

## 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<sup>†</sup>
- ✓ 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](http://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. <sup>†</sup>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](http://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](mailto:enquiries@questors.org.uk)



# Haunting Julia

by Alan Ayckbourn

The Studio

18 – 26 November 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 2023 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, spirits and soft drinks – 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](http://questors.org.uk/grapevine) for more details.

**Fields and the Grapevine accept payments by card.**



image: Robert Vass

# Haunting Julia

by Alan Ayckbourn

**The Studio**

**18 – 26 November 2022**

# HAUNTING JULIA

*It was in this room that on Tuesday, February 16th 2010, at the age of 19, Julia Lukin was found dead; the victim of an overdose of alcohol and drugs – the tragic end to a brief but brilliant life. We can only be thankful that her music lives on after her ... Welcome to the Julia Lukin Centre.*

There are different theories about death and what happens to the deceased but all are impossible to prove. Depending on who you ask, there is a spirit, a nirvana or a dark nothing that follows our passing. Some agree about another side we go to, others believe that we remain where we died and haunt those closest to us.

One element of death that seems universally accepted is that those who remain go through, at different rates, the five stages of grief: 1 Denial; 2 Anger; 3 Bargaining; 4 Depression; 5 Acceptance. Loss hits everyone slightly differently and family are more affected than acquaintances, or so we are led to believe.

I remember, when I first read the play, I just couldn't put it down. I read the entire piece in one sitting and was just fascinated by the characters. Each of them symbolised a different stage of grief for me and developed over the play into another one of the five stages. But what really gripped me was the love the characters all have for Julia and how their lives were influenced by her, even beyond her death. How someone's love can be so strong that it is impossible to ever let go and move on; that is what made me truly fall in love with this play.

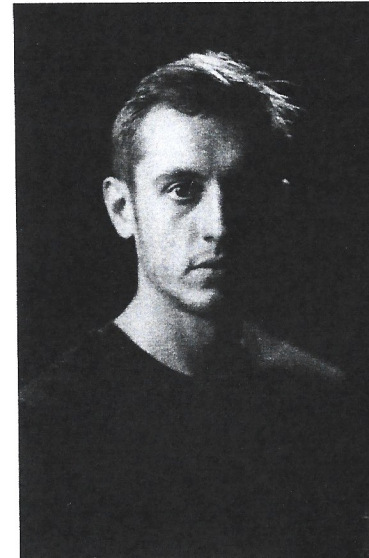
While the author of this play is well-known for his comedies, this kind of play is rather unusual as it's a ghost story. It feels very current as it hits topics like mental health, overprotective parenting and, of course, death. All these topics seem to have become more prominent in our day-to-day lives than they used to be pre-Covid and maybe this is why I found this play so incredibly fascinating.

Horror on stage is always a challenge, as theatre isn't gifted with the same effects that can be used on screen. Nevertheless, it offers very different opportunities and therefore a very different kind of scare to an audience. For me, the key lies in the experience, letting the audience become part of it, forgetting about an outside world and accepting the scenario as their reality for the duration of the performance. Whether it's a bedroom or a museum, the audience should be able to immerse themselves in a place where reality can be doubted and anything can happen at any moment.

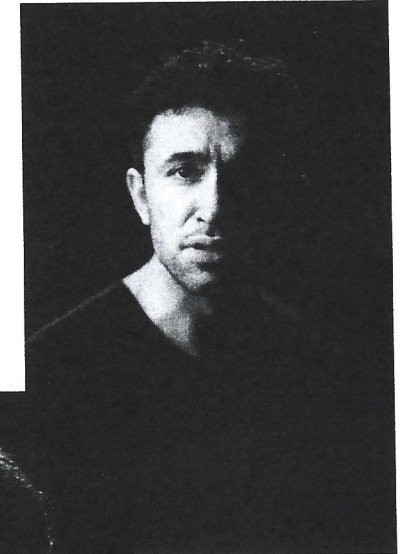
Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone involved. Without every single one of them, this show would have not been possible and I treasured every moment and individual involved in this show. Thank you for all your time, patience, trust and passion.

I hope you enjoy this show as much as we loved creating it!

**Maria Gebhardt, Director**



**Guy Jack**



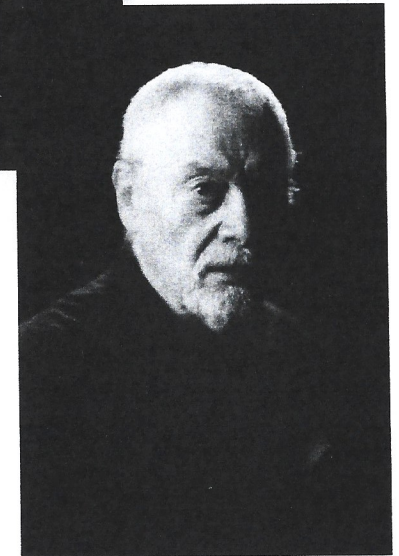
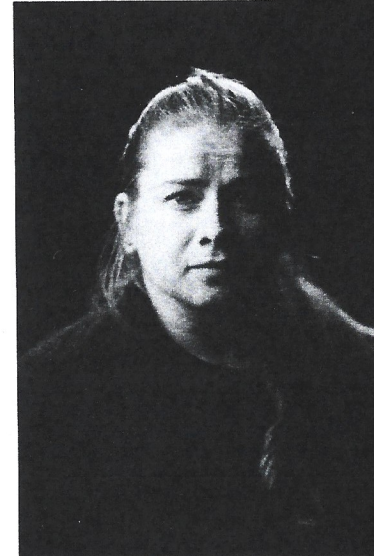
**Omar Aga**



