

COMING SOON

13-31 DECEMBER

# Robin Hood

PANTOMIME  
2019

18 DEC - 04 JAN 2020

# Fault Lines



In the Studio



GEORGE ORWELL'S

# 1984

ADAPTED BY MATTHEW DUNSTER

In the Judi Dench Playhouse  
7-16 November 2019

OFFICIAL 90TH ANNIVERSARY PROGRAMME

# Welcome

**An introduction by Doug King, Chair of the Board of Trustees, Alex Marker, Artistic Director and Andrea Bath, Executive Director**

This production of 1984 marks the 90th anniversary of The Questors. Formed by a group of friends in the autumn of 1929, the initial aim was to hire a hall to stage plays. This became the first step towards the creation of everything you see around you tonight. In 1933 The Questors arrived at number 12 Mattock Lane and presented shows in a deconsecrated church – ‘The Old Tin Hut’. In the 1950s the members raised the funds to not only buy the site, but to design and build one of the most revolutionary theatre auditoriums in the post-war theatre.

Since then we have run our in-house actors training course for over 70 years and are home to one of the largest non-agency run youth theatres in Britain, not to mention our community initiatives such as PlayBack and many other courses and activities. It’s quite staggering to think of all the contributions, great and small, made by our members in the intervening decades, that have gone into staging thousands of productions and events.

The original Questors have all long since left the stage, but the club they founded 90 years ago is still going strong. While there have been many changes since 1929, the bond for all the volunteers and staff is the desire to tell stories and create live theatre to a high standard. In common with the founding members of The Questors, our aim is to look to the future. We are using our 90th anniversary as the springboard for an exciting and wide-ranging series of artistic and capital initiatives, which will see us continuing to evolve and engage audiences into our second century.

We hope you enjoy 1984 and the other productions in the 2019/20 season, and you are always welcome to come and join in with the work your theatre does.

**A note from Roger Beaumont, Director of 1984**

It was a great privilege to be asked to direct The Questors 90th anniversary production.

George Orwell's 1984 changed and continues to change the way we think about the past and imagine the future. It is also perhaps the most pervasively influential novel of the twentieth century and resonates so completely as to have become part of our everyday lexicon – Big Brother, “Double-think” and “Thought Police” are just some of the words, phrases and ideas that Orwell introduced us to.

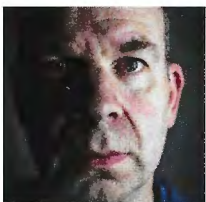
But at heart, I think that 1984 is also a brilliant political thriller, a story of betrayal with menace and tension.

Our aim has been to make a show that celebrates The Questors, but also that has something to say about the present and our possible futures too.

We are using Matthew Dunster's adaptation that was first performed at The Royal Exchange, Manchester, in 2010.

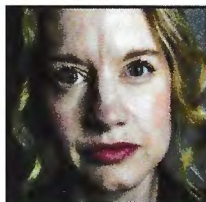


# Cast



Winston Smith  
**Julian Smith**

Julian runs the touring theatre company Teatro Unfortunato. His credits at The Questors include Feste (*Twelfth Night*), Duke (*Measure for Measure*) and Edward Kynaston (*Nell Gwynn*).



Julia  
**Clare Purdy**

Before moving to Ealing, Clare was a regular performer in several Devon-based companies. Questors acting credits include Evelyn (*Absent Friends*) and Emily (*Blue/Orange*). She also sings, specialising in country, rock and blues.



O'Brien  
**David Erdos**

David has written over 200 professionally produced scripts for theatre, film and education along with seven books of poetry. Acting roles include Rance (*What the Butler Saw*) and Dysart (*Equus*).



Parsons  
**Robert Gordon Clark**

Robert's recent roles at The Questors include Colonel Pickering (*Pygmalion*), Rod (*Calendar Girls*) and Wilfred Cedar (*For Services Rendered*). A staged reading of his play *Mid Floor* was performed in January 2017.



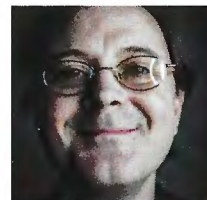
Goldstein  
**Simon Taylor**

Simon has acted in film shorts *Souvenir* and *Horseplay* (Cannes Festival); Pickering (*Pygmalion*) for Tower Theatre; and Mr Stevens (*King Charles III*) for The Questors. He has also directed nearly 100 shows, including for his own company.



