



**The Questors**  
THEATRE

# How to Spot An Alien

by Georgia Christou

The Questors Theatre, Judi Dench Playhouse

29th-31st July 2021

## Cast & Creatives

*Jelly* **Emily Sanctuary**

*Jonjo* **Sara Page**

*Aunt Leina/Mum* **Lisa Varty**

*Rennie/Policeman* **William Connor**

*P.A.-Lien/Puppeteer* **Lucy Aley-Parker**

*Director* **Shaan Latif-Shaikh**

*Assistant Director* **Jason Welch**

*Set Designer* **Carla Marker**

*Costume Designer* **Sarah Andrews**

*Lighting Designer* **John Green**

*Sound Designer* **CJ**

*Stage Manager* **Bernard Brady**







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## Cast & Creatives

*Deputy Stage Managers*

**Wanda Duszynska**

**Caitlin MacGregor**

*Assistant Stage Managers*

**Quinn Goodliffe**

**Finn McHugh**

*Lighting Assistant*

**Callum Hartnup**

*Sound Assistant*

**Nigel Worsley**

*Set Painting & Construction*

**Jane Arnold Forster**

**Bron Blake**

**Alice Johnson**

**Cecily Johnson**

**Alex Marker**

**Paul Souchon**

**Steve Souchon**

*Puppet Makers*

**Shaan Latif-Shaikh**

**Kat Mason**

**Kate Townsend**

*Photographer/Videographer*

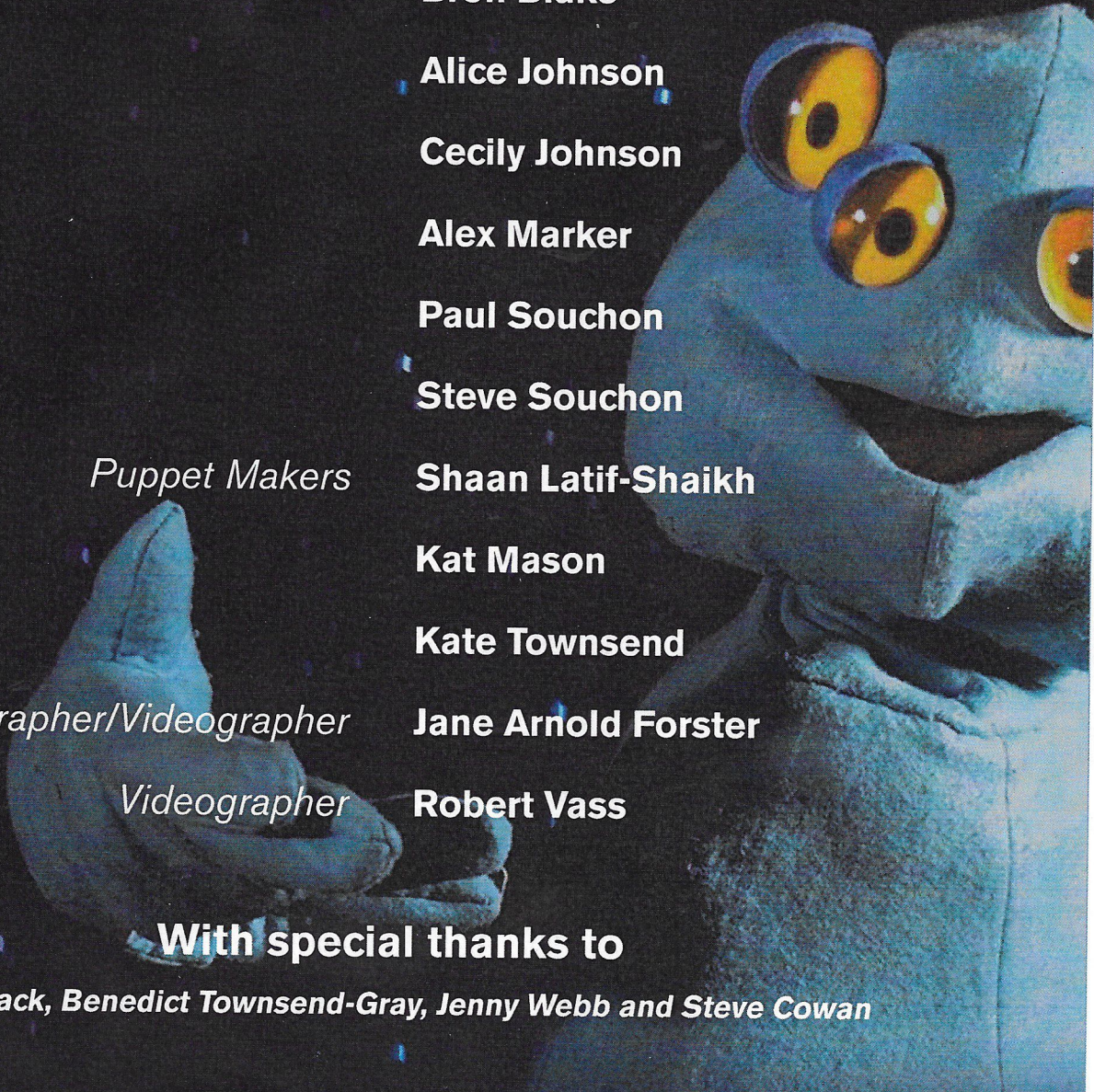
**Jane Arnold Forster**

*Videographer*

**Robert Vass**

**With special thanks to**

*Ian Black, Benedict Townsend-Gray, Jenny Webb and Steve Cowan*







# The Questors THEATRE

A note from The Director, Shaan Latif-Shaikh: I feel very privileged to welcome you to 'How to Spot an Alien'. I have long thought that theatre for young people is often overlooked. Yet for many of us, it is these memories of experiencing live theatre at a young age that are the most magical. I firmly believe that theatre-goers, and indeed practitioners, benefit enormously from those early experiences.

In recent years The Questors Theatre has produced the legendary pantomime! However, I have always felt it would be worth offering an alternative to the pantomime for our younger audiences. So, I somewhat tentatively approached our Artistic Director with the idea, and to my surprise, he said yes! I trained as a puppeteer with The Little Angel Theatre, a children's puppet theatre. So I had a fair experience of working in children's theatre, but directing a show on this scale seemed a somewhat daunting task!

I read a great many children's plays until we settled on 'How to Spot an Alien'. With films like 'Guardians of the Galaxy' and 'Men in Black' as popular as ever, and new Star Wars content coming out seemingly every second, the sci-fi theme seemed perfect for a young audience of today.

The play is a fairly new one. Written in 2018 by Georgie Christou, 'How to Spot an Alien' was originally produced by Paines Plough at 'The Roundabout' a 'pop up tent theatre' and toured the UK. The original production had only three actors and no scenery, relying solely on storytelling and mime. For our production, we have taken a very different approach!

With my background in puppetry, it seemed like an obvious choice for many of the various shenanigans in the show. It's been an absolute pleasure working with my wonderfully talented cast. None of them had previous puppetry experience, so it was hugely rewarding to see them develop as puppeteers across the rehearsal process, and I can only hope some of them take their puppetry skills into future work. I must also mention my hugely supportive creative and production team. It's been a tricky show to bring to life, with huge visual challenges for lighting, set, and costume. We have also experimented with the use of underscoring, which is something not frequently attempted at The Questors.

Once again I'm very pleased to welcome you to our silly, crazy play – just don't let those aliens abduct you!!

**Approximate running time: 50 minutes**