

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

 **The Questors**
THEATRE

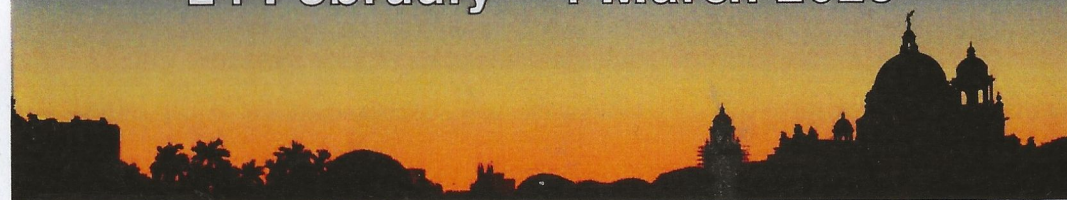


A Doll's House

by Tanika Gupta after Henrik Ibsen

The Studio

24 February – 4 March 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 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 for more details.

Fields and the Grapevine accept payments by card.



image: Evelina Plonyté

A Doll's House

by Tanika Gupta after Henrik Ibsen

The Studio

24 February – 4 March 2023

A DOLL'S HOUSE

January 8th, the day of our first rehearsals. With a lot of trepidation yet nervous excitement, an extra hot flat white from our local cafe in Ealing, a copy of Tanika Gupta's adaptation heavily marked with hand-written notes and images in hand, I make my way to The Questors contemplating the journey that lies ahead – reflecting my reasons for taking on the mammoth task of such a revered classic as my very second stint at theatre directing.

Starting out as an actor, I was often asked what female roles excited me and the ones I'd like to play – and playing Nora was always one of them. That dream has yet to happen, but the thrill of exploring her through the lens of a director was just as compelling.

Tanika Gupta's evocative setting of the play in 1879 India was another reason. It opened out to me a whole new level of exploration and conversation, drawing from my own experience of growing up in both India and the UK, which has deeply impacted me as a storyteller. I felt I could bring something unique to the telling of this production.

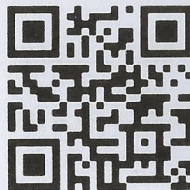
"...I believe that before anything else I need to learn to value and think for myself", Nora.

Ibsen's Nora still resonates today. Her journey of self-awakening and empowerment shocked the theatre world when it opened and will continue to resonate across cultures, continents and time.

Thank you to my amazing young cast. It's been a real journey learning and exploring with you, one I will always cherish. Thank you to my awesome production and creative crew who have worked so tirelessly behind the scenes, to The Questors for having us and the biggest thanks to you Tanika for the opportunity to direct this awesome reimagining. We have taken some creative liberties due to certain limitations and we may not have got it all right – but it's done with a lot of respect, heart and sincerity.

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.



A Doll's House brings a fusion of East meets West music

I grew up in a very musical family where my mother was an accomplished pianist and played organ in the local village church, whereas my father brought Indian classical music into the household. My elder brother was into Hendrix and Zeppelin but that's another story!

For *A Doll's House* I wanted to use the opportunity to bring those two contrasting elements together – to help enrich the world of this production.

I reached out to my long time music collaborator, Andrew T. Mackay. We are currently working on songs for my second feature film which I am developing with the BFI. We discussed the vision and the experience I wanted to create for the audience at certain moments in the play.

There is a scene in which the two friends (Niru and Krishna) listen to a song being sung outside the house. I decided to use a carol written by my late father. As a 17-year-old, my father traveled to the big city and encountered Handel's *Messiah* and, although he went on to work for the government, as a passion he would write Christmas carols in Hindi and the local dialect but arranged for choir with SATB harmonies – rare in Indian music.

Recently, I have had one of his songs arranged for a choral arrangement by Paul Ayers who runs the Questors Choir. At the same time Andrew was working on *Henry V* at the Donmar with professional British singers. We recorded an unaccompanied choral version of the song and The Questors will be the first to hear it.