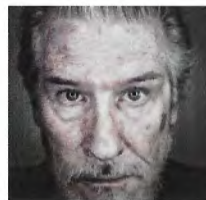
Charrington  
**John Davey**

John was Artistic Director of The Questors for five years and Chair for eight years. He's been acting and directing since the 70s. Questors acting credits include Mephistophilis (*Doctor Faustus*) and Macduff (*Macbeth*).



Syme  
**Wesley Lloyd**

Wesley trained at The Questors, graduating in 2009. He has appeared in numerous shows since then, most recently as Mads Moen (*Peer Gynt*). He also works in film and television.



Big Brother (voice)  
**Robin Ingram**

Robin has been a Questors member since 1961, during which time he attended The Guildhall School of Music and Drama. His acting credits include Pythagoras (*Funland*), Prospero (*The Tempest*), Lennie (*Of Mice and Men*) and many more.



Mrs Parsons / Ensemble  
**Lisa Day**



Old man in pub  
**John Turner**



Prole Woman 1 / Ensemble  
**Mary Davies**



Katherine / Ensemble  
**Holly Gillanders**



Old prostitute / Ensemble  
**Maggie Turner**



Guard / Ensemble  
**Angus Duke**



Guard / Ensemble  
**Jakob Repisky**



Guard / Ensemble  
**David Hovatter**



PT Instructress (video)  
**Louise Kavanagh**



Ensemble  
**Phillip Sheahan**



Barman / Bumstead / Ensemble  
**John Dobson**



Winston's Mother / Ensemble  
**Tilly Benson-Reid**



Starving Woman / Ensemble  
**Arabella Jacobson**



Voice-over  
**Simon Rudkin**



Voice-over  
**Caroline Bleakley**



Voice-over  
**Mike Langridge**

# Production Team

Director  
 Technical Director  
 Composer  
 Set Designer  
 Lighting Designer  
 Sound and Video Designer  
 Costume Designer  
 Systems Designer

Stage Manager  
 Deputy Stage Manager  
 Photography  
 Animation  
 Movement Consultant  
 Prop-maker  
 Properties  
 Properties Graphics  
 Fight Director  
 Rigging

## Get-In Support

**Ian Black**  
**Bernd Gauweiler**  
**Derek Stoddart**  
 Stage Crew **River Apparicio**  
**Henry Broom**  
**Aleksandro Cedro**  
**Cait Davis**  
**Angus Duke**  
**Monica Gilardi**  
**Tina Harris**  
**Jenny Kerr**  
**James Peake**  
 Set Construction **Toby Burbidge**  
**Matt Clawson**  
**Doug King**  
**Adam Smith**  
**Stephen Souchon**  
**Rob Willin**

**Roger Beaumont**  
**Richard Mead**  
**Oleta Maffner**  
**Alex Marker**  
**Martin Walton**  
**Adrian Jeakins**  
**Jenny Richardson**  
**Chris Love**

**Clare Watson**  
**Sarah Clopet**  
**Rishi Rai**  
**Roisin Tierney**  
**Cait Davis**  
**Shaan Latif-Shaikh**  
**Harriet Parsonage**  
**Geoffrey Moore**  
**Nicholas Jonne Wilson**  
**Ali Lown**

## Operators

**Tim Pemberton**  
**Alexandru Bobuc**  
 Wardrobe **Carla Evans**  
**Anne Gilmour**  
**Sue Peckitt**  
 Make Up **South Thames College**  
**Group**

## Technical Crew

**Ali Alnajjar**  
**Alexandru Boboc**  
**Tobias Gehring**  
**Chris Grandin**  
**John Green**  
**Andrew Hawkin**  
**Omar Hussein**  
**Sam Lee**  
**Andrew Love**  
**Dan Price**  
**Elena Stronach**  
**Andrew Whadcoat**  
**John Winters**



## Meet the Company - Wednesday 13 November

Come and meet the director, cast and crew for an informal discussion in the Playhouse after the performance on the 13th November.

