

Productions for Early 2019

That Face

by Polly Stenham

Opens 25 January in The Studio

Rutherford & Son

by Githa Sowerby

Opens 8 February in The Playhouse

Rosmersholm

by Henrik Ibsen

Opens 22 February in The Studio

The Questors Youth Theatre:

Bugsy Malone

by Alan Parker

Opens 2 March in The Playhouse

The 39 Steps

by Patrick Barlow

Opens 22 March in The Playhouse

The Questors Student Group:

Future Conditional

by Tamsin Oglesby

Opens 28 March in The Studio

King Charles III

by Mike Bartlett

Opens 26 April in The Playhouse

Blue/Orange

by Joe Penhall

Opens 3 May 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
- ✓ 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

The Questors Theatre
12 Mattock Lane, Ealing, W5 5BQ
Box Office: 020 8567 5184
Theatre Office: 020 8567 0011

Programme: Nigel Bamford
Costume drawings: Carla Evans
Email: enquiries@questors.org.uk
Registered Charity No. 207516



WELCOME TO SLEEPING BEAUTY



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

Sleeping Beauty is the sixth traditional pantomime to be produced in recent years by The Questors, following *Aladdin*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Dick Whittington*, *Cinderella* and *Mother Goose*. Every year the productions go from strength to strength and prove ever more popular with audiences. Even now, at the time of writing, ticket demand for the show is outstripping previous years.

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. 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. Our thanks go to those behind and in front of the red drapes for creating a magical world for us.

2019 is our 90th anniversary year and we hope to see you here for some of our productions. You particularly might be interested in our Youth Theatre production of *Bugsy Malone* in early March, followed by the thrilling *39 Steps* – all in the Judi Dench Playhouse. Why not pick up the new winter/spring brochure as you leave or sign-up at questors.org.uk to receive our newsletter.

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 *Robin Hood*.

Andrea Bath
Executive
Director

Alec Atchison
Chairman
of the Board



SLEEPING BEAUTY

by Ben Crocker

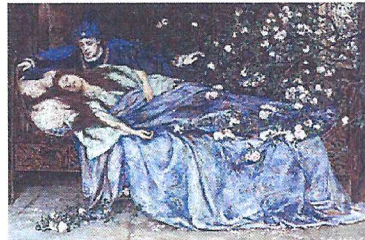
The Judi Dench Playhouse

14 – 31 December 2018

SLEEPING BEAUTY

PANTOMIME: A theatrical entertainment, mainly for children, which involves music, topical jokes and slapstick comedy, and is based on a fairy tale or nursery story, usually produced around Christmas.

Sleeping Beauty, one of the most popular pantomimes, is based on a classic fairy tale, which involves a beautiful princess, a sleeping enchantment and a handsome prince. The tale was originally published by Charles Perrault. The Brothers Grimm tale was an orally transmitted version of the original literary tale published by Perrault in *Histoires ou contes du temps passé* in 1697. This in turn was based on *Sun, Moon, and Talia* by Italian poet Giambattista Basile (published posthumously in 1634), which was in turn based on one or more folk tales. The earliest known version of the story is found in the narrative *Perceforest*, composed between 1330 and 1344.



After 1843, when all theatres were permitted to perform spoken dialogue, the importance of the fairy-tale part of the pantomime increased. Two writers who helped to elevate the importance and popularity of the fairy-tale portion of the pantomime were James Planché and Henry James Byron. They emphasized puns and humorous word play, a tradition that continues in pantomime today.

Another tradition is that of the comedian and the comic scenes. From the original Harlequin, to the now traditional Dame role, comedians have added their genius to the annual pantomime. Slapstick and innuendo have been a highlight, and a welcome relief for some of the 'adult' audience. I was lucky enough to be taken to the pantomime during the late 60s and early 70s. I saw some of our great and much-loved comedians of the day, such as Harry Worth and Norman Vaughan. Very little has changed, except more television and international actors are flocking to be a part of this much loved and slightly eccentric British theatrical tradition.



