

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
- ✓ 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.

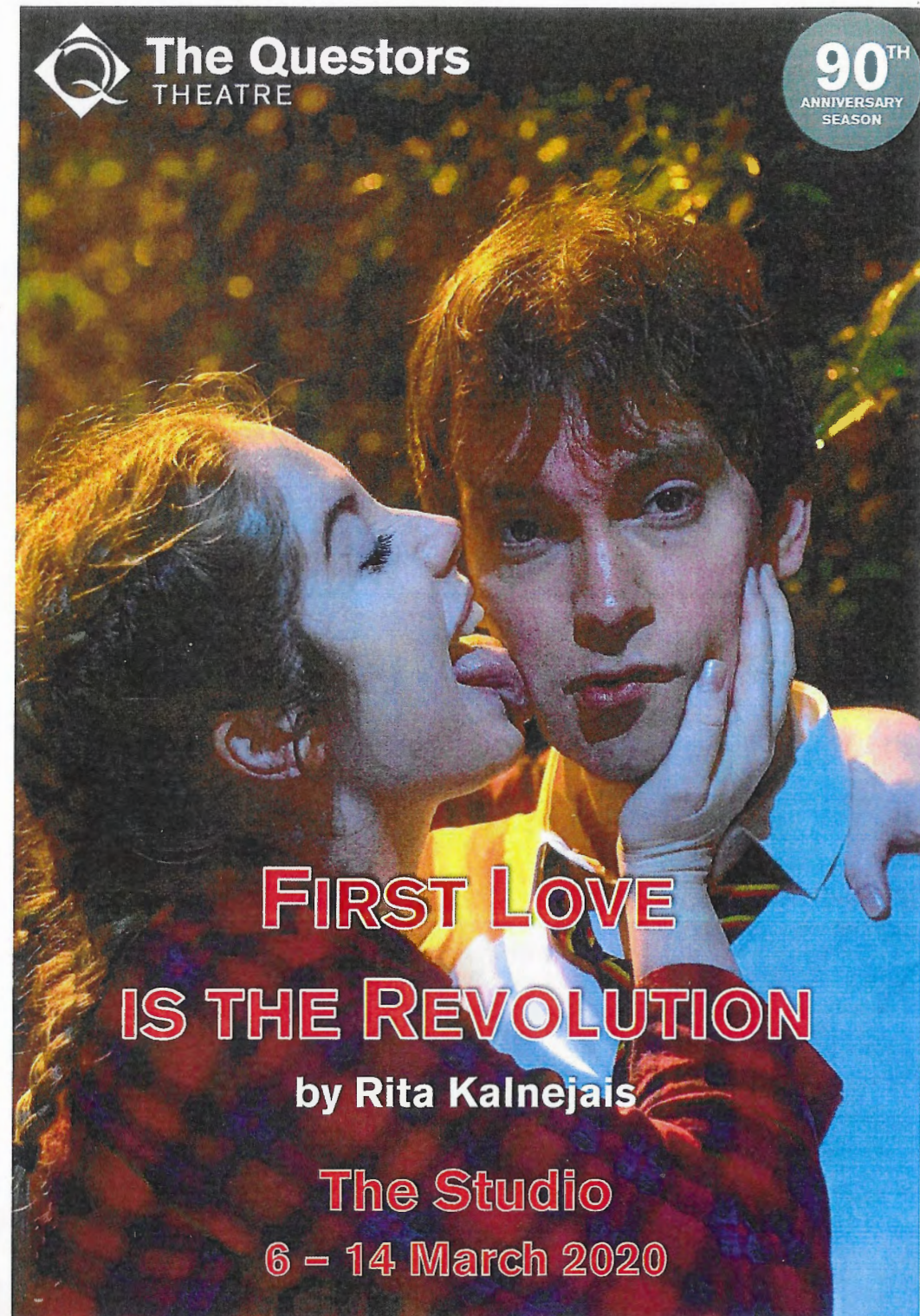
The Questors Theatre
12 Mattock Lane, Ealing, W5 5BQ
Registered Charity No. 207516

Programme: Nigel Bamford
Theatre Office: 020 8567 0011
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The Questors
THEATRE

90TH
ANNIVERSARY
SEASON



FIRST LOVE IS THE REVOLUTION

by Rita Kalnejais

The Studio
6 – 14 March 2020

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 2020 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 – 10:30 pm (Sunday – Wednesday)

7:00 pm – 11:00 pm (Thursday – Saturday)

Sunday lunchtime: midday – 2:30 pm

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

Fields and the Grapevine accept payments by card.



