

## 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](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. †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.

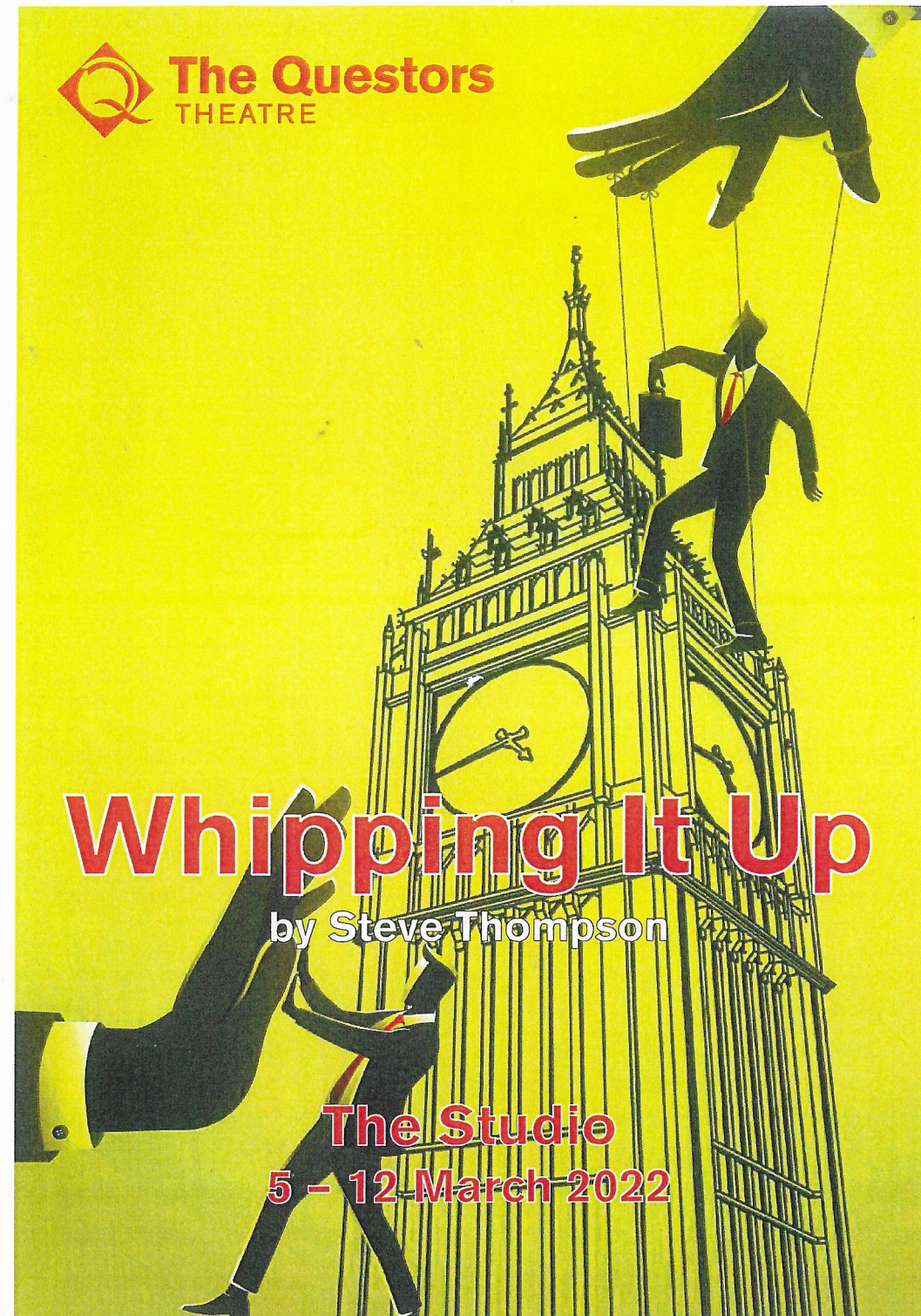
The Questors has a high standard of acting and, to maintain this, everyone wanting to act must first take an audition. These are held every month – call the Theatre Office for details of forthcoming auditions.

### 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)



## Fields at The Questors

Fields at The Questors serves Italian coffee, fine teas, hearty meals and handmade cakes, and is the perfect spot for a pre-theatre meal or intermission ice-cream.

Order interval drinks before the show to beat the crowds.

Regular opening hours:  
Monday to Saturday,  
9:00 am to 7:30 pm

Also 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](http://questors.org.uk/grapevine) for more details.

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



## Whipping It Up

by Steve Thompson

**The Studio**

**5 – 12 March 2022**

# WHIPPING IT UP

It's a particular pleasure for The Questors to be performing *Whipping It Up*, as its author, Steve Thompson, is one of that select band of Questors actors who have gone on to become successful playwrights. Steve appeared in our productions of *Godspell* (1997), *Three Sisters* (1997) and *Arcadia* (1998), before going off to develop his writing career.

