

Productions for Early 2020

Pride and Prejudice

by Jane Austen,
adapted by Simon Reade
Opens 31 January in The Playhouse

Things I Know to be True

by Andrew Bovell
Opens 7 February in The Studio

Questors Youth Theatre presents
Hairspray JR.

by Marc O'Donnell,
Thomas Meehan, Marc Shairman
and Scott Wittman
Opens 28 February in The Playhouse

First Love is the Revolution

by Rita Kalnejais
Opens 6 March in The Studio

The Student Group presents
Strange Orchestra

by Rodney Ackland
Opens 27 March in The Studio

Hangmen

by Martin McDonagh
Opens 16 April in The Playhouse

The Heresy of Love

by Helen Edmundson
Opens 8 May in The Playhouse

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.

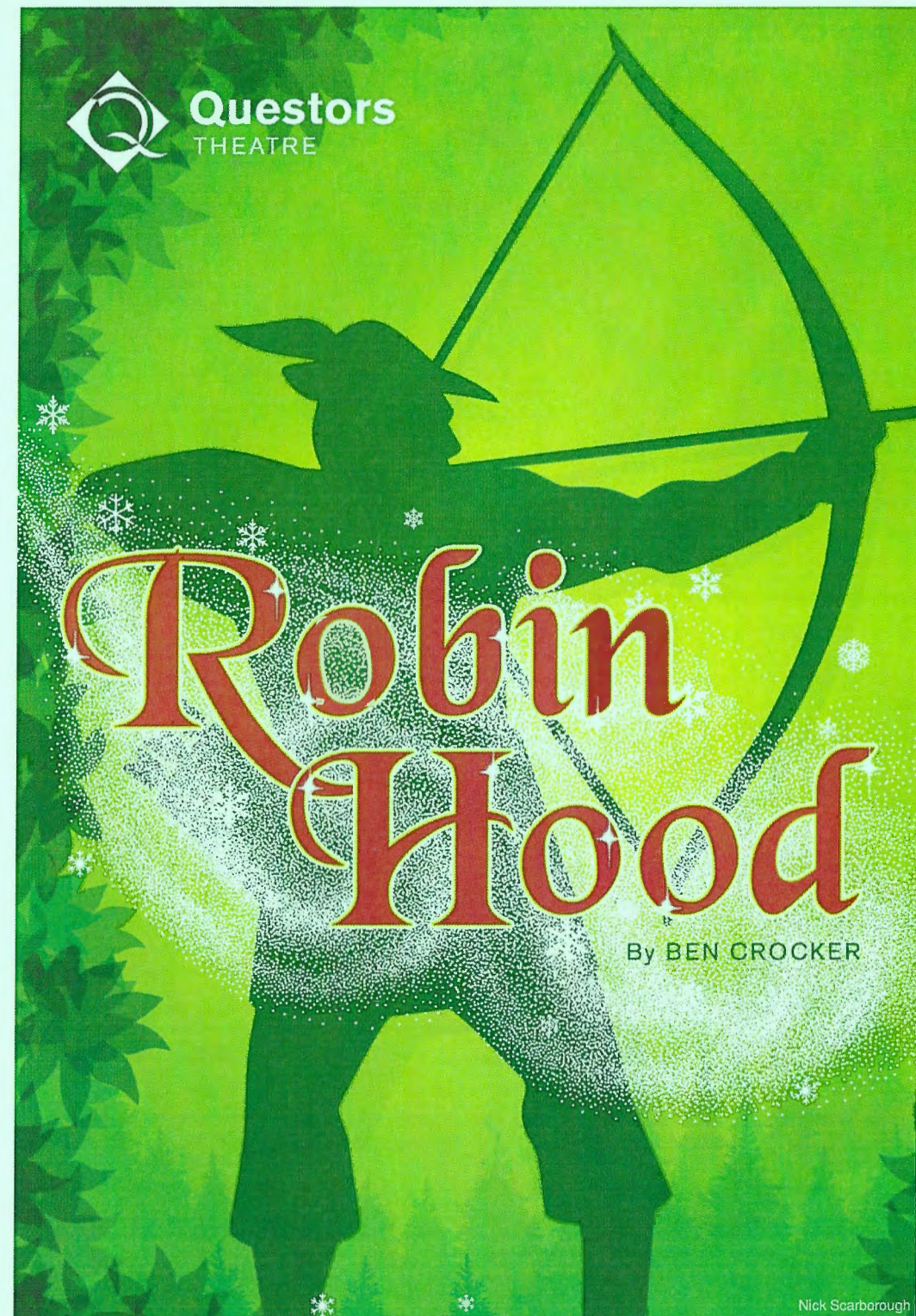
** Under 18; excludes certain events; maximum 4 per event; must be collected at the performance and accompanied by the adult member.