As a pantomime director at The Questors I have been very lucky in being able to use Ben Crocker's version of this much-loved pantomime. Ben is a very generous writer; he never seems to mind how we add or take away from his text in order to make our own unique pantomime. This gives me freedom in how I wish to develop our production. It allows me full artistic licence with the choice of music that we use, and quite often the characters or scenes that are omitted to make our pantomime flow.

Trying to find the appropriate piece of music or song takes a lot of research. If it's a song, will it continue the story? Does it need rewriting at all? If it's a piece of music, will it have the right emotional impact? Is it scary,

sad, romantic or will it make our audience laugh?

In making our music choices we have also fulfilled the 'topical' tradition; but no one wants to hear another Brexit reference. This year I've chosen *Happiness* by Ken Dodd to open the show. Some of you may ask why? Well Ken Dodd was one of our greatest comedians and he sadly passed away this year. So as a mark of respect for a comic who appeared in very many pantomimes, we are saluting him and giving a nod to his wonderful Diddymen. Another British comedian that passed this year was Barry Elliott, better known as Barry Chuckle from the Chuckle Brothers; see if you can spot our salute to him!

One other piece of music fulfilling the 'topical' section is that of *Stand by Me*, a nod to another Royal Wedding. This time sung, just as beautifully, by our amazing chorus children.



And finally, my sincere thanks to everyone who has worked so hard on this production: to Alex, Tim and Richard, who have once again gone that extra mile to enable us to have this fantastic looking and sounding production; to Steve for his stately sedan chair; to Shaan for his stunning dragon, costumes, wands, etcetera, etcetera; to both Nigels who have provided the bangs and fire; to Carla, Jenny, Jan and all the wardrobe team who have worked through a very difficult and sad year to create the most AMAZING costumes (I'm sure Jennie will be with us, feeling extremely proud of the whole wardrobe department); to Sarah and Robert who have been to almost as many rehearsals as I have and are still smiling; to Adam and Toby (who has overseen the whole production and has been the most wonderful Stage Manager a director could wish for); to all the get-in team for building the awesome set; to our ASMs for making it all work; to Jane in the office who has liaised with all our parents to enable me to just get on with directing; to all the children who have endured my endless nagging and those words, 'do it again' (be proud of what you have achieved, keep learning and growing as performers and keep hold of the



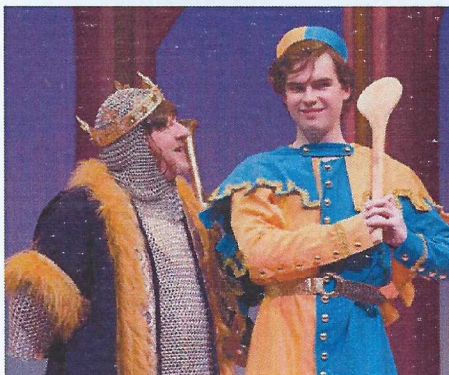
child that you are and life will be good). Special thanks go to my amazing cast, WOW, thank you for coming on this journey. Your belief in me has been humbling and has inspired me to ask you for more. Thank you for your truly amazing talents, I know the reward for you all will be the joy in every child's face and knowing that you have added that magic sparkle to their Christmas. Finally, my thanks go to Emanuele, my Italian Musical Director, who is still not quite sure what he's let himself in for, *Il mio cuore è tuo*.

Going back to that definition of pantomime – have we covered every aspect? Music? Oh yes. Topical jokes? Will a nod to dead comedians do? Slapstick comedy? Wait for Act 1 Scene 3. Based on a fairy tale or nursery story, usually produced around Christmas? Most definitely!

To our audience both big and small may I wish you all a very magical Christmas and may each day of 2019 be full of Happiness, and not too many sheep...

