

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

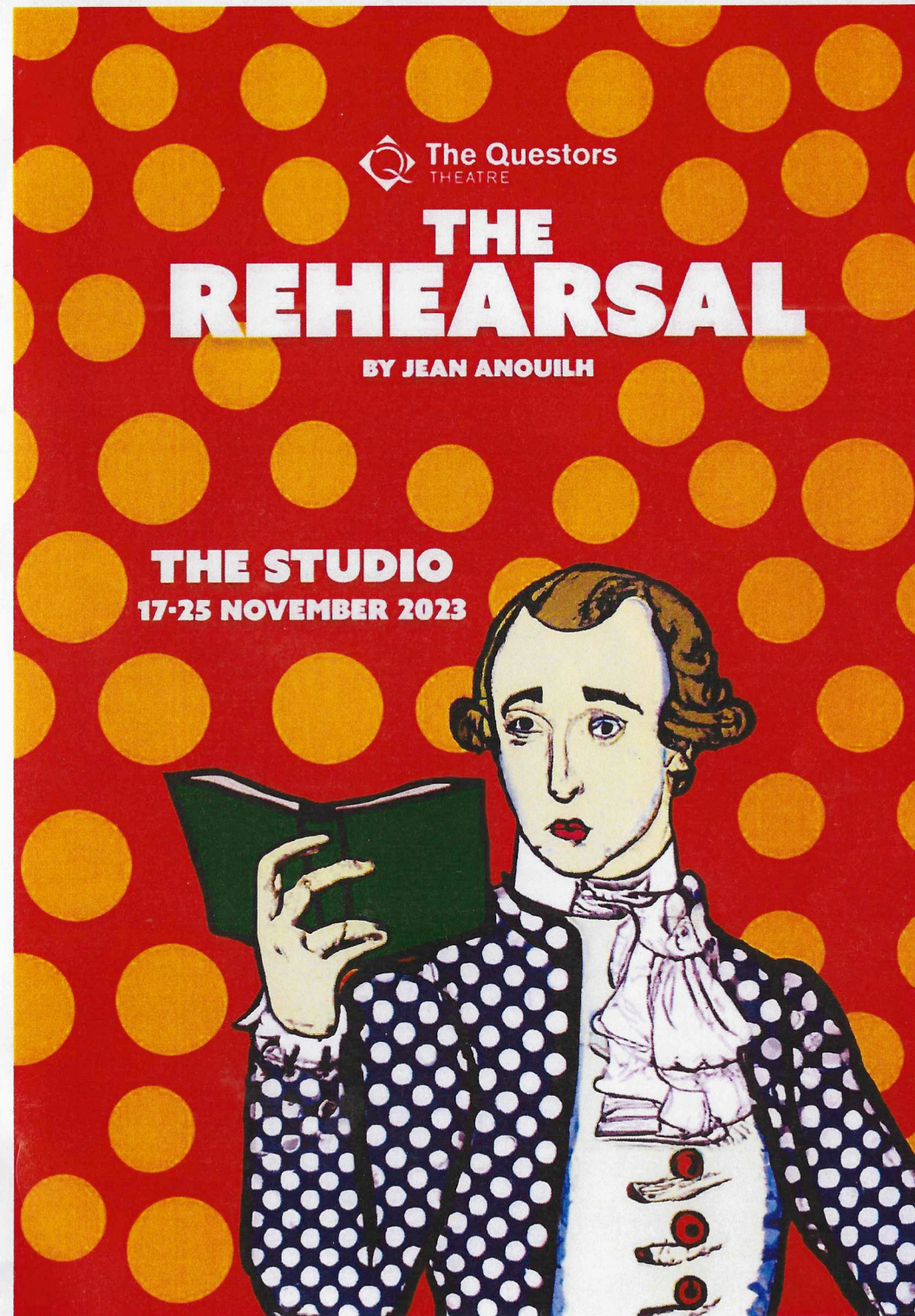
A Season Pass is also available to both members (the combined cost is equivalent to that of the old-style membership) and non-members, which gives the following benefits:

- ✓ 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

Programme: Nigel Bamford
Theatre Office: 020 8567 0011
Box Office: 020 8567 5184
Email: enquiries@questors.org.uk



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 for more details.



