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**.

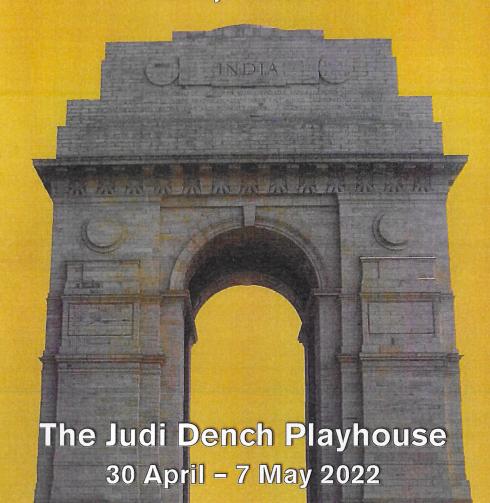
The Questors Theatre 12 Mattock Lane, Ealing, W5 5BQ Registered Charity No. 207516 Programme: Nigel Bamford Theatre Office: 020 8567 0011 Box Office: 020 8567 5184 Email: enquiries@questors.org.uk





INDIA GATE

by Howard Shepherdson with Tajinder Sindra



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.

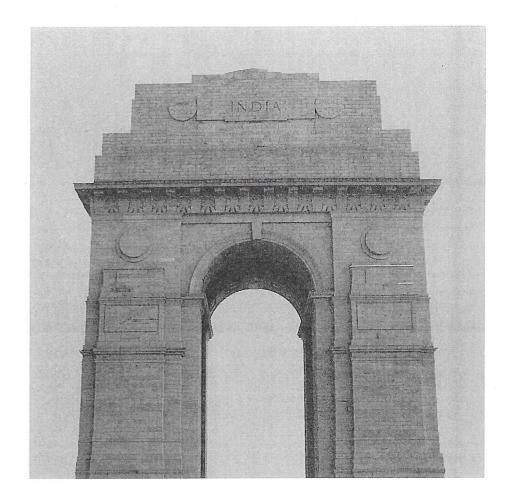
Opening Hours (subject to change):

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.



INDIA GATE

by Howard Shepherdson with Tajinder Sindra

The Judi Dench Playhouse
30 April – 7 May 2022

INDIA GATE

This year marks the 75th anniversary of Indian Independence when, on a sultry day in August 1947, Lord Mountbatten handed the reins of power to India's first Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru. We tend to forget how much shared history our two nations have both historically and up to this day. Southall in our Borough of Ealing has long been a thriving centre of Indian culture and particularly Punjabi heritage.

India Gate grew out of a partnership with the Punjabi Theatre Academy, and a workshop production in July 2021 was presented here at The Questors. In looking for an idea for a play that would benefit from our collaboration, I was introduced to the fascinating story of Udham Singh, the famous Sikh Martyr who assassinated Sir Michael O'Dwyer (a Governor of the Punjab) at Caxton Hall in London in 1940. I already knew about the architect Sir Edwin Lutyens who was commissioned in the early part of the 20th century to design the whole government quarter in New Delhi. His wife, Lady Emily, a Theosophist and disciple of the guru Jiddu Krishnamurti, was a further surprise. Although a daughter of a past Viceroy of India, she supported Indian home rule and was remarkably independent for her time. The letters exchanged between Edwin and Emily in India Gate are based on actual transcripts. By linking the stories of Udham Singh and the Lutyens, we attempt to show differing Indian and British perspectives surrounding the troubled path to eventual Indian emancipation.

The history of Britain's colonial rule in India is not a good one, with violence, exploitation and racism being the order of the day. Britain also relied heavily on Indian troops to support various war efforts. One sixth of the soldiers fighting for Britain in the First World War were Indian: 54,000 were killed and 65,000 injured and this does not include those who had died in earlier British campaigns in Afghanistan. The All India War Memorial (now known as India Gate and designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens) was an attempt to acknowledge this debt and remember the dead. Later, in the Second World War, 2.5 million Indian troops helped support the British war effort but, even so, eventual independence in 1947 was hard to grasp.

The play does not attempt to deal with events leading up to the partition of India. This has been admirably covered by Howard Brenton in his play *Drawing the Line* at Hampstead Theatre in 2020. I make reference to the problems in scene 13 of *India Gate*, but it is impossible to cover every aspect of Independence. The atrocities committed during this period cannot all be laid at the feet of the British and sadly India remains a dived nation.

