

## Join Us

If you would like to be involved in the world of theatre, why not join us as a Member.

### Club Membership – Benefits

- ✓ The right to participate in club activities, including putting on shows
- ✓ A say in the running of the club through voting rights at the AGM and in electing the Board of Trustees
- ✓ Access to our members' website and receive a regular club newsletter by email
- ✓ Full credit to your account for booked tickets to Questors productions if you let us know that you can't make the show
- ✓ Priority booking for courses or special events
- ✓ Meet new people and learn fresh skills as part of the Questors team
- ✓ Feel great about being a member of one of Europe's largest community theatres with over 90 years of contribution to the arts

Note that this new, lower-priced membership does not include ticket discounts.

We have a wide range of opportunities for you to become actively involved throughout the theatre. Volunteer help is always needed for selling programmes, stewarding or serving behind the bar, and training is provided if you'd like to work in Box Office with our computerised system. 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 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.

### Season Pass – Benefits

A Season Pass is also available to both members (the combined cost is equivalent to that of the old-style membership) and non-members, which gives the following benefits:

- ✓ Ticket discounts for every Questors production (except the pantomime):  
an adult ticket at a 50% discount for the Season Pass holder  
£2 off ANY number of additional adult or concession tickets  
up to FOUR child tickets at 50% discount
- ✓ Will receive other *audience loyalty* special offers from The Questors or other organisations performing at The Questors
- ✓ Available to all – you do not need to be a club member

Further details and pricing of Club Membership (and enhanced Supporter Memberships), the Season Pass and Questors Youth Theatre can be found on the Questors website: [questors.org.uk](http://questors.org.uk).

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)

# ALBION

BY MIKE BARTLETT



**JUDI DENCH PLAYHOUSE**

**03-11 NOVEMBER 2023**



## 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 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 2024 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):

Monday – Saturday: 7:00 pm – 11:00 pm

Sunday lunchtime: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

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



# ALBION

by Mike Bartlett

**The Judi Dench Playhouse**

**3 – 11 November 2023**



# ALBION

Mike Bartlett's play *Albion* was called a 'state of the nation' play by critics when it was first performed at the Almeida Theatre, London, in October 2017, less than 18 months after the BREXIT vote <sup>(1)</sup>. The play itself only ran for six weeks but had a huge impact, scoring multiple four- and five-star reviews, as well as earning many of its actors nominations for key awards – Victoria Hamilton winning the 2017 Critics' Circle Theatre Award for Best Actress for her performance as Audrey.

The play was revived remarkably quickly, coming back to the Almeida for a four-week run in February 2020. On the short gap from initial staging to revival, Rupert Goold (*Albion* Director and Artistic Director of the Almeida) said that, "Plays, like plants, grow over time. Their meaning shifts." Britain's departure from the EU inevitably changes the way this play is received.

*Albion* started life as an idea Bartlett had while writing *Earthquakes of London*; a garden made the perfect contrast with a slower pace of life. Whilst *Earthquakes* was set in a city with the fast pace of urban life, a garden in the country would feel rural, less rushed, having a more Chekhovian construction. Whilst the setting and feel for the play existed, Bartlett lacked the context until the BREXIT vote in 2016 when the garden began to become more of a metaphor – it all felt very British and it seemed like a fertile place to write a story. Bartlett notes, "People like gardens. It's a sort of neutral place to tell a story about identity and what it means to be British." Bartlett intentionally didn't set out to attack either side or write a play that features caricatures of those voters (he lets one of his characters do that – look out for Katherine's book!). Instead, he wanted to try and find a bit of common ground to explore some of the ideas that drove voters in their decision.

Bartlett was born in 1980 in Oxford, probably not far from where this play is set. He studied English and Theatre at the University of Leeds. He had considerable early success, becoming Writer in Residence at the Royal Court in 2007, producing several plays and winning several awards – the most famous of which is probably *Cock* in 2009 which won the Laurence Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in an Affiliate Theatre. Bartlett had his first production staged at the National Theatre in 2010 – the aforementioned *Earthquakes in London* directed by Rupert Goold. Perhaps his most well-known piece, *Charles III*, was staged at the Almeida in 2014 before transferring on, with *Albion* arriving in 2017.

As an aside (and as The Questors is hosting a Dr Who event early next year to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the show) Mike Bartlett joined the list of playwrights who've written for *Doctor Who*, in 2017 writing an episode in Peter Capaldi's last season called *Knock, Knock*. Other playwrights who've written for *Doctor Who* include Vinay Patel, Joy Wilkinson and Rona Munro. Bartlett has fast become a favourite at The Questors, having staged *Charles III* in 2019, *Bull* straight after lockdown in 2021 and now *Albion* in 2023.

