

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



Hangmen

by Martin McDonagh

The Judi Dench Playhouse

3 – 11 June 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: Jane Arnold-Forster

Hangmen

by Martin McDonagh

The Judi Dench Playhouse

3 – 11 June 2022

HANGMEN

Martin McDonagh, the enfant terrible of English theatre, doesn't even like theatre. He prefers films. He won Academy awards for the uproariously funny *In Bruges* and *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri* which bear witness to his ability to write for the silver screen. Despite saying, "I thought theatre was the worst of all the art forms," it is in the theatre that McDonagh has really triumphed.

Raised in South London by working class Irish immigrant parents, McDonagh spent his summers with his grandparents in Galway and Sligo. Here he absorbed Irish speech patterns and a love of storytelling which he uses so brilliantly in his Irish plays. His major influences are Scorsese, Pinter and J M Synge.

Having left school at 16 and spending several years unemployed adrift in London, he finally landed a job in the civil service only to give it up almost immediately to try his hand at writing.

Unbelievably, all McDonagh's early plays were written at the age of 24 in an intense 10 month long bout of creativity between 1994 and 1995, when, as he puts it, "I was sitting in my room without any real idea of what I was doing or where I was going. I was writing out of pure desperation." McDonagh became so successful as a playwright that at the age of 27 he had four plays running simultaneously in the West End, all of which found critical acclaim. *Hangmen* came after a ten year gap in which he wrote nothing for the theatre. Here at The Questors we have already staged his *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* in 2002 and *The Cripple of Inishmaan* in 2016. This is our second attempt to stage *Hangmen*, Covid having curtailed the first in March 2020. One of the challenges of the play is the staging of the hanging. We are fortunate to have had the services of Flying by Foy to accomplish this.

Not many playwrights would consider judicial hanging a suitable subject for a comic play, but the ever original McDonagh has brought it off in spades.

First directed at the Royal Court by Matthew Dunster, *Hangmen* swiftly transferred to the West End and thence to Broadway. It has won numerous awards, including an Olivier and Best Play from the New York Drama Critics' Circle. Dunster said, "He's very much an actor's playwright," while David Morrissey who played the lead at the Royal Court said, "I would have killed most of Equity to get the part."

McDonagh captures the cadences of his Oldham characters with the same precision he brings to his Irish plays. *Hangmen* is set on the day hanging was abolished in 1965. A series of miscarriages of justice, including the executions of Ruth Ellis, Timothy Evans and Derek Bentley, had created antagonism to capital punishment which led inevitably to its abolition.

McDonagh was fascinated by the fact that in the 60s, "You had the Beatles coming up and at the same time, there was this Victorian practice of executing people – and sometimes innocent people. I wanted to explore that tension. Is it right to kill someone who is an evil man – or not, as the case may be – and what does that make the person who has to do it? Can they distance themselves from what they are doing? Is it nothing to do with them? And does it affect them?"

"I'm just as good as bloody Pierrepoint"

The publican of an Oldham pub, Harry Wade is the second best hangman in England which he deeply resents. The great Albert Pierrepoint is the one everyone has heard of. Nonetheless, Wade is enjoying all the attention he is getting on this special day. Wade is surrounded by his regular bar flies, a local Police Inspector, his long suffering wife Alice and daughter Shirley, when a mysterious young Londoner turns up with links to Wade's past and things take a darkly comic turn.

Mixing violence with satire, and with a brilliant verbal brio often reminiscent of Pinter, *Hangmen* is a joy to direct and as David Morrissey said, "His love of language is why actors would kill to be in his plays."

Hanging

The measured or "long drop" hanging became universal in Britain from 1874, where the distance the person falls when the trapdoors open is calculated according to their weight, height and physique and is designed to break the neck. This method was adopted in the British Colonies and by some other countries who wished to make executions more humane.

Albert Pierrepoint hanged 433 men and 17 women on behalf of the state. His average time from leaving the room adjacent to the condemned cell and getting back there after the hanging was 12.5 seconds, short enough for the ash on his cigar not to have fallen from its end.

We hope you enjoy the performance.

Anne Neville, Director

HANGMEN

by Martin McDonagh

First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 3 June 2022

CAST

in order of appearance

Hennessy	Will Newsome
Warder	Nigel Lawrence
Warder	Gerry Shea
Harry Wade	John Dobson
Syd Armfield	Anthony Curran
Governor	Francis Lloyd
Doctor	Willo Johnston
Alice Wade	Helen Walker
Inspector Fry	Simon Higginson
Clegg	Quinn Goodliffe
Bill	Willo Johnston
Charlie	Steve Fitzpatrick
Arthur	Andrew Hill
Peter Mooney	Emre Kose
Shirley Wade	Ines Walker
Pierrepoint	Francis Lloyd
Understudies	Alison Griffin, Nigel Lawrence, Will Newsome

SCENES

A prison, November 1963
Wade's pub, November 1965
INTERVAL
A café, November 1965
Wade's pub, November 1965

The play lasts approximately 2 hours and 15 minutes including a 15-minute interval.