Originally a maths teacher, he gave up that career in 2000 to become a full time dad and house husband, because (he says) his wife (a successful barrister) was earning much more money than him. But that gave him the chance to write, and after training on the playwrights' course at RADA, he had a breakthrough success with *Damages* at the Bush Theatre in 2004.

This was quickly followed in 2006 by *Whipping It Up*, also at the Bush, which went on to play in the West End in 2007. Subsequently he had success with *Roaring Trade* (Soho 2009) and *No Naughty Bits* (Hampstead 2011). I missed the original production of *Roaring Trade*, but caught its revival at the Park Theatre in 2015, so I'm pleased to say I saw all of Steve's major stage work. He has combined his stage writing with success as a screenwriter, writing episodes of *Doctor Who* and *Sherlock* among many others. We welcome him back to The Questors.

As we rehearsed *Whipping It Up*, we were thrilled to discover how topical it was becoming, with stories in the news about allegedly outrageous behaviour by government whips, a weak prime minister facing a possible leadership challenge, misbehaviour by MPs and general political skulduggery. But Steve's play was very thoroughly researched.

In the published text he acknowledges the help he received from several politicians, journalists, and indeed those within the Whips' Office who were willing to divulge its secrets without being named. Reviews from the original production tell us that it was seen by a considerable number of MPs, none of whom complained about inaccuracies in the goings on – slightly exaggerated, perhaps, with a little dramatic licence, but fundamentally true.

We would like to add our own acknowledgements to James Murray, currently Labour MP for Ealing North, and his immediate predecessor Steve Pound, who also served time as an opposition whip. Both were able to confirm many of the details in the play, as well as sharing some interesting stories of their own.

When written in 2006, *Whipping It Up* was set in a hypothetical future, imagining that after 12 years of Labour government, a new Conservative administration under David Cameron was now in power, with an overall majority of only three. We know that didn't quite come to pass as predicted, so we felt it was inappropriate now to set the play in 2006. Rather we have taken the step of inviting the audience into a wholly imaginary present day. Let us pretend that at some unspecified date we are six months into a new Tory government under Boris Johnson (the references fit him to a tee).

## The Whips' Office

Each main party (government and official opposition) has a Whips' Office. The whips are, in effect, the business managers of proceedings in the House of Commons and HR managers of MPs. It is their job to agree the timings of debates, get their MPs to turn up to vote, and arrange pairs for MPs who are unable to attend. They communicate through the "usual channels", meaning that the Chief or Deputy Chief Whip of each party maintains regular communication with their opposite number: their offices are on opposite sides of the main lobby, a quick and useful channel.

Government Whips in particular have the responsibility to ensure that legislation is passed and to persuade recalcitrant MPs to vote with the government. This is the process known as "whipping in" – a hunting term which refers to keeping stray hounds in the body of the pack.

They can do this both by carrot and stick. Not only can they twist arms and put names into a black book, they can also offer positions in government and select committees.

The Whips' Office is headed by the Chief Whip, which is an official constitutional post (the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury). The Deputy Chief also has an official role. Below them are any number of junior whips, each of whom is responsible for maintaining contact with, and whipping in a number of specified backbenchers on their "card". (In the play we are told there are 16 Whips, and 320 Tory MPs, so allowing for ministers and junior ministers, that would mean they might have around 15 each.)

There is always a whip on the government front bench throughout all sittings of the House. They have a designated seat, and they sit according to a rota. There is indeed an emergency bell under the seat (though these days they are more likely to use their phones), which is essential as they are not allowed to speak. They will control proceedings through the use of silent signals, just as Alastair is described as doing in the play.

## Glossary

**Bill.** A draft piece of legislation. The passage of a bill through the House of Commons will involve a debate and then a vote by MPs.

**Amendment.** A proposal to change the wording of a bill. Each amendment may require a separate vote.

**Division.** A vote in the House of Commons. A bell sounds and the MPs literally divide and pass through two lobbies where they are counted and their votes recorded.

**Pairing.** An arrangement between two MPs on opposite sides of the House not to vote on a particular occasion so that their absences cancel each other out. Pairs are often arranged by the Whips' Office.

**Three-line Whip.** Every MP is given a weekly schedule of business, stating when they are expected to turn up to vote. The importance of each item of business is reflected in the number of times it is underlined, which is decided by the whips. A three-line whip indicates an unbreakable commitment.

