

## 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](http://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](http://questors.org.uk/qyt).

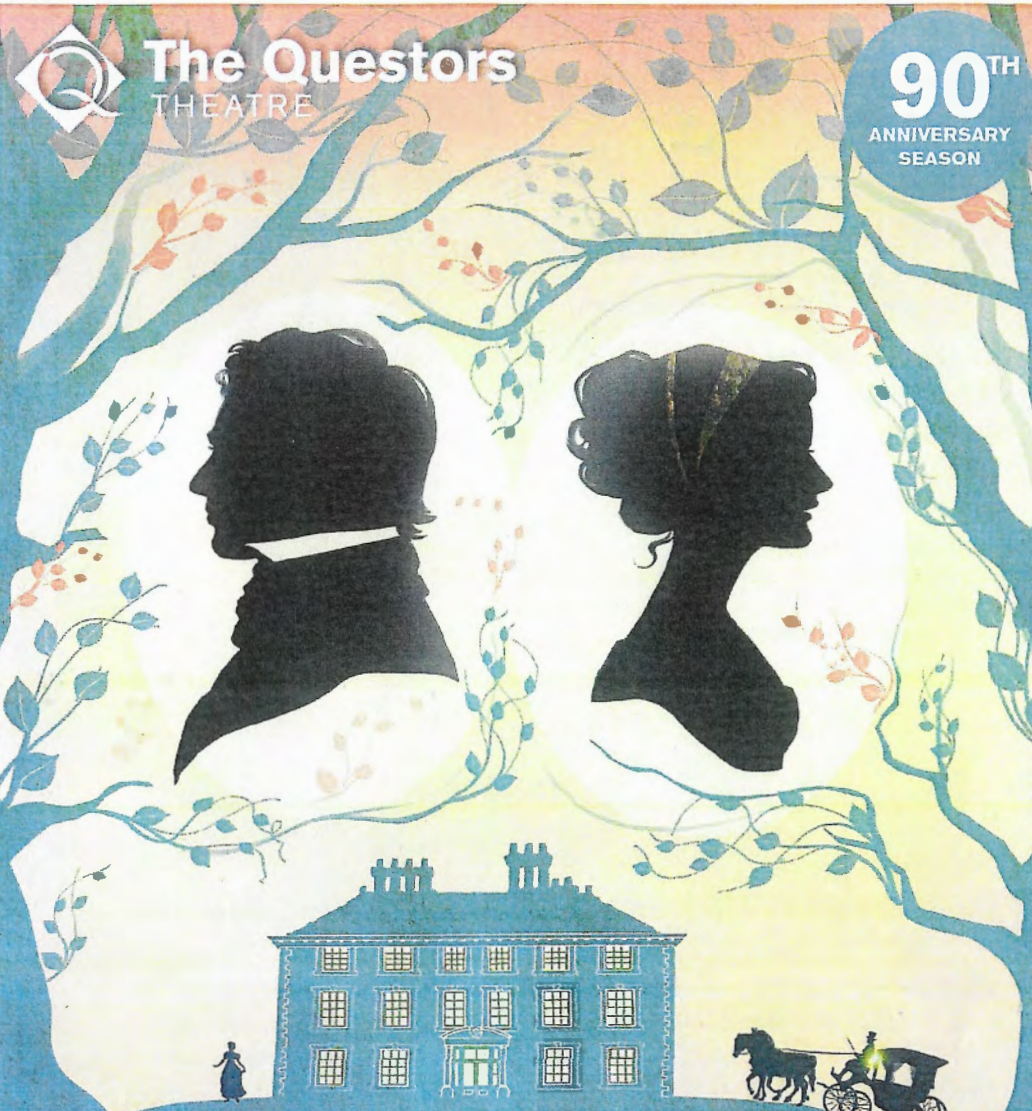
The Questors Theatre  
12 Mattock Lane, Ealing, W5 5BQ  
Registered Charity No. 207516

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**The Questors**  
THEATRE

**90<sup>TH</sup>**  
ANNIVERSARY  
SEASON



# PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

by Jane Austen, adapted by Simon Reade

## The Judi Dench Playhouse

31 January – 8 February 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](http://questors.org.uk/grapevine) for more details.