Image: Robert Vass

FIRST LOVE IS THE REVOLUTION

by Rita Kalnejais

The Studio

6 – 14 March 2020

FIRST LOVE IS THE REVOLUTION

"It's a love story. About how you're irresistibly drawn to the one who will undo you. And about violence and mothers and daughters and fathers and sons and being true to your nature. And about intimacy. How first love makes you crazy in an already crazy world."

Rita Kalnejais

Resident writer at the Sydney Theatre Company Australia in 2011, this was Rita's first play in London and premiered at the Soho Theatre in 2015 where she was one of the Soho 6.

There is no doubt that this is a very bold, brave and challenging play – not only in its writing but also to bring to the stage. But surely that is what theatre is all about, not to lull the audience into a nice peaceful state of nothingness but to live dangerously and bring the spectator into the very heart and soul of the premise to test their ability of acceptance and to find themselves in an upside down yet strangely familiar world and to be part of it.

First Love is the Revolution is a viciously funny piece, a love story with a real twist in which realism blends seamlessly with the fantastic. It's *Romeo and Juliet* with an emotional and feral rawness that brings the emotional scale of Shakespeare right into modern day London, with a visceral fervour that celebrates the magic of young love and accepting those that are different from us.

Young, awkward and lonely Basti (Sebastian) just doesn't fit in; he doesn't smell right to other kids and is consequently bullied quite badly – he just hasn't found his right place. He was close to his mother but she has had to 'go away' so Basti is trying to make the most of his teenage years in a broken home with just his dad, who himself is a complicated guy more interested in the girl who lives in the flat above than in his own son.

Then Basti meets young Rdeca who is like any fourteen year-old girl with a particular streak that makes them feel they don't belong

anywhere – feeling all the darkness inside themselves for the first time. Basti and Rdeca simply fall giddily and adorably in love but are forbidden from being with each other because of their warring families, surrounded by brutal murder and prejudice.

"It is about how we dehumanise each other and use that as an excuse for violence." (R.K.)

But the emotional rawness of this *Romeo and Juliet* tale, coupled with the darkness of a depressed mother and murdered father between them, is framed with ridiculous comedy and joyful absurdity. The script is wickedly sharp and modern with flashes of wonderful poetic imagery. This really is thought provoking drama at its best.

It is beautiful, sexy, innocent, yet at the same time carnal and vicious. For the differences between these two star-crossed lovers are powerfully and understandably huge and soon an impossible bond between them will inevitably spiral dangerously out of control.

As an audience, you will take away from this as you will, but there are possibilities and alternative meanings within its layers and subtext that are rich and provocative. Is it real? Or is it actually all happening inside Basti's head as a response to the trauma of his mentally unstable mother and philandering father? Is it simply just how Basti sees the world or wants to see the world?

It is a huge geography in a small space where worlds collide and yet merge with ease and melt in an instant. Where are we? Who are we? What are we? Let it pose questions and possibilities and allow yourself innocently to join with this modern day fable of Gregor, Rovis, Smulan, Bailey, Quentin, Cochineal, Gustina, Thoreau, Raymond, Simon, Gemma, Basti and of course Rdeca.

"Surely the biggest achievement of 'first love' is making such a brilliantly twisted and original premise so endearing and so engaging."

(David Clack – 2015 Soho Theatre review)

Do we alienate.....or do we accept??

