

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.

The Questors Theatre
12 Mattock Lane, Ealing, W5 5BQ
Registered Charity No. 207516

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Theatre Office: 020 8567 0011
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 The Questors
THEATRE

THE HERD

By Rory Kinnear



The Studio

22-30 September 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 spot 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):

Monday – Saturday: 7:00 pm – 11:00 pm

Sunday lunchtime: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Grapevine Beer Festival – Thu 21 to Sat 23 September

See questors.org.uk/grapevine for more details.



The Herd

by Rory Kinnear

The Studio

22 – 30 September 2023

THE HERD

I first came across *The Herd* ten years ago when I saw the original production at the Bush Theatre. Rory Kinnear is widely known as the award-winning actor who wrote this play using his own experience of growing up with an absent (in his case deceased) father and a severely disabled sister. My favourite plays are plays about family relationships and the conflicts and dramas that emerge from those dynamics. For that reason *The Herd* was a play that immediately spoke to me and I'm delighted to have been asked to direct it.

The play introduces Carol whose husband Ian walked out on her 16 years ago leaving her with their 17-year-old daughter Claire and profoundly mentally and physically disabled 5-year-old son Andy. She has struggled to meet Andy's care needs on her own and is now relying on help from an underfunded care sector. The play begins as Carol and her daughter are preparing for a small family gathering to celebrate Andy's 21st birthday. They are waiting for Carol's elderly parents and Andy to arrive but the gathering is interrupted by some unexpected guests who put Carol's best laid plans into jeopardy. There are no heroes or villains in this play. These are ordinary people trying and struggling to cope with very human experiences. The characters sometimes engage in actions and words which may seem terrible to an audience but they are always steeped in the truth of these interactions. This is a play about a family in crisis but it is also a play about the complexities of human behaviour, love and forgiveness, or at least the possibility of it.

Andy is often talked about in the play but is never seen. He and his disability loom large and the difficulties of caring for his needs are always present. His family are clearly in an economic position to be able to afford him a comfortable life but this is not the case for a lot of disabled people and their families. Disabled people are among those who have been disproportionately affected by austerity and reforms to the welfare system and the inequalities experienced by them are well-documented. The independent think tank Resolution Foundation found that people with disabilities had an available amount to spend that was about 44% lower than that of other working-age adults, up to a third of adults in the lowest-income households having a disability, compared with fewer than a tenth of those in the richest homes. 60% of those who died from Covid-19 in the first year of the pandemic were disabled. The health inequalities that disabled

people already faced were made worse by the pandemic and a decade of austerity. People with learning disabilities were eight times more likely to die of Covid-19 than the general population.

The number of disabled peoples' organisations in England has also declined significantly in recent years as a result of government funding cuts, reducing their capacity to tackle the structural inequalities facing disabled people.

Source: www.resolutionfoundation.org

Rachel Griffiths, Director

Rory Kinnear

Rory Kinnear is well known as an Olivier Award winning actor of both stage and screen. His triumphs are too numerous to list, but he will be familiar to many for his role as Bill Tanner in the most recent run of *James Bond* films.

Rory was born in Hammersmith and schooled in East Sheen and Barnes. His father, of course, was the ever popular character actor and comedian, Roy Kinnear, and his mother, Carmel Cryan, may be remembered as Charlie Slater's love interest, Brenda Boyle, in *EastEnders* of old. Roy died when Rory was 10.

Rory's family also included two elder sisters: Kirsty and Karina. Karina was quadriplegic, had learning difficulties and required constant care. Sadly she died of Covid-19 at the age of 48 during the 2020 lockdown. Her funeral was held on the same day as a Downing Street garden party. Rory wrote very movingly about the experience in a *Guardian* article that can still be found online.



Rory Kinnear, sister Karina and son Rilev

The Herd is largely informed by Rory Kinnear's family experience.