PRODUCTION

Director	Anne Neville
Set Designer	Alex Marker
Costume Designer	Jenny Richardson
Lighting Designers	Andrew Dixon, Evelina Plonyté
Sound Designer	Emerson Bramwell
Production Managers	Pam Redrup, Jane Casey
Stage Manager	Hasti Rezvan
Pre-Covid Stage Manager	Alec Atchison
Deputy Stage Manager	Sarah Clopet
Assistant Stage Managers	Django Bevan, Ian Black, Bernie Brady, Vaibhav Chauhan, Will Connor, Jamie Gould, Tara Kose, Penny Seyfert
Properties	Geoff Moore, Harriet Parsonage
Prompters	Annie Harries, Bridgett Strevens
Accent Coach	Richard Gallagher
Incidental Music	Lydia Bauman
Violence Director	Nicholas Jonne Wilson
Hanging Coordinator	Michelle Weaver
Flying	Flying by Foy
Costume Maker	Karen Latimer
Lighting Operator	Evelina Plonyté
Sound Operator	Maddy MacConnol
Lighting Riggers	John Green, Terry Mummery, Andrew Whadcoat
Set Constructors	Toby Burbidge, Adam Smith, Rob Willin
Set Painters	Sinisha Cipkalo, Charlie Dixon, Riana Howarth, Alice Johnson, Cecily Johnson, Margaret Johnson, Alex Robinson, Derek Stoddart
Get-In Assistants	Chris Carty, Melissa Russell, Elizabeth Wooten
Photographer	Evelina Plonyté
Videographer	Gavin Jones, Joe Foster
Thanks to	Sarah Andrews, Tilly Benson-Reid, Jayne Bilson, The Grapevine Bar

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

Emerson Bramwell – Sound Designer

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' recent production of *God of Carnage*, as well as designing the sound for *Apologia* and *The Ghost Train*.

Anthony Curran – Syd Armfield

Anthony Curran is a graduate of Student Group 47 and has appeared in roles as diverse as Estragon in *Waiting for Godot* to Arlecchino in *The Venetian Twins*. His more recent appearances include Johnnypateenmike in *The Cripple of Inishmaan* and Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Andrew Dixon – Lighting Designer

In 2020, Andrew celebrated having been lighting for over 60 years – from amateur dramas to BBC epics. He finds them all equally exciting. He hopes his enthusiasm is picked up by young new members of The Questors and is so pleased that Evelina Plonytè is joining him to design the lighting for *Hangmen*.

John Dobson – Harry Wade

John has made over 90 appearances at The Questors including *The Faith Healer*, *Breaking the Code*, *Dublin Carol*, *Equus* and *Season's Greetings*, as well as numerous theatre appearances elsewhere. He is currently custodian of The Questors' extensive archives.

Steve Fitzpatrick – Charlie

Steve has been acting and directing at The Questors since 1983. Relatively recent appearances include *Diana of Dobson's*, *The Lying Kind*, as Jeff in *Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell*, *Dinner*, *Waiting for Godot* and *As You Like It*. He has directed over 25 productions for The Questors, most recently *Table* by Tanya Ronder and *Peer Gynt*.

Quinn Goodliffe – Clegg

Quinn's first play at The Questors was *The Duchess of Malfi* in 2014, and he has since played a part in productions such as youth theatre, pantomimes and Shakespeare plays. He is a member of QYT and studies drama and film at A levels.

Alison Griffin – Understudy

Having performed at The Questors since 2015, Alison understudied for *Dear Brutus* in December '21 and again in January '22. She is currently directing her first Questors production for the Festival of New Theatre. This new play, *On Me* by Caroline Lamb, will be performed in the Studio between 18 and 23 July.

Simon Higginson – Inspector Fry

Simon has been a member of The Questors for over 35 years, and *Hangmen* is his 26th production. His roles have included Brindsley in *Black Comedy* (which toured to Japan,) Jeff Skilling in *ENRON*, Professor Marcus in *The Ladykillers* and Cheryl the ugly sister in the 2016 Questors panto!

Andrew Hill – Arthur

Andrew trained as an actor in the 1970s and worked in the business on and off for many years before becoming a civil servant. He joined The Questors in 2008 and has since appeared in seven productions from Greek Tragedy to *Brassed Off* and from Harold Pinter to *The Crucible*.