Bringing this play into the rehearsal room has been an interesting experience – whilst we've touched on the themes, metaphors and inspiration around the writing of the play, most of it doesn't really inform the playing of the text. Whilst one character might notionally represent a more conservative point of view, or another a progressive perspective, what we care about in the rehearsal room is much more about whom the person is, what they want and how they are going about achieving it – the nuts and bolts of their character progression. The metaphor itself drops away into the background and is left to you, the audience to see should you wish.

Finally, there is a wonderful note at the bottom of the page at the start of the script just before the opening of Act 1. It says, "*This text went to the press before the end of rehearsals and so may differ slightly from the play as performed.*" I was fortunate enough to see the production at the Almeida back in 2017 and, whilst I don't remember it well, I had the distinct feeling that there were definitely odd bits here that I didn't remember and felt sure that if they had been played as written in the text they would have stuck in my mind. Now – we've done the text exactly as it is written, including those moments so, if you did see the original, see if anything leaps out to you as odd or different, and if you want find out if you're right, find me in the bar later! Once the show is finished, I will get hold of a copy of the production at the Almeida (it was filmed!) and watch it to see if I'm right...

<sup>(1)</sup> A few weeks ago, someone said to me, "How far do you think you'll get through the Director's Notes before you say BREXIT?" Barely 33 words, it turns out.

**Simon Rudkin, Director**



# ALBION

by Mike Bartlett

*First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 3 November 2023*

## CAST

in order of appearance

Weatherbury	<b>Ciro Calabria</b>
Matthew	<b>John Dobson</b>
Cheryl	<b>Sarah Morrison</b>
Zara	<b>Georgia Koronka</b>
Gabriel	<b>Adam Keenan</b>
Audrey	<b>Jananne Rahman</b>
Paul	<b>Robert Gordon Clark</b>
Edward	<b>Derek Stoddart</b>
Anna	<b>Sarah Sharpe</b>
Katherine	<b>Vicky Cunningham Pilcher</b>
Krystyna	<b>Ania Choroszczynska</b>
James / Stanley	<b>Quinn Goodliffe</b>

Albion is a garden attached to a house in Oxfordshire. There are many 'rooms' in the garden, but the play is set in the Red Garden.

**Act 1:** Late February

**Act 2:** Late May  
**interval**

**Act 3:** Early September

**Act 4:** Mid November

The play lasts approximately 2 hours and 45 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>Simon Rudkin</b>
Set Designer	<b>Alex Marker</b>
Costume Designer	<b>Jenny Richardson</b>
Lighting Designer	<b>Martin Walton</b>
Sound Design & Operation	<b>Emerson Bramwell, Maddy MacConnol</b>
Stage Managers	<b>Sarah Clopet, Paula Robinson</b>
Assistant Stage Managers	<b>Ciro Calabria, Jacob Dalton, Sofiyah Daramy-Wong, Jennifer Kerr, Douglas Willis</b>
Properties	<b>Paula Robinson</b>
Prompters	<b>Maggie Anderson, Tina Harris</b>
Head Make-Up Artist	<b>Alix Brewer</b>
Make-Up Artists	<b>Maisie Barnett, Charlene Brar, Poppy Gray, Faith Lealgarcia, Sydney Shaw</b>
Movement Director	<b>Angela Botha</b>
Intimacy Coach	<b>Elody Bass</b>
Lighting Operator	<b>Ellie Vidal</b>
Lighting Riggers	<b>Alasdair Graebner, John Green, Terry Mummery, Robert Walker</b>
Set Constructors	<b>Bron Blake, Roger Brace, Doug King, Simon Rudkin, Stephen Souchon, Derek Stoddart</b>
Set Painters	<b>Bron Blake, Nikhil Ghai, Olivia Rattley, Simmeicia Weeks</b>
Set Dresser	<b>Ian Black</b>
Get-In Assistants	<b>Bernie Brady, Michael Chislett, Tina Harris, Lloyd Wallis</b>
Photo/Videographer	<b>Evelina Plonytė</b>
Thanks to	<b>Diego Rodrigo Jacinto, Harriet Parsonage, The Questors Office</b>



# Biographies

## **Ciro Calabria – Weatherbury**

Ciro is currently a member of Questors Student Group 77. *Albion* is his first appearance in a Questors production.

## **Ania Choroszczyńska – Krystyna**

Ania was a member of Student Group 75 and played Polly in their production of *Gut Girls*. She also played Gertrude and Coachman in *On the Razzle*. *Albion* is her third production for The Questors.