THE REHEARSAL

by Jean Anouilh

translated by Pamela Hansford Johnson and Kitty Black

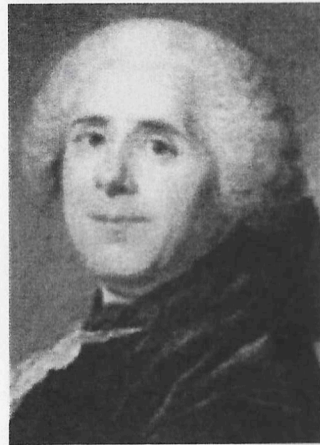
The Studio

17 – 25 November 2023

THE REHEARSAL



Jean Marie Lucien Pierre
ANOUILH
1910-1987



Pierre Carlet de Chamblain
de MARIVAUX
1688-1763

Jean Anouilh was born in Bordeaux in 1910. *The Rehearsal*, subtitled *L'amour puni*, was first performed in 1950. The play is a smart comedy about a group of rich aristocrats embroiled in a life of sexual indulgence and infidelity.

The setting is a château owned by an impoverished nobleman named 'The Count', nicknamed Tiger. The château and the Count's lifestyle however are financed by his wife 'The Countess', Eliane. He is the master, she the money. He thinks he lives in a patriarchy. She knows they live in a matriarchy. Each of them has a lover – for him it's Hortensia, for her it's Villebosse. They are tolerant of each other's amours – contented, even – so long as the status quo is maintained. There can be no jealousy here.

It could be said that French sexual mores are set on a different course from those which are generally found more acceptable to British society. This is amply demonstrated by the Countess's and Count's laissez-faire attitudes to the boundaries within their marriage. Love, lust, infatuation become confused and blurred in meaning with all the characters defining their own interpretations. Villebosse and Hortensia help maintain the status quo. They understand their place within their respective adulterous relationships. Hero, the Count's oldest friend, embodies a confused vision of love ranging from the idealistic to the hedonistic. Even Monsieur Damiens has his views, proposing an honourable and, as he sees it, correct marriage of convenience.

Into this unholy mélange is thrust young Lucile with her pure ideas of romantic love. The Count is immediately attracted to her. Love – or their individual interpretations of love – comes into play and upsets the status quo. Add to this mix the fact that Lucile is of a different, unacceptable social standing and that she, poor girl, also has to deal with the attentions of Hero. The battlelines are drawn.

There are distinct parallels between this situation and the themes of the play which is being rehearsed as part of the country house weekend party: *La Double Inconstance* by Pierre de Marivaux, an 18th century French playwright of some note. In some ways the two plays mirror each other as would any play where the theme is forbidden love.

Does love triumph?

Was it ever present?

Is Hero aptly named?

That is for you to decide.

We hope you will enjoy reflecting on the infinity mirror of *The Rehearsal* which has been rehearsed whilst also rehearsing *The Rehearsal* version of a rehearsal of the Marivaux. If you follow me.

John Turner, Director

Music

Pre-Show & Introduction: Excerpts from *String Sonatas and Concertos* by Arcangelo Corelli (1653-1713)

Underscore: *Harpichord Pieces* by Francois Couperin (1668-1733)
adapted for piano

Incidental: *Les couleurs de l'amour* by Jean Renard

Closing song: *Tout le monde* by Carla Bruni:

Tout le monde est une drôle de
personne
Et tout le monde a l'âme emmêlée
Tout le monde a de l'enfance qui
ronronne
Au fond d'une poche oubliée
Tout le monde a des restes de rêves
Et des coins de vie dévastés
Tout le monde a cherché quelque chose
un jour
Mais tout le monde ne l'a pas trouvé
Mais tout le monde ne l'a pas trouvé

Everyone is a little strange
And everyone has a tangled soul
Everyone has a bit of their childhood still
purring
At the bottom of a forgotten pocket
Everyone has remnants of dreams
And shattered corners in their life
Everyone has searched for something
sometime
But not everyone has found it
But not everyone has found it

THE REHEARSAL

by Jean Anouilh

First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 17 November 2023

CAST

in order of appearance

M Damiens	Andrew Hill
Countess (Eliane)	Tamara Gordon Laryea
Count (Tiger)	Bernard Gallant
Hortensia	Alexandra Upton
Hero	Paul James
Villebosse	Joshua Perry
Lucile	Emily Hawley

