


THE JUDI DENCH PLAYHOUSE

8-31 DECEMBER 2023

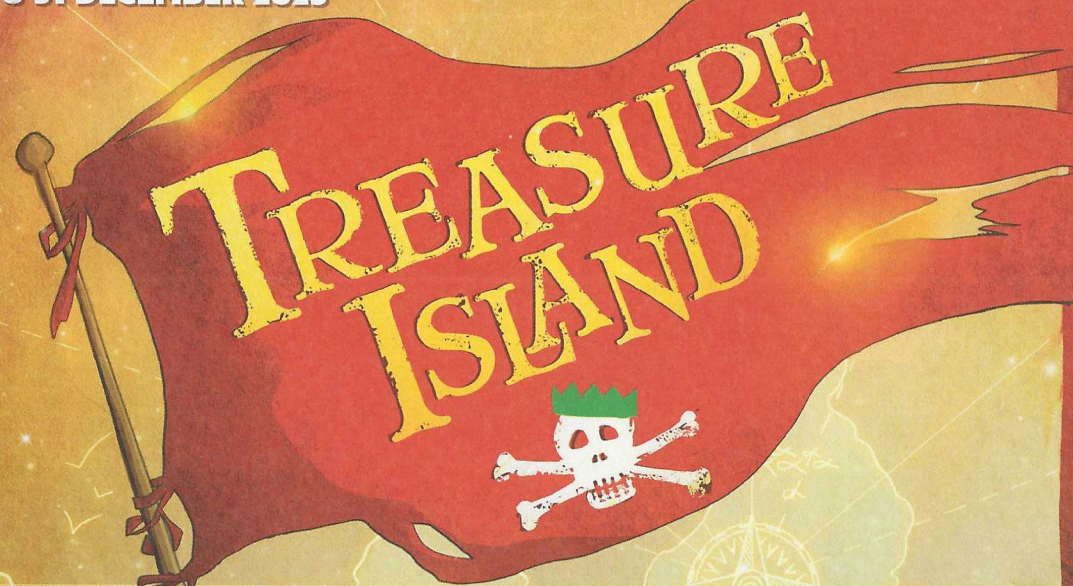
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 The Questors  
THEATRE

# NAME A SEAT

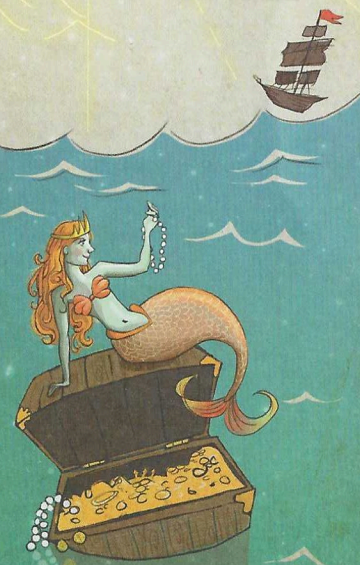
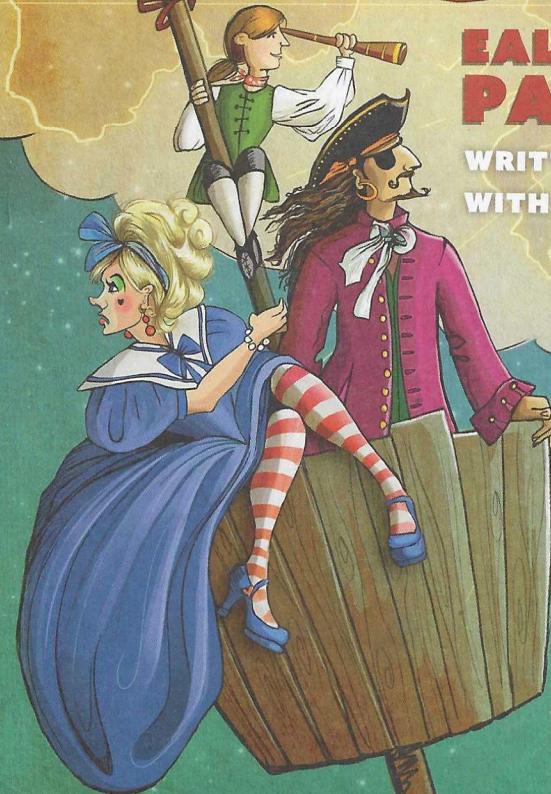
**AND SUPPORT EALING'S ONLY THEATRE.**

Write your name into the history books of our theatre by sponsoring one of the brand new seats in our iconic Judi Dench Playhouse.



## EALING'S ANNUAL PANTOMIME

WRITTEN BY JAMES RUSHBROOKE  
WITH LYRICS BY HELEN COOPER



For more information, visit: [questors.org.uk/seats](http://questors.org.uk/seats)

# START YOUR ADVENTURE

WITH OUR ALL NEW SEASON PASS



## With our all new Season Pass, you get:

- Up to 50% off 1 adult ticket per show (or 2 adult tickets for a Joint Season Pass)\*
- £2 off all additional adult tickets
- Up to 50% discount on FOUR tickets for children under 18

## Price per year

**Single:** £45

**Concession\*:** £20

**Joint:** £90

*\* Season Pass discounts do not apply to our annual pantomime. Season Pass concession rates apply to under-30s and recipients of state benefits.*



# TREASURE ISLAND

## A Questors Production

Written by James Rushbrooke with lyrics by Helen Cooper.