## **Vicky Cunningham Pilcher – Katherine**

Vicky studied acting in New York under Gene Frankel where she appeared in theatre (off off off Broadway!) and in *Sex and the City*. She debuted with The Questors in 2009 as Harriet in Arthur Miller's *Broken Glass* and, after a long hiatus, appeared as a Mary in *Maryland*, as Gayle/Laura in *Consent* and as Kate in *There*, part of the 2023 Questors *Work in Process* series of short plays.

## **John Dobson – Matthew**

John's many theatre appearances include *The Lady's Not For Burning* (Double Think), *Blihe Spirit* (The Savoy), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Greenwich Playhouse), *Top Dogs* and *Donkey's Years* (UK Tours) and over 90 appearances at The Questors including *The Faith Healer*, *Breaking the Code*, *Dublin Carol*, *Equus*, *Season's Greetings* and most recently *Hangmen*. He is currently custodian of the Questors extensive archives.

## **Quinn Goodliffe – James / Stanley**

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. Quinn was last seen here in *Hangmen* and was Assistant Director on *King Arthur and the Twelfth Knight*.

## **Robert Gordon Clark – Paul**

It is 40 years ago to the month since Robert saw his first Questors show, *Hamlet* directed by the late founder Alfred Emmet. Encouraged by the fact that everyone knew what they were doing on stage, he auditioned and joined in 1984. He most recently appeared as Frobisher (*The Browning Version*), Mr Bennet (*Pride and Prejudice*), Charles Prime (*Six Bad Poets*), Colonel Pickering (*Pygmalion*) and John (*The Letter of Last Resort*).

## **Adam Keenan – Gabriel**

*Albion* will be Adam's third Questors production. Earlier in the year he performed as Arthur Clennam in *Little Dorrit* and Claudio in *Much Ado About Nothing*.

## **Georgia Koronka – Zara**

Georgia, though untrained in acting, gained a degree in Costume Production from the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. She is currently pursuing a professional acting career and hopes to attend a postgraduate course in 2024. Recent credits include Chloe in *Arcadia* here at The Questors and Freya in *Choose Your Fighter* at the Camden People's Theatre.

## **Sarah Morrison – Cheryl**

Sarah has been an active Acting Member since originally joining in 1980. She has since appeared in over 70 productions. She was last seen playing Big Mama in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, and following on from this production she will be making a guest appearance as Ethel the Merman in the 2023 Questors Christmas panto, *Treasure Island*.

## **Jananne Rahman – Audrey**

Jananne has been a Questors actor since 2003, appearing in 18 productions including *Nicholas Nickleby* (2003), *Company* (2007), *Festen* (2008), *The Seagull* (2008), *Abigail's Party* (2010), *ENRON* (2013), *Betrayal* (2013), *An Ideal Husband* (2014) and *The Last of the Hausmans* (2017). She also organises the annual Ghost Story readings every Christmas.

## **Sarah Sharpe – Anna**

This is Sarah's second appearance at The Questors, having played Hannah Jarvis in *Arcadia* earlier this year. She trained at Webber Douglas and the Central School of Speech & Drama. Recent theatre includes Calpurnia in *Julius Caesar* (RSS), Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Putney Theatre Company) and Caroline Bingley in *Pride and Prejudice* (RSS). Professional work includes *Robin Hood* (BBC), *Coronation Street* (ITV) and *The Conservatory* (Old Red Lion).

## **Derek Stoddart – Edward**

Derek has acted in a wide range of productions since joining The Questors in 1983. He was on stage earlier this year in the Everly Brothers tribute show and prior to that, as the Dame (Dolly Dolittle) in the 2022 production of *Snow White*. Other recent productions include *Rosmersholm* (Magnus Kroll), *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* (Parson/Company) and *Mother Goose* (Baron).



**Emerson Bramwell – Sound Designer / Operator**

Emerson is a composer and sound designer with a background in drums and percussion. Most recently, he composed the theme music for *God of Carnage* and designed the sound for *The Ghost Train*, *Apologia*, *Hangmen*, *Death and the Maiden*, *Peregrine Proteus*, *A Doll's House*, *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Arcadia*.

**Maddy MacConnoil – Sound Designer / Operator**

Maddy is excited to be joining the world of sound design for *Albion*, having previously worked as sound operator for *Hangmen* (Martin McDonagh, 2022) and *Apologia* (Alexi Kaye Campbell, 2022).

