



# The Questors Theatre

Presents a QExtra Event

Monday 21 November 2022



## The Tying House and Gilgamesh Retold

**Authors:**

**Lyn Thornton**

**Jenny Lewis**

**The Tying House** is a staged reading of Lyn Thornton's poems inspired by characters from Shakespeare (who appears from time to time, to comment and reflect.) Opening with Maria Mountjoy's recollection of WS as a lodger, the poems cycle through Lear, Hamlet, Twelfth Night, A Winter's Tale, and The Tempest, ending up in the wardrobe (tying house) where it began. This is vivid stuff, boldly written, full of melancholy but shot through with the occasional shaft of Shakespearean wit. Lyn has drawn on the inexhaustible variety of Shakespeare's humanity to create a world that is her own, but also belongs to him and all of us. Drama, of course, is of the essence.

The staged reading of **Gilgamesh Retold** gives us dramatic extracts from Jenny Lewis's modern reworking of the great epic of ancient Mesopotamia, which has been widely celebrated by readers and critics across the world (visit [JennyLewis.org.uk](http://JennyLewis.org.uk)). The headstrong king Gilgamesh, the wild man Enkidu, Shamhat the temple prostitute, Inanna the goddess of war and sex, a perilous search for the enormous and terrifying giant Humbaba, all combine to provide a raw and satisfying epic of adventure and self-discovery. Like the Iliad and Odyssey, the Epic of Gilgamesh lives for ever, reinterpreted for succeeding generations.

Paul Collins

**Performers:**

Julian Casey,

Fionna Gough

Julian Smith

**Director:**

Paul Collins

The music which punctuates the readings is created and played by Julian Smith

Lighting Designer/Operator

Andrew Whadcoat

Marketing

Daniel Carter

QExtra Producer/Stage Manager

Sue Collins

Running time: Approximately 1 hour 15 minutes (no Interval)

Thanks to: Jenny Richardson

The *Haunting Julia* company for the use of their set.

After this performance The Questors company will reprise both pieces on *Thursday 24 November* at the *Old Dining Hall, St Edmund Hall, Oxford*. Proceeds towards the Questors renovation project.