

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.

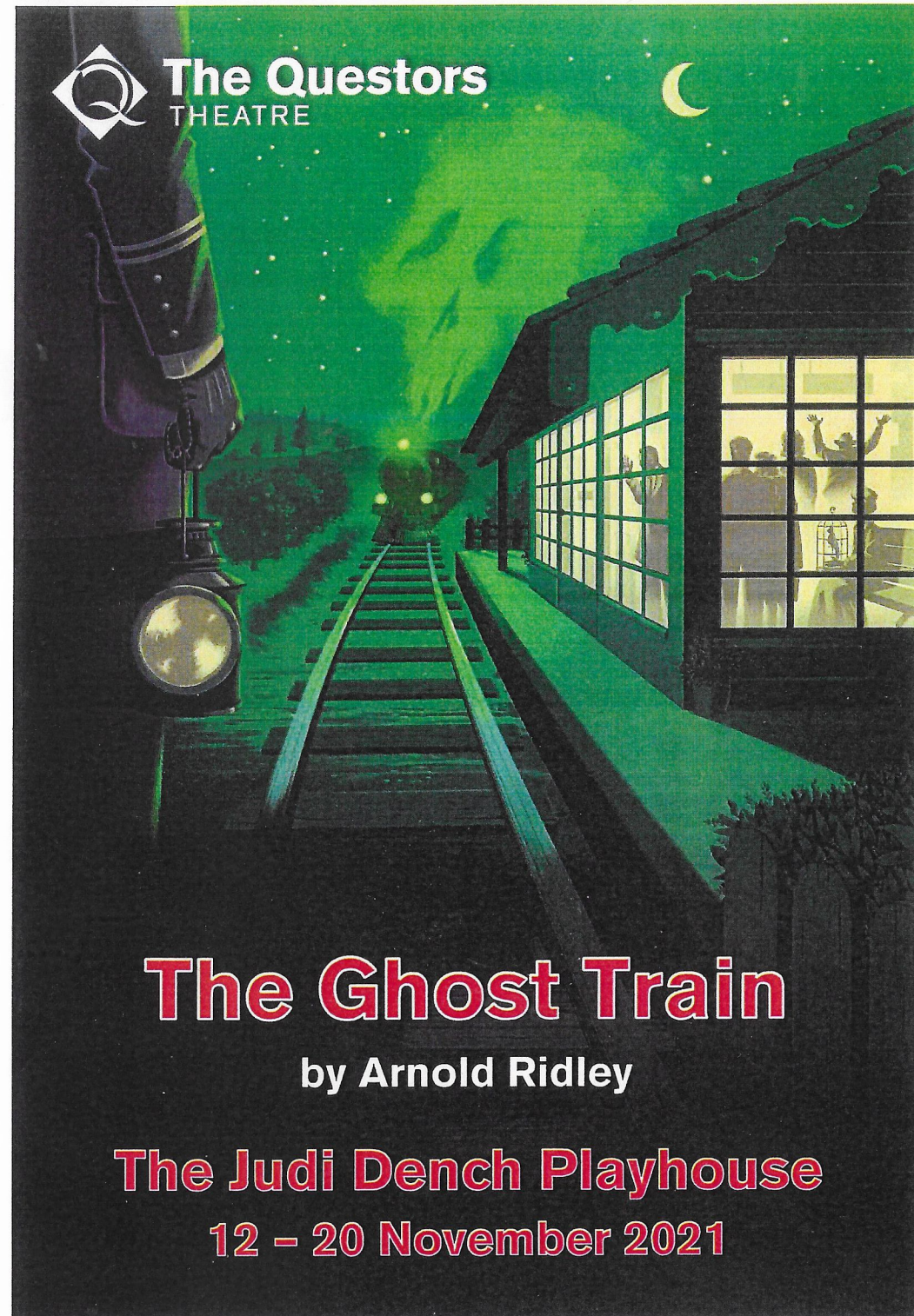
The Questors has a high standard of acting and, to maintain this, everyone wanting to act must first take an audition. These are held every month – call the Theatre Office for details of forthcoming auditions.