Willo Johnston – Doctor / Bill

Willo's previous appearance for The Questors was as another buffoon, Bartholomew Cokes, in the 1986 production of *Bartholomew Fair*. Since then, he has trained at Guildford School of Acting before diverting to writing. His CV includes a very ropey Jennifer Love Hewitt romcom and some TV.

Emre Kose – Peter Mooney

A Questors member since 2010, this is Emre's second production with the acting company. Emre has spent 26 years perfecting his London accent, and is looking forward to going to the pub for nine nights on the bounce.

Nigel Lawrence – Warder / Understudy

Nigel graduated from Student Group 40 in 1987. Since then he's appeared in more than 40 productions – both as an actor and in a range of backstage roles.

Francis Lloyd – Governor / Pierrepoint

Francis first appeared at The Questors as Bohun in *You Never Can Tell*. Appearances since then include *Uncle Vanya* (as Vanya), *Habeas Corpus*, *Travesties*, *Nicholas Nickleby*, *Oleanna*, *Private Lives* and *The Ghost Train*. He also directs – most recently *The Browning Version* and *Six Bad Poets*.

Alex Marker – Set Designer

Alex is currently the Artistic Director of The Questors and director of Questors Youth Theatre. Trained as a stage designer at Wimbledon School of Art, he has designed over 150 productions ranging from fringe to the West End. Recently at The Questors he designed *Apologia*, *India Gate*, *Snow White*, *Dear Brutus*, *The Children* and *Hairspray*. www.alexmarker.com

Anne Neville – Director

Anne has been directing at The Questors since 1991, including *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Larkin With Women*, *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, *Macbeth*, *London Assurance*, *ENRON*, *A Servant to Two Masters*, *The Weir*, *Trojan Women*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Faith Healer*, *Translations*, *The Venetian Twins*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *The Deep Blue Sea* and *The Beaux' Stratagem*.

Will Newsome – Hennessy / Understudy

Hangmen is Will's third production with The Questors, having previously appeared in *Rutherford and Son* and *Pygmalion*. He began acting in the Children's Shakespeare Company before secondary and sixth form courses at Arts Educational Schools London. Outside of acting, Will runs an online video series.

Evelina Plonytė – Lighting Designer

Evelina joined The Questors in 2015 as an actor with an interest in lighting and photography, but lately has mostly been concentrating on lighting and photography with an occasional acting appearance. She is very happy to be working with Andrew Dixon and learning secrets of lighting design from him!

Jenny Richardson – Costume Designer

After many years working in stage management, props and set design, Jenny enjoyed a change of direction to costume design, recently for *Apologia*, *The Children*, *First Love is the Revolution*, *Fault Lines*, *George Orwell's 1984* and *Blue/Orange*. Jenny is frequently in demand as an upholsterer.

Gerry Shea – Warder

Gerry joined Acting for All with Paul Whiting in 2015 and followed that with three years in Encore with Francesca McNally. As well as participating in Overnight Plays and various showcases, Gerry was seen in *Days of Significance* in 2019.

Helen Walker – Alice Wade

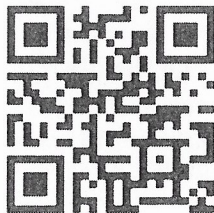
Joining The Questors in 1983, Helen's appearances include *Cabaret* (Sally Bowles), *Dancing at Lughnasa* and the workshop of *India Gate*. At The Questors, she has directed *Making Noise Quietly*, *Happy Families*, *Cold Times* (Edinburgh Fringe) and two productions with Student Group 42. She has an MA in Theatre Arts from Goldsmiths.

Ines Walker – Shirley Wade

Ines trained in ballet and dance at Joyce Butler School of Dance for 15 years and also at Rambert. Acting roles at school and elsewhere include Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet*, *We Will Rock You* and *Our House*.

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

**THE IMPORTANCE
OF BEING EARNEST**

by Oscar Wilde

16 – 23 July 2022

The Judi Dench Playhouse

To mark 75 years since the Questors Student Group was founded, we bring you the most highly acclaimed of Oscar Wilde's classics. This comic tale follows bachelors Algernon Moncrieff and Jack Worthing as they create alter egos to escape their tedious existence. In an attempt to win the hearts of two young women, they soon get caught up in their own deceit, where the layers of mistaken identity confuse and bewilder all involved.

FESTIVAL OF NEW THEATRE

18 – 23 July 2022

The Studio and Shaw Room

Our new festival will be an explosion of creative talent for audiences, writers and theatre-makers, and our local community. It will include premieres of three plays (*On Me* by Caroline Lamb, *Mute* by Emily Glaze and *Two Cleaners* by Chiara Arrigoni) in the Studio, plus several new shorter plays, with workshops and other events throughout the festival in the Shaw Room. See the website for the full programme and ticketing options: questors.org.uk.