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: Raymond Childe
Email: enquiries@questors.org.uk
Registered Charity No. 207516



WELCOME TO ROBIN HOOD

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

Robin Hood is the seventh traditional pantomime to be produced in recent years by The Questors, following *Aladdin and his Wonderful Lamp*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Dick Whittington & His Cat*, *Cinderella*, *Mother Goose* and *Sleeping Beauty*. We are delighted the Questors panto has become such a firm favourite and that so many people now book each year as part of their Christmas celebrations.

The *Robin Hood* cast and production team have enjoyed preparing the show and we thank you, our audience, for coming to appreciate the hard work, time and effort put in by our volunteer company of players.

The Questors celebrates its 90th anniversary in 2019. We presented a hugely successful production of *George Orwell's 1984* in November to mark this milestone and our president Dame Judi Dench very kindly said, "*To all members, past and present, I salute your achievements and wish your theatre – our theatre – the very best for what promises to be an exciting future*".

We are indeed looking at an exciting future, and we hope you will take the opportunity to see some of our other productions over the rest of the 2019/20 season, including the Questors Youth Theatre production of *Hairspray JR.* which runs from 27 February to 7 March. We will also be staging the winner of the Questors Student Playwriting Competition in May. To find out more, 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 look forward to seeing you next year for *Snow White*.

Andrea Bath
Executive
Director

Doug King
Chairman
of the Board



ROBIN HOOD

by Ben Crocker

The Judi Dench Playhouse

13 – 31 December 2019

ROBIN HOOD

Robin Hood ... how can we say these words without hearing the old familiar tune?



Statue of Robin Hood in Nottingham

Everyone knows about the legend that is *Robin Hood*, the man in green (slaps her thigh). In English folklore, as the story goes, he stole from the rich to give to the poor. And is this the only time we think it is acceptable to 'steal' for the greater good? In such a story, there were so many opportunities for us to have put in political puns and comments, but as we are a very troubled country at the moment, we decided to steer clear; but it hasn't been easy!

The tale of *Robin Hood* has been told many times in literature and film. His earliest appearance on film was 1912 played by Robert Frazer, followed by a huge number of actors from Douglas Fairbanks, Errol Flynn, Sean Connery and Kevin Costner to the 2018 remake starring Taron

Egerton, with plenty of others in between. According to the legend, he was a highly skilled archer, swordsman and of noble birth. In modern retellings, he is sometimes depicted as having fought in the Crusades before returning to England to find his lands taken by the Sheriff of Nottingham – boooooooo!

In our pantomime, we see Sherwood Forest and all the familiar characters, including the Sheriff (always a baddie), who in our version is after the money her brother has left to the 'Babes' and plots to kill them. The Sheriff and her sidekick Dennis make many attempts to bump them off, but Robin Hood and the Merry Men are on hand to save the day. Oh yes they are!

In 1867, Robin Hood was introduced to the story of *The Babes in the Wood* when he rescues them from their fate. In the 1874 Covent Garden pantomime this did not happen, and they kept the unhappy ending, but in modern pantomimes the Babes always get rescued and their wicked uncle gets his comeuppance (we have a wicked Aunt). We don't really know how Robin Hood came to be connected to the story of *The Babes* as the character of Robin Hood had been the subject of his own pantomime since *Merry Sherwood* in the 1790s.

Our production of *Robin Hood* promises to entertain, with lots of songs, dances, woodland creatures, rabbits, audience participation and, of course, thigh slapping – we have it all. You'll be busy laughing, booing and cheering; we'll get you all involved in our festive atmosphere of cheery fun.

It takes an army of people to put this vast show on, from costumes (they have an army of their own), to set design, set building, stage management, lights and sound, to front of house, box office, programme sellers, and the administrators and organisers of Questors Youth Theatre (QYT).

