



The Questors
THEATRE

SIX BAD POETS

by Christopher Reid

The Judi Dench Playhouse
30 September – 3 October 2020

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by Christopher Reid

First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 30 September 2020

Cast

Charles Prime

Antonia Candling

Jonathan Wilderness

Derek Dufton

Jane Steep

Bryony Butters

Robert Gordon Clark

Pamela Major

James Burgess

John Dobson

Holly Gillanders

Kerri Logan

Company

Director

Lighting Designer

Lighting Operator

Music Composed by

Music Performed by

Choreographer

Design Liaison

Stage Manager

Deputy Stage Manager

Francis Lloyd

Robert Walker

Lloyd Wallis

Karen Street

Karen Street (Accordion)

Andy Tweed (Saxophone)

Sara Jasmin Page

Alex Marker

Jane Arnold-Forster

Dani Hagan Beckett

The performance will last approximately 80 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.

Biographies

Christopher Reid – Author

Christopher Reid is one of the country's leading poets. He has published books of poetry for both adults and children and won numerous awards and prizes. His first collection, *Arcadia*, won both the Somerset Maugham Award and the Hawthornden Prize, and in 2009 his collection *A Scattering*, written as a memorial to his wife, the actress Lucinda Gane, won the Costa Award for best book of the year. His first poem to be published after *A Scattering* was a darkly comic piece, *The Song of Lunch*, which was filmed for television and starred Alan Rickman and Emma Thompson. A double bill of *A Scattering* and *The Song of Lunch* was performed by Robert Bathurst and Caroline Forbes at the Minerva Theatre, Chichester, under the title *Love, Loss and Chianti* in 2015. A new production (this time with Rebecca Johnson partnering Robert Bathurst) was mounted at the Riverside Studios in February of this year.

James Burgess – Jonathan Wilderness

James trained as an actor at Drama Studio London. Theatre includes *Pride and Prejudice*, *King Charles III*, *Absent Friends*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Season's Greetings*, *The Country Wife*, *Measure for Measure* and *Titus Andronicus* (all at The Questors); *Dido*, *Queen of Carthage* and *The Alchemist* (Rose Playhouse); *Love's Labour's Lost* (Touring); *The Lion*, *The Witch and The Wardrobe*, *The Wind in the Willows* and *King Arthur* (Edinburgh Fringe).

John Dobson – Derek Dufton

John's many theatre appearances at The Questors include *The Faith Healer*, *Breaking the Code*, *Dublin Carol*, *Equus*, *Season's Greetings* and *Peer Gynt*. Appearances elsewhere include *The Lady's Not For Burning* and *Freedom of the City* (Finborough Theatre), *Blithe Spirit* (Savoy), *Table Manners* (Net Curtain), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Greenwich Playhouse), *Top Dogs* and *Donkey's Years* (UK Tours).

Holly Gillanders – Jane Steep

Holly's favourite roles at The Questors include Becky (*The Village Bike*), Suzette (*Don't Dress for Dinner*), Elizabeth Younger (*When the Rain Stops Falling*), Vivvi (*Improbable Fiction*), Joyce (*The Ruffian on the Stair*) and Minnie (*Engaged*). She has performed in immersive theatre productions for the Royal Opera House and *You, Me, Bum Bum Train*.

Robert Gordon Clark – Charles Prime

Robert's recent roles at The Questors include Parsons in *George Orwell's 1984*, Mr Bennett in *Pride and Prejudice*, Wilfred Cedar in *For Services Rendered*, Colonel Pickering in *Pygmalion*, Dr Begriffenfeldt and others in *Peer Gynt*, Joe Ryan in *When the Rain Stops Falling* and, at the Jermyn Street Theatre, John in *Letter of Last Resort*.

Kerri Logan – Bryony Butters

Productions include *Nicholas Nickleby*, *Company*, *Two*, *Ladies' Day*, *After the Dance*, *Present Laughter*, *Blue Remembered Hills*, *The Crucible*, *Season's Greetings* and *Jack and the Beanstalk*. Notable roles include Annie Wilkes in *Misery*, Maggie Hobson in *Hobson's Choice*, Dolly in *Dolly West's Kitchen*, Lady Fidget in *The Country Wife*, which toured to the Minack Theatre in Cornwall in 2017, and the Sheriff of Nottingham in last year's pantomime, *Robin Hood*.

Pamela Major – *Antonia Candling*

Pamela has been acting in London since 1990. After a break whilst working overseas, she has since 2010 appeared in several productions, notably as Aline in *The Master Builder*, Maeve in *Larkin with Women*, Gabrielle in *When the Rain Stops Falling*, Margaret in *A Priest in the Family*, Mrs Evans in *King Charles III* and Pat in *Fault Lines*.

Francis Lloyd – *Director*

Francis trained as an actor at Central, and worked in theatre in Northampton, Sheffield, Colchester and in the West End. He was then called to the Bar in 1987 and has worked as a criminal barrister since. At The Questors he has directed a number of plays including *After the Dance*, *Charley's Aunt*, *Engaged*, *Otherwise Engaged*, *For Services Rendered*, and new plays by Brian Abbott and Richard Gallagher. As an actor, roles include Vanya *Uncle Vanya*, John (*Oleanna*), Henry Carr (*Travesties*), Mr Mantolini (*Nicholas Nickleby*) and, most recently, Victor Prynne (*Private Lives*).

Sara Jasmin Page – *Choreographer*

Sara is a performer, choreographer, pianist and teacher. Sara graduated from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama with an MA in Advanced Theatre Practice in 2017, since when she has been creating her own work and performing and collaborating with a number of theatre companies across the UK. www.sarajasminpage.com.

Karen Street – *Composer and Accordion*

As an accordionist, saxophonist and composer, Karen has an extremely varied career. Credits include Opera North, Ballet Rambert, BBC Philharmonic, the RPO, the LSO, WNO, Grace Jones, Ute Lemper, Strictly Come Dancing touring band, Martyn Taylor, Mike Westbrook and many others. As a saxophone player she was a member of the highly successful saxophone quartet The Fairer Sax who appeared on television and radio and at festivals all over the world. She has produced four CDs of her own compositions.

Andy Tweed – *Saxophone*

After studying at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, Andy joined Saxtet, one of the UK's leading saxophone groups performing all over the world. He has worked with Piccadilly Dance Orchestra, Pasadena Roof Orchestra, Syd Lawrence Orchestra, CBSO, Birmingham Royal Ballet and Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. He is visiting tutor of saxophone at Birmingham Conservatoire and Wells Cathedral School.

Robert Walker – *Lighting Designer*

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

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