Another such moment is when in the original play Nora dances to the Tarantella, but in Tanika's adaptation Niru dances Kathak, a form of Indian classical dance. Reading the scene I couldn't help but feel Niru's emotional conflict within her as she struggles to embrace her husband's culture and keep her own – and the idea of mixing both styles of dance with music came from how that moment connected with me!

Meneka Das, Director

Music Credits

Songs from the Seven Towers and Four Thousand New Colours by **Bombay Dub Orchestra**

BWV 91: V. Aria '*Die Armut, so Gott auf sich nimmt*' by **J S Bach**
Aaya Masih – Nirmal Kumar Das arr. **Paul Ayres**

A DOLL'S HOUSE

by Tanika Gupta after Henrik Ibsen

First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 24 February 2023

CAST

in order of appearance

Uma Di / Anne Marie **Yvonne Monyer**

Niru / Nora **Rushma Thapa**

Ram Latan Rikshaw Walla **Chris Benson**

Tom Helmer / Torvald **Tom Hilton**

Krishna / Mrs Linde **Premi Tamang**

Dr Rank **Charlie McRoberts**

Das / Krogstad **Anoop Jagan**

The play is set in various areas of the Helmer's house in Calcutta in 1879, during the British colonial rule.

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

Meneka Das

Set Designer

Bron Blake

Costume Designer

Carla Evans

Lighting Designer

Andrew Whadcoat

Sound Designer

Emerson Bramwell

Music Composer

Andrew T. Mackay

Choreographer

Belinda Chapman

Stage Manager

Doug Willis

Deputy Stage Managers

Chris Benson, Paula Robinson

Assistant Stage Managers

Agata Frankowska, Patricia O'Brien

Properties

Sue Collins

Costume Assistant

Ellie Taylor

Lighting & Sound Operator

Sue Lowndes

Lighting Riggers

Emma Hunt, Terry Mummery

Set Realisation

Roger Brace, Sue Collins, Ian Black

Get-In Assistance

Bernie Brady, Henry Broom, Simon Higginson, Cecily Johnson, Ben Martineau, Tilly Benson-Reid, Derek Stoddart, Tom Woods

Production Photographer

Carla Evans

Videographer

Evelina Plonytè

Thanks to

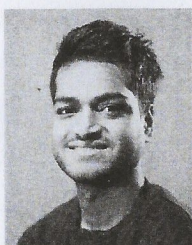
John Green, Jane Higginson, Geoff Moore

Biographies



Tom Hilton – *Tom Helmer / Torvald*

Tom Hilton is an actor based in London. He acted in many theatre productions during his time at both Oxford and Cambridge, playing leading roles including Jimmy Porter in *Look Back in Anger* at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Bassanio in *The Merchant of Venice*, Mosca in *Volpone* and Henry in *The Real Thing*.



Anoop Jagan – *Das / Krogstad*

Anoop began his acting career at a young age with a community youth organisation called KALA. It is primarily through this experience that he developed a keen interest in acting. He has since been involved in other amateur stage productions and also performed at the Camden Fringe festival in 2017 as part of the Odds and Ends Theatre Company. He has also appeared at The Questors in *Rafta, Rafta* in 2018 and *India Gate* in 2022.



Charlie McRoberts – *Dr Rank*

Charlie studied Drama and English Literature at the University of Manchester. His previous roles include Joe Pitt in *Angels in America*, Jeffrey Skilling in *ENRON* for which he won Best Male Lead at the Manchester In-Fringe Theatre Awards, and Acoetes in *Tales from Ovid* at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Charlie is currently in rehearsal for the part of Frank in *Up 'n' Under* at The Bob Hope Theatre.



Yvonne Monyer – *Uma Di / Anne Marie*

Yvonne joined Student Group 68 in 2014. Since then, she has appeared in several plays at The Questors, including *The Dog & the Scarf*, *Private Lives* and *Little Dorrit*. Other experiences include an acting course at Actor Prepares in Mumbai, and hosting the Hindi song chart show *Bolly.Music.Show* on the German TV channel Zee.One.