**Ruby Barry**

**Kaire Olesk**

**Andrew Hill**



# HAUNTING JULIA

by Alan Ayckbourn

*First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 18 November 2022*

## CAST

in order of speaking

Julia	<b>Ruby Barry</b>
Guide	<b>Kaire Olesk</b>
Joe	<b>Andrew Hill</b>
Andy	<b>Guy Jack</b>
Ken	<b>Omar Aga</b>
Emily	<b>Bat-Bear</b>

The play is set in the Julia Lukin Centre, November 2022

The play lasts approximately 2 hours and 15 minutes  
including a 15-minute 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	<b>Maria Gebhardt</b>
Set Designer	<b>Charles Dixon</b>
Costume Designer	<b>Shaan Latif-Shaikh</b>
Lighting Designer/Operator	<b>Andrew Whadcoat</b>
Sound Designer/Operator	<b>Martin Choules</b>
Stage Management	<b>Paul Souchon, Laurie Swan, Sarah Vass</b>
Lighting Riggers	<b>John Green, Terry Mummery</b>
Set Constructors	<b>Lucas Calvert, Daniel Cawtheray, Charles Dixon, Paul Souchon</b>
Photo/Videographer	<b>Robert Vass</b>
Special thanks to	<b>Jane Arnold-Forster, David Emmet, Samantha Moran, Steve Souchon, Sarah Stoddart</b>

# Biographies

## **Omar Aga – Ken**

Omar discovered his love of acting aged 19 whilst at university, where he appeared in several productions including *The Jew of Malta* and *Almost an Evening*. After a long, self-enforced break, he found acting again earlier this year and joined the cast of KDC Theatre's *The Real Inspector Hound*. He followed that with further appearances at KDC and at the Tower Theatre. *Haunting Julia* is his first Questors production, although he is slated to appear in David Hovatter's *Little Dorrit* early next year ... and this is just the beginning.

## **Ruby Barry – Julia**

The Questors Theatre has a special place in Ruby's heart, as she spent many younger years learning acting in the Youth Academy here, planting the seed. Ruby has spent nearly a decade away, doing all sorts, like gaining a Drama degree at the University of Essex, performing her own works at local theatres and festivals, and becoming an online content writer. She's back, however, into the hallowed halls of The Questors and this is her first production since being initiated into the company.

## **Bat-Bear – Emily**

This isn't Bat-Bear's first time on the Questors stage: previously he performed the role of The Inspector in *Being for the Benefit of Mr. Kite*. He also recently starred in a lead role in *Wonderful World* at the Campus Theatre. Bat-Bear is excited to return to the stage and to be part of this production.

## **Andrew Hill – Joe**

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. *Haunting Julia* is his eighth production ranging from Greek Tragedy to *The Crucible* and from Harold Pinter to *Hobson's Choice*.

## **Guy Jack – Andy**

*Haunting Julia* is Guy's second show with The Questors, after performing in *Parallel Lives* last summer. Guy performed a variety of roles at university, from Shakespearian tragedies to original comedies written by his peers. Outside of university he has directed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, taken paid extra work in Bollywood films and touring productions, and taught LAMDA gradings with ages 10-18. Guy's particular acting interests lie at the extremes – horror and comedy – interests he credits to the copious ghost stories he read and classic comedies he watched growing up (*Black Adder*, *Monty Python*, *Fawlty Towers*).

## **Kaire Olesk – Guide**

Kaire was born in Estonia, where she was an acting member of non-profit union Uru Noorteteater, a small theatre company born from the local youth centre which mainly focused on original work and improvisation, as well as delivering drama classes. Throughout her school years, Kaire was giving memorable performances of dramatised poem recitals and excerpts from books. Kaire was also involved with a more recognised theatre, Emajõe Suveteater, where she portrayed a Parisian riff raff with an immense drum, leading the audience through the open-air summer production of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Recently, Kaire has been in Black Box Theatre productions, acting out short original plays the way they were intended to be seen. And now she has arrived at The Questors, to guide you through the Julia Lukin Centre.

## **Martin Choules – Sound Designer**

Martin has recently designed the sound for *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Loveplay*, *Dear Brutus*, *Strange Orchestra*, *Fault Lines*, *Future Conditional*, *Absent Friends*, *Rabbit Hole*, *Animal Farm*, *Improbable Fiction*, *The Exonerated*, *Rhinoceros*, *Fear and Misery of the Third Reich* and *NSFW*.