THE HERD

by Rory Kinnear

First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 22 September 2023

CAST

in order of appearance

Carol	Carol Fullilove
Claire	Maya Markelle
Patricia	Anne Neville
Brian	Jim O'Connor
Mark	Rajeev Soni
Ian	Mark Oldknow

The play lasts approximately 1 hour and 40 minutes, and has no 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	Rachel Griffiths
Set Designer	Stephen Souchon
Costume Designer	Jenny Richardson
Lighting Designer	Andrew Whadcoat
Sound Designer	Russell Fleet
Stage Manager	Harriet Parsonage
Deputy Stage Manager	Chris Benson
Prompters	Evan Rule, Sarah Vass
Lighting/Sound Operator	Sue Lowndes
Lighting Rigger	Collette Green
Construction/Get-In Assistance	Jane Arnold-Forster, Simon Higginson, Andy Kotowicz, Derek Stoddart
Photographer	Robert Vass
Videographer	Robert Vass
Thanks to	Peter Gould, Paul Souchon

Biographies

Carol Fullilove – Carol

Carol joined The Questors as an acting member in 2000. Her productions include *Tongues of Fire*, *The Birthday Party*, *A Memory of Water*, *Playhouse Creatures*, *Look Back in Anger*, *A View from the Bridge*, *The Village Bike*, *The Effect*, *King Charles III*, *Little Dorrit* and *Dead Boy Café*.

Maya Markelle – Claire

Maya graduated from Student Group 71 in 2018. Since then she has been in three productions at The Questors: *Multitudes*, *Nell Gwynn* and *First Love is the Revolution*. Maya has also completed filming for *Sweetbrother*, a feature film due for release in 2024.

Anne Neville – Patricia

Anne has acted at The Questors since 1983. Parts include Miss Bourne in *The Ghost Train*, Lady Catherine in *Pride and Prejudice*, Mrs Ardsley in *For Services Rendered*, Ansty in *No Fairy Tale*, Madam Armfeld in *A Little Night Music*, Rebecca Nurse in *The Crucible*, Grace Winslow in *The Winslow Boy*, Miss Havisham in *Great Expectations*, Miss Shepherd in *The Lady in the Van*, Winnie in *Happy Days*, Maggie in *Dancing at Lughnasa*, Ranyevskaya in *The Cherry Orchard*, Mrs Alving in *Ghosts*, Mother Courage, and Amanda Wingfield in *The Glass Menagerie*.

Jim O'Connor – Brian

The Herd marks Jim's return to the stage since his last, pre-Covid, role in *Brassed Off*. An acting member since 1992, he's appeared in a variety of productions including *The Rose Tattoo*, *An Enemy of the People*, *The Madness of George III* and *Luca's Spoon*. Jim is an 'occasional writer' having had one play broadcast and several others produced at The Questors where he was commissioned to write the reminiscence play *Rhythm of the Road* and where he directed his prize-winning play *A Touch of Rose Madder*.

Mark Oldknow – Ian

After graduating from LAMDA, Mark worked in regional rep and small to mid-scale touring. His repertoire includes Strang in *Equus*, The Mad Hatter, Lear, Macbeth, several panto dames, Henry Higgins, Pozzo in *Waiting for Godot*, Dromio and Sweeney Todd. He has directed dozens of shows and has designed sets and sound. He now works at an acute NHS Trust.

Rajeev Soni – Mark

Rajeev is an actor, voice-over artist and writer trained at the Actors Studio, based at Pinewood Studios. He has studied everything from Shakespeare First Folio Technique, improv, clowning, voice acting to advanced screen acting. He recently acted in a short film entitled *Turmeric and Honey* and last year appeared in *Cyrano de Bergerac* at Putney Arts. Rajeev has a passion for theatre and *The Herd* will be his fourth production at The Questors, having previously acted in *Rafta Rafta*, *Multitudes* and *India Gate* which went on a UK tour to the Crescent Theatre in Birmingham and the Nehru Centre in Mayfair, London.

Rachel Griffiths – Director

Rachel joined The Questors in 2003 and trained as an actor with Student Group 61 where she performed various roles in *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Other parts include Magdalena in *The House of Bernarda Alba*, Elizabeth Curle in *Mary Stuart*, Belinda in *Season's Greetings*, Viv in *Jumpers for Goalposts*, Miss Hemsley/Lobelia in *Albert Make Us Laugh*, Pip in *Things I Know To Be True* and Juliet/The Nun in *Measure for Measure*. She most recently directed *Maryland* by Lucy Kirkwood.

Russell Fleet – Sound Designer

Russell trained as an actor in the 1990s and joined The Questors in 2006. He has been involved in over 50 productions as an actor, sound designer, stage manager and director. His most recent sound designs were for the Caryl Churchill double bill and *The Gut Girls*.