**Alex Marker – Set Designer**

Alex trained in stage design at Wimbledon School of Art. He has designed over fifty productions for The Questors including: *Neville's and Sheila's Island*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Murder on the Nile*, *The Light Burns Blue*, *King Arthur and the Twelfth Knight*, *Hangmen* and *Snow White*. Beyond The Questors he has designed over 100 productions. He has been known to direct and still occasionally appears on stage too, most recently as Merlin in *King Arthur and the Twelfth Knight* and soon to be seen in *Treasure Island*. [www.alexmarker.com](http://www.alexmarker.com)

**Jenny Richardson – Costume Designer**

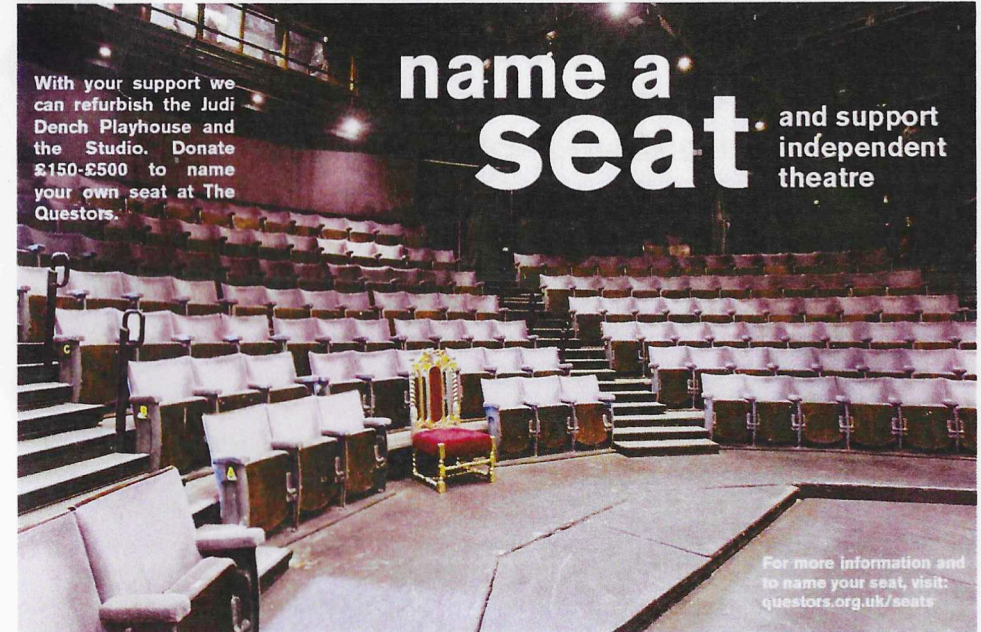
After many years working in stage management, props and set design, Jenny enjoyed a change of direction to costume design, recently for *The Herd*, *The Contingency Plan*, *Murder on the Nile*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Little Dorrit*, *The Remarkable Theatrical Adventures of Peregrine Proteus*, *Hangmen*, *Apologia*, *The Children*, *First Love is the Revolution* and *Fault Lines*. Jenny is also frequently in demand as an upholsterer.

**Simon Rudkin – Director**

Simon joined The Questors in 2006 as part of Student Group 61. After graduating he acted in several plays including *Beauty and the Beast*, *Rock 'n' Roll* and *The Rover* before starting to direct in late 2011. Since then, he's directed such plays such as *Equus*, *The 39 Steps*, *The Ghost Train* and most recently *Arcadia*.

**Martin Walton – Lighting Designer**

Martin has been lighting theatre productions for over 20 years. Recent credits include *Cats* and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* for Centre Stage, *Little Shop of Horrors* for GEOIDS, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for SEDOS and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* for The Questors. When not in a theatre, he works as an electronics engineer.



## Next at The Questors

**THE REHEARSAL**

by Jean Anouilh

17 – 25 November 2023

**The Studio**

Witty, sophisticated aristocrats are rehearsing an 18th Century play all about love. But during rehearsals, real love breaks through the social conventions to cause heartbreak and chaos.

First performed in London in 1961 with the young Maggie Smith bursting onto the scene, this is one of Anouilh's most enticing dramas.

**TREASURE ISLAND**

by James Rushbrooke

8 – 31 December 2023

**The Judi Dench Playhouse**

From the Admiral Benbow Inn to the palm fringed beaches of the Caribbean on board a leaky pirate ship, come and join us this December for *Treasure Island*, our rip-roaring family pantomime on the high seas. Follow Jim Hawkins on his adventures with the dastardly Long John Silver on a treasure hunt that will change their lives. With barrels of laughs, tub-thumping musical numbers and a spectacular underwater sequence, we've got something for all the family.