Stephanie Pemberton, Director

Production Photographs



Young People's Ensemble



Team A



Team B

SLEEPING BEAUTY

by Ben Crocker

First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 14 December 2018

THE PLAYERS

Principal Cast

in order of appearance

Fairy Peaceful	Lizzie Turner
Billy	Rory Hobson
King Norbert	Chris Waldock
Queen Dorothy	Howard Shepherdson
Carabosse	Russell Fleet
Princess Aurora	Catherine Bench
Prince Orlando	Zac Karaman
Fairy Beautiful	Marion Lesle[†] / Alexandra Kern*
Fairy Graceful	Cara Stanislaus[†] / Georgia de Vitis*
Fairy Thoughtful	Elyana Guler[†] / Hannah Lepper*
Mr Percy Snodgrass	James Duffy[†] / Antoine Munier*
Soloist	Francesca Young[†] / Louis Scot-Smith*

Musicians

Keyboard 1 / Bass Guitar	Emanuele Mollica
Keyboard 2	Debbi Lindley
Percussion	Liam McCloud
Guitar	Dominic Mackie

The performance lasts about 2 hours including a 20-minute interval.

Please turn off all mobile phones and similar electronic devices.
Photography and recording are not permitted during any of our performances, due to the rules associated with performing rights and the safeguarding of minors.
Thank you.

Young People's Ensemble

Team A[†]

Alicia Chang
Cara Stanislaus
Cornelia Margarint
Daniel Duffy
Elena Gonzalez
Elyana Guler
Emily Page
Erin Loftus
Francesca Young
Hannah Duffy
James Duffy
Leo Ceccolini
Marcus Carr
Marion Lesle
Milly Tamang
Quinn Goodliffe
Romy Kumar
Veer Sedov
Wilfie Goodliffe
William Connor

Team B*

Alexandra Kern
Antoine Munier
Benjamin Lepper
Betty Elson
Christian Ganey
Eibhleann Gormley
Ella Davenport
Georgia de Vitis
Hannah Lepper
Helena von Roon
Isla Markham
Lola Phillips
Louis Scot-Smith
Mahi Patel
Matteo Dashi
Milovan Mirkovic
Sara Mirkovic
Sophie Antoniou
Tiam Nasr

[†] appearing
* appearing

Dec 14, 15 (2:30), 19, 21, 22 (2:30), 23 (1:30), 27, 29, 30 (6:00)
Dec 15, 16 (2:30), 20, 22, 23, 28, 29 (2:30), 30 (1:30), 31 (4:00)

CREATIVE TEAM

Director / Choreographer	Stephanie Pemberton
Musical Director	Emanuele Mollica
Set Designer	Alex Marker
Costume Designer	Carla Evans
Lighting Designer	Tim Edwards
Sound Designer / Operator	Richard Eliot

MUSICAL NUMBERS

<i>Happiness</i>	Billy and Chorus
<i>My Girl</i>	Queen Dorothy
<i>For The First Time In Forever</i>	Princess Aurora
<i>A Whole New World</i>	Princess Aurora and Prince Orlando
<i>Do You Hear The People Sing?</i>	Chorus, King Norbert, Queen Dorothy and Billy
<i>Don't You Wanna Be Evil?</i>	Carabosse
<i>Ways To Be Wicked</i>	Carabosse and Chorus
<i>You'll Never Walk Alone</i>	Princess Aurora and Queen Dorothy
<i>When You Wish Upon A Star</i>	Fairy Peaceful
<i>Oom-Pah-Pah</i>	Fairy Peaceful, Carabosse, Prince Orlando, Chorus
<i>A Whole New World (reprise)</i>	Princess Aurora and Prince Orlando
<i>Walking On Sunshine</i>	Principal Cast
<i>Coffee Pot Song</i>	Billy and the Audience
<i>Stand By Me</i>	Soloist and Chorus
<i>Happiness (reprise)</i>	The Company

PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Manager	Toby Burbidge
Deputy Stage Managers	Sarah Clopet, Robert Eagle
Assistant Stage Managers	Bron Blake, Henry Broom, Pamela Major, James Peake, Charlie Sloboda-Bolton, Sarah Vass
Wardrobe Coordinator	Jenny Richardson
Wardrobe Mistress	Jan Auvache
Costume Makers	Sarah Andrews, Jane Arnold-Forster, Adina Elmasry, Anne Gilmour, Neil Gordon, Helen Karasiewicz, Shaan Latif-Shaikh, Moonika Leisson, Claire Malyon, Iona McEwan, Sue Peckitt, Alison Simmons, Shobi Springer, Sylvia Wall
Wardrobe Assistants	Sadie Crowder, Georgina Keck, Holly Merrick, Kevin Sebastianpillai, Mary Smith, Kate Townsend, Michelle Weaver
Puppet Maker	Shaan Latif-Shaikh
Pyrotechnic Advisors	Nigel Lewis, Nigel Worsley
Lighting Assistant	Andrew Whadcoat
Lighting Operators	Robert Walker, Clare Watson
Follow-Spot Operators	Nikki Amory, Andrew Dixon, Chris De Gromoboy, Chris Newall, Tim Pemberton, Cathy Swift, Fengfan Zhou
Lighting Rigger	Tom McGuire
Set Constructors	Toby Burbidge, Doug King, Adam Smith, Steve Souchon, Rob Willin
Get-In Assistance	Bernd Gauweiler
Set & Furniture Painters	Monica Gilardi, Anjali Karadia, Alex Marker, Vicky Saumarez, Kingston Students (Frankie Ansari, Jemma Lawton, Sophie Lucas, Sophie Nicklin, Sam Richardson, Lewis Roberts, Natasha Shirley, Maddie Taylor, Joel Wills, Alex Windeatt)
Hair and Make-Up	Delamar Academy Students
Photographer	Carla Evans
Children's Administrator	Jane Mason
Thanks to	Andrea Bath and the Questors Office Staff, Andrew Lumsden, Harriet Parsonage, House Services, and all the lovely and patient chaperones

Biographies

Catherine Bench – *Princess Aurora*

Catherine graduated in Music from Durham University this June where she received a first for her vocal studies. Throughout university she was heavily involved with productions, especially with the Durham Opera Ensemble where she played principle roles, including Buttercup in *HMS Pinafore* and The Mad Hatter in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Catherine is delighted to be playing the title role of *Sleeping Beauty*. She has taken method acting to heart and has been sleeping as deeply as possible. Despite disliking being disturbed in her sleep, she hopes that for true love (and a Christmas treat) perhaps she can make an exception!

Russell Fleet – *Carabosse*

Russell trained as an actor in the 1990s and joined The Questors in 2006. Over 34 productions, he has since taken on other roles as a Stage Manager, Sound Designer and Director. Recent acting credits are *Taking Sides* (Helmuth Rode) and *When the Rain Stops Falling* (Gabriel York). *Carabosse* marks a new direction for Russell, a foray into good old-fashioned fun and he is delighted to be working on his first acting role in panto at The Questors.

Rory Hobson – *Billy*

A former member of the Questors Youth Theatre, Rory is a graduate of Student Group 71 and a member of the National Youth Theatre. Previous roles include Fleance in *Macbeth*, John Tate in *DNA*, Angel Clare in *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* and Albert in *Albert Make Us Laugh*. Often called a 'silly billy' by his friends, this feels like the perfect part for him!

Zac Karaman – *Prince Orlando*

Zac is a recent graduate of Student Group 70, where he played Sir William Gower in *Trelawny of the Wells* and Sir Nathaniel in *Love's Labour's Lost* (having made his Questors debut in *Hello Darkness, My Old Friend*). This year, Zac has appeared in *Taking Sides* (as Lt David Wills), *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* (as Abraham/Felix/Groom), *Eventide* (as Mark) and *The Heiress* (as Morris Townsend).

Howard Shepherdson – *Queen Dorothy*

The first live theatre Howard ever experienced was a pantomime at the London Palladium when he was five years old. So began a lifelong love of theatre and he has been acting for over fifty years including a brief spell as a professional in New Zealand. *Sleeping Beauty* will be his tenth show for The Questors, most recently as Sir Jasper Fidget in *The Country Wife*. This is his first major role in a pantomime and he is delighted to have been cast as the Dame! A big thank you from Howard to the wonderful cast and backstage team who have made this production possible.