Nicholas Jonne Wilson, Director

FIRST LOVE IS THE REVOLUTION

by Rita Kalnejais

First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 6 March 2020

CAST

Basti	Zac Karaman
Simon (his dad)	Mike Hadjipateras
Gemma (lives in the flat above)	Lucy Palfreeman
Rdeca	Fionna Gough
Cochineal (her mother)	Maya Markelle
Gustina (her sister)	Lucy Palfreeman
Thoreau (her brother)	Jason Welch
Gregor	Iain Reid
Rovis	Jason Welch
Smulan	Lucy Palfreeman
Bailey	Maya Markelle
Quentin	Mike Hadjipateras
Raymond	Nigel Lawrence

The performance will last approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes with no 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	Nicholas Jonne Wilson
Set Designer	Nicholas Jonne Wilson
Costume Designers	Jenny Richardson, Nicholas Jonne Wilson
Lighting Designer	Martin Stoner
Sound Designer	Oliver Ings
Stage Manager	Jenny Richardson
Deputy Stage Managers	Nigel Lawrence, Jo Perse
Assistant Stage Managers	Lily Baker, Ian Black
Rehearsal Prompter	Jo Perse
Musical Advisors	Oliver Ings, Katie Mason
Lighting Operators	Jane Arnold-Forster, Martin Stoner
Lighting Rigger	Lily Baker
Sound Operator	Oliver Ings
Sound Assistant	Russell Fleet
Set Realisation	Bron Blake, Rob Willin
Set Construction	Toby Burbidge
Get-In Assistants	Bernd Gauweiler, Stephen Souchon, Jon Webster
Photographer	Robert Vass
Trainee Photographer	Evelina Plonyte
Videographers	Robert Vass, Nicholas Jonne Wilson
Thanks to	Alex Marker and the Students of the Kingston College BTEC Production Arts Course

Biographies

Fionna Gough – Rdeca

Fionna was trained in acting at Richmond Drama School where she played the role of Mrs Sullen in *The Beaux' Stratagem* as the group's final performance. Her previous Questors credits include *That Face* and *Days of Significance*. Additional to stage, she has featured in numerous short films and is an active member of The National Youth Film Academy.

Mike Hadjipateras – Simon / Quentin

Mike has been a Questors member since 2003. Favourite parts include Gary Essendine in *Present Laughter*, Trigorin in *The Seagull*, Faustus in *Doctor Faustus*, Kotov in *Burnt by the Sun*, Jim Bayliss in *All My Sons*, John Proctor in *The Crucible* and Charles II in *Nell Gwynn*.

Oliver Ings – Sound Designer

Oliver has recently joined The Questors having spent a large part of his career as a radio studio director for the BBC, designing and mixing sound on programmes for Radio 4 and the World Service. *First Love is the Revolution* is his first Questors production as a sound designer and operator.

Zac Karaman – Basti

Zac, whilst part of Student Group 70, played Sir William Gower in *Trelawny of the 'Wells'* and Sir Nathaniel in *Love's Labour's Lost*. Afterwards he appeared in *Taking Sides* (as Lt David Wills), *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* (as Abraham/Felix/Groom), *Eventide* (as Mark), *The Heiress* (as Morris Townsend), *Sleeping Beauty* (as Prince Orlando), *Charles III* (as Cootsy and Nick), *The Dog & The Scarf* (as actor and puppeteer!) and recent QExtra rehearsed readings of *Betrayal* and *Soul Trader*.

Nigel Lawrence – Raymond

Nigel made his first appearance in a Nicholas Jonne Wilson production at The Questors in *Hamlet – What Dreams May Come* in 1989. He went on to become a very old Romeo and a very young King Lear for the same director. Nigel was last seen playing two very different rats (John Durbeyfield and Groby) in *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*.

Maya Markelle – Cochineal / Bailey

Maya graduated from Student Group 71, since when she has appeared here as Natalie in *Multitudes*, and Lady Castlemaine and Louise de Kerouaille in *Nell Gwynn*. Maya recently began practitioner training in Craniosacral Therapy, and is deeply fascinated by the human relationship to body and self, and how that translates into performance.

Lucy Palfreeman – Gemma / Gustina / Smulan

Lucy's past credits include Eurydice in *Orpheus*, Katherine in *The Taming of the Shrew* (The Studio, Norwich), both with Minatour Theatre Company. Lucy co-wrote and performed the stage adaptation of *Five Daughters* which explores the lives of the five women murdered in Ipswich in 2006. Her last performance at The Questors was as Suzy in *Future Conditional* by Tamzin Oglesby in 2019. She begins her MA in Creative Writing at Goldsmiths University this September.