**Fields and the Grapevine accept payments by card.**



image: Carla Evans

## PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

by Jane Austen, adapted by Simon Reade

**The Judi Dench Playhouse**

**31 January – 8 February 2020**

# PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

My Dear Reader,

Have you heard? The Playhouse has been let to the company of *Pride and Prejudice*. When you're given the opportunity to direct a Jane Austen novel obviously you say yes and then it dawns – you're directing Jane Austen! *Pride and Prejudice* is often cited as one of the nation's favourite novels and has seen an abundance of interpretations from stage to screen, Hollywood to Bollywood. Austen wrote six novels over her short life, dying at the early age of 41. All her success happened after her death, so sadly she never knew that *Pride and Prejudice* would go on to be her most popular and most loved work, with one of the most famous opening lines in literature, "It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife".

It was her father, the Reverend George Austen, who wrote on behalf of his daughter to a number of publicists regarding the book, then titled *First Impression*. But, as with many famous works, it was rejected and it would not be until 16 years later on the 28th January 1818 that the book we now know as *Pride and Prejudice* was finally published. Priced at 18 shillings, it was an instant hit.

Much of what we know of Austen herself comes from her family history and through Jane's correspondence with her beloved sister Cassandra, often amusing her with the gossip and news of the family and society in general. Her letters, which play an important part in this production, offer in detail how clever and witty Austen was in her observations of everyday life, much of which we see come to life in her novels.

Mr Darcy's and Elizabeth Bennet's complex relationship starts with their first meeting at a Public Ball in the Assembly Hall in Meryton. Through her letters, we know that Austen loved going to balls. They represented one of the few spaces to observe society and where opportunity for romance and potential marriage would play out, with many dances lasting 20 to 30 minutes. As Mrs Bennet says, 'To be fond of dancing is a certain step to falling in love...' But the dilemma for women was that a refusal of a gentleman's offer to dance would mean you were not allowed or expected to dance with any other men during the rest of the evening, so, whether you liked the gentleman or not, you were obliged to say yes.

You may ask how Austen managed to create such iconic leads in Darcy and Elizabeth, and to capture the intrigue of love and status in Regency England so

perfectly, when we have so little, if any, knowledge of her own romantic relationships, with the exception, based on much speculation, of a liaison with a Tom Lefroy and a short lived engagement. Sadly, her sister Cassandra would go on to burn many of Jane's letters before her own death, leaving it to our imagination as to where Austen took inspiration for the creation of Elizabeth and Darcy.

Why do so many people love this book and its characters? I've been asking that question since we started rehearsals. The simple answer is that everyone will give you a different reason. Everyone has an opinion of which sister is their favourite and what they really think of Wickham. As for me, since my first reading I have been drawn to her representations of women. Today we still see the pressures on women to marry, to conform, to stay within societal boundaries and expectations dictated by a patriarchal society. Are Elizabeth Bennet and Jane Austen feminists? Is Mrs Bennet ridiculous or strategic in how she navigates a male dominated world? You decide. Whatever your response, one thing I would argue is that you can't deny the brilliance of Jane Austen as a writer with her exceptional ability to capture through wit and satire the social norms of the time, making funny and poignant observations about class divisions rooted in wealth and family connections. Pitting internal merit (goodness) against external merits (rank and profession) is nothing short of genius.

The play begins when news reaches the village of Longbourn that a Mr Charles Bingley has rented the manor of Netherfield Park and with him he has brought his even wealthier best friend, Darcy. There is only one thing on Mrs Bennet's mind: which one of her daughters will marry first. The story revolves around the lives of the Bennet sisters: the good, the bad and downright outrageous. When Elizabeth first meets Darcy she finds him rude and arrogant, whereas Jane and Bingley seem to be forming an attachment. What follows is the humorous and touching story of how unpredictable love and life can be, especially when you're constrained by your gender, class and wealth in Georgian England. Simon Reade's adaptation is wonderfully comical and manages to reflect the best of Jane Austen's much-loved story and characters.