Lizzie Turner – *Fairy Peaceful*

Lizzie's first foray into a Questors production was sound designing and operating *Season's Greetings* in November 2017. Since then, she has sound designed *Diana of Dobson's*, follow-spotted *Mother Goose* and *Sleeping Beauty* is her first performing role. Before getting the job of Theatre Technician at The Questors in September 2017, Lizzie studied Drama and English at the University of East Anglia. She has designed and operated lighting and sound for over 20 student productions and was Technical Officer for UEA Drama Society. Her next Questors challenge will be sound designing *Rosmersholm* in February 2019.

Chris Waldock – *King Norbert*

Chris first performed at The Questors in *Forty Years On* back in 1981 and has appeared in a wide range of shows since, most recently being seen in *The Ladykillers*, *Jumpers for Goalposts* and *Albert Make Us Laugh*. Last time he was in panto he played the king's flunky, so this is a promotion.

Tim Edwards – *Lighting Designer*

Tim works in the lighting industry as sales manager for an architectural lighting controls manufacturer. In his free time he runs TS Lighting, a lighting design company specialising in a broad range of disciplines including dance, musicals, theatre and concerts. TS Lighting has supplied lighting designs and production to many shows in the West London area, as well as lighting direction for Sunday night shows in London's West End including Starlight's *ONE* at The Theatre Royal Drury Lane and *Home* at the Adelphi. Recent lighting design credits include *13*, *A Chorus Line*, *Legally Blonde*, *Sister Act*, *Betty Blue Eyes*, *Urine Town* and *Soho Cinders*. Tim began his lighting design career at The Questors and is thrilled to be asked back to light *Sleeping Beauty*.

Carla Evans – *Costume Designer*

Carla joined The Questors in 2013 having been on the new members' tour and instantly fallen in love with the workshop and wardrobe. With an interest in all kinds of backstage craft, she has since worked on over 40 productions as a costume-maker, set designer, photographer and poster illustrator. Her most recent designs include the set for the studio show *Taking Sides* and costumes for last year's pantomime, *Mother Goose*.

Alex Marker – *Set Designer*

This year Alex wrote and directed *False Impressions* for the Overnight Plays, designed the sets for *Animal Farm* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, in which he also played Tom Snout the Tinker. On the 23rd December he will perform as part of the Questors popular Ghost Stories for Christmas readings. He is the Artistic Director of The Questors and Director of The Questors Youth Theatre.

Emanuele Mollica – Musical Director

Emanuele is a pianist, with a great deal of experience as musical director, piano soloist, répétiteur, vocal coach and accompanist. He achieved a degree in piano in Italy, since when he has forged a busy career, developing a particular passion for working in the field of opera. Since moving to London, Emanuele has developed a love for musical theatre. He is in demand as musical director and vocal coach at the London College of Music (University of West London). Recent productions include *Ordinary Days*, *Spelling Bee*, *Just So*, *A Hand of Bridge*, *Alice in Wonderland* and *The Gondoliers*.

Stephanie Pemberton – Director and Choreographer

Stephanie's directing credits at The Questors include *Talk to Me Like the Rain* and *Let Me Listen*, *The Village Bike* and *Taking Sides*. Elsewhere, she has directed *Sweeney Todd*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Cabaret*, *Carousel* and *Calendar Girls*. As for Questors pantomimes, Stephanie was Assistant Director on *Jack and the Beanstalk* (2015) and Director/Choreographer on *Cinderella* (2016).