Act I Sc 1 The salon of the Château Ferbroques, France 1950

Act I Sc 2 The same, the following afternoon

Act II The same, afternoon, the following day

INTERVAL

Act III Sc 1 Lucile's attic bedroom, the same night

Act III Sc 2 The salon, the following morning

The play lasts approximately 2 hours and 30 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	John Turner
Set Designer	Bron Blake
Costume Designer	Sarah Andrews
Lighting Designer	Andrew Whadcoat
Sound Designer	James Connor
Stage Manager	Bernie Brady
Deputy Stage Manager	Tracy Wickens
Assistant Stage Managers	Ahmed Alharbi, Natalie Clarke, Nicola Littlewood,
Properties	Sue Collins
Prompters	Annie Harries, Carole Swan
Sound Support	Robyn Backhouse
Lighting Rigger	Alasdair Graebner
Graphic Design	Geoff Moore
Set Realisation	Roger Brace, Sue Collins
Get-In Assistants	Andy Kotowicz, Simon Higginson, Jon Webster
Photo/Videographer	Evelina Plonytè
Thanks to	Jane Higginson, Helen Karasiewicz, Maggie Turner, Kall Kwik (Chiswick)

And special thanks to **Paul Collins**, who chose this play,
for his initial help and guidance

Biographies

Bernard Gallant – Count (Tiger)

Bernard is an Engineering and Business School graduate and worked in Datacentre Infrastructure and Cyber Security before packing his corporate bags to devote his life to the arts. He graduated from Drama Studio London in the summer of 2021 and since has mostly played small roles for the screen. This is his first Questors production.

Emily Hawley – Lucile

Emily was a member of Student Group 75 where she played Annie, Emily and Eady in *The Gut Girls*, and then Frau Fischer in *On the Razzle*. She is a skilled barista and loves to write scripts, especially fantasy, comedy and satire.

Andrew Hill – M Damiens

Andrew trained as an actor in the 1970s and worked in the business on and off for many years before becoming a civil servant. *The Rehearsal* is his tenth Questors production since joining in 2007. Others range from Greek Tragedy to *Brassed Off* and Harold Pinter to *Hangmen*.

Paul James – Hero

Paul, originally from Gateshead, is an Ealing resident whose previous Questors appearances include *The Water's Edge*, *Rosmersholm* and *A Little Night Music*. Paul is a musical theatre lyricist and book writer who studied with Stephen Sondheim at Oxford. He has had several award-winning shows performed across the UK and off-Broadway including *The Boy Who Fell into a Book* directed by Alan Ayckbourn in Scarborough. For more information, visit jamesandmasonsongs.co.uk.

Tamara Gordon Laryea – Countess (Eliane)

Tamara first joined The Questors in 2001 as part of the Youth Theatre and later joined Student Group 65. Following her degree in Drama with English, she went on to train professionally at Michael Howard Studios New York. On her return to England, she became a Questors Acting member and appeared in *Don't Dress For Dinner* and later, *Apologia*. Tamara has recently co-written her first short film and is a current Trustee on The Questors Board.

Joshua Perry – Villebosse

Josh has been a member of The Questors since 2017. He went on to graduate with Student Group 72, with appearances in *Future Conditional* and *Charley's Aunt*. Other Questors credits include *Days of Significance*, *Bull*, *Dear Brutus*, *Loveplay*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *False Widow* and *On the Razzle*. He has also been present in the occasional QExtra.

Alexandra Upton – Hortensia

Alexandra is thrilled to be returning to The Questors, having last appeared as Thomasina Coverly in *Arcadia* and as Kay Mostyn in *Murder on the Nile*. Previous credits include Pamela/Annabella in *The 39 Steps*, Julia in *1984*, Helena and Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Olivia in *Twelfth Night*, and Mary Warren in *The Crucible*. She has also sung The Queen of the Night in *The Magic Flute*, and Mabel in *The Pirates of Penance* at the Edinburgh Fringe.

John Turner – Director

John has been a member since 1959, starting in the Young Questors, then Student Group 16 – under Alfred Emmet. Subsequently, he ran the youth group for four years, was later New Members' Secretary and served on the Committee of Management (the precursor to the Board of Trustees). John has appeared in over 100 productions and directed 14 plays. He works (very occasionally) as a professional actor.

Sarah Andrews – Costume Designer

Sarah joined The Questors in 1977 as a member of Student Group 32 and has since appeared in many plays. In addition to acting, she has designed and dressed a countless number of productions, most recently *The Water's Edge*, *Consent*, *India Gate*, the Caryl Churchill double bill, *The Gut Girls* and *On the Razzle*. Sarah also enjoys being a Front of House Manager and being part of the Reminiscence Roadshow team.