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
Box Office: 020 8567 5184
Email: enquiries@questors.org.uk



The Questors
THEATRE

The Ghost Train

by Arnold Ridley

The Judi Dench Playhouse

12 – 20 November 2021

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 six 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 2021 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 – and now, Box Steam Brewery's **Ghost Train**. 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 (Monday – Wednesday)

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

Sunday lunchtime: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

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

Fields and the Grapevine accept payments by card.



image: Rui Ricardo

The Ghost Train

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The Judi Dench Playhouse

12 – 20 November 2021

THE GHOST TRAIN

Welcome to *The Ghost Train*! This play was originally written as a thriller back in 1923 and, whilst it has dated very well in many ways, some of the dialogue in places may well provoke a little laughter when performed today, which was not (I suspect) the playwrights intent. Nonetheless, we present it to you today exactly as the script would have us do.

The playwright is well known to those of us of a certain age, who grew up (or simply were around) watching *Dad's Army*. Private Godfrey, AKA Arnold Ridley, wrote *The Ghost Train*; it was his first professional play and, although he went on to write around 20 plays, this was his most successful and is still regularly performed across the UK today. Just as a side note for the *Star Wars* fans in the audience – Daisy Ridley (Rey from VII, VIII and IX) is his great-niece.

The idea came to Ridley after becoming stranded one night on a now lost Midland Railway station in the Gloucestershire countryside. The atmosphere of the deserted station late at night, combined with hearing regular trains on an adjacent curved diversionary mainline, created the illusion of a train approaching, passing through and departing. Once he had the basics of the idea from this night on the station, Ridley wrote the play in little more than a week.

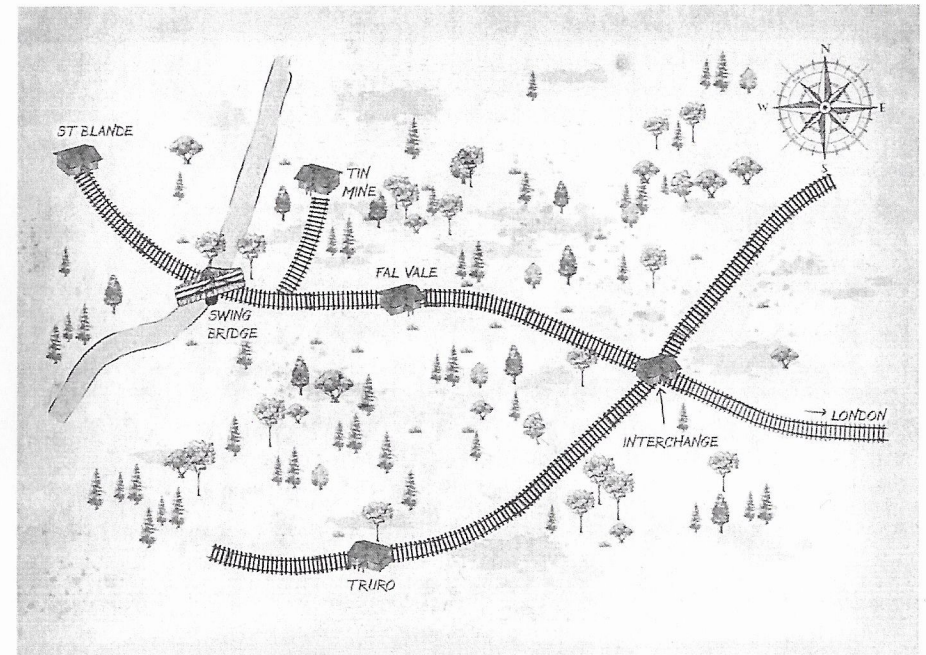
It opened in St Martin's Theatre in 1925, running for 665 performances. Since then, it's been revived multiple times professionally (with Ridley playing the part of Saul on several occasions) and is normally being produced by several amateur companies. One of the real shames for Ridley is that he is reputed to have sold the amateur rights many years ago for around £200, so neither he nor his estate make any money from these regular productions.

One of the more fascinating elements that's fun to share is something from the script on how to create the sound of the ghost train. (Yes, I know – minor spoilers, but I don't think the fact there is a ghost train in a play called *The Ghost Train* is too much of a spoiler. It would be like being annoyed if someone told you Hamlet was in *Hamlet*.) Back when the play was written, creating the sound of a hellish train would have been quite the challenge, so the script offers a solution or recipe to build a device to solve this problem for you. The list includes things like a garden roller 'propelled over fence struts 30 inches apart', an 18-gallon galvanised tank, an E-flat tubular bell, an auctioneer's hammer and, most importantly for that blood-curdling wail, 'three air cylinders, available from British Oxygen Co, Wembley, or local agent'. These days, we're fortunate enough to have options using technology, and I'll level

with you – the Questors stock of tubular bells just isn't what it used to be. Nonetheless, I hope one day to hear the kind of sound this would make as it's so wonderfully specific!

