

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

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Theatre Office: 020 8567 0011
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Dead Boy Café

by Grant Corr

The Studio

17 – 21 May 2022

Fields at The Questors

Fields at The Questors serves Italian coffee, fine teas, snacks and handmade cakes, and is the perfect spot for a pre-theatre café stop or interval ice-cream.

Place your interval order before the show to beat the crowds.

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 2022 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 (subject to change):

7:00 pm – 11:00 pm (Monday – 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: Robert Vass

Dead Boy Café

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DEAD BOY CAFE

The Questors National Student Playwriting Competition was the brainchild of the late Michael Green, of beloved memory and Coarse Acting fame. He saw it as a way of continuing the strong association of The Questors with encouraging new writing, together with putting The Questors 'on the map' for a generation of young theatre-minded people. The first prize was £1,000, plus a guaranteed production – both strong inducements to students.

The competition was launched in 1986 and ran until 1996, when the theatre ran out of sponsors and had to call a halt. But in that time it helped to launch the careers of a number of young playwrights who have gone on to gain success in the industry. A few examples: Carl Grose, whose stunning play *Scorched* won the 1994 competition, went on to become the resident writer (and later Joint Artistic Director) of *Kneehigh*, one of the country's leading innovative companies (now very sadly, no longer with us). We were delighted that Carl agreed to become one of our judges for the current competition, along with Oliver Ford Davies, the distinguished actor and author (and a Questors Vice-President), and Tamara von Werthern, herself a playwright, poet, screenwriter and producer, as well as holding down her day job as Performing Rights Manager at Nick Hern Books, one of the UK's leading publishers of plays. Tim Plester (runner-up in 1995 and winner in 1996) is now a well-known actor, playwright, producer and film-maker. Angus Macfadyen (winner in 1990) has an impressive CV as a film and television actor, and other winners and runners-up have been making their way in the industry.

When we decided to re-launch the competition in 2019 with an increased prize of £2,000 plus a guaranteed production, it was made possible by the generosity of our sponsors, gratefully acknowledged elsewhere in this programme. We started rehearsals in March 2020, and managed to get in one reading and one rehearsal before Covid and lockdown intervened. Now, almost exactly two years later than originally planned, we are finally able to stage it.

Grant Corr, the winner of the current competition was at the time studying for a PhD in Playwriting at the University of East Anglia and has since successfully gained his doctorate. He is originally from Belfast, although he now works in London and has continued his success as a playwright by having several of his plays staged. We have been delighted that he has been able to join us for a number of rehearsals, where he has consistently been a helpful and congenial presence. As with all new plays, there have been several adjustments and additions (and deletions!) during the rehearsal period and the result is an even better version of the play than the one which won the competition in 2019.

One other side-effect of Covid has been that all our shows now need understudies to ensure that they go on. You may never see them, but they deserve our gratitude. So I'd like to pay tribute to Erika, Jacob, Lucy and Tristan for all their hard work in providing that important safety-net.

We hope to run the competition, probably biennially, in future years.

I shall leave this winning play to speak eloquently and powerfully for itself.

John Davey, Director

THE ALAN DAVIDSON FOUNDATION

The Questors has a rich history of encouraging new writing, and we were delighted to instigate the 2019 National Student Playwriting Competition. The competition was made possible by the warm and generous support of the **Alan Davidson Foundation**, a UK registered charity that supports a wide range of causes. There is a strong focus on MND research, care and initiatives that help support those with disabling neurological conditions. It also supports the arts and architectural initiatives.

The Foundation was founded by Alan Davidson and benefited greatly from his experience of MND and his passions for architecture, visual arts, technology and the arts. He was diagnosed with MND in 2012 and lost the battle to the disease in August 2018. Alan was the founder of London-based architecture visualisation studio Hayes Davidson, one of the early pioneers of architectural computer graphics (CGI). The Foundation supports a wide range of organisations, charities and worthy causes. Funding is allocated after careful research into the project to help understand the circumstances, charity or research being proposed. <https://alandavidsonfoundation.org/>

Alan visited The Questors Theatre over many years to support his friends (and Questors actors) Robert Gordon Clark and Lisa Day. The 2019 National Student Playwriting Competition was sponsored by the Foundation in Alan's memory and to mark many happy evenings at The Questors and at the Edinburgh Fringe seeing exciting new work like *Dead Boy Café*.