I feel incredibly grateful to have worked with a production team whose dedication has helped bring *Pride and Prejudice* to life, and I feel privileged to have directed such an amazingly hard working and talented cast. I hope you enjoy the show.

*'Do not consider me now as an elegant female intending to plague you,  
but as a rational creature speaking the truth from her heart.'*

Yours sincerely,

**Sukhi Kaur Kainth – Director**

# PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

by Jane Austen, adapted by Simon Reade

*First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 31 January 2020*

## CAST

**in order of appearance**

Mrs Bennet	<b>Sarah Morrison</b>
Mr Bennet	<b>Robert Gordon Clark</b>
Miss Lydia Bennet	<b>Emily Sanctuary</b>
Miss Kitty Bennet/Miss de Bourgh	<b>Nia Acquaye</b>
Miss Jane Bennet	<b>Alexandra Rose Wilson</b>
Miss Mary Bennet/Miss Georgiana Darcy	<b>Madeleine Tavare</b>
Miss Elizabeth Bennet	<b>Kitty Cockram</b>
Sir William Lucas/Reynolds	<b>Anthony Green</b>
Mr Bingley	<b>James Burgess</b>
Mr Fitzwilliam Darcy	<b>Ben Martineau</b>
Mrs Gardiner	<b>Alex McDevitt</b>
Miss Caroline Bingley	<b>Tilly Benson-Reid</b>
Miss Charlotte Lucas	<b>Georgina Keck</b>
Mr Collins	<b>Anthony Curran</b>
Mr Wickham	<b>Louis Tavare</b>
Lady Catherine de Bourgh	<b>Anne Neville</b>
Red Coat/Footman	<b>Tony Sears</b>

The performance will last approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes  
including a 15-minute 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	<b>Sukhi Kainth</b>
Set Designer	<b>Bron Blake</b>
Costume Designer	<b>Carla Evans</b>
Lighting Designer	<b>Andrew Dixon</b>
Sound Designer	<b>Russell Fleet</b>
Stage Manager	<b>Adam Carvell</b>
Deputy Stage Managers	<b>Jennifer Kerr, Doug Willis</b>
Assistant Stage Managers	<b>Ben Bassage, Sarah Clopet, Davide Mantovani, Andrew Whadcoat</b>
Properties	<b>Harriet Parsonage</b>
Prompter	<b>Bridgett Strevens</b>
Choreographer	<b>Bryony Williams</b>
assisted by	<b>Sara Page</b>
Pianist	<b>Sarah Stoddart</b>
Costume Makers	<b>Jane Arnold-Forster, Adina Elmasry, Anne Gilmour, Shaan Latif-Shaikh, Moonika Leisson, Claire Malyon, Sue Peckitt, Jenny Richardson, Nell Rose, Alison Simmons, Shobi Springer, Sylvia Wall</b>
Wardrobe Assistants	<b>Jan Auvache, Helen Karasiewicz, Georgina Keck, Kate Townsend</b>
Dressers	<b>Sarah Clopet, Sadie Crowder, Andrew Whadcoat</b>
Lighting & Sound Assistants	<b>James Connor, Evelina Plonyte, Roisin Tierney</b>
Lighting Rigger	<b>John Green</b>
Set Realisation	<b>Rob Willin</b>
assisted by	<b>Simon Higginson, Doug King</b>
Scenic Artist	<b>Bron Blake, Geoff Moore</b>
Get-In Assistants	<b>Jeff Benny, Henry Broom, Jakub Repisky, Derek Stoddart, Laurie Swan</b>
Hair and Make-Up	<b>Students of the Kingston College Media Make-Up Department</b>
Photographer	<b>Carla Evans</b>
Videographers	<b>Peter Gould, Gavin Jones</b>
Thanks to	<b>Ian Black, Toby Burbidge, Binder Kainth, Satpal Kainth, Ravi Kainth Reid, Dotti Lawson</b>



# Biographies

## **Nia Acquaye – Miss Kitty Bennet/Miss de Bourgh**

Nia joined The Questors in 2019, playing Sister Hope, Stacey and Veronique in *Table*. Previously, Nia worked in musical theatre, performing in the *Lion King* and *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*. She has taken part in several productions with the Beck Youth Theatre, including *The Music Man*, *Oklahoma!* and *Anything Goes*. Since then she has performed as Serafina in *His Dark Materials* at Oxford University.