Bron Blake – Set Designer

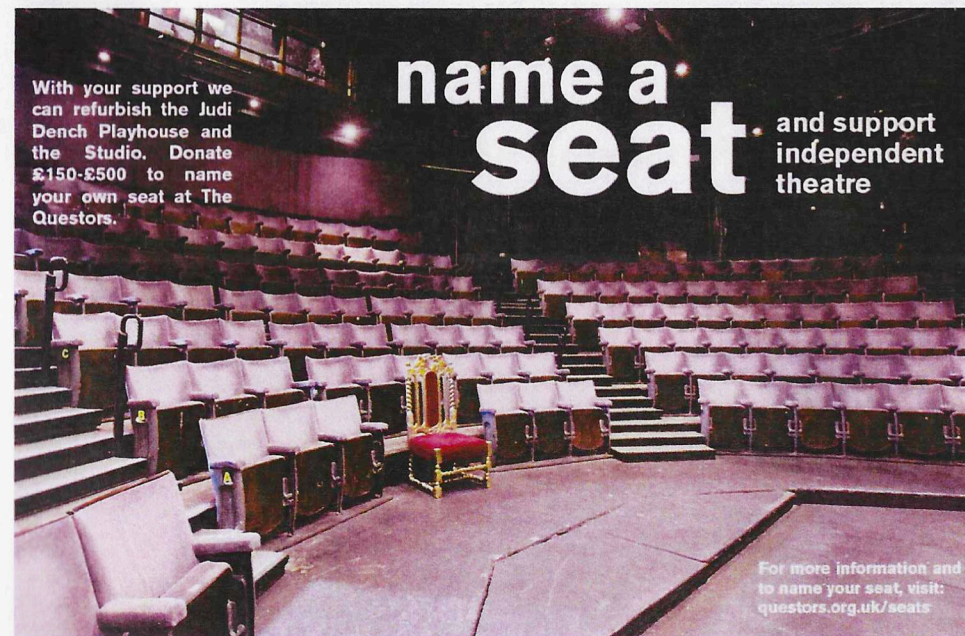
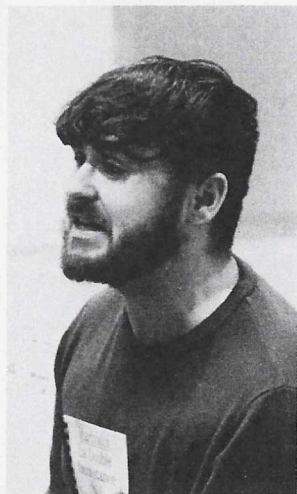
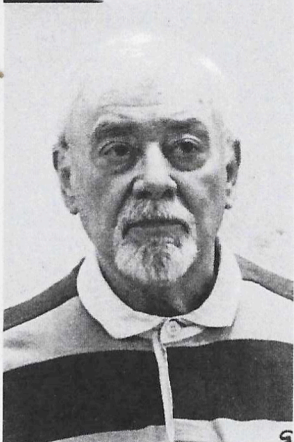
An active member since the early 1970s, Bron has been doing set design and scenic art since 2004. Productions include *Uncle Vanya*, *The Master Builder*, *The Village Bike*, *Twelfth Night*, *Measure for Measure*, *Sweet Charity*, *Larkin with Women*, *Endgame*, *Di and Viv and Rose*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *God of Carnage*, *The Ghost Train*, *Dead Boy Café*, *Peregrine Proteus*, *A Doll's House* and *Arcadia*.

James Connor – Sound Designer

With a background in live music and event engineering, James has worked on full productions at The Questors including *The Children*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Good Times Together with the Everly Brothers*, *Dead Boy Café*, *The Ealing Club*, *Bull & Contractions* and *Whipping It Up*. He regularly supports QExtra and other special events, and during lockdown worked on audio dramas including *Radio Refuge*, *The Intruder* and *Persons Unknown*.

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*, *Murder on the Nile*, *The Herd* and *Dragon's Teeth*. Andrew has also designed for AppEaling Theatre, Idle Discourse, Orange Moon and PlayGC Theatre at The Questors and other venues.



With your support we can refurbish the Judi Dench Playhouse and the Studio. Donate £150-£500 to name your own seat at The Questors.

name a seat and support independent theatre

For more information and to name your seat, visit: questors.org.uk/seats

Next at The Questors

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.

THE WHITE CARNATION
by R.C. Sherriff
15 – 30 December 2023

The Studio
A ghostly Christmas story. Christmas Eve 1944. A gust of wind leaves John Greenwood stranded outside his family home. But is he in this world or the next?
The White Carnation is a warm, humorous and touching ghost story in the tradition of Ealing comedy classics. Written by R.C. Sherriff, author of iconic films such as *Goodbye, Mr Chips* and *The Dam Busters*, it's the perfect Christmas treat.