**David Emmet, Director**

# WHIPPING IT UP

by Steve Thompson

*First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 5 March 2022*

## CAST

in order of appearance

Alastair, Deputy Chief Whip	<b>Julian Casey</b>
Guy, Backbench MP	<b>Ben Martineau</b>
Tim, Junior Whip	<b>Tom Redican</b>
Maggie, Researcher	<b>Claudia Carroll</b>
Fulton, Chief Whip	<b>Simon Taylor</b>
Delia, Opposition Deputy Chief Whip	<b>Victoria Smith</b>
Understudy	<b>Paul Collins</b>

The play takes place in the Government Whips' Office on 21st December in a year to be imagined.

### Act 1

Scene 1: 4.00 pm

Scene 2: 5.00 pm

Scene 3: 7.00 pm

*Interval*

### Act 2

Scene 1: 9.00 pm

Scene 2: 6.30 am the next morning

The performance will last approximately 2 hours and 5 minutes, including a 15-minute interval.

## PRODUCTION

Director	<b>David Emmet</b>
Set Designer	<b>Angus Duke</b>
Costume Designer	<b>Anne Gilmour</b>
Lighting Designer / Operator	<b>Terry Mummery</b>
Sound Designer / Operator	<b>James Connor</b>
Production and Stage Manager	<b>Jane Arnold-Forster</b>
Performance Deputy Stage Manager	<b>Doug Willis</b>
Assistant Stage Managers	<b>Layan Algurashi, Chris Benson</b>
Properties	<b>Jane Arnold-Forster, Lloyd Wallis</b>
Rehearsal Prompters	<b>Annie Harries, Sue Kendrick</b>
Lighting Assistant	<b>Andrew Whadcoat</b>
Set Constructors	<b>Stephen Aitken, Michael Chislett, Adam Smith, Rob Willin</b>
Scenic Painters	<b>Bron Blake, Alice Johnson, Cecily Johnson</b>
Get-In Assistants	<b>Henry Broom, Daniel Cawtheray, Ella Jackson</b>
Photographer	<b>Jane Arnold-Forster</b>
Videographer	<b>Jamie Gould</b>
Thanks to	<b>Ian Black, Carla Evans, James Murray MP, Oaklands Primary School</b>

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

## **Claudia Carroll – Maggie**

Claudia started in the student group (Group 65) and has since acted in many Questors productions over more than a decade, including *The Duchess of Malfi*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *The Master Builder*, *Burnt by the Sun* and *The Country Wife*. She was last seen as Kate Middleton in *King Charles III*. She supports the Grapevine by always drinking the prosecco, teaches in the Youth Theatre and has volunteered in many, many other areas of the theatre.

## **Julian Casey – Alastair**

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* and *Days of Significance*. He is delighted to be acting again after the pandemic-enforced break.

## **James Connor – Sound Designer**

After over 30 years working across operational, commercial and project management disciplines in the finance and insurance sectors, James is currently business manager for Brent Music Service in NW London (part of Brent Council). His son William joined QYT in summer 2018 and has enjoyed roles in *Sleeping Beauty*, *Bugsy Malone*, *Robin Hood*, *Hairspray* and *How to Spot an Alien*. James has some experience of live sound engineering and running a 3kW PA system for rock, pop and soul bands. He plays drums in a few different bands, and has played on and mixed a few tracks on recorded albums. James has enjoyed being sound designer on a couple of shows at The Questors in 2021 and is passionate about The Questors' audio dramas.

## **Angus Duke – Set Designer**

Angus has been a member of The Questors since 2012, responsible for various roles backstage and occasionally on stage (Dave in *Stags and Hens*, Charles in *Trelawny of the Wells*, Ensemble in *George Orwell's 1984*). In 2017 he attended the University of West London to study Theatre Management and Design with a speciality in set design. This is his second production as set designer after *Future Conditional*.

## **David Emmet – Director**

David trained as an actor in Student Group 28, but is now known more as a director; *Whipping It Up* is his 60th main production. Other recent productions include *Things I Know to be True*, *Nell Gwynn*, *Daisy Pulls It Off*, *Don't Dress for Dinner*, *The Wonderful World of Dissocia*, *The Pride and Mary Stuart*. David is also Director of Studies for the Student Group and teaches acting in the Foundation Year. He is a member of the Board of Trustees and Company Secretary, chair of the auditioning panel and casting advisor, responsible for scheduling Questors activities in all the rehearsal rooms and often to be seen selling tickets in the Box Office.

## **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 *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.

## **Ben Martineau – Guy**

Ben has been a member since 2019 and managed to make two appearances just before lockdown: as Vince in *Days of Significance* and as Mr Darcy in *Pride and Prejudice*. Already this season he has played Teddie Deakin in *The Ghost Train*.

## **Terry Mummery – Lighting 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 *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 *Days of Significance* and *India Gate*. And he is always willing to assist his fellow lighting designers with rigging their productions.

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## Meet the Company – Thursday 10 March

We are pleased to welcome the writer Steve Thompson to the performance on Thursday 10 March. Please join us in the Studio afterwards to meet him, the director, cast and crew for an informal discussion. Everyone is welcome.