### With thanks to:

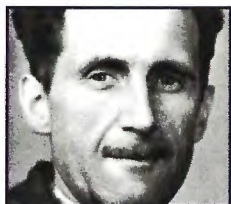
Roann McCloskey, Francis Lloyd, Lucy Aley Parker, Anne Neville, Laurie Swan, Jane Dewey, Dani Beckett, Mary Davies, Bron Blake, Rennett Stowe (image of old fashioned gym), Kall Kwik Chiswick, Peter Bridgman, Hugh Davies-Webb, Chris Grandin, Tim Edwards, Brompton Technology, Avolites, Imperial College DramSoc and the office team.

Programme by Alice Bzowska and Ella Dorman-Gajic.

# In rehearsal







# 1984: a timeline



**1903**

Eric Blair, who later adopted the pen name George Orwell, was born in Bihar, India.

**1932**

Orwell becomes a teacher at The Hawthorns High School in Hayes, West London.

**1937**

The militia to which Orwell belonged is unjustly labelled traitorous. Its members are rounded up, jailed, and, in many cases, killed. The reason for this betrayal was purely strategic.

**1940**

The Blitz bombing starts in East London; Orwell publishes *The Lion and the Unicorn: Socialism and the English Genius*, expressing his opinions on wartime Britain.



**1911**

He receives a scholarship to study at Crossgates and describes how students from aristocratic backgrounds were less likely to receive beatings than the poorer students like himself.

**1936**

He enlists in a Socialist militia for the Spanish Civil War, fighting on the frontline. His experiences are documented in his novel *Homage to Catalonia*.



**1939**

Outbreak of World War II.

**1941**

Orwell joins the BBC, where he works in Room 101. He creates propaganda intended to strengthen India's support of the British war effort.



**1945**

The atomic bomb. Orwell believed this would lead to a world where total destruction was a constant threat.



**1949**

*1984* is published.

**1989**

By now, *1984* has been translated into 65 languages, more than any other novel in English.



**2019**

70 years since the novel's publication.

**1943**

Orwell begins writing *Animal Farm* with the hopes of exposing Stalin's regime. In the same year Stalin, Roosevelt, and Churchill discuss how the world should function after the end of World War II – this inspired the idea for *1984*.

**1947**

Orwell starts writing *1984* despite being seriously ill with tuberculosis.

**1950**

The novel is banned and burned in communist Russia under Stalin. Ownership means possible arrest for its anti-communist views. This same year, George Orwell dies of tuberculosis, aged 46.

**1990**

The Soviet Union legalises the novel and it is re-released after editing.

# 90 years of The Questors

**1929**

The Questors is founded and our first production of *The Best People* goes up at The Park Theatre, Hanwell.

**1940**

A Blitz bomb comes within 3ft of hitting the Tin Hut; but our shows must go on! We relocate to depots, factories, hospitals and community halls.

**1946**

The Questors Student Group is founded (followed by the Youth Theatre in 1954)

**1958**

Sir Michael Redgrave opens the Shaw Room, whilst work on the Stanislavsky Room (our Studio) begins by our members.



**1964**

HM The Queen Mother opens the Playhouse and attends a performance of Ibsen's *Brand*.

**1933**

We join the Scouts at 12 Mattock Lane in the Tin Hut, a disused church building, with a performance of a new expressionist play *Dragon's Teeth*.



**1952**

Our Mattock Lane building is purchased for £8,500.

**1955**

The design plans for the Playhouse are published. Meanwhile, our members start work on the Bernard Shaw Room.

**1963**

The Old Tin Hut is demolished. The Grapevine Bar decides to open every night and on Sundays (a pint in that day costs 7 1/2p!)



**1984**

HRH Prince of Wales makes an unofficial visit to a Coarse Acting Show.



**1987**

Rebuilding and expansion of the workshop, backstage area and a dressing room for the Studio.

**1998**

The Alfred Emmet Room opens (named after our first artistic director). This is part of The Renaissance Project, funded by Heritage Lottery.

**2014**

We celebrate 50 years of the Playhouse. Our new website is launched.

**September 2019**

We launch our 90th Anniversary season.

**1979**

Our Golden Jubilee includes a visit from Sir Michael Redgrave along with other stars.