Now – at different times in this play, you may get people referring to rail journeys they (or others) may have taken. We've gone through the script in detail to work out exactly where we believe everything is located, because some places are fictional (such as Fal Vale, where the play is set) whereas others such as Truro I'm told are real...

So, below is a map showing Fal Vale station. Just to the east of Fal Vale is another larger (nameless) station which is commonly used as an interchange for those going to Truro. To the west of Fal Vale is a swing bridge, siding (leading to a tin mine) and St Blande. It's useful to note that there are not generally trains from St Blande through to Truro – if you want to make that journey you'd have to go up the line and change. Honestly, you don't NEED to know all this, but if you want to follow along, you can now!



Simon Rudkin , Director

THE GHOST TRAIN

by Arnold Ridley

First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 12 November 2021

CAST

in order of appearance

Saul Hodgkin,
Station Master at Fal Vale station
Richard Winthrop
Elsie, his wife
Charles Murdock,
junior partner in Murdock & Son
Peggy Murdock,
his newly married wife
Miss Bourne
Teddie Deakin
Julia Price
Herbert Price
John Stirling
Jackson
Smith

John Dobson
Richard Graylin
Caroline Ash

Tony Sears

Tilly Benson-Reid
Anne Neville
Ben Martineau
Fionna Gough
James Burgess
Francis Lloyd
Nigel Lawrence
Tom Mastin-Lee

The action of the play takes place in the small General Waiting Room at Fal Vale, a station on the South Cornwall Joint Railway in 1929.

ACT I takes place at 10:00 pm
ACT II takes place at 10:30 pm
ACT III takes place at 12:30 am

The performance will last approximately 2 hours and 15 minutes, including two 15-minute intervals.

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	Simon Rudkin
Assistant Director	Becky Hartnup
Set Designer	Bron Blake
Costume Designer	Carla Evans
Lighting Designer/Operator	Andrew Whadcoat
Sound Designer/Operator	Emerson Bramwell
Stage Manager	Jenny Richardson
Deputy Stage Manager	Sarah Clopet
Assistant Stage Managers	Ryo De Gennaro, Nigel Lawrence, Jo Perse
Properties	Jenny Richardson
Armourer	Nigel Worsley
Prompter	Debbie Abel
Graphics Designer	Geoff Moore
Costume Maker	Claire Malyon
Milliner	Jackie Nathanielsz
Set Realisation	Rob Willin, Bron Blake, Sue Collins, Dennis Dracup, Tina Harris
Additional Get-In Team	Ian Briggs, Henry Broom, Finn Hartnup-Williams, Simon Higginson, Stephen Souchon, Gareth Williams
Foyer Decorations	Ian Black
Photographer/Videographer	Robert Vass

Thanks to: **Lucy Aley-Parker, Alec Atchison, Victoria Bramwell,**
Toby Burbidge, Charles Douglas, Russell Fleet,
Cecily Johnson, Samantha Moran, Andy Powell,
Kall Kwik (Chiswick), The Slack Captains Improv Group

Biographies

Caroline Ash – Elsie

Caroline's roles at The Questors include Millie in *The Browning Version* and Ethel in *For Services Rendered*. Caroline has also performed at The Bridewell Theatre as Merteuille in *Les Liaisons Dangereuse*, Mona in *Trivial Pursuits* and Joanne in *Come Back to the Five and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean*.

Tilly Benson-Reid – Peggy Murdock

Tilly's productions at The Questors have included *Diana of Dobson's* (Diana), *Ariadne and the Monsters* (Theseus) and *Pride & Prejudice* (Miss Bingley). They also work backstage in stage management, most recently for *The 39 Steps* and *The Children*.

James Burgess – Herbert Price

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

John Dobson – Saul Hodgkin

John's many theatre appearances include *The Lady's Not For Burning* (Double Think), *Blithe Spirit* (The Savoy), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Greenwich Playhouse), *Top Dogs* and *Donkey's Years* (UK Tours) and over 90 appearances at The Questors including *The Faith Healer*, *Breaking the Code*, *Dublin Carol*, *Equus* and *Season's Greetings*. He is currently custodian of The Questors' extensive archives.