The list is endless, and without all of these amazing volunteers we wouldn't be able to do what we do. As the director I am so grateful to have this army by my side and appreciate the teamwork and sheer hard work that everybody has done to give us a great show.

This is the first panto that has had so many QYT participants, especially in lead roles, and I want to thank them all for their commitment to doing such a great job. I can't finish without mentioning all the parents for their commitment: thank you. I am sure you will see that all that hard work has paid off on the stage.

Enjoy yourselves: and spread some love around the world as you do.

Pam Redrup, Director



A plaque outside Nottingham Castle depicting King Richard marrying Robin and Marian

Production Photographs



Young People's Ensemble



Team A



Team B

ROBIN HOOD

by Ben Crocker

First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 13 December 2019

THE PLAYERS

Principal Cast

in order of appearance

Alan-A-Dale
Rabbits
Friar Tuck
Little Joan
Robin Hood
Mabel the Horse
Maid Marion
Winnie Widebottom
Sheriff of Nottingham
Dennis
Tilly
Tommy
King Richard Lionheart

Emerson Baigent
Shaan Latif-Shaikh
Mike Hadjipateras
Francesca Young† / Marija Velkova*
Lisa Morris
Dotti Lawson, Zoë Ledwith-Hoult
Lily Ledwith
James Goodden
Kerri Logan
William Connor
Jian Andany† / Elena Gonzalez*
Logan Surman† / Edward P Gamazeliuc*

Alan Chambers
(understudied by Robert Baker-Glenn, Julian Casey, John Dobson, Richard Gallagher, Robert Gordon Clark, Rory Hobson, Alex Marker, Tristan Marshall, William Morton, Niall O'Mara, Rishi Rai, Mark Redrup, Simon Rudkin, Phillip Sheahan, Julian Smith, Derek Stoddart, John Turner, Chris Waldoock)

Shaan Latif-Shaikh, Andrea Little,
Joshua Carr†, Rory Hughes*

Musicians

Keyboard 1	Lee Dewsnap
Keyboard 2	Susan Powrie
Guitar	Berni Messenger
Drums	Dave Neville
Bass Guitar	John Hennessy

The performance lasts about 2 hours and 30 minutes 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†

Abigail Alvares Penn
Charlotte Schofield
Katie Harniman
Lily De Vitis
Zoe Spurling

Team B*

Alexa Cunningham
Emilia Flor Amaya Wood
Isabella Elizabeth Connolly
Stella Gourgaud-Jacobi
Vienna Glass

Woodland Creatures

Chorus

Cara Stanislaus
Chloe Kemp-Harper
Daniel Hayes
Desirae West
Ella Mitchell
Evie Webb
Georgia De Vitis
Gracie Phelan
Helena Von Roon
Isobel Spurling
Jael Ainon
Laszlo Keech
Merryn Henderson
Mia Lepper
Oscar Devendra
Phoebe Wellington
Shannon Carroll
Stan Watts
Téa Tomovic
Torin Surman

Aoife Hughes
Amy Barnes
Betty Mae Elson
Caitlyn Rose Vary
Charlotte Green
Claire Watson
Elina Ghai
Erin Loftus
Tenaya Gunali-Hewawickrama
Hannah Duffy
James Rock
Leo Ceccolini
Leo Huntley
Lottie McManus
Luke Duffy
Lyla Wintle
Mila Vulinovic-Zlatan
Romy Eve McArthur Kumar
Sophie Green
Sylvie Memess

† appearing Dec 13, 14, 15 (6:00), 19, 21 (2:30), 22 (1:30), 23, 28 (2:30), 29 (1:30), 30
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Sheriff of Nottingham
Dennis
Tilly
Tommy
King Richard Lionheart

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Francesca Young† / Marija Velkova*
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Jael Ainon
Laszlo Keech
Merryn Henderson
Mia Lepper
Oscar Devendra
Phoebe Wellington
Shannon Carroll
Stan Watts
Téa Tomovic
Torin Surman

Aoife Hughes
Amy Barnes
Betty Mae Elson
Caitlyn Rose Vary
Charlotte Green
Claire Watson
Elina Ghai
Erin Loftus
Tenaya Gunali-Hewawickrama
Hannah Duffy
James Rock
Leo Ceccolini
Leo Huntley
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* appearing Dec 14 (2:30), 15 (1:30), 18, 20, 21, 22 (6:00), 27, 28, 29 (6:00), 31 (4:00)