**1985**

The death of Sir Michael Redgrave, our President since 1958. Dame Judi Dench, Vice-President since 1981, becomes President.



**1989**

Our Diamond Jubilee is celebrated with the publication of *A Few Drops of Water*, a history of The Questors Theatre.

**2008**

We host the LTG Annual National Conference, welcoming Oliver Ford Davies, Sir Ian McKellen and Amanda Redman.

**March 2019**

Sir Ian McKellen performs on the Playhouse stage as part of his UK tour.

# Upcoming 90th season shows

## OPENING NIGHT

All standard tickets £8

## BOX OFFICE OPENING HOURS

11am-1pm Mon-Fri  
6.30-8pm Tues-Fri OR  
75 mins before all performances

## Pride and Prejudice

IN THE JUDI DENCH PLAYHOUSE 31 January - 8 February

In a time where first impressions mean everything, Elizabeth's and Darcy's encounters might be the difference between rash resentment and lifelong romance. As the clock ticks for the bachelorette Bennet girls, will any of them find love?

## Things I Know to be True

IN THE STUDIO 7 - 15 February

One family, divided by oceans and expectations: this loving family story explores the stark differences between four siblings, each struggling to find identity outside of their parents' influence.

## Hairspray JR.

IN THE JUDI DENCH PLAYHOUSE 28 February - 7 March

Welcome to the 60s and the grooviest kids in town... rock and rollin', jiving and spinning into a world of TV glamour and whole lot of hairspray! A Questors Youth Theatre production.

# season

## First Love is the Revolution

IN THE STUDIO 6 - 14 March

Teenage loneliness, lurking creatures and an unexpected bond... this sharply poetic, anthropomorphic tale explores the intimate yet surreal workings of two star-crossed lovers.

## Student Group production

IN THE STUDIO 27 March - 4 April

Our spring production from the second year students. Keep your eyes peeled for announcements in due course...

## Hangmen

IN THE JUDI DENCH PLAYHOUSE 16 - 25 April

Sharply written by Olivier and Oscar winner Martin McDonagh, this dark yet funny play, set in a 60s Northern pub, tells the story of one hangman and the manipulations which ensue on the day of his redundancy.

## BOOK TICKETS

questors.org.uk | 020 8567 5184



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CONGRATULATIONS TO

# THE QUESTORS

ON YOUR 90<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
FROM EVERYONE AT EALING STUDIOS