Iain Reid – Gregor

Iain was in Student Group 29 (1974-76), and appeared in many Questors productions up to the end of 1992, including *The Fall of The House of Usher* and others with Nicholas Jonne Wilson, *The Boy Friend*, *Cabaret*, *Animal Farm*, *Dimetos*, *Deathwatch*, *Twelfth Night*, *Marat/Sade*, *Men Should Weep*, various Christmas shows and *Soapsud Island* (the first PlayBack project). Since returning in 2013, he has appeared in *Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp*, *West 5 Story*, *Macbeth*, *Rhinoceros*, *Red Peppers*, *Measure for Measure*, *Rosmersholm* and *The Dog & the Scarf*.

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 *Fault Lines*, *George Orwell's 1984*, *Blue/Orange*, *The 39 Steps*, *Rabbit Hole*, *Don't Dress for Dinner*, *Measure for Measure*, *Scarborough*, *Sweet Charity*, *Larkin with Women*, *Mojo* and *Daisy Pulls It Off*. Jenny is frequently in demand as an upholsterer.

Martin Stoner – Lighting Designer

Since joining in 1976, Martin has designed the lighting for many Questors productions. Recent ones include *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Charley's Aunt*, *Kvetch*, *coda4MaKbet*, *The Talented Mr Ripley*, *Greek*, *4:48 Psychosis*, *The Bear & A Priest in the Family* and *Twelfth Night*.

Jason Welch – Thoreau / Rovis

Jason trained at The Questors in Student Group 69 and has gone on to star in *The Effect*, *The Exhonerated*, *Days of Significance* and *King Charles III*. Away from The Questors, Jason has had roles at Theatre 503 and the Tabard theatre. Working as a teacher has meant some less demanding roles, however working with this director, a detailed and intense movement teacher, has been interesting to say the least.

Nicholas Jonne Wilson – Director/Set Designer/Costume Designer

Jonne has worked professionally as a director, actor, teacher and writer for many years. He is also an established director at The Questors and has directed a long and eclectic list of plays. He is best known for his physical and stylised form of direction, bringing together his love of movement, theatre and film. He has directed many of Berkoff's plays including *The Fall of the House of Usher*, *The Trial*, *Agamemnon*, *Kvetch* and *Greek* as well as his own works *Hamlet – What Dreams May Come*, *Telling Rashomon*, *Nervous*, *Blood Ties* and *coda4maKbet*. *Hamlet*, *Nervous*, *Telling Rashomon* and *Blood Ties*, under his own company, independently received critical acclaim in London, Bath and Edinburgh. His last Questors production was Sarah Kane's *4:48 Psychosis* which brought together not only his love of stylised theatre but also of film. Jonne is also an established acting coach to the profession and the founder of *The Body Method*® running workshops for actors, directors and teachers of acting in both the U.K and Europe.

Meet the Company – Wednesday 11 March

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



Next at The Questors

STRANGE ORCHESTRA

by Rodney Ackland
27 March – 4 April 2020
The Studio

The Student Group presents a 1932 play set in an unkempt Chelsea flat belonging to slovenly bohemian Vera Lyndon. This ramshackle household is full of lodgers, all struggling artists. In a politically volatile era, the coming conflict in Europe casts a shadow, especially over Esther, Vera's impassioned left-wing daughter; while her other daughter Jenny longs to write a book, despite her lack of experience. Then in strolls Peter, a homeless artist with suspicious intentions.

HANGMEN

by Martin McDonagh
16 – 25 April 2020
The Judi Dench Playhouse

The day hanging was abolished, Harry, local celebrity and the nation's second best hangman, faces an uncertain future. Oscar winner Martin McDonagh's (*In Bruges*, *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*) wickedly funny satire on the justice system fuses an undeniably dark tale with the mundanity of northern pub life, undercut with idiosyncratic humour. Set in 60s Lancashire, this is a fast-paced dark comedy that will grip you until the bitter end.