We are delighted that representatives and friends of the Alan Davidson Foundation will be attending the matinée performance of *Dead Boy Café* on Saturday 21st May and will be able to see the results of their support for the vital area of new writing. We look forward to celebrating this and to sustaining the memories of Alan and all the good work he did.

Doug King LVO, Chair of Questors Board of Trustees

DEAD BOY CAFE

by Grant Corr

Winner of The Questors National Playwriting Competition 2019

First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 17 May 2022

CAST

in order of appearance

Ruby **Wendy Megeney**

Janet **Carol Fullilove**

The Young Man **Sam Ebner-Landy**

Martin **David Erdos**

Ruby understudy **Lucy Aley-Parker**

Janet understudy **Erika O'Leary**

The Young Man understudy **Jacob Chancellor**

Martin understudy **Tristan Marshall**

The play is set in the present, in a run-down fish and chip shop/café in a Northern Irish border town.

The action of the play takes place in six scenes over three days.

The play lasts approximately 1 hour and 40 minutes: there is 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.

PRODUCTION

Director **John Davey**

Set Designer **Ray Dunning**

Costume Designer **Anne Gilmour**

Lighting Designer **John Green**

Sound Designer **James Connor**

Stage Manager **Tina Harris**

Deputy Stage Manager **Michelle Weaver**

Assistant Stage Managers **M Benson, Joanna Mludzinska, Paul Souchon**

Properties **Joanna Mludzinska**

Prompter **Sue Kendrick**

Lighting / Sound Operator **Carole Swan**

Lighting Riggers **Erika Grffiths, Tim Hayward**

Set Realisation **Bron Blake, Rob Willin, Sue Collins, Stephen Aitken**

Make-Up **Lucy Aley-Parker**

Photographer **Evelina Plonyté**

Videographer **Robert Vass**

Thanks to **Roger Beaumont, Henry Broom, Callum Hartnup-Williams, Geoff Moore and Kallkwik (Chiswick), Gareth Williams, Royal & Dergate**

Biographies

Lucy Aley-Parker – *Ruby understudy*

Lucy graduated from Webber Douglas many years ago. An acting member since 2008, she's played many enjoyable roles since her Questors debut as Smeraldina in *A Servant to Two Masters* (which also toured to Venice) and was thrilled to play the amazing Minack Theatre as Mrs Hardcastle in *She Stoops To Conquer*. She most recently directed *The Water's Edge* by Theresa Rebeck and *Days of Significance* by Roy Williams, both in the Studio. Now returned to professional acting, she has been involved in various fringe shows, alongside commercial, film, TV and voice-over work.

Jacob Chancellor – *The Young Man understudy*

Jacob joined The Questors as a 'wee boy' in 2007. He first appeared in *A Christmas Carol* (2009) as an urchin, *Around the World in 80 Days* (2013) as Passepartout, *The Beauty Manifesto* (2016) and *Love and Money* (2017) – all these while attending Questors Youth Theatre and Young Studio classes. Since then, he has gained a degree and obtained professional acting work. He has returned to The Questors to become a member of the Questors Academy Foundation Course in Acting.

James Connor – *Sound Designer*

James was mainly a live band sound engineer for many years before joining The Questors in 2019. In the last year he has designed sound for *The Children*, *Bull*, *Contractions*, *Powerplay II* and *Whipping It Up*. James engineered three of the Questors audio dramas in 2020 and recently engineered/designed sound for *Persons Unknown* in late 2021.

John Davey – *Director*

John has been directing and (occasionally) acting at The Questors since the 1970s and has been both Artistic Director and Chair of the Theatre. Recent productions have been *Uncle Vanya*, *The Master Builder*, *The Country Wife*, a double-bill of David Greig plays at the Jermyn Street Theatre, Piccadilly, the World Première of Peter Whelan's *Sleepers in the Field* and *That Face*.