**Congratulations Questors for 90 inspiring years  
from  
Julian Light Operatic Society**



*Pinnacore Set 2008*

*Catch us 20 - 23 Nov in  
'The Yeomen of the Guard'*

**With thanks for providing us with a truly innovative space  
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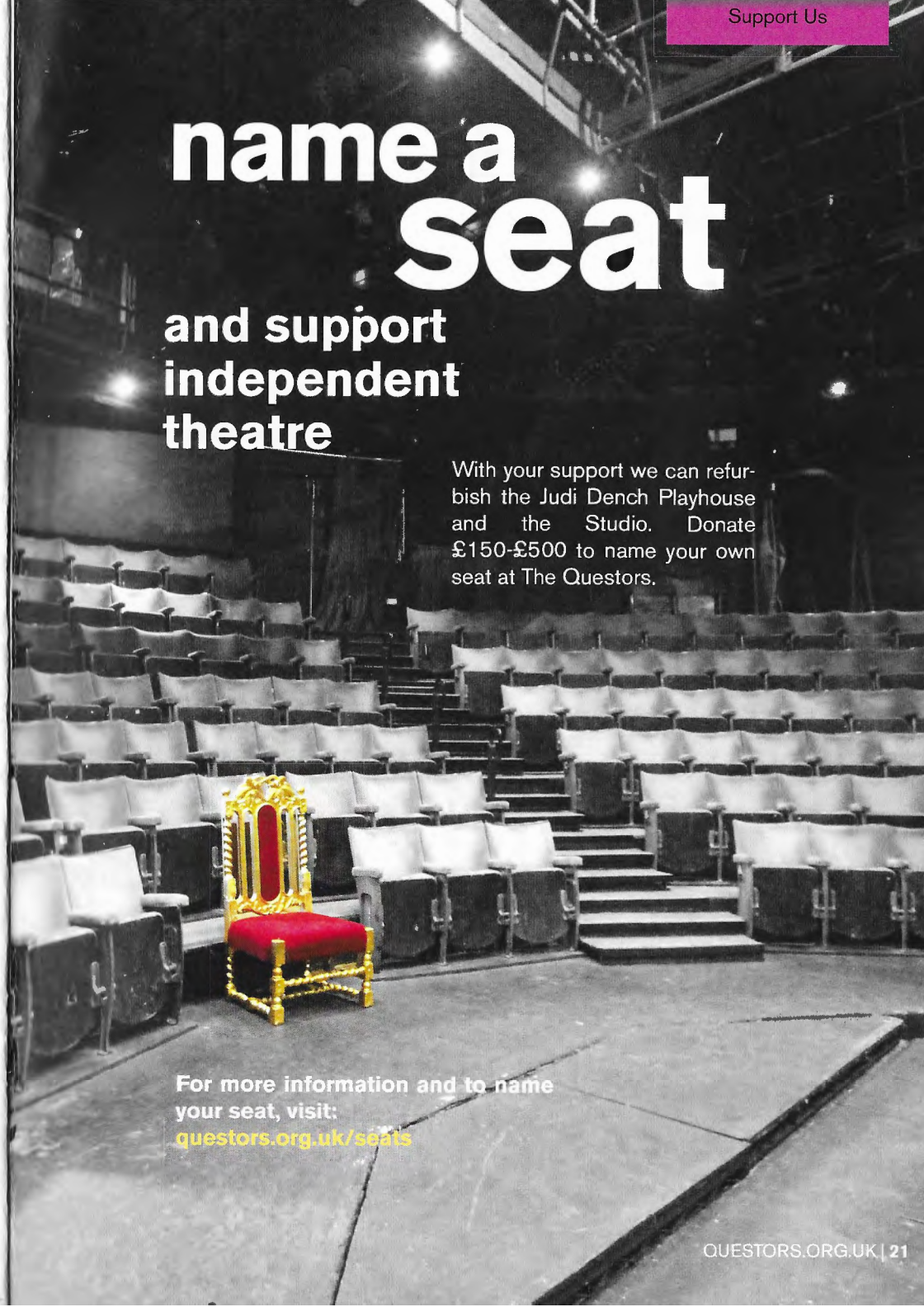
You would always have access to us via our Friendly, Open Team, quickly responding to your each and every enquiry.

We are of course delighted to be given the chance to support our  
**Great Local Theatre!**

# name a seat

## and support independent theatre

With your support we can refurbish the Judi Dench Playhouse and the Studio. Donate £150-£500 to name your own seat at The Questors.



For more information and to name  
your seat, visit:  
[questors.org.uk/seats](http://questors.org.uk/seats)

# 10 reasons to become a Questors member

## 1. Special Tickets

Get half-price personal tickets for Questors productions, discounted guest tickets and children can come completely FREE (subject to age suitability). You can also reserve tickets (conditions apply).

## 2. Discounts on training courses

We offer all kinds of courses, and some at discounted rates.

## 3. Act

Audition to be part of our acting company and try out for any of our productions throughout the year.

## 4. Work backstage

Be in with a chance of working backstage on our productions: from costume and set design to stage management and lighting – we do it all.

## 5. Direct

Whether you are an experienced director or this is your first time – we want to hear from you! If you are yet to direct, we can help you build up your backstage experience until you are confident enough to direct a play of your own!

## 6. Get access to our member's intranet

Join a private website to discuss upcoming events - share your ideas and collaborate!

## 7. Membership of the Grapevine Club

Gain access to our special bar, where members come to socialise.

## 8. Member voting rights

Have your say on the way things are run by electing our board members.

## 9. Engage with the local community

New to the area? Or want to engage more with Ealing's creative hub? We're right in the centre of Ealing and are well connected with its many cultural organisations.

## 10. Be part of a thriving theatre community!

This includes special invitations, events and offers.

Annual Membership rates

Full: £65.00

Senior citizen: £55.00

Benefit recipient: £40.00

18-25 year-olds: £30.00

[www.questors.org.uk/membership](http://www.questors.org.uk/membership)