

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 Light Burns Blue

by Silva Semerciyan

The Judi Dench Playhouse
25 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.

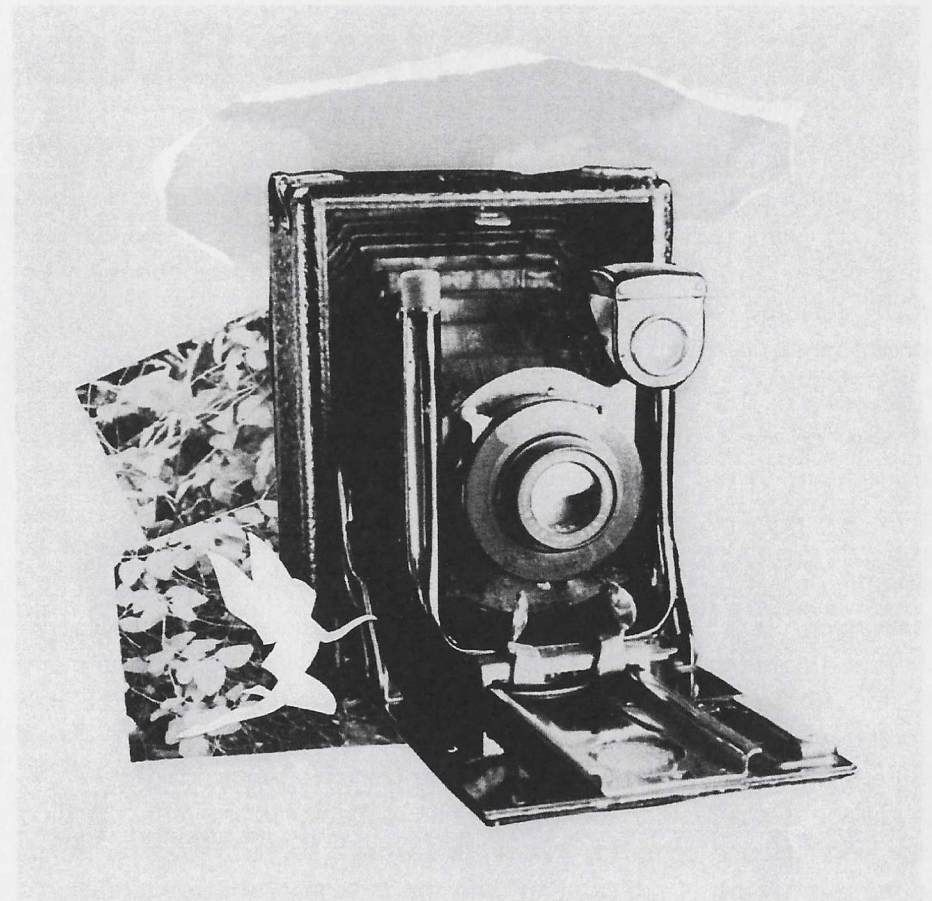
Fields and the Grapevine accept payments by card.

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THE LIGHT BURNS BLUE

The title, *The Light Burns Blue*, often causes people to give me a blank stare, until I say 'the story of the Cottingley Fairies' and then their eyes light up with recognition and interest. It has been a wonderfully challenging and fun experience working on this production with so many talented young performers, dedicated parents and a friendly, professional crew.

The story of the Cottingley Fairies is a remarkable snapshot in time. Based on real events, Silvia Semerciyan's story offers a great opportunity to put on a female-led production. The story is especially poignant with the current fourth wave of feminism and the subsequent red pill pushback in modern media. I love that the story is able to honestly highlight the lack of options for women in 1917 without becoming preachy or force-feeding it to the audience. Elsie's struggle to find a path for her talents is a universal narrative, reflecting the many cultural outliers in society, which also remains remarkably unique. Her battle is both mirrored and contrasted by Winifred who is far more determined and aggressive in her approach. Winifred allows the audience to see hints that this life has its setbacks as she must sacrifice her kindness and optimism in order to secure a career. I think the script does a great job of highlighting both the internal and external struggle for success in a world that wants you to be a spectator. Yes, hard work and sacrifice will advance you, but is it worth losing yourself to gain a career? Often when we discuss equality between genders or ethnicities we overlook that choice is mostly what we all want.