Ray Dunning – *Set Designer*

Ray has been designing for The Questors since 1985. Starting with *The Daughter-in-Law*, *Bartholomew Fair* and *The Glass Menagerie*, he has worked on numerous productions in the Playhouse and the Studio. More recently his sets have included *After October* (2012), *Uncle Vanya* (2015), *The Master Builder* (2015), *The Country Wife* (2016), *Sleepers in the Field* (2018) and *That Face* (2019).

Sam Ebner-Landy – *The Young Man*

Sam graduated from Guildford School of Acting in 2019, before embarking on a six-month Shakespeare tour across Europe. He recently wrote and starred in *The Palbready Arms*, a mockumentary short film about 'Eat Out to Help Out'. He plays guitar, dabbles in football and loves working with comedy characters. This is his second show at The Questors after *The Water's Edge* in the Autumn of last year. Recent credits include: *The Palbready Arms* (2021), *Pretty Shrewd* (2019-20), *My Friend Daniel* (2019), *Nell Gwynn* (2019), *Trevor* (2019), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2018), *Hommo* (2017), *The Switch* (2016) and *Tape* (2015), a feature film produced by the Jerusalem Film and Television Fund.

David Erdos – *Martin*

David is an actor, writer, director, teacher, film maker, and illustrator with over 30 years' professional experience. He is the author of ten books of poetry, essays and plays and his album *Between Bright Worlds* is available on all channels. Previous roles at The Questors include O'Brien in *George Orwell's 1984*, Carter in *Bull* and two overnight plays. He also wrote and directed the audio drama series *Radio Refuge*.

Carol Fullilove – *Janet*

Carol has been a member of The Questors since 2000 and has appeared in a number of productions including *Tongues of Fire*, *The Birthday Party*, *The Memory of Water*, *Playhouse Creatures*, *Look Back in Anger*, *A View from the Bridge*, *The Village Bike*, *The Effect* and *King Charles III*.

Anne Gilmour – *Costume Designer*

Anne is a longstanding member of The Questors. It's more than 38 years since she first tentatively produced a hat for *Bodies* and it remains the only hat she has ever had to make. Her most recent shows as designer or maker include *Whipping It Up*, *Dear Brutus*, *The Dog and the Scarf*, *Di and Viv and Rose*, *Rosmersholm*, *Taking Sides*, *Bird on the Wire*, *Red Peppers*, *The Village Bike* and *Rhinoceros*. She is The Questors' LTG (Little Theatre Guild) Representative and is a member of the PlayBack Reminiscence team.

John Green – *Lighting Designer*

John has had a lifelong interest in the use of light to sculpt a space, set a mood and direct the eye, but only got involved in stage lighting comparatively recently. In his nine years as a member of The Questors, he has been involved in various roles with the lighting of numerous shows. His shows as Lighting Designer include *Loveplay*, *How To Spot An Alien*, *Hairspray*, *Days Of Significance* and *Daisy Pulls It Off*.

Tristan Marshall – Martin understudy

Tristan joined The Questors as an actor before realising that true stress could only be found in directing plays at the theatre. After that it was stints in New Writing and as Artistic Director before finally finding peace and tranquillity in running the Overnight Plays. As John Davey had directed him in *The Country Wife* which toured to the Minack and was a fun experience, it was difficult to turn down a request to be an understudy in this production. Especially as Tristan hails from Northern Ireland and his accent should, you'd think, be up to it.