## The Judi Dench Playhouse

8-31 December 2023

The performance lasts about 2hrs and 30mins which includes a 20min interval.

# WELCOME TO TREASURE ISLAND

Ealing's annual pantomime returns – and we are so pleased that you have decided to spend some time with us this Christmas. As one of The Borough of Ealing's major cultural venues (and one of the largest community theatres in Europe) we love welcoming our audiences – whether you've attended many times before, or are seeing your first performance at The Questors.

The past year has seen some big changes – we have had a complete refurbishment of the Dame Judi Dench Playhouse. You'll be able to see the new seats, new carpet, new handrails and the painting done in front of house and inside the auditorium. What is less obvious is the much needed refurbishment of the stage area to provide a new floor on which to stage our shows.

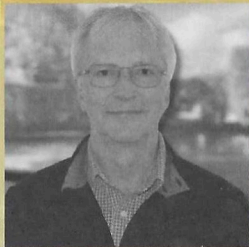
We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to our ongoing 'Name a Seat' campaign – you'll see many of the seats bear an inscription from a supporter of 'Name a Seat'. We would also like to thank everyone who helped out with the refurbishment over the summer.

Looking ahead to 2024, we have performances, workshops, classes and other events happening throughout the year at The Questors, providing opportunities for everyone from age five upwards – so do sign up to our mailing list at [questors.org.uk](http://questors.org.uk).

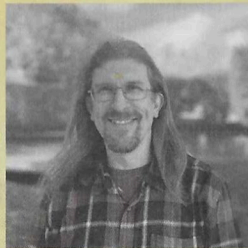
Wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of us here at The Questors Theatre



**Michael Eppy**  
Executive Director

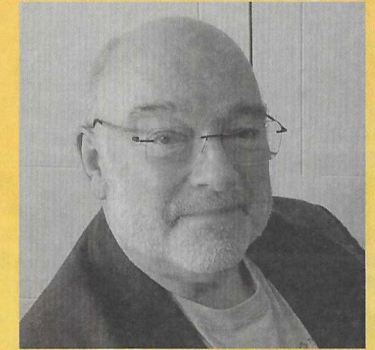


**Doug King**  
Chair of the  
Board of Trustees



**Alex Marker**  
Artistic Director

# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



## Tradition of pantomime

Pantomime has a long and rich historical tradition in the UK and remains popular to this day as a theatrical offering. I saw my first panto at five years old when I was taken to *Old King Cole*, starring Charlie Drake, at The London Palladium. It got me hooked on theatre and pantomime is something I still love.

## What makes pantomime so special?

Apart from being enormous fun it is something the whole family can enjoy. There are special moments for children, familiar songs, spectacle, and discreet jokes for the adults! Pantomimes are also a way of bringing the wider community together. Just take a look at the audience here with you today and you will appreciate the mixture of families and friends from all over Ealing and West London. It is a community event just like a carnival or football match, only this time sprinkled with the magic of theatre.

## Questors members

The Questors pantomime is our biggest show of the year and means a lot to our members. Our acting members work extraordinarily hard and relish the chance to let their hair down on stage. The same goes for our brilliant backstage teams who love a challenge and without whom we would not have a show. It also gives Questors Youth Theatre students a valuable opportunity to participate in a big show alongside adult actors.

## Treasure Island

*Treasure Island* is the second Questors pantomime written by James Rushbrooke with lyrics by Helen Cooper. It has been fabulous working with them and I hope you agree that between us we have modernised the pantomime genre a little without losing the important traditions. The jokes come thick and fast so listen carefully!

Thank you again for supporting us today. Season's greetings to you all and I hope you book for another Questors production soon. You will be very welcome.  
**Howard Shepherdson, Director**

# THE HISTORY OF PANTOMIME

## Early form

The renowned Monty Python team often posed the question of 'What did the Romans ever do for us?' One little known part of their inheritance was an early form of pantomime where a dancer and singer entertained audiences with stories based on myth and legends. This form of entertainment was popular throughout the Roman Empire because it did not rely on any one language. Story telling through dance had a lot of influence in Europe in the royal courts of the 16th and 17th centuries, but we can also trace the artistic line back to the Middle Ages with the English Mummers Plays which in turn are linked to the Medieval Mystery Plays. These contained the basic elements of pantomime as we know it such as coarse humour, stage fighting, good defeating evil and even gender swapping.

## 1843 onwards

From about 1843 onwards, spoken dialogue became more important along with a fairy tale element of performances. There was also an emphasis on puns and humorous word play which has lasted right up until today. It was the Victorians that really started to create the foundations of the modern pantomime as we know it today.

## A family event

Children were taken to the theatre at Christmas and would experience stunning costumes and huge casts with a pantomime lasting up to five hours.

Traditional stories such as *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, *Aladdin* and *Cinderella* made it to the pantomime stage.