My research took me from the adventurous Madame Blavatsky who married her first husband to complete a challenge, all the way back to the *Antiques Roadshow* where the real Cottingley Fairy photographs were appraised; from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to Theosophists and fashion and photography at the turn of the 20th century. All wonderful subjects to learn about that highlight the impact the photographs had on society. As a media professional I have found the subtext of 'truth

through technology' to be fascinating. I see parallels and similarities between how the photographs were received and how modern society receives news but fails to verify the sources, the collective delusions we enter through cognitive dissonance and how trends can spread through social media. With advancements in computer generated imagery (CGI) and deepfake technology, where is the line drawn for reality? When those we trust are lying to us, who can we believe? These questions may mirror how those in 1917 felt looking at the Cottingley images, some sceptical and others gripped with fervent belief.

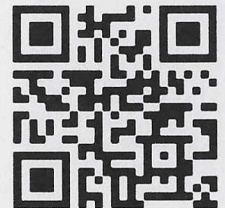
Finally, I would like to thank my wonderful crew and everyone that helped to bring the show together. After three years without a QYT show, it was tricky to pick a production that could truly do justice to the talent of our young performers. Their dedication, effort and energy has been really refreshing. I'm sure you will agree with me when I say how brilliantly they have all performed and it has been a pleasure watching them grow and learn in their roles. I would like to give a special thank you to Monica Lomas, Frances Sherwin, Sharon Welch, Rachael Johnson and Charlotte Hames for their support not only of the show but of me for the first few weeks of production where I was dealing with an injury. Their input, support and encouragement of the production were invaluable in the early stages and we wouldn't have the same show today without them.

I hope you all enjoy the show!

Jason L. Welch, Director

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.



QUESTORS YOUTH THEATRE PRESENTS
THE LIGHT BURNS BLUE

by Silva Semerciyan

First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 25 February 2023

CAST

principal roles in alphabetical order

Flossie
Royal Correspondent
Lillian
Madame Blavatsky
Mr Tindall
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
Villager
Frances
Correspondent
Mrs Peabody
Mary Wood
Janet
Correspondent
Mrs Bell
Mr Gage
Correspondent
Arthur Wright
Correspondent
Londoner
Mr Catling

Alexandra Kern
Bethany Mountford
Cerys Sandford
Danae O'David
Daniel Hayes
Edward Gamazeliuc
Elina Ghai
Elissa Lomas
Ella Mitchell
Florence Moreno
Francesca Young
Georgia De Vitis
Georgia Rambridge
Hannah Goldsworthy
Isaac Beck
Isobel Spurling
James Duffy
Kanna Harazono
Katherine Diplock
Laszlo Keech

Thomas
Fairy Girl
Mags
Theosophist
Vivie
Agatha
Mrs Cooper
Polly Wright
London Mother
London Man
Correspondent
Rev Cooper
Winifred
German Correspondent
Mr Drake
London Girl
Mr Brown
Mr Wydale
Elsie
Betsy's Mum
Betsy

Laurence Maughan
Leah Lyons
Lila S. Van Grutten-Aichour
Lottie McManus
Madeleine Cottrell Kirby
Marianne Deutsch-Bruce
Megan Francis
Millie Pemberton
Milly Tamang
Oscar Mianowski
Romy Kumar
Rory Andrews
Sadie Noel
Sara Pavicevic
Sean Keogh-Smith
Sienna Barry
Telmo Requena Romero
Tom Wooley
Wren James
Yasmin Sladen
Zoe Kemp

All other roles played by members of the cast.