India Gate is a rare co-production for The Questors Theatre and it has been a privilege to work with the Punjabi Theatre Academy and its Artistic Director, Tajinder Sindra, whose knowledge, enthusiasm and expertise have been invaluable. We have learnt a lot from each other and hope this play will do more to bring our communities together.

Howard Shepherdson, Writer and Director

PUNJABI THEATRE ACADEMY

The PTA is a charitable organisation based in Southall, London and one of the leading South Asian academies in England. It has promoted Punjabi heritage through theatre, seminars, exhibitions and documentaries over the last three decades. The PTA uses these media as a platform to spread the message of inclusion, mutual love and respect through our passion for the performing arts.

We specialise in using the folk arts from Punjab, in particular theatrical productions, as a voice piece to reach the wider public across a multitude of generations, social and cultural backgrounds.

The PTA believes that preserving true folk art leads to remembering our Punjabi cultural roots for future generations. It also gives an opportunity for other communities to understand our traditional culture, customs and heritage values.

My theatrical journey started in 1985 as a writer and director from Punjab. When I arrived in the UK there weren't any spaces or platforms for the exploration of my Punjabi culture in comparison to the representation we have today. Over the last three decades, our academy has served the community with countless showcases of our rich heritage and pivotal history. Working alongside The Questors Theatre is another milestone for us as we cross cultural boundaries whilst celebrating our common history.

I would like to thank and acknowledge the following members of the PTA, as well as our Patrons:

For PTA:

Mr B S Purewal (Chairman)

Miss Manpreet Kaur Sindra (Social Media Director)

Mr Prem Singh (Indian Costumes Advisor)

PTA Patrons:

Mr Kabaljit Singh Sandhu (DBK Estates Group)

Mr Kulwinder Kumar (Kool Cakes)

Mr Amrik Singh Muzral (Noormahal Restaurant)

Finally, I would like to thank you for watching the India Gate production with us.

Tajinder Sindra, Associate Director

Executive Director, Punjabi Theatre Academy, UK www.punjabitheatreacademy.com

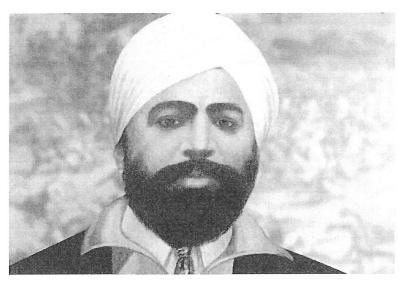
Images of the Time



Lady Emily Lutyens



Sir Edwin Lutyens



Udham Singh

Spring Skin Trouble ? PIMPLES, RASHES AND ECZEMA 7am·Buk

Daily Herald

VICK LOZE IGE

AT A LONDON

Lord Zetland, Two Others Wounded **AUDIENCELOCKEDIN:** A MAN CHARGED

SIR MICHAEL O'DWYER, FORMER GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF THE PUNJAB, WAS ASSASSINATED LAST NIGHT AT A MEETING IN LONDON THAT HE HAD JUST ADDRESSED.

Six shots were fired at the platform. Two of them hit Sir Michael in the heart, killing him The Three

Instantly. Others slightly wounded: LORD ZETLAND, Secretary for India, SIR LOUIS DANE, Sir Michael O'Doyer's predecessor in the Punjab, and LORD LAMINGTON, former Governor of Bombay.

Stampede After Shots



THIS IS WHY THE FINN GOVT. GAVE IN

LET me try to som up in this matter of the Russor Finnish peace. why did the Finnish Government, with

HER most wonderful

lBonnalbines After Finns Armistice

Was Hit At Two Yards Range -Lord Zetland

LORD ZETLAND gave the "Daily Herald" a account of the shooting after returning from hospital to his Mayfair home last night.