Mother Goose, 2017 ▼



Cinderella, 2016 ▼



Today, pantomime is the bedrock of British theatre and the money earned from it funds the life of many regional theatres as both a commercial necessity and much loved community event. It is also a theatrical art form full of conventions both understood and demanded by audiences. There is always a dame: a man dressed as a woman playing a comic character and delighting audiences with a series of outrageous costumes. There is often a female actor playing the principal boy role such as Dick in *Dick Whittington*. There are comic clown characters who mess about and lots of audience interaction and shouting.

**“For many people it is their first introduction to live theatre and just like me they become hooked.”**

Of course there are songs and dancing to add to the fun and spectacle. People have always attacked pantomime and in the past complained that it was vulgar, threatened the downfall of Shakespeare and the death of serious theatre. However, many would argue the opposite because a pantomime done properly is no easy task. It is a huge challenge to the designers, technical crew, musicians and actors. The organised chaos on stage is the result of highly disciplined team work.

Long may our theatrical life follow the pantomime tradition!

**Howard Shepherdson**, Director



# CHRISTMAS AT THE QUESTORS

Before there was Panto there was Melodrama. It all began on a dark December night in 1956 in the old tin hut (the converted chapel that served as our theatre until our new theatre opened in 1964) when Michael Green (of *Coarse Acting* fame) gave us the original 1847 version of *Sweeney Todd*. This proved such a success that Questors members looked forward to a melodrama every Christmas for the next 13 years – a journey through villainy, murder, drunkenness, rescued maidens, long lost mothers and wicked uncles with improbable moustaches.

During the 1970s we took a break from this shadowy, but delightfully entertaining, world with a sparkling Christmas production of the hit musical *Salad Days* followed in successive years by thrillers and mysteries (*The Ghost Train*, *Dracula*, etc) and in 1977 a memorable production of *Toad of Toad Hall* - all leading up to our first attempt at a traditional Christmas pantomime, *Cinderella* in 1980.

◀ Toad of Toad Hall, 1977

## Experimenting

However, soon after *Cinderella* in 1980 we returned back to our usual 'family' shows, some notable mentions being – *Charley's Aunt* (1988), *On the Razzle* (1989), *Trelawny of the 'Wells'* (1993).

The new Millennium saw renewed artistic investment in our Christmas productions and a recognition of the energy and enthusiasm offered by our talented junior and youth drama groups, who quickly became an indispensable element of these shows.

## Musicals

We then produced a handful of Christmas musicals such as *Oliver!* (2005), *The Wizard of Oz* (2008) and *Annie* (2011) – and classic family shows like *The Lion*, *The Witch and The Wardrobe* (2004) and *Peter Pan* (2006) all of which brought our talented young actors to the fore.

◀ Annie, 2011

## Traditional pantomime

Our first traditional pantomime of the new millennium, *Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp* (by Richard Gallagher) took to the stage in 2013. This was followed in 2014 by the first of a series of hugely successful pantomimes written by ex-Questors, member Ben Crocker – *Jack and the Beanstalk* (2014), *Dick Whittington* (2015), *Cinderella* (2016), *Mother Goose* (2017), *Sleeping Beauty* (2018) and *Robin Hood* (2019). Particularly memorable among these were the two ponies hired to pull Cinderella's glittering carriage, providing as much entertainment off stage as on.

## 2020

Unfortunately, like everywhere else, Covid brought an abrupt halt to our Christmas festivities with the result that there was no Christmas show at all in 2020 and, at the very last minute, our 2021 production had to be postponed for three months, causing 2022 to be the only year in which we have done two pantos – *Snow White* in March and *King Arthur and The Twelfth Knight* in December. The latter was a brand new pantomime written especially for us by James Rushbrooke, who has also created this year's show, *Treasure Island*.

**John Dobson, Questors Archivist**

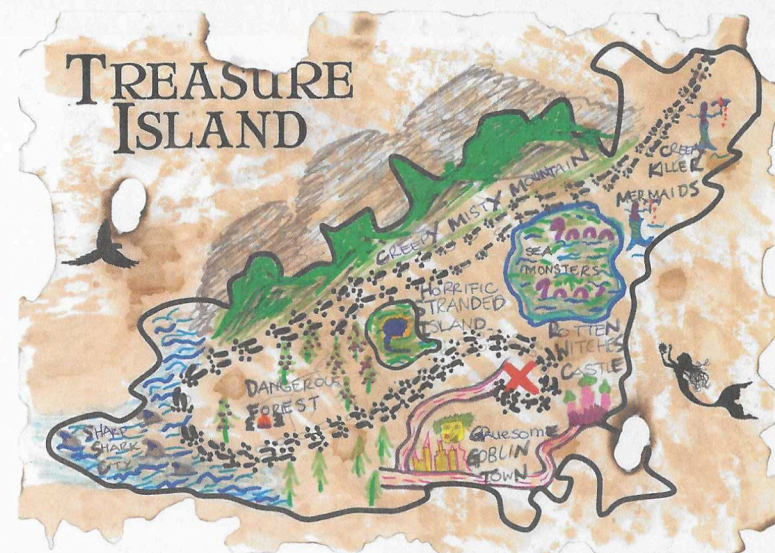


# MEET THE TEAM

## Creative Team

<b>Director</b>	Howard Shepherdson
<b>Writer</b>	James Rushbrooke
<b>Lyricist</b>	Helen Cooper
<b>Musical Director</b>	Dave Roberts
<b>Set Designer</b>	Alex Marker
<b>Costume Designer</b>	Carla Evans
<b>Choreographer/QYT Coordinator</b>	Michelle Spencer
<b>Lighting Designer</b>	Tim Edwards
<b>Sound Designer</b>	Dan Tigg

## QYT competition



To prepare for our journey to *Treasure Island* we asked our QYT members to design their very best treasure map. Well done to our winner: Keira from Year 5!