The play lasts approximately 1 hour and 50 minutes including a 20-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	Jason L. Welch
Movement Director	Bryony Williams
Set Designer	Alex Marker
Assistant Set Designer	Katarzyna Kryńska
Costume Designers	Sue Peckitt, Anne Gilmour
Lighting Designer	John Green
Sound Designer/Operator	CJ
Stage Manager	Frances Sherwin
Deputy Stage Managers	Rosefinch Carr, Ella Jackson
Assistant Stage Manager	Sally Parker
Properties	Lizzie Turner
Sketch Artist	Vicky Saumarez
Wardrobe	Jane Arnold-Forster, Jane Higginson, Helen Karasiewicz, Dosia Konopacka, Shaan Latif-Shaikh
Hair and Make-Up	Delamar Academy
Projections	Terry Mummery
Lighting Operator	Carole Swan
Lighting Riggers	Alasdair Graebner, Terry Mummery, Martin Walton, Andrew Whadcoat
Set Construction / Get In	Bernie Brady, Michael Chislett, Riana Howarth, Cecily Johnson, Ela Kemp, Nick Kemp, Karl Kern, Maria Kern, Monica Lomas, Derek Stoddart
Photo/Videographer	Jamie Gould
Publicity Photographer	Carla Evans
QYT Coordinator	Monica Lomas
Chaperones	Kay Dear, Philippa Egan, Shaan Latif-Shaikh, Jo Matthews

Thanks to: **all the parents and QYT teaching assistants who helped out with chaperoning, Questors Office, and FarmW5, 19 The Green, W5 (10% discount on presenting this programme during the run of the show)**

Biographies

Jason L. Welch – Director

Jason has been an acting member of The Questors since graduating from Student Group 69. He currently serves on the Board of Trustees and *The Light Burns Blue* is his Questors directorial debut. Jason has performed in *First Love is the Revolution*, *The Exonerated* and *The Effect* among others. Starting his career directing short films, events and online content after studying at the Northern film school, Beckett University, Leeds, Jason currently works as head of media studies at Brentside High School.

CJ – Sound Designer

Since joining The Questors in 2015, CJ has worked on the backstage and creative teams for several productions (*The Wonderful World of Dissocia*, *Arms and the Man*, *The Village Bike*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Country Wife*, *Scarborough*, *When the Rain Stops Falling*, *How to Spot an Alien* and *The Water's Edge*) and has also been seen on stage occasionally (*Dick Whittington & His Cat* and *Don't Dress for Dinner*).

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 *The Ealing Club*, *Dead Boy Cafe*, *Whipping It Up*, *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.

John Green – Lighting Designer

John has had a lifelong interest in the use of light to sculpt a space, set a mood and direct the eye, but only got involved in stage lighting comparatively recently. In his twelve years as a member of The Questors, he has been involved in various roles with the lighting of numerous shows. Recent shows as Lighting Designer include *Dead Boy Café*, *Love Play*, *How To Spot An Alien* and *Hairspray*.

Katarzyna Kryńska – Assistant Set Designer

Since graduating from painting and printmaking, Katarzyna has exhibited in galleries across England and Scotland including the McLellan and the Leadenhall Galleries. Now working and learning at The Questors, Katarzyna is blowing up the size of her works from canvas to walls.

Alex Marker – Set Designer

Alex joined the Youth Theatre in 1988, since when he has served in nearly every kind of theatre job. 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 *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *King Arthur and the Twelfth Knight*, *Hangmen* and *Snow White*. He also appeared as Merlin in the recent pantomime. www.alexmarker.com

Sue Peckitt – Costume Designer

Sue is a long-time member of the wardrobe team. She usually works on the panto, oh yes she does, but is enjoying the challenge of creating vintage costumes for this show.

Bryony Williams – Movement Director

Bryony has extensive training and experience in both Western and Eastern movement practices. She is currently working at The Guildhall School of Music and Drama with Singing and Music Therapy Students. She has worked at University of West London with Music Theatre Students and also at The Royal Academy of Music and The Questors Theatre.