BULLET FOUND

TOO STUNNED

London Black-Out 7.31 p.m.-6, 16 a.m. Heen Ross 2.31 s.m.; Sets





Woman Barred The Way

THE QUESTORS THEATRE AND THE PUNJABI THEATRE ACADEMY PRESENT

INDIA GATE

by Howard Shepherdson with Tajinder Sindra

First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 30 April 2022

CAST

in order of appearance

Sandeep Singh Brar Anoop Jagan Udham Singh Rajeev Soni Lord Lytton John Turner Chanu Shivani Misra Dr Cornish James Goodden Sunaina McCarthy (May 7 mat) Balvinder Kumar Dr Patel Sir Edwin Lutyens Julian Casey (May 1, 4, 5, 7) Sylvia Underwood **Maggie Turner** lain Reid (Apr 30, May 3, 6, 7 mat) Gurmukh Singh Balvinder Kumar Ram Singh Paul Singh Ladher Sandeep Bhardwaj (May 7 mat) Piyara Singh Anoop Jagan Lady Emily Lutyens Clare Cooper (Apr 30, May 3, 6, 7 mat) Chairperson **Maggie Turner** Kerri Logan (May 1, 4, 5, 7) Aamil Sharma Anoop Jagan **Maggie Turner** Sarah Rani Gupta Ruchika Jain Julie Shimield (May 7 mat) Priti Sohal Sunaina McCarthy Ajit Singh Ben Sura Lord Mountbatten **Julian Casey**

SCENES

Scene 1 Amritsar 1919 - Udham Singh's lodgings	Scene 8 Delhi 1931 - Opening of The All India War Memorial
Scene 2 New Delhi 1929 - Building site for The All India War Memorial	Scene 9 Shepherds Bush 1940 - Udham meets some leaders from the Gurdwara
Scene 3 Delhi & London 1929 – Letter exchange between Edwin and Emily	Scene 10 Caxton Hall London 1940 - Sir Michael O'Dwyer assassinated
Scene 4 Kensington 1929 - Emily receives two Indian visitors, Ajit and Brar	Scene 11 Kensington 1940 - Edward and Emily the morning after
Scene 5 London Underground 1929 – Ajit and Brar discuss lobbying progress	Scene 12 The Old Bailey 1940 - Udham's trial and execution
in London	Scene 13 New Delhi 1947 - Planning for independence
Scene 6 Calcutta 1877 - Lord Lytton (Emily's father) is stubborn about the famine	Scene 14 Kensington 1947 - Emily receives a diplomatic visit
Scene 7 Delhi 1931 - Ram Singh's house	Scene 15 New Delhi August 1947 - Lord Mountbatten reads a letter from the King

Not all of our British born cast are native English speakers and not all of our cast of Indian heritage can speak Punjabi.

We are proud of our diversity and hope you will forgive any language shortcomings.

PRODUCTION

Director

Howard Shepherdson

Associate Director

Tajinder Sindra

Stand-In Director

John Turner

Set Designer

Alex Marker

Costume Designer

Sarah Andrews

Lighting Designer Sound Designer / Operator

Tim Hayward

Projections Designer

Russell Fleet

Terry Mummery

Tom Redican assisted by

Stage Manager / Properties

Jane Casey

Deputy Stage Manager

Robert Eagle

Assistant Stage Managers

Sue Collins, Carole Swan

Production Assistant

William Connor

Script Editor

Maggie Turner

Costume Maker

Jane Bilson

Wardrobe Assistant

Sunaina McCarthy

Surtitles

Roger Beaumont

www.digital-4.co.uk

Lighting Operator

Hasti Rezvan

Scenic Painters

Ella Jackson, Cecily Johnson,

Lloyd Wallis

Photographer

Jane Arnold-Forster

Videographers

Robert Vass, Jamie Gould

Website Designer

Manpreet Sindra

www.indiagate-theplay.com

Thanks to

Maggie Anderson

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

Sarah Andrews - Costume Designer

Sarah joined The Questors in 1977 as a member of Student Group 32 and since graduating has appeared in many plays. In addition to acting, she has designed and dressed a countless number of productions, most recently The Country Wife, Sleepers in the Field, Krapp's Last Tape & Rockaby, King Charles III, How to Spot an Alien, The Water's Edge and Consent.

Sandeep Bhardwaj - Ram Singh

Having started at The Questors, Sandeep has been acting for some forty years Recent work at The Questors has been in Rafta, Rafta, Arms and the Man and The Wonderful World of Dissocia.

Julian Casey - Sir Edwin Lutyens / Lord Mountbatten

Julian joined The Questors in 2006, having previously acted with Leeds University Union Theatre Group, Billingham Theatre Upstairs, Bums on Seats Theatre Company and Middlesbrough Little Theatre. At The Questors he has played in Comedians, Two, The Taming of the Shrew, Three Sisters, The Winterling, Othello, She Stoops to Conquer, Measure for Measure, Season's Greetings, The Bear, Rutherford and Son, Days of Significance and Whipping It Up.