Premi Tamang – *Krishna / Mrs Linde*

Premi graduated from Student Group 69 in 2016 and went on to complete her Masters in Classical Acting at The Royal Central School Of Speech and Drama. Past credits include Lady Macbeth in Box Clever's adaptation of *Macbeth* and Mark Anthony in The Wheel's production of *Julius Caesar*. She is currently on tour playing Shelia Birling in *An Inspector Calls*.



Rushma Thapa – *Niru / Nora*

Rushma is a British Nepalese actress based in London. With training from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and the Director's Cut Artists Company, she is currently working on both theatre and screen productions across British, Nepali and Indian industries.

Meneka Das – *Director*

Meneka was born in India and moved to London to follow her dream of studying theatre and film. She has had the privilege of working with directors such as David Yates, Mike Leigh and Dexter Fletcher in the Oscar winning *Bohemian Rhapsody*, the RSC and The Royal Court. She directed *Apologia* here in 2022. Meneka is currently developing a second feature with the BFI.

Bron Blake – *Set Designer*

An active member since the early 1970s, Bron has been doing set design and scenic art since 2004. Recent productions include *Betrayal*, *Be My Baby*, *Rope*, *Uncle Vanya*, *The Master Builder*, *The Village Bike*, *Twelfth Night*, *Measure for Measure*, *Larkin with Women*, *Endgame*, *The Heiress*, *Rutherford & Son*, *Di and Viv* and *Rose*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *God of Carnage* and *The Ghost Train*.

Emerson Bramwell – *Sound Designer*

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*, designed the sound of a spectral train for our production of *The Ghost Train* and created immersive soundscapes for *Apologia*, *Hangmen*, *Death and the Maiden* and *Peregrine Proteus*.

Belinda Chapman – *Choreographer*

Belinda is a theatre maker, performer and movement director. She trained at English National Ballet School and performed leading roles for Matthew Bourne's New Adventures dance company, including *Play Without Words*. She was part of the creative devising team that collectively won the Laurence Olivier Award for Best Choreography. She is a Fellow of The Arts Foundation as a Creator of Theatre for Young People.

Carla Evans – Costume Designer

Carla joined The Questors in 2013 and has since worked on over 40 productions as a costume maker, set designer, photographer and poster illustrator. Her most recent designs include the set for *How to Spot an Alien* and costumes for *King Arthur and the Twelfth Knight*.

Andrew T. Mackay – Music Composer

Andrew trained at the London College of Music under Dr William Lloyd-Webber and John McCabe, and he is an Olivier Award nominated composer for his score to the West End stage play of *Life of Pi*, which opens on Broadway March 2023. He recently composed the hybrid choral score for *Henry V* (Donmar) with Kit Harington as Henry. He is also the co-founder of Bombay Dub Orchestra. www.mackay.at

Andrew Whadcoat – Lighting Designer

Recent lighting designs include *Not About Heroes*, *The Dog & the Scarf*, *The Ghost Train*, *Dear Brutus*, *Haunting Julia*, *Peregrine Proteus* and *Escaped Alone & What If Only*. Andrew has also designed for AppEaling Theatre, Idle Discourse, Orange Moon and PlayGCTheatre – both at The Questors and at other venues.

Chris Benson – Deputy Stage Manager / Ram Latan Rikshaw Walla

Chris joined The Questors at the beginning of 2022. This is the third play for which he has been DSM, the others being *The Remarkable Theatrical Adventures of Peregrine Proteus* and *Apologia*. He was also an ASM on *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Whipping It Up* and *Consent*.