## **Tilly Benson-Reid – Miss Caroline Bingley**

Tilly has appeared at The Questors in *Diana of Dobson's* (Diana), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Mustardseed), *Ariadne and the Monsters* (Theseus) and *1984* (Winston's Mother). Tilly also works backstage in stage management.

## **James Burgess – Mr Bingley**

James trained as an actor at Drama Studio London. His productions at The Questors include *King Charles III*, *Absent Friends*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Six Bad Poets*, *Season's Greetings*, *The Country Wife*, *Measure for Measure* and *Titus Andronicus*. Other theatre includes: *Dido*, *Queen of Carthage*; *The Alchemist* (Rose Playhouse); and *Love's Labour's Lost* (touring).

## **Kitty Cockram – Miss Elizabeth Bennet**

Kitty is an actor/writer, just graduated from East 15 Acting School and making her Questors debut. Previous roles at the school include Juror 8 in *12 Angry People*, Kate in *The Taming of the Shrew* and Ranyevskaya in *The Cherry Orchard*. As well as acting, Kitty is a play writer and will be producing her first play later this year.

## **Anthony Curran – Mr Collins**

Anthony is a graduate of Student Group 47 and has appeared in roles as diverse as Estragon in *Waiting for Godot* to Arlecchino in *The Venetian Twins*. His more recent appearances include Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

## **Robert Gordon Clark – Mr Bennet**

Robert has recently appeared in *1984* (Parsons), *Six Bad Poets* (Charles Prime), *For Services Rendered* (Wilfred Cedar), *Pygmalion* (Colonel Pickering), *When the Rain Stops Falling* (Joe Ryan) and *Peer Gynt* (Dr Begriffenfeldt and others).

## **Anthony Green – Sir William Lucas/Reynolds**

Anthony joined The Questors in 1997. His productions include *Arcadia*, *The Wild Duck*, *Absolute Hell*, *Suddenly Last Summer*, *Insignificance*, *Richard III* and as Alan Bennett in *The Lady in the Van*. Most recently, he was in *Mary Stuart* and *Present Laughter*. Anthony is a member of the Putney Theatre Company and has appeared with the National Student Theatre and Pendley Shakespeare Company.

## **Georgina Keck – Miss Charlotte Lucas**

Georgina initially joined The Questors in 2008 at age 11. After seven years in the youth theatre and two years in the student group, this is her debut as a non-student cast member in a Questors production. Since graduating from Student Group 71,

she has also done stints of ASMinig and helped with costumes, including helping make the dress she wears in *Pride and Prejudice*.

## **Ben Martineau – Mr Fitzwilliam Darcy**

Being both socially awkward and quite posh, Ben has no idea how he bagged the role of Darcy. He previously acted in *Rêver Peut-Être*, *His Dark Materials*, *Frost/Nixon*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Posh* and others with, among other societies, the Cambridge University Amateur Dramatic Club. This is his second role at The Questors following *Days of Significance*.

## **Alex McDevitt – Mrs Gardiner**

Alex has played a variety of roles at The Questors, and has been lucky enough to explore many different styles of theatre, such as The Sphinx in Berkoff's *Greek*, Ruth in Pinter's *The Homecoming* and Mrs Clare & Mrs d'Urberville as part of the ensemble players in the highly acclaimed *Tess* production. Alex was last seen on the Questors stage as the audacious Mrs Henderson in *Rutherford & Son*.

## **Sarah Morrison – Mrs Bennet**

Sarah has been an active acting member since 1980 and has appeared in over 60 productions. Recent performances include Gwen Cedar (*For Services Rendered*), Mrs Squeamish (*The Country Wife*), Mokhova (*Burnt by the Sun*) and Maria (*Twelfth Night*). As Sarah Stoddart, she directed *The Bear*, which subsequently toured to Lithuania as part of the Baltic Flight International Festival.

