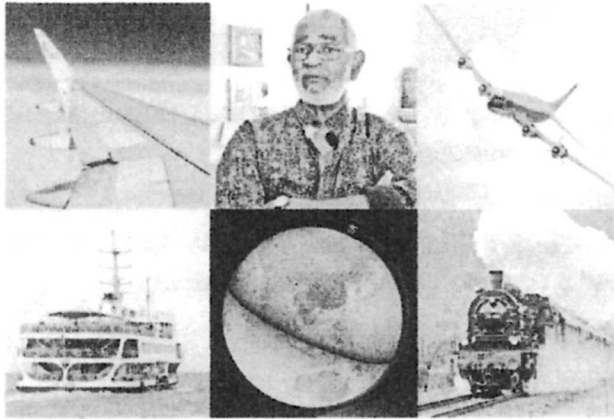


# A QExtra Event in the Judi Dench Playhouse

Monday 5 June 2023 at 7:45pm



The PlayBack team at The Questors Theatre presents



## HOME IS ... what? where? who?

A compilation of memories shared with us by local people who left the land of their birth and made the UK their new home.

This evening's programme showcases how collected memories can be shared in different ways.

- **Recreations of individual stories**
  - Eva's story
  - Parvinder's story
  - Wyllie's story
- **HOME IS ... a short film made by Questors videographers, featuring Questors members who tell their own stories of how they came to regard our theatre as an integral part of their new "home"**
- **Interval (20 minutes)**
- **The HOME IS ... Reminiscence Roadshow in which strands of this material are interwoven with additional memories collected by PlayBack's interviewers**

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### THE COMPANY

*Performers:* Herschel Pant ♦ Rachana Reddy ♦ Maggie Turner ♦ Jason Lynch Welch

*Devised, directed and presented by:* Jane Dewey and Tony Chapman

James Connor: Sound    Terry Mummery: Projections    Tim Hayward: Lighting  
Peter Gould and Gavin Jones: Videography and Editing of HOME IS ... the film

*Thanks this evening go to:* Russell Fleet, Harriet Parsonage, Philippa Egan, Estelle Longmore, the production team of *Arcadia*, the Front of House team, John Dobson (display materials), Peter Gould (marketing) and David Erdos (QExtra programming).

**Very special thanks go to:**

- \*All the contributors who gave their memories
- \*The community organisations which support the project
- \*The PlayBack interviewers and transcribers

**IN FOND MEMORY OF WYLLIE LONGMORE AND BERND GAUWEILER**

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**Is PlayBack The Questors' "Best Kept Secret"?** Some members have said so, having heard of it but not really knowing any details. And yet, others have been involved in its work over its nearly three decades (three? ... oh my goodness!) of existence. It is high time this community wing of our theatre came out of the shadows. This evening's showcase hopes to do just that. But first a few PlayBack facts:

#### **IN THE BEGINNING**

- ❖ A group of Questors members were trained by a professional Reminiscence Theatre group.
- ❖ After 18 months of research, interviewing, workshops and writing, a full production, *Soapsud Island*, was staged, playing in our theatre, touring local venues and also venues in Lothian after a run at the Edinburgh Festival.

#### **SUBSEQUENT PRODUCTIONS**

- ❖ Over the years, 6 further fully-staged productions have included *Kind Hearts and Comedies* (memories of Ealing Studios), *The Rhythm of the Road* (cycling adventures), *There'll Always be a Brentford* (the passions of football fans) and, the most recent, *A Little Patch of Ground* (highs and lows on allotments).

#### **THE ROADSHOWS**

- ❖ After some years, PlayBack had collected a significant amount of material which was then archived at Gunnersbury Park Museum as a valuable addition to its local history collection. In partnership with Gunnersbury, an outreach project was set up to share the material with the community.
- ❖ Thus the Reminiscence Roadshows were born and have flourished ever since.
- ❖ Their format is for free script-in-hand presentations by Questors actors.
- ❖ There are now a dozen pieces in the repertoire.
- ❖ Roadshow venues range from community theatres to Care Home sitting rooms.
- ❖ Roadshow audiences come from U3As, Memory Cafés, History Societies, Age UK centres, Dementia support groups, The National Trust, Church Fellowships, Clubs for Blind People, Schools and many more.
- ❖ Bookings for 2023 currently stand at 16 - but there will be other requests to fit in!

#### **WHAT NEXT ?**

PlayBack's work is thriving but it is time for it to develop further, particularly online.

It is proud of its achievements so far but hopes new generations of Questors members will be excited by the potential of this form of verbatim theatre and move it on into the future.

***Thank you for coming to see this showcase. If you are interested in being involved in PlayBack we would be delighted to hear from you***

*Jane Dewey, Tony Chapman, Christine Garland, Anne Gilmour*

The "HOME IS ..." and "DOWN OUR HIGH STREET" videos are available on  
The Questors YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/questorstheatre>