# TEAM TREASURE



# TEAM ISLAND



# PRINCIPLE CAST LIST

# YOUNG PEOPLE'S ENSEMBLE

Billy Bones	Gareth Bevan
Peggy Legge	James Goodden
Jim Hawkins	Edward Gamazeliuc <sup>T</sup> , Joel Watson <sup>I</sup>
Rosie Legge	Bethan Hunter <sup>T</sup> , Yahvi Joshi <sup>I</sup>
Holly Trelawney	Alex Kern <sup>T</sup> , Grace Connett <sup>I</sup>
Squire Trelawney	Tim Pemberton
Long John Silver	James Burgess
Isobel Hands	Lizzie Taylor
Bates	Robert Vass
Stains	Simon Higginson
The Pirate Gang	Rory Andrews <sup>T</sup> , Elina Ghal <sup>T</sup> , Nikill Ghal <sup>T</sup> , Francesca Young <sup>T</sup> , Niamh Brennan <sup>I</sup> , Finn McCabe <sup>I</sup> , Veronica Candelario <sup>I</sup>
Blind Pugh	Alex Marker
Ziggy Starfish (Davey Jones)	Jacob Chancellor
Ethel the Merman	Sarah Stoddart, Kerri Logan, Lucy Aley-Parker or Frances Sherwin
Benn Gunn	Alex Marker
Understudies	Niamh Brennan, Finn McCabe, Mark Oldknow, James Rushbrooke, Derek Stoddart and members of the cast

## Mermaids/Octopuses

Mia Tanaka Khanegi	Alicija Clairet
Rupert Kan	Carmen Nowicka Vidori
Shreya Mehta	Kaylin Hewawickrama
Simran Wilson-Mawer	Kyoko Allen
Zara Lock	Mila Emanuel

## Chorus

Archie Delasalle	Anushka Vyavaharkar
Ariya Jolly	Aoife Hughes
Arya Twydell	Evie Briana Wickramasinghe
Cecily McGinnity	Hannah Plumb
Cerys Sandford	Laszlo Keech
Hanna Richmond	Laurence Maughan
Isabella Matsunaga	Ligia Palluch Gibb
Lara Barker	Lottie Brown
Leo Kombou	Lottie Mcmanus
Lilia Folson	Ruby Whittingham
Matilda Higgo	Sean Keogh-Smith
Thomas Adarsh Wall	Shion Tiana Wickramasinghe
Tom Woolley	Tenaya Hewawickrama
Zoe Lock	Zachary Modev

T Appearing ▼  
Dec 8, 9, 10 (1:00), 14, 16, 17 (1:00), 21, 23 (2:00), 29, 30

I Appearing ▼  
Dec 9 (2:00), 10 (6:00), 15, 16 (2:00), 17 (6:00), 22, 23, 28, 30 (2:00),  
31 (3:00)

Please turn off all mobile phones and similar electronic devices. Photography and recording are not permitted during any of our performances, due to the rules associated with performing rights and the safeguarding of minors. Thank you.

TEAM TREASURE<sup>T</sup>

TEAM ISLAND<sup>I</sup>

# PRODUCTION TEAM

Production Manager	Jane Casey
Stage Manager	Lloyd Wallis
Deputy Stage Manager	Emma Hunt
Production Assistant	Robert Eagle
Assistant Stage Managers	Julian Casey, Jacob Dalton, Ella Jackson, Nicola Littlewood, Sandy Miller, Simon Rudkin, Kevin Sebastianpillai, Rani Singh
Design Assistant	Leah Kelly
Properties Assistant	Rod Marten
Costume Makers	Jane Arnold-Forster, Helen Cooper, Anne Gilmour, Jane Higginson, Karen Latimer, Claire Malyon, Charlotte McNamara-Lanton, Jenny Richardson, Elinor Taylor
Wardrobe Assistants	Helen Karasiewicz, Ellie Lefort-Gormally, Andrea Palluch
Hair and Makeup	Peter Wang, Alex Brewer, Poppy Gray, Sydnie Shaw, Masie Barnett, Failh Leal Garcia, Charlene Brar
Lighting Operators	Jane Arnold-Forster, Derek Stoddart, Carole Swan
Follow-Spot Operators	Robyn Backhouse, John Davey, Colette Green, Emmanuel Hardy, Sue Lowndes, Terry Mummery
Lighting Riggers	John Green, Terry Mummery, Lloyd Wallis, Michelle Weaver, Andrew Whadcoat
Set Constructors	Roger Brace, Robert Spencer, Andy Kotowicz, Dereck Stoddart, Doug King, Steven Souchon
Work Experience Constructors	Marcel De Oliveira, Michael Lyon, Rony Peacock, Bhim Sandhu
Set Painters	Ian Black, Monica Lomas, Ines McCahearty, Ella Jackson
Get-in Assistance	Maria Cieslak, Claudia Kees, Karl Kern, Paula Robinson, Jon Webster