Fionna Gough – Julia Price

Fionna is a professional actor who has been an active member of The Questors for the past three years. Her previous credits include Mia in *That Face*, Hannah in *Days of Significance*, Rdeca in *First Love is the Revolution* and her most recent Questors show *Bard in the Yard*.

Richard Graylin – Richard Winthrop

The Ghost Train is Richard's ninth appearance on a Questors stage after playing Richard Hannay in *The 39 Steps* (Playhouse), Bernard in *Don't Dress for Dinner* (Playhouse), Frank Gardner in *Mrs Warren's Profession* (Playhouse), Philip in *The Pride* (Studio), Lord Goring in *An Ideal Husband* (Playhouse), Macbeth in *Macbeth* (Playhouse), Reverend Hale in *The Crucible* (Playhouse) and Henry Higgins in *Pygmalion* (Playhouse).

Nigel Lawrence – Jackson

A Questors actor for over 30 years, Nigel is pleased to have some lines this time around, having been a silent supercilious rat in his last appearance in *First Love is the Revolution*.

Francis Lloyd – John Stirling

Francis first appeared at The Questors as Bohun in *You Never Can Tell*. Parts since then include Vanya in *Uncle Vanya*, Dr Wicksteed in *Habeas Corpus*, Henry Carr in *Travesties*, Mr Mantolini in *Nicholas Nickleby*, John in *Oleanna* and Victor in *Private Lives*. He also directs – most recently *The Browning Version* and *Six Bad Poets*.

Ben Martineau – Teddie Deakin

Ben joined The Questors in 2019, playing Darcy in *Pride and Prejudice* and an ensemble part in *Days of Significance*; *The Ghost Train* is his third performance. Previous acting roles, at university, include Iorek Byrnison in *His Dark Materials*, Jack Brennan in *Frost/Nixon*, Gérard B in *Rêver Peut-Être*, Donald/Carpenter in *The Habit of Art* and James in *Posh*.

Tom Mastin-Lee – Smith

Tom Mastin-Lee is a documentary freelancer and a first-year student here at The Questors. He produced at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2017 with Exeter University Theatre Company, and directed the 2016 Exeter Classic Society play. Tom returns to the stage after a long hiatus – last featuring as one of the potential fathers in *Mamma Mia* in his final year at Dauntsey's School in 2014.

Anne Neville – Miss Bourne

Anne has acted at The Questors since 1983. Parts include Lady Catherine in *Pride and Prejudice*, Mrs Ardsley in *For Services Rendered*, Ansty in *No Fairy Tale*, Madam Armfeld in *A Little Night Music*, Rebecca Nurse in *The Crucible*, Grace Winslow in *The Winslow Boy*, Miss Havisham in *Great Expectations*, Miss Shepherd in *The Lady in The Van*, Winnie in *Happy Days*, Maggie in *Dancing at Lughnasa*, Ranyevskaya in *The Cherry Orchard*, Mrs Alving in *Ghosts*, Mother Courage, and Amanda Wingfield in *The Glass Menagerie*.

Tony Sears – Charles Murdock

Tony is a graduate of Student Group 72 at The Questors. His past Questors productions include *Future Conditional*, *Charley's Aunt*, *Table*, *Days of Significance* and *Pride and Prejudice*. He is currently cast in *Enchanted April* at the Tower Theatre.

Simon Rudkin – Director

Simon was a member of Student Group 61. After graduating, he performed in several plays including *The Rover*, *Rock 'n' Roll*, *Bedroom Farce* and *Beauty and the Beast*. Simon started the Questors sketch group, The Errors of Comedy, back in 2009 (which has recently performed its 10-year anniversary show) and started directing in 2012. This is his fifth full-length show, having last directed *The 39 Steps* in 2019.

Bron Blake – Set Designer

An active member since the early 1970s, Bron has been doing set design and scenic art since 2004. Recent productions include *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*, *Pride and Prejudice*, and *God of Carnage*.

Emerson Bramwell – Sound Designer

Emerson is new to The Questors's sound design team. With a background in drums and percussion, Emerson has composed original music and designed sound plots for a variety of productions over the last five years, and composed the music for The Questors's recent production of *God Of Carnage*. Emerson's parents met at The Questors back in the 1970s, which technically makes him a Questors baby!

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 *How to Spot an Alien* and costumes for *Pride and Prejudice*.

