardrobe Department) in the early days of our rehearsals. When I first started to put together the production team, I e-mailed Jennie to ask if we had been allocated anyone from wardrobe and, in true Jennie style, she responded by saying that they were incredibly busy but, if necessary, she would step in if needs be – and that is just what she did. She came to the first day of rehearsals to 'measure up' the cast, but stayed and made our first-time acting members feel so welcome, joining in the games and debates about the themes of the play. I know I didn't have the pleasure of knowing her as well as many here at The Questors, but during the short time we worked together I found her to be very funny, generous and so engaging. She is greatly missed.

Sukhi

The Questors – The Future

Help to make The Questors an even better place! Donations and bequests are continuing to contribute to the life of this unique theatre. For instance, a generous donation made possible a recent training programme for young ESOL students (English for Speakers of Other Languages), and ambitious work on the fabric of the site is ongoing. This is your theatre and the theatre of future generations of playgoers and participants. Donate now or in your will, anonymously if you prefer. Andrea Bath, our Executive Director (020 8567 0011), will answer any enquiries in confidence. Or go to questors.org.uk/giving to see ways in which you can support The Questors.



Next at The Questors

FOR SERVICES RENDERED

by W. Somerset Maugham

2 – 10 November 2018

The Judi Dench Playhouse

It's summer 1932 and things appear to be going well for the Ardsley family. The men who fought and won in WWI came home heroes. Glory held the promise of a bright future for Britain. But after 14 years has that promise come true? This emotional play demonstrates the lasting impact of war on one English family.

NOT ABOUT HEROES

by Stephen MacDonald

9 – 17 November 2018

The Studio

A play about the friendship of Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen, two of the most celebrated poets of World War I. Both fought on the Western Front and met as patients in a military hospital in 1917. Through their poetry they spoke out against the patriotism of war – and brought to light the horror of the trenches and the futile loss of life.