CREATIVE TEAM

Director	Pam Redrup
Assistant Director	Dani Hagan Beckett
Musical Director	John Hennessy
Choreographer	Sara Page
Set Designer	Alex Marker
Costume Designer	Raymond Childe
Puppet & Creature Designer	Shaan Latif-Shaikh
Lighting Designer	Robert Walker
Sound Designer	Daniel Tigg

Young People's Shows in 2020



HAIRSPRAY JR.

by Marc O'Donnell & Thomas Meehan

28 February – 7 March 2020

The Judi Dench Playhouse

Welcome to the 60s and the coolest kids in town, jiving and spinning into a world of TV glamour and a whole load of hairspray! But even in an industry plastered with smiles, it's hard to ignore entrenched racial divides. Performed by Questors Youth Theatre, this award-winning musical comedy touches on the issues of justice, prejudice and the power of unity; all through catchy tunes and swinging dance moves.



SNOW WHITE

Christmas 2020

The Judi Dench Playhouse

'Mirror, mirror on the wall, who's the fairest of them all?'

Stepmothers are often a pain – but none compares to Snow White's. So, when this young princess's angelic beauty is deemed the fairest in the land, the menacing Queen is overcome with jealousy. On escaping the claws of death, Snow is offered shelter by some friendly faces. But will the machinations of her Evil Stepmother stop there?

Come to The Questors next Christmas to find out!

PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Manager	Toby Burbidge
Deputy Stage Manager	Robert Eagle
Properties	Claire Auvache
Sword and Arrow Maker	Paul Souchon
Wardrobe Mistresses	Jan Auvache, Helen Karasiewicz
Costume Makers	Katherine Armstrong, Jane Arnold-Forster, Helen Cooper, Jean Derby, Wanda Duszynska, Adina Elmasry, Carla Evans, Sheena King, Sue Peckitt, Valerie Rudd, Mary Smith, Shobi Springer, Sylvia Thomas, Sylvia Wall
Wardrobe Assistants	Jane Casey, Anne Gilmour, Kevin Sebastianpillai, Kate Townsend, Maggie Turner
Dresser to Mr Goodden	Ian Black
Lighting Assistants	Tim Edwards, Andrew Whadcoat
Lighting Operators	Jane Arnold-Forster, Evelina Plonyte, Derek Stoddart
Follow-Spot Operators	Lucy Aley-Parker, Sunita Chana, Chris De Gromoboy, Holly Gillanders, Will Metcalf, Manisha Mohan, Sam Moran, Laurie Swan, Lloyd Wallis
Lighting Riggers	Mike Chislett, Sadie Crowder, John Green, Lloyd Wallis
Sound Operator	Ben Greenwood
Set Constructors	Toby Burbidge, Adam Smith
Set Painters	Claire Auvache, Ian Black, Philip Lindley, Alex Marker, Kat Mason, Alexandra Schneider, Derek Stoddart, Kingston Students
Get-In Assistance	Doug King, Jakub Repisky, Stephen Souchon, Derek Stoddart, Rob Willin
Hair and Make-Up	Erica Freedman, Tabitha Kyprianou, Mary Williams
Photographer	Rishi Rai
Videographers	Gavin Jones, Peter Gould
Children's Administrator	Dani Hagan Beckett
Thanks to	Susan Powrie, the Questors Office for their support, all the patient parents and anyone else we may have forgotten

A special thanks to **Jeremy Vines** for costumes made and sent from Wales
 Additional song lyrics by **Paul James, Robert Baker-Glenn, Rishi Rai**
 Rap arrangement by **John Hennessy**
 Initiation Song by **Sarah Travis**

Biographies

Jian Andany – Tilly

For The Questors, Jian played a prominent role as Fizzy in *Bugsy Malone*. Professionally, she has appeared in mainstream commercials from John Lewis to Lidl and is currently filming for an upcoming feature film to be released in 2020.

Emerson Baigent – Alan-A-Dale

Emerson was a member of Questors Youth Theatre from Year 4 to Year 13, taking part in various QYT productions including the Coarse Acting Festival (2017) and *Animal Farm* (2018). He recently graduated from the BRIT School studying theatre.