Production Photographer

Carla Evans

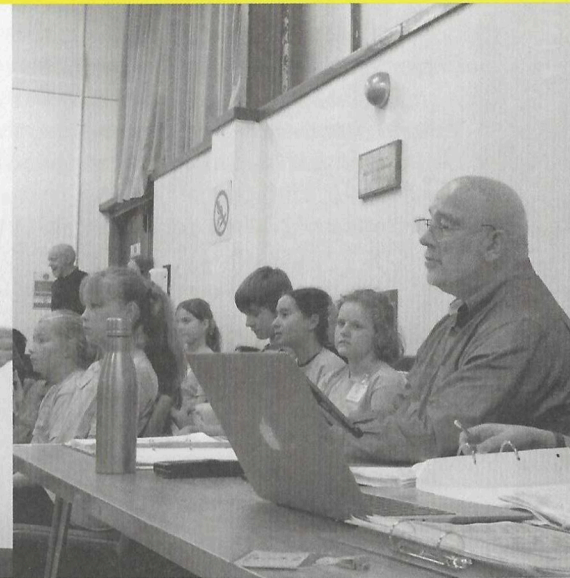
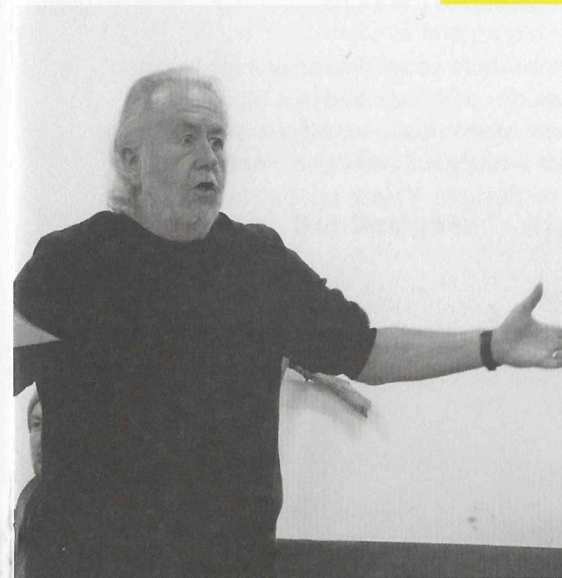
Promotional Videos

Harvey Shepherdson-Beck

Thanks to

Anthony Spencer, Markus Flanagan,  
Richard Gallagher, Ian Black, Melissa Joly,  
Sofiyah Yeshin, Draramay-Wong, Shaan  
Latif-Shaikh, all parents, chaperones, Level  
4 Diploma in Technical & Creative Practices  
at West Thames College and anyone else  
who assisted after the programme went to  
print!