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### Tom Redican – Tim

Tom trained on the MA Acting course at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, where he played Radleigh/Mr Peck in *Blue Stockings*, Alan in *The Commune* and Ben in *The Dumb Waiter*. He previously studied for a BA in Film and Television Studies at the University of Nottingham, where he was an active member of the Nottingham New Theatre. Tom was also a member of the Young Vic's Young Directors cohort of 2015. Roles at The Questors include Orsino in *Twelfth Night*, Tony in *Beautiful Thing* and Aiden in *Scarborough*. Tom is also a member of the Tower Theatre Company where roles have included Edward in *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me*, and Joey (plus others) in *Road*.

### Victoria Smith – Delia

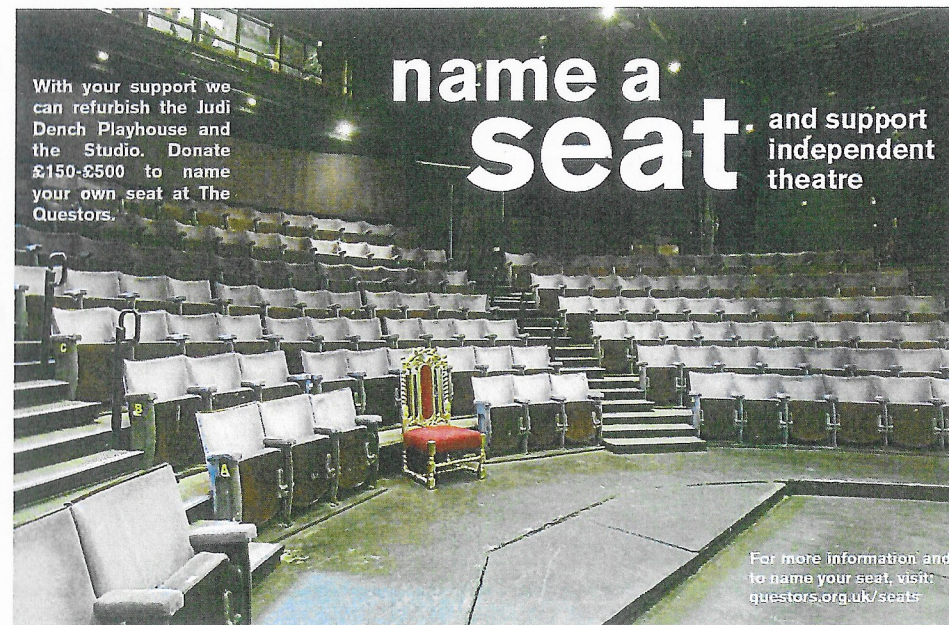
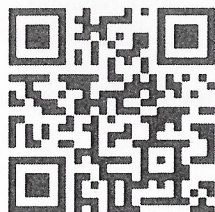
Victoria is a TV and radio reporter who has covered many of the political upheavals of recent years. She has interviewed a few Prime Ministers but is still waiting for her invitation to the Whips' Office. Victoria was a member of Student Group 46, back when dinosaurs roamed the Earth, playing in *Entertaining Strangers* and *You Can't Take It with You*. She returned to acting at The Questors a few years ago, she's a member of The Questors' improvisation troupe, The Slack Captains, and she likes whale-watching, hula-hooping and snowball fights.

### Simon Taylor – Fulton

Simon has played leads in film shorts and a full-length feature, a Celtic merchant in SKY Atlantic's *Britannia*, plus Kensington Gardens tour work and a postponed *Scrooge*, making for a busy Covid. Simon is very grateful to The Questors for recent juicy roles: Robin in *The Children*, Crocker-Harris in *The Browning Version* – and now a highly topical Chief Whip. He has much enjoyed David Emmet's direction of this sharp satirical comedy.

## 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

### SNOW WHITE

by Ben Crocker

11 – 27 March 2022

The Judi Dench Playhouse

When Snow White's angelic beauty is granted the fairest in the land, her menacing stepmother, the Evil Queen, is overcome with jealousy. On escaping the claws of death, Snow is offered shelter in the woods by some friendly faces. But will the machinations of her Evil Stepmother stop there? Oh no they won't...

Come along for a good boo, hiss and a cheer at Ealing's Annual Pantomime, back at The Questors Theatre for the first time in two years and following the recent unfortunate postponement.

### LOVEPLAY

by Moira Buffini

25 March – 2 April 2022

The Studio

*Loveplay* – sometimes funny, sometimes tragic – is set in one location but spans 2,000 years from Roman times to the present day. Seductions and sexual encounters take us through ten scenes where people come together, sometimes willingly, sometimes not, in the ongoing search for physical pleasure.

Performed by The Questors Student Group, marking 75 years since the course was founded.