## **Charles Dixon – Set Designer**

After being apprenticed this year by our Artistic Director, Alex Marker, Charles became the youngest ever Questors set designer with his first full production of *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde. Set design is a great passion of his and he loves to bring a setting to life. *Haunting Julia* has been right amidst his preparing for university admissions and A-levels, but he has taken on the challenge with determination and vigour. The experience and opportunities given to him by Questors Youth Theatre and by Maria Gebhardt have been awe-inspiring.

## **Maria Gebhardt – Director**

Maria is a graduate of Questors Student Group 71. After several roles on the Questors stage, Maria has been Assistant or Associate Director on a number of Questors productions. She has directed both for theatre and screen and is part of the Young Vic Directors Program and was nominated for the Pinewood Lift-Off Sessions. With her own performance group, The Black Box Theatre Company, Maria has directed and produced over nine plays, one of which was at the Camden Fringe. Maria has written two plays, both which have been performed on stage and screen. Directing credits include: *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *You Have Absolutely No Sense of Time*.

### **Shaan Latif-Shaikh – Costume Designer**

Shaan is currently co-head of wardrobe at The Questors and designed the costumes for our last pantomime, *Snow White*. He also directed *How to Spot an Alien*. Outside of The Questors, he works professionally as a puppet and costume maker, and is currently the puppet and wardrobe assistant for *Frozen the Musical* at Theatre Royal Drury Lane.

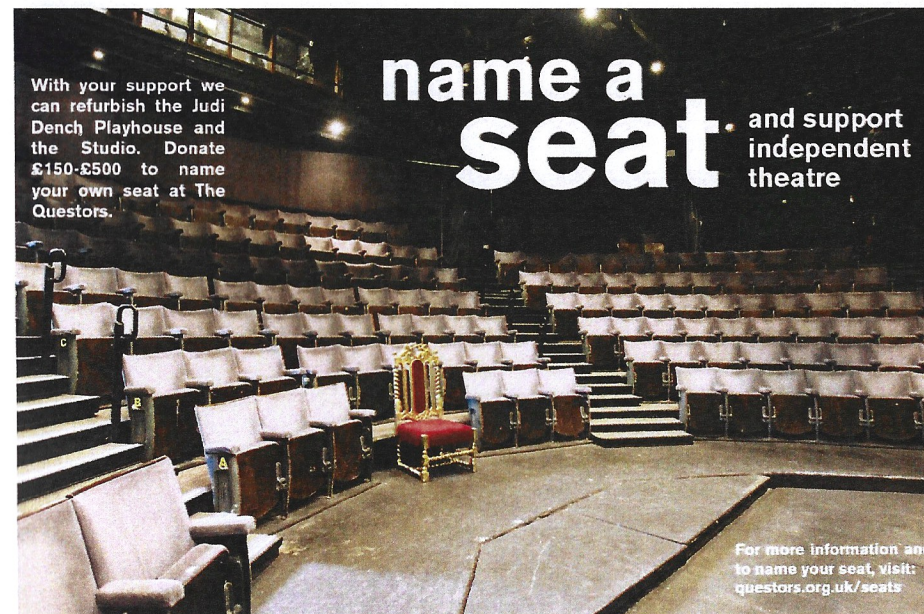
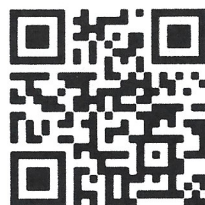
### **Andrew Whadcoat – Lighting Designer**

Andrew has worked in lighting since 2013. Recent lighting designs include *Not About Heroes*, *The Dog & the Scarf*, *The Letter of Last Resort*, *Bull & Conditional*, *The Ghost Train*, *Dear Brutus*, and *Death and the Maiden*. He has also designed for AppEaling Theatre, Idle Discourse, Orange Moon and PlayGC Theatre both at The Questors and other venues.



## **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**

### **KING ARTHUR AND THE TWELFTH KNIGHT**

**by James Rushbrooke**

**8 – 31 December 2022**

**The Judi Dench Playhouse**

Ealing's Annual Christmas Pantomime returns! Drayton's Court is abuzz. King Arthur, Queen Guinevere and their retinue are coming to Ealing on their quest to find the mystical Twelfth Knight of the Round Table. But when Morgana La Fey overthrows the Court and bewitches Arthur, the residents of Ealing are forced to fight for their lives against the forces of darkness. Can a merry band of misfits save King Arthur and Christmas?

### **THE REMARKABLE THEATRICAL ADVENTURES OF PEREGRINE PROTEUS**

**by Jane Dewey**

**16 – 31 December 2022**

**The Studio**

Set in early 19th century England, this rip-roaring new play tracks one man's life, from humble birth to his time in the spotlight. Along the way, we meet a series of eccentric thespians, from inept actors to smooth talking theatre managers, hopeful playwrights to doting romantics. Expect songs in the style of the period, fast-paced multi-roling, and a Christmas finale like no other.