Agata Frankowska – Assistant Stage Manager

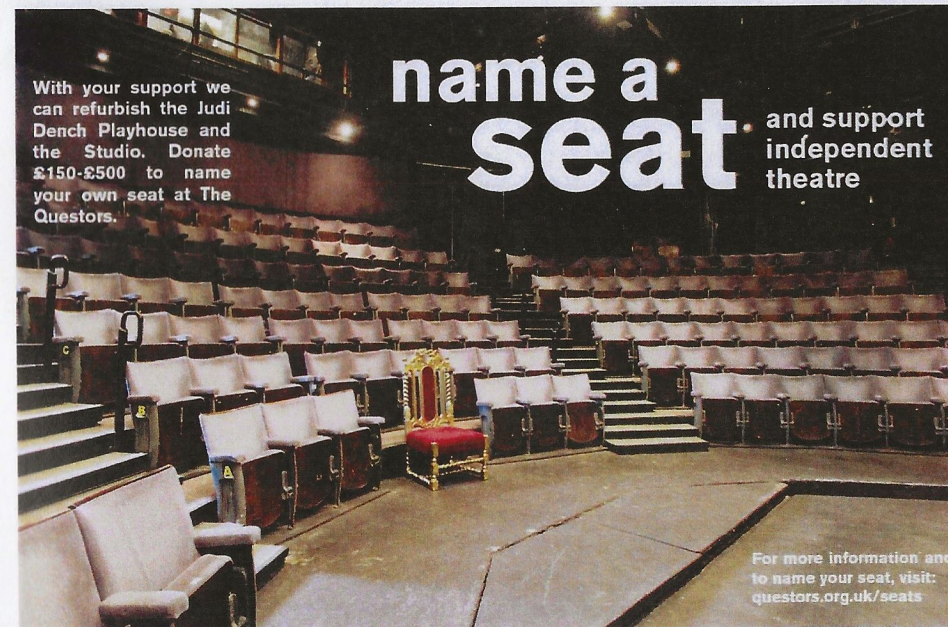
Agata began training as an actor at City Academy in 2018 where she did the Theatre and Screen Acting course. She has appeared as a supporting artist in various TV series including *Brave New World* and *The Crown*. In September 2022, Agata joined The Questors as a member of Student Group 76.

Patricia O'Brien – Assistant Stage Manager

Patricia began acting in community theatre productions in 2019 with the Windsor Theatre Guild as Miss Potter in their production of Terrence Rattigan's *After the Dance*. She then continued with The Windsor Theatre Guild in various productions between 2019 and 2022. Patricia also appeared with The Richings Players in *Ladies' Day*. Since September 2022, Patricia has been a member of Student Group 76.

Paula Robinson – Deputy Stage Manager

During her five years at The Questors, Paula has worked as a Deputy Stage Manager on a number of productions such as *Rutherford & Son*, *Private Lives*, *Things I Know to be True*, *The Browning Version* and *Dear Brutus*, and as a Stage Manager on *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*.



Next at The Questors

THE LIGHT BURNS BLUE

by **Silva Semerciyan**

25 February – 4 March 2023

The Judi Dench Playhouse

A gripping and thought-provoking drama inspired by the true story of the Cottingley Fairies and performed by Questors Youth Theatre. It's 1917 and WWI is raging, but when 17-year-old Elsie Wright borrows her father's camera, little does she know the public frenzy that will ensue when the community around her believes she has captured concrete proof that fairies exist. Catapulted to the heights of fame when their photos are published around the world, Elsie and her cousin Frances now find themselves being investigated by a press reporter.

MURDER ON THE NILE

by **Agatha Christie**

18 – 25 March 2023

The Judi Dench Playhouse

When Kay Ridgeway boards her honeymoon voyage down the Nile, little does she know the fatal circumstances that await. When the paradisaical surroundings are suddenly shattered by a savage and heinous murder, the guests of this grand river cruise, all with a reason to kill, are suddenly thrust into a murder investigation. Tensions and anxiety build as a shocking conspiracy is laid bare in this celebrated and acclaimed mystery from the most widely published author of all time, Agatha Christie.