## REHEARSAL PHOTOS





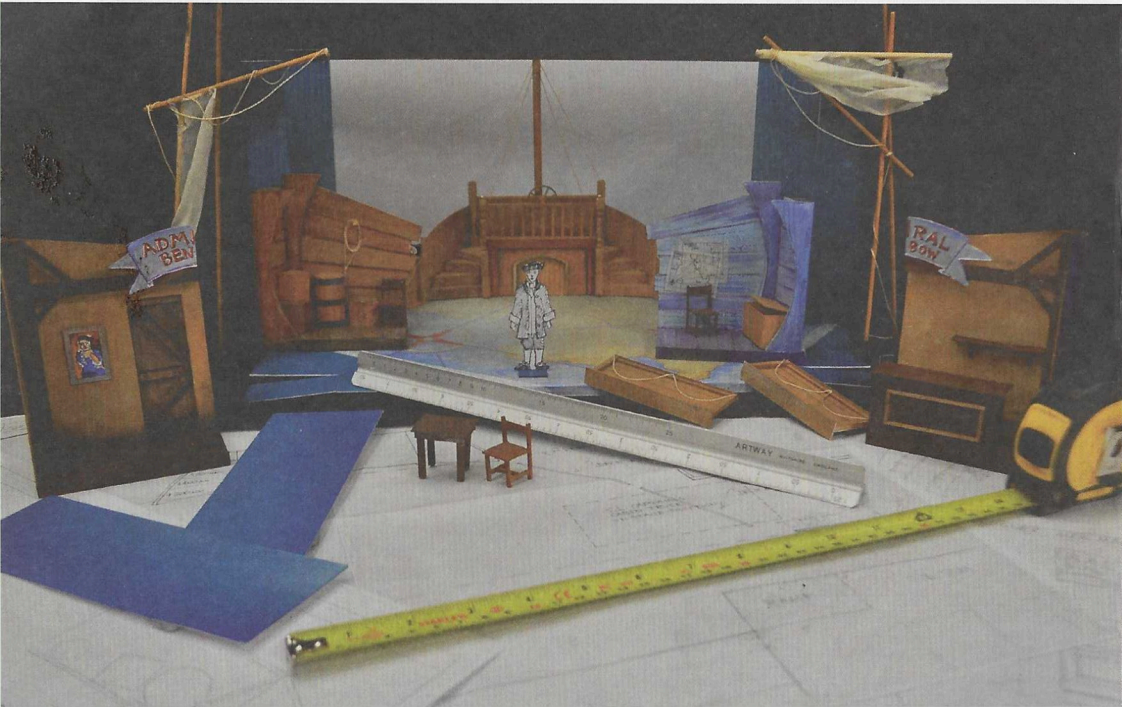
# SET DESIGN

Pantomime is a peculiarly British invention, but one that (like so many of our institutions) has borrowed elements from many sources over the centuries. By the late 19th century pantomime had started to follow a format similar to the one we recognise today. The emergence of the new role of a 'stage designer' led to scenery becoming an increasingly essential component of the pantomime formula.

Before this development, a theatre company would maintain a stock 'library' of scenes which they would select for use depending on the requirements of the play. Whenever a new location was required a scenic painter would be engaged to paint the flats required which were then added to the stock.

Pantomime is now one of the few occasions where you will often still see painted wing flats, borders and ground rows in the style of those used in a traditional Victorian toy theatre. This is something that I have chosen to reference in my design this year as it matches the period of the original book and compliments Carla Evans' 18th century inspired costume designs. Watch out for the painted palm trees which are a good example of this.

▼ Treasure Island set model, 2023



## Scene transitions

Compared to most 'straight' plays there are often a number of different locations in a pantomime which are augmented with special elements used for specific routines. How you transition from scene to scene is often as important as the scene itself as you don't want to hold up the action with a complicated scene change. Due to the increased scenic demands, I often spend as much time considering what is happening off stage as what the audience sees, as everything has to be stored somewhere in the wings.

## 10th Anniversary of Aladdin & His Wonderful Lamp

*Aladdin* was the first of our yearly pantomimes. Everything you see in today's performance (set, costume and props) was conceived and made here in the workshops at The Questors, so if you have an artistic flair why not get involved next year? You could end up making castles, ships, forests or the villain's secret lair. Pantomime is the one point in the season where we are guaranteed to get the chance to produce something a little bit whacky and let the creative imagination run riot!

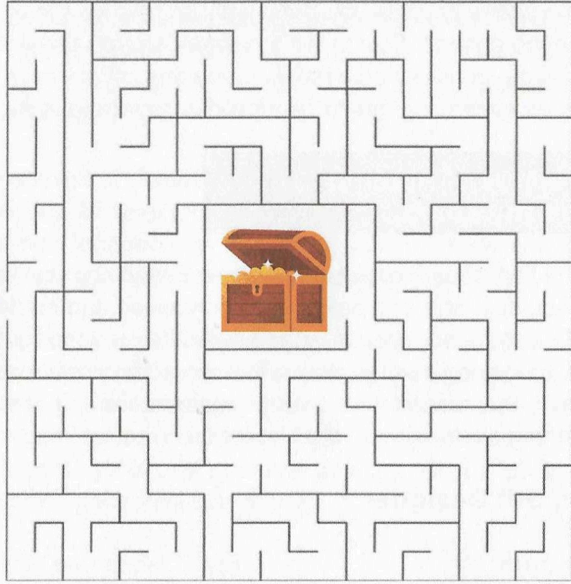
### Alex Marker, Set Designer

▼ Aladdin set, 2013



# PUZZLE PAGE

Help Master Stains find the treasure!



Can you find all of the words below?

