



The Questors
THEATRE

The Children

by Lucy Kirkwood

The Questors Theatre, Judi Dench Playhouse
13th-17th July 2021

Cast & Creatives

Rose **Louise Templeton**

Hazel **Pamela Major**

Robin **Simon Taylor**

Director **Roger Beaumont**

Set Designer **Alex Marker**

Lighting Designer **Martin Walton**

Sound Designer **James Connor**

Composer **Oleta Haffner**

Costume Designer **Jenny Richardson**

Stage Manager **Tilly Benson-Reid**

Deputy Stage Manager **Sarah Clopet**

Movement **Annie Hackett**

Rehearsal Prompt **Bridgett Stevens**

Photographer **Robert Vass**

Lighting & Sound Operator **Martin Walton**



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Cast & Creatives

Constructors and Painters

Rob Willin

Jane Arnold-Forster

Vicky Saumarez

Charlie Dixon

Grace Connett

Ian Black

Bron Blake

Jemima Murray

Caitlin MacGregor

Steve Souchon

Henry Broom

Derek Stoddart

Cecily Johnson

A note from The Director, Roger Beaumont:

The first thing to say is that Lucy Kirkwood's *The Children* is a play that I have wanted to direct since I first saw it in 2016 at The Royal Court. It premiered in November of that year with a cast of Francesca Annis, Deborah Findlay and Ron Cook and it was directed by James Macdonald. We nearly got it into the Questors Studio in 2019 but, as happens sometimes, the rights were withdrawn. And so, when I was asked to think about plays that it might be possible to produce as we struggle to come out of Covid, *The Children* immediately came to mind – three-hander, great script, single setting. There have been, of course, difficulties to overcome to account for social distancing but nothing, in my view that has been insurmountable or detracts from this rather wonderful piece of writing, but you can decide that for yourselves.



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In *The Children* we meet two ageing nuclear scientists, Hazel and Robin, who are living in an isolated cottage on the coast, as the world around them crumbles. Then an old friend, Rose, arrives and the past collides with the present to change their future. Lucy Kirkwood uses this classic theatrical construct to offer us a play that is darkly funny, unremittingly human, and asks important questions about love and loss, life and death, and responsibility of the older generation towards the younger.

Louise Templeton: previous Questors productions include *Humble Boy*, *Broken Glass*, *Dinner*, *Richard III*, *Trojan Women*, *French Paste*, *Dance of Death* and *This Happy Breed*. Now working professionally, Louise has performed in several UK tours, many London fringe theatres and a one-woman show at the Edinburgh fringe. She appears regularly with *Antic Disposition*, taking Shakespeare productions on tour in France and England.

Pamela Major: Pamela has been acting in London since 1990, largely at The Questors and more recently also at The Playground Theatre and The Chiswick Playhouse. In *The Children* she is lucky enough to be making her second COVID-era appearance, after reprising *Six Bad Poets* in The Judi Dench Playhouse last year.

Simon Taylor: previous favourite Questors roles include Beckett's *Krapp and Wilhelm Furtwangler* in *Taking Sides*. When asked about his involvement with this production, Simon had this to say, "Covid rudely interrupted The Browning Version rehearsals but yielded four film shorts, an extraordinary feature film and months of inspiring Zoom work on this brilliant play. Great to be back live with Roger Beaumont, after 1984".

Lucy Kirkwood is a British playwright and screenwriter. In 2005, she wrote and starred in her first play, *Grady Hot Potato*, at the Bedlam Theatre, Edinburgh. The piece was selected for the National Student Drama Festival. In June 2018 Kirkwood was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in its "40 Under 40" initiative. Her plays include: *The Welkin* (National Theatre, 2020); *Mosquitoes* (National Theatre, 2017); *The Children* (Royal Court Theatre, 2016); *Chimerica* (Almeida Theatre & West End, 2013; winner of the 2014 Olivier Award for Best New Play, the 2013 Evening Standard Best Play Award, the 2014 Critics' Circle Best New Play Award, and the Susan Smith Blackburn Award); *NSFW* (Royal Court, 2012); *small hours* (co-written with Ed Hime; Hampstead Theatre, 2011); *Beauty and the Beast* (with Katie Mitchell; National Theatre, 2010); *Bloody Wimmin*, as part of *Women, Power and Politics* (Tricycle Theatre, 2010); *it felt empty when the heart went at first but it is alright now* (Clean Break & Arcola Theatre, 2009; winner of the 2012 John Whiting Award); *Hedda* (Gate Theatre, London, 2008); and *Tinderbox* (Bush Theatre, 2008).

Approximate running time: 1 hour 40 minutes