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 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.

Stephen Souchon – Set Designer

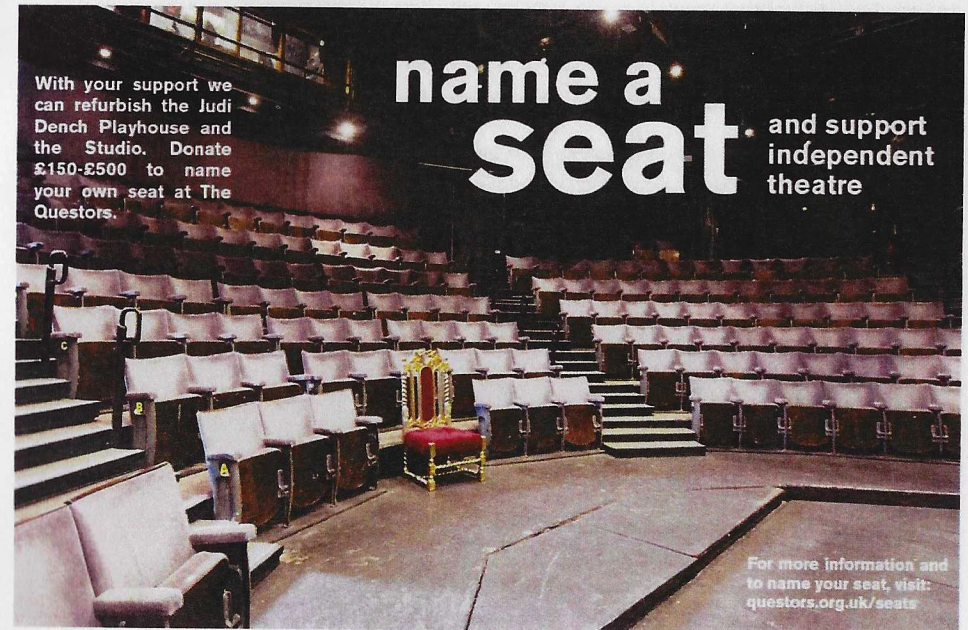
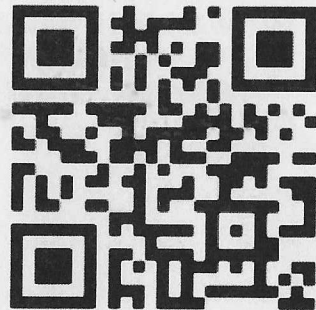
Stephen joined The Questors in 2016 and has been actively involved in building sets for a range of productions including *Don't Dress for Dinner*, *The Ladykillers*, *The Country Wife*, *Sleepers in the Field* and *George Orwell's 1984*. Stephen has designed and built sets for *Season's Greetings*, *Rosmersholm*, *Things I Know To Be True* and *The Browning Version*.

Andrew Whadcoat – Lighting Designer

Recent lighting designs include *Not About Heroes*, *The Dog & the Scarf*, *The Ghost Train*, *Peregrine Proteus*, *Little Dorrit*, the Caryl Churchill double bill, *A Doll's House* and *Murder on the Nile*. Andrew has also designed for AppEaling Theatre, Idle Discourse, Orange Moon and PlayGC Theatre at The Questors and other venues.

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

NEVILLE'S ISLAND

SHEILA'S ISLAND

by Tim Firth

3 – 14 October 2023

The Judi Dench Playhouse

Four middle managers find themselves marooned in the middle of a lake, as their team-building weekend turns into a struggle for survival. But it's office politics, not Nature, that's red in tooth and claw. The original all-male play is running concurrently with the newer all-female version. See both hilarious productions from Tim Firth, the writer of *Calendar Girls*, plus get 20% off when you buy tickets for both productions at the same time!

DRAGON'S TEETH

by Shirland Quin

20 – 28 October 2023

The Studio

Receiving its UK premier at The Questors in 1933, *Dragon's Teeth* was the first production at our Mattock Lane site. This season, we're bringing back to the stage this lost classic of experimental theatre just 90 years after its original production.

Packed with prescient predictions about AI and drone warfare, *Dragon's Teeth* explores one man's doubts about the future and the ethics of his creations.