Becky Hartnup – Assistant Director

Following QYT, Becky acted, stage managed and directed with Watermans Youth Theatre and associated productions. Returning to The Questors in 2014, she is a member of the New Writing Group and The Slack Captains improvisation team, and performed in *The Dog & the Scarf*, *King Charles III* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. During 2021 she played Annette Reille in *God of Carnage* and Sam Weller in *What the Dickens?*

Andrew Whadcoat – Lighting Designer

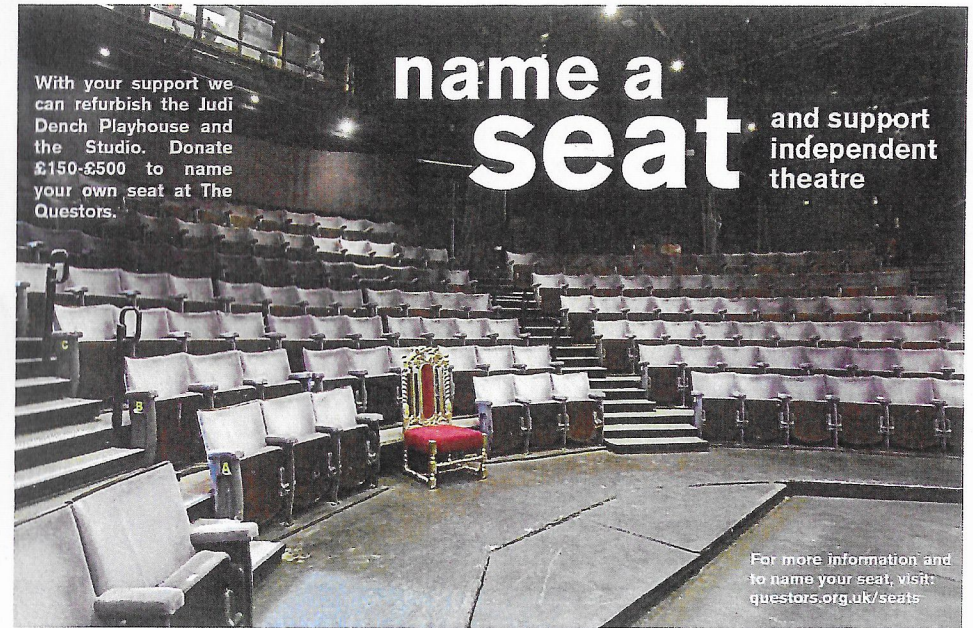
Andrew has worked in lighting since 2013. Recent lighting designs for The Questors include *Ariadne & the Monsters*, *The Dog & the Scarf*, *The Letter of Last Resort*, *India Gate*, *Bull & Contractions* and *The Water's Edge*. He has also designed for AppEaling Theatre, Idle Discourse, Orange Moon and Playgc Theatre both at The Questors and other venues.

Staying Safe when you attend The Questors

We are delighted to see you at The Questors this evening. In-line with government advice to 'remain cautious', and for your health and safety, we have NOT sold the Playhouse to capacity. In addition, we ask you to:

- use the hand sanitizer stations about the building;
- wear a mask when you are in communal areas;
- wear a mask when you are seated watching the show.

If Covid is diagnosed following a visit to The Questors please notify us via c19notifications@questors.org.uk stating when and where you were at the theatre.



Next at The Questors

SNOW WHITE

by Ben Crocker

16 – 31 December 2021

The Judi Dench Playhouse

When Snow White's angelic beauty is granted the fairest in the land, her menacing stepmother, the Evil Queen, is overcome with jealousy. On escaping the claws of death, Snow is offered shelter in the woods by some friendly faces. But will the machinations of her Evil Stepmother stop there? Oh no they won't...

Come along for a good boo, hiss and a cheer at Ealing's Annual Pantomime, back at The Questors Theatre for the first time in two years!

DEAR BRUTUS

by J M Barrie

17 – 28 December 2021

The Studio

1917. In a remote English village there are rumours of an enchanted wood. One of the inhabitants, a mysterious old man, invites eight strangers to stay. They all have something in common. When, one evening, the wood miraculously appears the guests feel compelled to enter. What happens there has the power to change their lives forever...

From the celebrated writer of *Peter Pan* comes this haunting drama of self-revelation. Darkly comic, *Dear Brutus* is Barrie at his most magical.