Clare Cooper - Lady Emily Lutyens

Productions for The Questors include Measure for Measure (Provost), Trojan Women (chorus), Further Than the Furthest Thing (Mill), A Little Patch of Ground (Kazia) and Antigone (chorus). Clare trained at Guildford School of Acting and has been seen on many other West London stages, most recently as Hazel in Richmond Shakespeare Society's production of *The Children*. Other favourite roles include Ross (Macbeth) and Goody Proctor (The Crucible).

Russell Fleet - Sound Designer

Russell trained as an actor in the 1990s and joined The Questors in 2006. He has been involved in nearly 50 productions as an actor, sound designer, stage manager and director. Most recent sound designs include The Letter of Last Resort, What The Dickens?, Quietus and The Browning Version.

James Goodden - Dr Cornish

James joined The Questors 35 years ago this year but *India Gate* is only his 34th production. Career highlights include being on stage with his own (much loved) Labrador in The Recruiting Officer in 2004 and achieving a lifetime's ambition by playing dames in Jack and the Beanstalk, Mother Goose and Robin Hood. He also appeared in The Crucible and The Country Wife.

Tim Hayward - Lighting Designer

In a near 50-year career at The Questors, Tim's most recent lighting designs include those for: *Di, Viv and Rose*; our sell-out production of *The 39 Steps*; *Albert Make Us Laugh*; *The Effect*; *The Ladykillers* and *The Browning Version*.

Anoop Jagan – Sandeep Singh Brar / Piyara Singh / Aamil Sharma
Anoop has enjoyed acting from an early age. He is a member of Odds and
Ends Theatre Company, with which he performed One Million Tiny Plays about
Britain at the 2017 Camden Fringe Festival. He is also a member of the cultural
organization KALA, for which he has assisted in writing, directing and
performing short plays. Anoop previously appeared at The Questors in the
AppEaling Theatre Company production of Rafta, Rafta in 2018.

Ruchika Jain - Rani Gupta

Ruchika is a method actor from India. She found her acting passion in 2018 and since then has acted in six feature films, more than twenty short films, five web series and several stage productions. Her favourite is a solo performance as Maanika in Polka's *Maanika and the Wolf.*

Balvinder Kumar - Dr Patel / Gurmukh Singh

Balvinder has been with the Punjabi Theatre Academy for 25 years since 1997. He has worked on around 20 plays, as well as working with other drama companies, appearing in Punjabi films and training with the London Academy of Acting, but is always looking for more opportunities.

Paul Singh Ladher - Ram Singh

Paul is proud to be a part of the Punjabi Theatre Academy and is delighted to be returning to the Questors stage. He made his acting debut in Bollywood movie *Born to Be King* in 2014. Other Film and TV credits include *Villain* (2020), *Rise of the Footsoldier 3* (2017), *Valladesam* (2017), *Shadows* (2015) and *Breaking the Bank* (2014). Paul attended the London Drama School.

Kerri Logan - Lady Emily Lutyens

Productions include Nicholas Nickleby, Company, Two, Ladies' Day, After the Dance, Present Laughter, Blue Remembered Hills, The Crucible, Season's Greetings and Jack and the Beanstalk. Notable roles include Annie Wilkes in Misery, Maggie Hobson in Hobson's Choice, Dolly in Dolly West's Kitchen, Lady Fidget in The Country Wife, which toured to the Minack Theatre in Cornwall in 2017, the Sheriff of Nottingham in the 2019 pantomime Robin Hood, 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 *The Children*, *Hairspray*, *Dear Brutus* and *Snow White*, www.alexmarker.com

Sunaina McCarthy - Priti Sohal / Chanu

Sunaina has been a member since 2016. Her notable works include *Love and Money, Future Conditional, Charley's Aunt* and most recently *Days of Significance*. She is overjoyed to be back on the Playhouse stage and is thrilled to honour her Indian heritage through *India Gate*, especially her great grandfather who was a proud Subedar (Captain) for the British Indian Army.

Shivani Misra - Chanu

Shivani is an Ayurvedic practitioner by profession but her passion lies in acting. She did a travel show for Ireland and other stage performances in other countries. Shivani joined Punjabi Theatre Academy in 2022. *India Gate* is her theatrical debut in London.