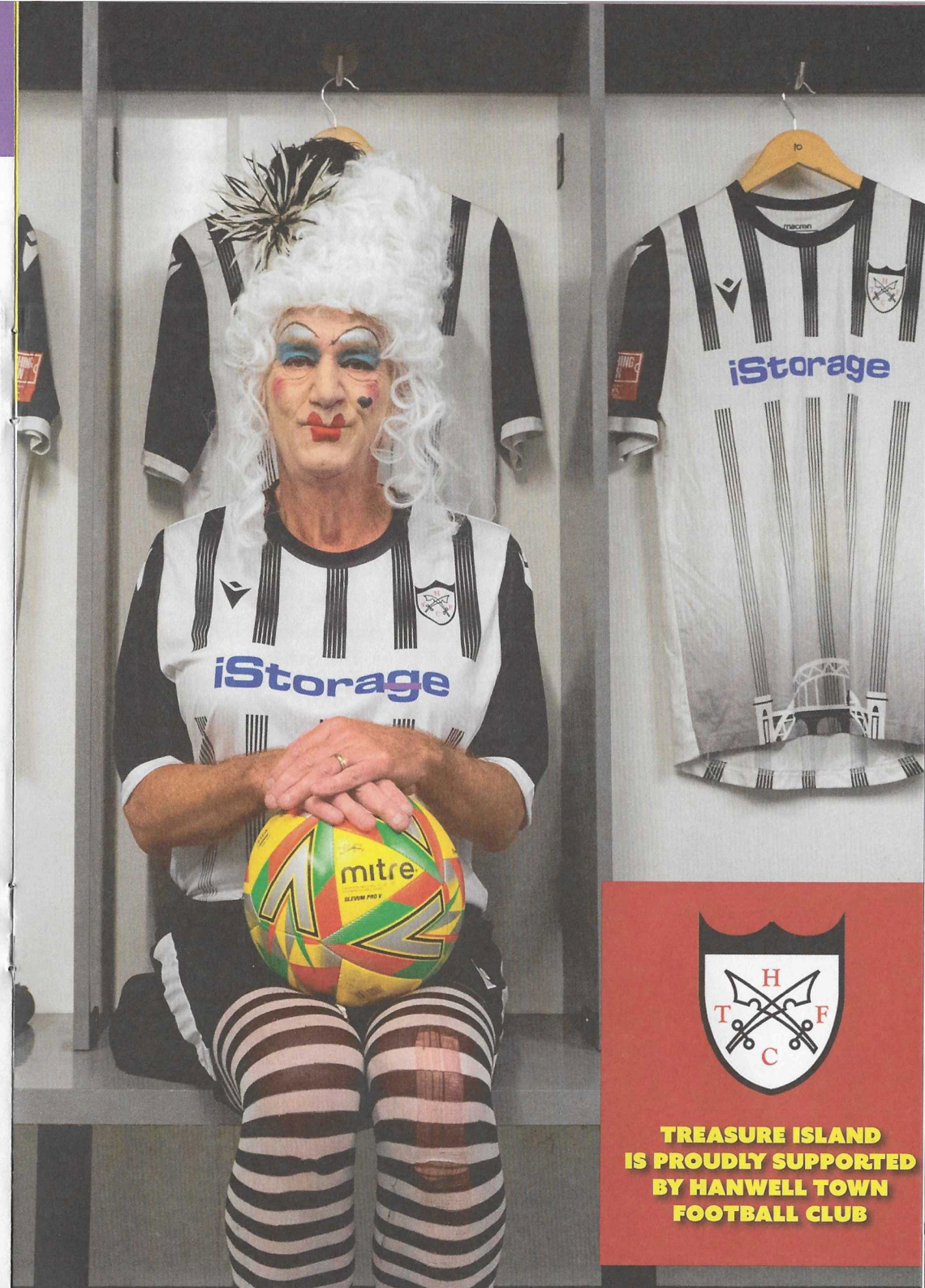
- Captain
- Galley
- Long John
- Cutlass
- Holly
- Mast
- Ducks
- Jim
- Sail

S	C	L	I	A	S	Y	T
Y	S	A	H	E	E	A	D
D	L	A	P	L	M	I	M
U	R	L	L	T	A	L	A
C	B	A	O	T	A	E	S
K	G	N	B	H	U	I	T
S	M	I	J	O	W	C	N
L	O	N	G	J	O	H	N

Use the remaining letters (reading left to right, top to bottom) to help you find where Peggy Legge will be after the show!

Maze

Wordsearch



**TREASURE ISLAND IS PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY HANWELL TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB**

# COSTUME

We are lucky at The Questors to have a large stock of modern and period costumes. These serve us well to dress the 18 shows we produce every season, but pantomime needs to offer audiences a fresh spectacle in its own style every year. Although some things can be adapted from our stock, it's the one show where most costumes are designed and made from scratch for the actors you see today. I'm always keen to know who has been cast during auditions in the summer - it marks the start of several months of work for the Wardrobe team.

Treasure Island is a children's classic set in the mid-eighteenth century - probably my favourite era in fashion history, with extravagant wigs, endless tiers of lace and panniers that forced ladies to approach an average doorframe sideways. Though the Georgians managed to look elegant in their excess, it's the silliness of it that makes it such a great basis for a pantomime. Following a recent visit to the Georgian Theatre in Richmond, Yorkshire (a beautifully preserved and still working eighteenth-century playhouse) I decided to keep *Treasure Island* in its original setting.

What I like about pantomime (aside from it being many families' only regular contact with theatre) is the creative freedom it gives. The final look can be whatever we want, but this is as challenging as it is appealing, as the only thing more daunting than a blank canvas is 67 actors waiting to be dressed in literally anything you choose.

Isobel Hands ▼



Squire Trelawney ▼



We decided that our main characters lived in a world of traditional pirate ships and only when they met the ocean would fantasy elements kick in. Ethel the Mermaid is a musical interlude set apart from our story, so I took advantage of her showgirl namesake and piled her with glamour and sequins that would have looked out of place at the rustic Benbow.

**"The great thing about costume for theatre is that however long you do it, most shows will ask you to create something you've never tried to do before."**

Once we've decided what we want to make I need to work out how. After several trips to fabric markets and trawls through our costume store to see what's available, I can finally do some designing, but costume drawings are only fantasies unless there are enough volunteers with the skills to make them. Fortunately, we have a fabulous Wardrobe team (new members always welcome) who can dress-make, work out how to make the weird stuff that doesn't come with instructions, and organise matching costumes on the right hangers for all our QYT chorus.