Joshua Carr – Ensemble

Josh has been a member of QYT for over four years, has performed in *Cinderella* and *Bugsy Malone*, and played the role of Minimus in *Animal Farm*. He also took part in the promenade play at Pitzhanger Manor.

William Connor – Dennis

William has been at The Questors for just over a year. He has taken part in a few youth projects and played Bugsy in *Bugsy Malone*. He hopes to be involved in shows at The Questors in the future.

Edward P Gamazeliuc – Tommy

Edward is a student at Brentside High School. After a recommendation from his drama teacher, Edward joined QYT in Year 7 and is still enjoying being part of The Questors.

Elena Gonzalez – Tilly

Elena was most recently in The Questors' 90th Anniversary production of *George Orwell's 1984*, appearing as Mr & Mrs Parsons' daughter – denouncing her own father as a traitor. She also appeared in last year's pantomime, *Sleeping Beauty*, and in Caryl Churchill's *Blue Heart* at the Orange Tree Theatre in 2016.

James Goodden – Winnie Widebottom

This is the third time that James has donned the frocks at The Questors, following on from Dame Trott in *Jack and the Beanstalk* (2014) and Mother Goose in *Mother Goose* (2017). Somehow, Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without spending much of it in a succession of elaborate outfits.

Mike Hadjipateras – Friar Tuck

Mike has been a Questors member since 2003 and was the villain Abanazar in the panto *Aladdin and his Wonderful Lamp*. Favourite parts include Garry Essendine in *Present Laughter*, Trigorin in *The Seagull* and John Proctor in *The Crucible*. His last role was as Charles II in *Nell Gwynn*.

Rory Hughes – Ensemble

Rory has been a member of QYT for four years and this is his fifth acting role in the Playhouse after *Cinderella*, *Emil and the Detectives*, *Mother Goose* and *Animal Farm*. He's acted in school productions and loves watching plays in his spare time.

Shaan Latif-Shaikh – Puppet & Creature Designer, Rabbits, Ensemble

Shaan's previous creations include mice and fish for *Dick Whittington & His Cat*, and a yeti and a moose for *Mother Goose*. He works as a costume maker for Rainbow Productions. Recent projects vary from several sports mascots to costumed versions of Shaun the Sheep, Peppa Pig and The Smurfs.

Dotti Lawson – Mabel the Horse

Dotti loves panto! Following her panto debut aged eight in her home town of Richmond, North Yorkshire (as a dancing chicken), she has played quite a menagerie over the years including a mouse, a monkey, a bear, cows, rats and Priscilla the Goose. At The Questors she has appeared as Daisy the Cow (*Jack and the Beanstalk*) and Queen Rat (*Dick Whittington & His Cat*), as well as the Empress of China (*Aladdin and his Wonderful Lamp*).

Lily Ledwith – Maid Marion

Lily has grown up in QYT, performing in a variety of different Christmas shows including *Annie*, *Aladdin and his Wonderful Lamp* and *Jack and the Beanstalk*. She then made a return to the theatre as Freya Goose in *Mother Goose*, and she's delighted to be involved in another panto.

Zoë Ledwith-Hoult – Mabel the Horse

Zoë has supported The Questors since 2003, with her children attending youth theatre classes and participating in various shows (requiring chaperoning and costume repairs). Zoë actually works in theatre, but as a Staff Nurse. This is her third Questors Christmas panto with her daughter, Lily.

Andrea Little – Ensemble

Andrea has been in numerous musical and dramatic productions, at The Questors and with other groups. She has also been involved with operating sound and lights, writing and filming.

Kerri Logan – Sheriff of Nottingham

After several thigh-slapping principal boy roles some years (try 'decades' – Ed.) ago in her native Belfast, Kerri has happily graduated to villain at The Questors – first Ms Slimeball in 2014's *Jack and the Beanstalk*, and now the very wicked Sheriff. If booed and hissed sufficiently, she may be persuaded not to call off Christmas...

Lisa Morris – Robin Hood

This is Lisa's third Playhouse production with The Questors, and the second in which she's dressed as a man. Still, the time she played a nun was perhaps the largest stretch of the imagination. Lisa's really enjoyed playing Robin – and her accent is still closer to Nottingham than some other Robin Hoods...