Rosefinch Carr – Deputy Stage Manager

The Light Burns Blue is Finch's stage management debut, but they have previously acted in many Questors productions. They most recently played Ivor Sideways in *King Arthur and the Twelfth Knight*.

Ella Jackson – Deputy Stage Manager

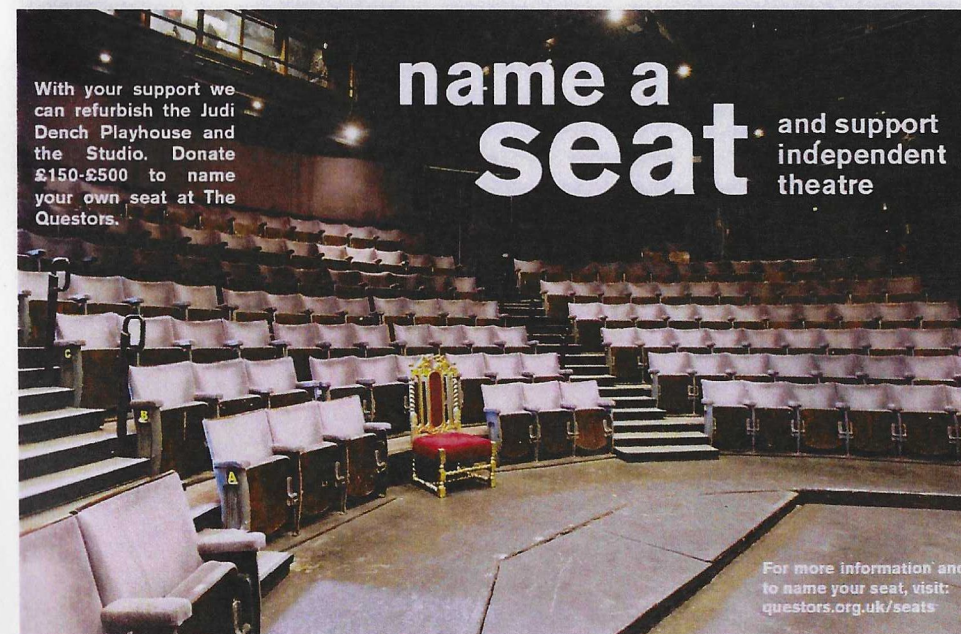
After recently making her Questors pantomime debut in the break-out role of 'Nigel', Ella has decided to retire back to the shadows of stage management. Young at heart, she has been enjoying working with the children of The Questors, as well as our lovely cast.

Frances Sherwin – Stage Manager

Since joining The Questors, Frances has worked backstage both as an ASM and DSM. As an acting member she has appeared in various productions including Mrs Bouncer in *Box and Cox*, Fairy Godmother in *Cinderella* and Lady Margaret Drayton in the 2022 Christmas pantomime, *King Arthur and the Twelfth Knight*.

Lizzie Turner – Properties

Lizzie was previously the Technical Co-Ordinator in the Questors Office and is currently a Teaching Assistant with QYT. As well as relishing any opportunity to support QYT members in their creativity, Lizzie has the useful talents of owning a bunch of weird stuff and not being afraid of the creepy Victorian cellar in which the props are kept.



Next at The Questors

A DOLL'S HOUSE

by **Tanika Gupta**
after **Henrik Ibsen**
24 February – 4 March 2023
The Studio

India. 1879. Can a wife break free from the shackles of societal expectations? This striking reimagining of Ibsen's classic play is set in Calcutta during British colonialist rule. Niru, a Bengali woman, is married to English bureaucrat Tom. To him, she is a prize possession, a doting wife whose purpose is to serve. But when she takes agency of her own, how will he respond? This razor-sharp contemporary adaptation confronts complex race relations through the lens of colonialism.

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.