Wendy Megeney – Ruby

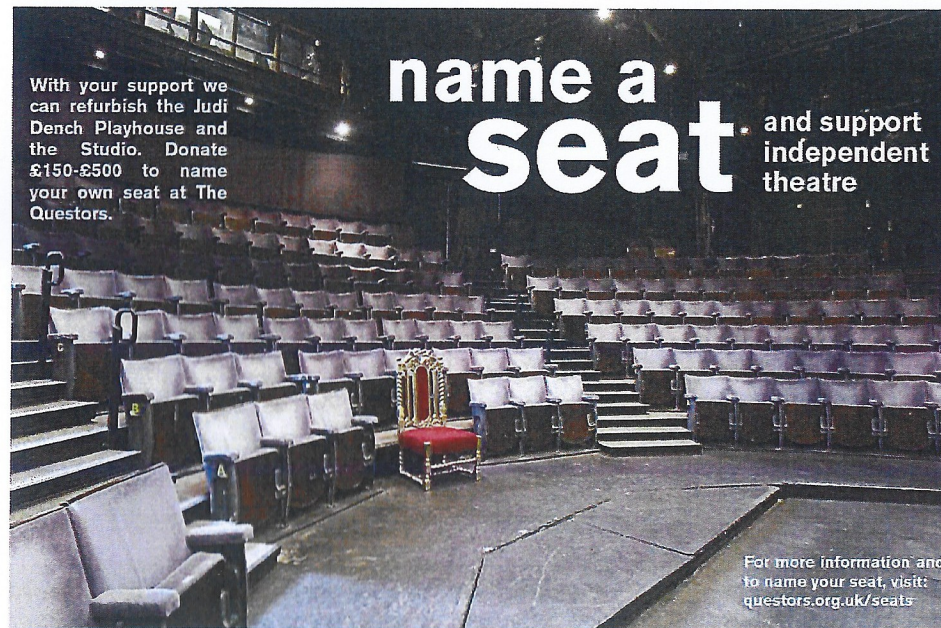
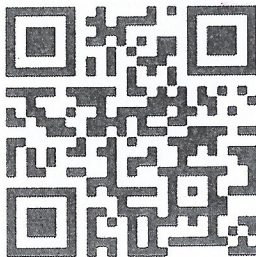
Wendy has acted with The Questors since the 1980s, including at the Minack (*Tom Jones*) and in an international drama festival in Japan (*Black Comedy*). Recent performances include Mari (*The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*), Mammy (*The Cripple of Inishmaan*), Sunny (*The Exonerated*), Judy (*The Last of the Haussmans*), Molly O'Neill (*A Priest in the Family*), Martha (*That Face*) and Nancy in *Nell Gwynn*. During lockdown, Wendy played the interviewer in the audio play *The Interview* and took part in a series of Zoom plays (Zoom Plays for Lockdown).

Erika O'Leary – Janet understudy

Erika joined Questors as an acting member in September 2021. She played the protagonist, Mary, in Lucy Kirkwood's hard-hitting short play, *Maryland*, exploring gender-based violence. She originally trained with the Gaiety School of Acting in Dublin, Ireland and most recently with The Actor's Community in London. A lawyer by profession, Erika, has now returned to acting after a hiatus to focus on developing her legal career.

Show Feedback Form

Your thoughts and opinions are important to us. Please scan the QR code with your camera phone to fill out our anonymous show feedback form. This is so we can continually improve our audience experience and our productions. Thank you so much for coming to visit The Questors Theatre. We hope that you enjoyed the show.



Next at The Questors

APOLOGIA

by Alexi Kaye Campbell

18 – 21 May 2022

The Judi Dench Playhouse

A disastrous family reunion is the occasion for a sharp and perceptive look at what has happened to 60s idealists and their children. Kristin Miller is an eminent and successful art historian. As a young mother she followed her politics and vocation, storming Parisian barricades and moving to Florence. Her birthday should be a time for celebration but, when her two sons deliver their versions of the past, everyone must confront the cost of Kristin's commitment to her passions.

HANGMEN

by Martin McDonagh

3 – 11 June 2022

The Judi Dench Playhouse

There is a bit more life in the air at the local Hangman's family pub – and it's not down to the quirky cronies at the bar. Today, hanging has been abolished. For good. With Harry's face plastered across the front pages, his status as second best hangman and local celebrity continues to thrive. But when a menacing young Londoner strolls up to the bar, something says he's after more than a pint and a bag of peanuts...