## **Anne Neville – Lady Catherine de Bourgh**

Anne has acted at The Questors since 1983. Parts include leading roles in *For Services Rendered*, *No Fairy Tale*, *A Little Night Music*, *The Crucible*, *The Winslow Boy*, *Great Expectations*, *The Lady in the Van*, *Happy Days*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *Ghosts*, *Mother Courage and Her Children*, and *The Glass Menagerie*.

## **Emily Sanctuary – Miss Lydia Bennet**

Emily is in her second year at The Questors. Her last production here was *The Dog and the Scarf*, a devised piece of physical puppetry-based theatre in which she played multiple roles. She also recently performed in *Nell Gwynn* as Rose and took part in the QExtra *Revenge Is Sweet*.

## **Tony Sears – Red Coat/Footman**

Tony has been at The Questors for several years, taking part in the Acting for All and Encore classes. He was also a part of Student Group 72 where he had roles in *Peer Gynt*, *Future Conditional* and *Charley's Aunt*. Since finishing the course, he appeared playing multiple parts in *Table* and as Tony in *Days of Significance*.

## **Louis Tavare – Mr Wickham**

While only recently becoming an active member, Louis has been involved in The Questors for a number of years. Louis was part of Questors Youth Theatre, performing in *The Tempest* and *DNA*, before being involved with Questors Young Studio. Louis has recently been a member of UCL Comedy Club.

**Madeleine Tavare – Miss Mary Bennet/Miss Georgiana Darcy**

Madeleine became a Questors member in November 2019, having performed as a member of Questors Youth Theatre and Young Studio. Productions include *Grimm Tales*, *Emil and the Detectives*, the Coarse Acting Festival, three overnight plays and Questival. Madeleine also became a National Youth Theatre member in 2019 and performed at the Lyric Theatre Hammersmith in 2018.

**Alexandra Rose Wilson – Miss Jane Bennet**

Alexandra studied for her BA in Acting at the University of Central Lancashire. Since graduating, she has starred in several short films and voice overs, including the award winning *Today is a Good Day* and *#brunch*, which had a win at the Independent Horror Movie Awards. This is Alexandra's first production at The Questors.

**Bron Blake – Set Designer**

An active member since the early 1970s, Bron has been doing set design and scenic art since 2004. Productions include *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *Broken Glass*, *Doctor Faustus*, *School of Night*, *Betrayal*, *Be My Baby*, *Rope*, *Uncle Vanya*, *The Master Builder*, *The Village Bike*, *Twelfth Night*, *Measure for Measure*, *Larkin with Women*, *Endgame*, *The Heiress*, *Rutherford & Son*, *Di and Viv and Rose*.

**Andrew Dixon – Lighting Designer**

In 2020, Andrew will have been lighting for over 60 years... from amateur dramas to BBC epics, including a production of *Pride and Prejudice* with David Rintoul playing Mr Darcy... how proud he was too! Andrew finds all the shows equally exciting. He hopes his enthusiasm is picked up by young new members of The Questors.

**Carla Evans – Costume Designer**

Carla joined The Questors in 2013 with an interest in all kinds of backstage craft. She instantly fell in love with the workshop and wardrobe, and 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 *Taking Sides* and costumes for *Private Lives*.

**Russell Fleet – Sound Designer**

Russell trained as an actor in the 1990s and joined The Questors in 2006. He has been involved in nearly 40 productions as an actor, sound designer, stage manager and director. Most recently he directed *The Heiress* and enjoyed a wonderful turn as Carabosse in *Sleeping Beauty*.

**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 went on to complete a directing course at City Lit London. At The Questors, she has directed *Multitudes* and *Di and Viv and Rose*, and worked on *Larkin for Women* as Assistant Director. She is also co-chair of The Questor's Diversity and Inclusion Group.



## Next at The Questors

**THINGS I KNOW TO BE TRUE**

by Andrew Bovell

7 – 15 February 2020

**The Studio**

This moving, poignant drama explores the intimacies and short-fallings of Bob, Fran and their four children. From heartbreak to theft, infidelity to betrayal – will their parents' love be enough to hold them together in times of crisis? Touching yet tragic, this journey through upbringing and identity shows four young people at odds with their parents' expectations. With each of their futures about to change forever, what things can we truly know to be true?

**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.