Logan Surman – Tommy

Logan joined The Questors last year and this is his first production here. He has enjoyed making new friends and is really looking forward to the show.

Marija Velkova – Little Joan

Marija has been a member of QYT since 2018 and this is her Questors debut show. She performed in the Pitzhanger Manor promenade (2019) and in annual dance shows since 2017. She is very passionate about acting and wants to pursue it as a career.

Francesca Young – Little Joan

Francesca has been performing with The Questors since the age of 9, taking part in three productions so far. She has always had a passion for music and theatre, and hopes to continue acting in the future.

Dani Hagan Beckett – Assistant Director

Dani has been involved at The Questors for four years, most recently appearing in *Di and Viv and Rose* and *Rutherford & Son*, and as the Deputy Stage Manager for *Rabbit Hole* and *Not About Heroes*. Dani's directing credits range from *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* to *The Importance of Being Earnest* and she has produced short play festivals in Sheffield and London.

Ian Black – Dresser to Mr Goodden

Ian has been a Questors member for six years and has popped his nose into many departments and helped on numerous shows in wardrobe, construction, painting, set design, FOH and show decorations. He is also known as Mr Christmas as it is Ian who sprinkles the sparkle of the Festive Season throughout the building.

Raymond Childe – Costume Designer

After studying drama at Guildhall School of Music & Drama, Raymond worked as a professional actor for some years before becoming a costume designer in television for 30 years. He has also designed many productions at The Questors since the 1970s, this being his 16th Christmas show. Many others include *Hedda Gabler*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *Mary Stuart* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

John Hennessy – Musical Director

John has toured supporting major acts like Dire Straits, Queen, Motörhead, Slade and Whitesnake to name but a few. He has worked with musical theatre companies locally and in the West End and has been Musical Director for *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Smokey Joe's Café*, *Follies*, *Anything Goes*, *The Witches of Eastwick*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Sweeney Todd*, *West 5 Story* and *Mother Goose*. As a composer, his musical *The Mystery* premiered in April 2013.

Alex Marker – Set Designer

Alex is the Artistic Director of The Questors and the director of Questors Youth Theatre. As a set designer, he has designed well over 100 productions for venues ranging from fringe to West End and, of course, a fair few at The Questors, most recently *George Orwell's 1984*. He also directs and has written scripts for the Overnight Plays for the past two years.

Sara Page – Choreographer

Sara is a performer, choreographer, pianist and teacher. She has an MA in Advanced Theatre Practice from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and creates her own work and collaborates with theatre companies both nationally and internationally. This is her 11th Questors production as choreographer.

Daniel Tigg – Sound Designer

Dan is a sound engineer and bass player, working in theatre for the past 15 years. He has designed sound for shows in the West End, on UK Tours and local theatre. He is very excited to be able to design sound for *Robin Hood* at The Questors after designing sound and playing bass on the QYT production of *Bugsy Malone*.

Robert Walker – Lighting Designer

Robert has been a member of the Questors lighting department for three years, working on productions such as *Sleepers in the Field* and *That Face*. Outside of The Questors, Robert works as a Broadcast Engineer, along with lighting Chiswick Theatre Arts annual dance show.

Tea Darling

Refreshingly Vintage



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Alternative Christmas Entertainment



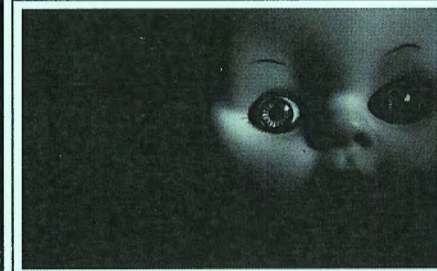
FAULT LINES

by Ali Taylor

18 December 2019 – 4 January 2020

The Studio

Christmas Eve and Abi and Nick wake after the Disasters Relief staff party to hangovers and carnage. Things get worse with news of a huge earthquake in Pakistan. Gathering up clothes and dignity, they rush to dispatch tents, but how far will they go to be first on the scene?



HER DARK MATERIALS

22 and 29 December 2019

The Studio

For our eleventh season of ghost story readings at Christmas, we turn to the works of female masters of the genre. Over two nights we will present a selection of the greatest (and scariest) tales of the supernatural that have ever been produced – and all written by women. Come along to be spooked!

Tickets on the door.