Alternative Christmas Entertainment



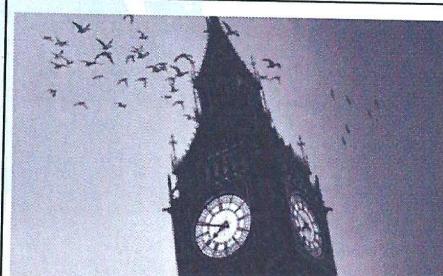
ABSENT FRIENDS

by Alan Ayckbourn

18 December 2018 – 5 January 2019

The Studio

Colin's fiancé has recently passed away. His estranged friends never met her, but a gathering has been organised to cheer him up. Some aren't too enthusiastic about the reunion. A 1975 piece of masterful dark comedy, *Absent Friends* is a bittersweet, hysterical look at love, friendship and the realisation of middle age.



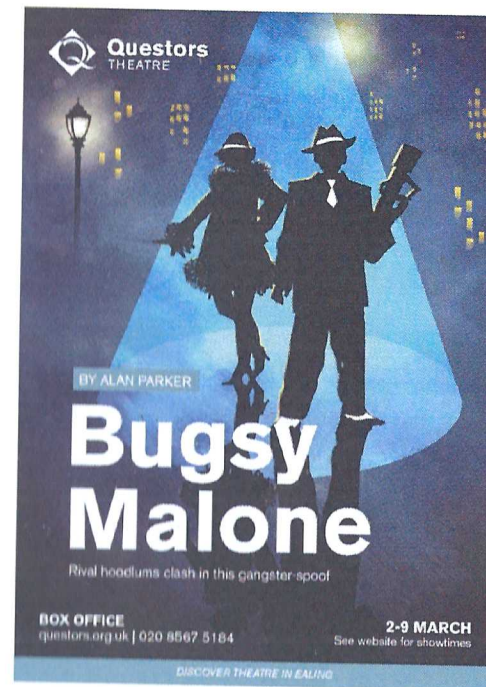
CHRISTMAS GHOST STORIES

23 and 30 December 2018

The Studio

Spine-tinglers and supernatural horrors. London is full of ghosts, from West End theatres to the Tower of London, via underground stations and medieval churches. Over two nights, Questors actors take to the stage for our tenth season of story readings, bringing you some of the finest fictional ghost stories all set in this great city.

Tickets on the door.



Questors Youth Theatre
presents

ALAN PARKER'S **BUGSY MALONE**

Play by Alan Parker
Words and Music by
Paul Williams

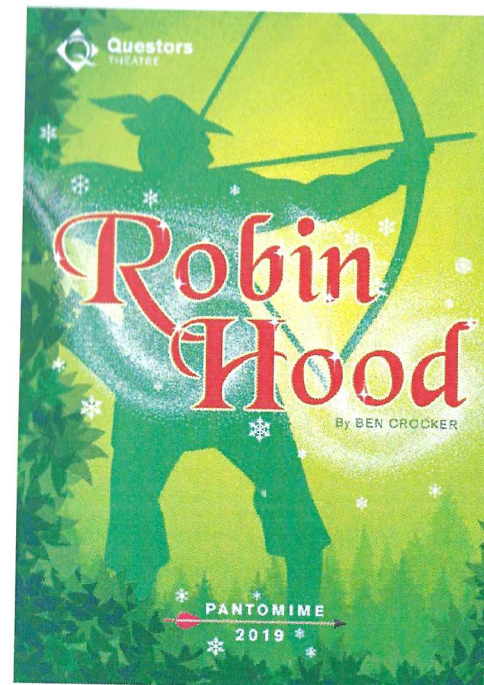
By arrangement with
Faber Music Ltd
On behalf of
Warner/Chappell Music Ltd

The classic spoof gangster
film transferred to the
stage in the

Judi Dench Playhouse

2 – 9 March 2019

Tickets on sale soon.



The Questors Theatre
presents

the classic tale of derring do!

Robin Hood

may be the best archer in
the land, but can he escape
the clutches of the dastardly
Sheriff of Nottingham? With
your help he can – so come
along to boo, hiss and cheer
as the Sheriff gets his just
deserts. Expect a feast of
fun, laughter and song as
this panto hits the bullseye
in the

Judi Dench Playhouse

for Christmas 2019.

Tickets on sale in August.

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