Terry Mummery - Projections Designer

Terry has been a member of The Questors for many years, initially as an audience member, and for the last twenty years a lighting designer, most recently for *The Exonerated*, *Eventide* and *Table*. He has also been involved with providing projection features for most of Questors productions over the last few years, including *King Charles III* and *Days of Significance*.

lain Reid - Sir Edwin Lutyens

lain left Student Group 29 in 1976, then acted in many Questors home and touring productions to 1992, including *The Fall of the House of Usher*, *The Boy Friend*, *Twelfth Night*, *Men Should Weep*, various Christmas shows and *Soapsud Island* (the first PlayBack project). Returning in 2013, he appeared in *Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp* then, amongst others, *West Five Story*, *Measure for Measure*, *Red Peppers*, *The Dog and the Scarf*, *First Love is the Revolution* and *Dear Brutus*.

Howard Shepherdson - Writer / Director

Howard has been a member of The Questors for over 40 years. His most recent acting appearances were as Sir Jasper Fidget in *The Country Wife* and as Queen Dottie (the pantomime dame) in *Sleeping Beauty*. You may have also seen him as a Duty Manager working front of house. He originally trained as a drama teacher and worked professionally as an actor in New Zealand. This is the first time Howard has written a play for The Questors and has loved working with the Punjabi Theatre Academy.

Julie Shimield - Sarah

Julie joined the Questors student course in 1976 and was an active member until 1985. Productions in which she appeared include *The Hostage*, *Crimson Island* and *The Beggar's Opera*. Since returning recently, Julie has taken part in three Overnight Plays and two rehearsed readings, *Maryland* and *The Hearing*.

Tajinder Sindra - Associate Director

Tajinder is a founder member of the Punjabi Theatre Academy. His first performance was at the Paul Robeson Theatre, Hounslow with the legendary Channi Singh OBE of Alaap Group in 1986. His most successful play was *Lion of Punjab* by James Brabazon. It is a great privilege for him to work as an associate director with Howard Shepherdson to bring *India Gate* to the stage.

Rajeev Soni - Udham Singh

Rajeev is an actor and writer trained at the Actors Studio. He has studied everything from Shakespeare First Folio Technique, improv, clowning, voice acting to advanced screen acting. He recently acted in a short film entitled *Violet*, as well as continuing to write a play under the guidance of Rikki Beadle Blair MBE. Rajeev has a passion for theatre and *India Gate* will be his third production at The Questors, following *Rafta*, *Rafta* and *Multitudes*.

Ben Sura - Ajit Singh

Ben Sura is an ALRA trained professional actor and has been in the industry for about three years, having previously worked in IT and emigration law. He has been seen on camera with the likes of Martin Freeman and Pierce Brosnan. Besides acting, he enjoys football, cricket, photography, cooking, reading and socialising.

John Turner - Lord Lytton

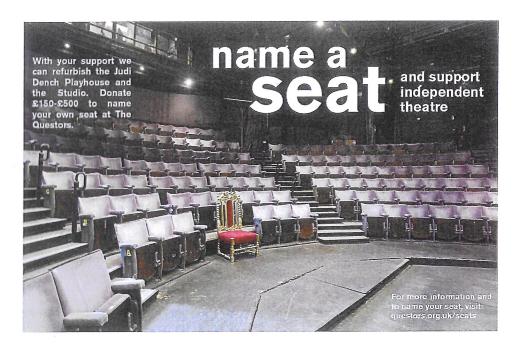
Since completing Student Group 16 in 1963, John has played roles in 100+ productions, including *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, *The Master Builder* (title role), *Broken Glass* and *George Orwell's 1984*. He is an occasional Questors director, including both sets of recent PowerPlay readings. John can be heard in The Questors' audio drama series put out during lockdown, was a proud member of Mike Green's Coarse Acting company and also works as a professional actor.

Maggie Turner – Sarah / Sylvia Underwood / Chairperson
Maggie completed Student Group 22 in 1969. Questors appearances include
The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie, Uncle Vanya, Dear Brutus and George
Orwell's 1984. A regular performer in poetry evenings and the Overnight Plays,
Maggie was in the original Coarse Acting troupe working with the redoubtable
Mike Green on Edinburgh Fringe tours and the West End transfer. She works
as a professional actor when someone chooses to pay her for doing what she
loves.

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

DEAD BOY CAFE

by Grant Corr 17 – 21 May 2022 The Studio

Winner of our 2019 National Student Playwriting Competition.

Janet and Ruby run a chippie on the border of Northern Ireland. Ruby is blind and Janet hasn't stepped outside the door in 15 years. One desperately stormy night a strange young man arrives at the café, drenched to the bone. Just who is he, and what will his presence mean for Janet? Is she really seeing him for who he is? And can the blind Ruby see more than them all?

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.