We all hope you enjoy *Treasure Island*.  
**Carla Evans, Costume Designer**

Ethel the Mermaid ▼



▼ Peggy Legge



# BIOGRAPHIES

## Lucy Aley-Parker - *Ethel the Merman*

Lucy graduated from Webber Douglas many years ago. An acting member since 2008, she's played Smeraldina in *A Servant to Two Masters* and Mrs Hardcastle in *She Stoops to Conquer*. Most recently she appeared as a NYC 'cleaner' in the New Writing Festival in the Questors Studio. She has also directed, most recently Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Nile* in March 2023.

## Gareth Bevan - *Billy Bones*

Gareth has been an acting member of The Questors for about 30 years and in that time has been involved in a number of Christmas productions and children's shows, including *Peter Pan*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *Dick Whittington & His Cat*. Recently he has been seen in *Nell Gwynn*, *Apologia* and *The Ealing Club*.

## James Burgess - *Long John Silver*

James trained as an actor at Drama Studio London. His productions at The Questors include: *Arcadia*, *Death and the Maiden*, *The Ghost Train*, *The Browning Version*, *Six Bad Poets*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *King Charles III*, *Absent Friends*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Season's Greetings*, *The Country Wife* and *Measure for Measure*.

## Jacob Chancellor - *Ziggy the Starfish (Davey Jones)*

Jacob has been attending Questors since he was about as small as our mermaids. He's appeared in several shows here, including this year's *On The Razzle* and *Good Times Together with the Everly Brothers*. He is represented by United Agents.

## Grace Connett - *Holly Trelawney*

Grace has been a member of QYT for 10 years and is delighted to be returning again after playing Martha in last year's panto, *King Arthur and the Twelfth Knight*. Grace has performed in two other pantos as part of the QYT ensemble and looks forward to the challenge of playing Holly Trelawney as one of her last roles before going to university next year.

## Edward Gamazeliuc - *Jim Hawkins*

Edward has been a member of QYT for five years. He has performed in *Hairspray*, *Robin Hood* and *Snow White*. Edward is excited to have been cast in a lead role such as Jim Hawkins in this year's pantomime. He is looking forward to bringing the character to life on stage and taking the audience on his adventure.

## James Goodden - *Peggy Legge*

A member since 1987, this is the fifth time that James has donned the frocks at The Questors. His most recent panto appearance was in last year's *King Arthur and the Twelfth Knight* and, before that, *Robin Hood* in 2019. Outside of panto James was also seen in *India Gate* in 2022.

## Simon Higginson - *Stains*

Simon has been a member of The Questors for over 35 years and *Treasure Island* is his 28th production, which he's really looking forward to. You might have seen his previous panto role in 2016 as Cheryl, one of the ugly sisters in *Cinderella*.

## Bethan Hunter - *Rosie Legge*

Bethan has been a member of QYT for two years and performed for the first time in the ensemble in last year's panto, *King Arthur and the Twelfth Knight*. When she isn't acting she enjoys reading fantasy fiction, drawing, cooking for her family, ballet and judo. Her favourite subject in school is maths. She has a really nice cat but is now considering adopting a parrot!

## Yahvi Joshi - *Rosie Legge*

Yahvi has been a QYT member since 2022. She previously performed in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* in the Playhouse earlier this season. This is Yahvi's first time performing in a Questors pantomime production and she is delighted to be playing the role of Rosie and has decided pantomimes are really cool!

## Alex Kearn - *Holly Trelawney*

Alex has been part of QYT for six years and has performed in five previous QYT shows, including the recent production of *The Light Burns Blue*. On top of this, she thoroughly enjoyed taking part in three previous pantos as part of the QYT ensemble. She is very excited to be playing Holly Trelawney this year.

## Keri Logan - *Ethel the Merman*

A Questors member since 2002, this is Kerri's fourth appearance in the Questors annual pantomime, after *Jack & the Beanstalk* (2014), *Robin Hood* (2019), and *King Arthur and the Twelfth Knight* (2022). Away from panto, other Questors productions include *Hobson's Choice*, *Two, Misery, Present Laughter*, *Six Bad Poets* and *Season's Greetings*.

## Alex Marker - *Blind Pugh/Benn Gunn/Set Designer*

Trained in stage design at Wimbledon School of Art, Alex has designed over fifty productions at The Questors, most recently *Albion*, *Neville's Island*, *Sheila's Island* and *Much Ado About Nothing*. He also acts and was most recently Merlin in last year's panto. He is also Artistic Director of The Questors.

[www.alexmarker.com](http://www.alexmarker.com)

### **Sarah Morrison - Ethel the Mermaid**

Sarah has been an Acting member of The Questors since joining way back in 1980 and has since appeared in over 70 productions. Panto-wise she has previously played Edena the Eco Fairy in *Jack and the Beanstalk* (2014) and Wonderwings in *Snow White* (2022).

### **Tim Pemberton - Squire Trelawney**

Tim has been acting at The Questors since 2011. Earlier this year he played Reverend Tooker in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, Someone in *What If It Only*, and Richard Noakes in *Arcadia*. He works at an activity centre for people with learning disabilities in Hertfordshire.

### **Frances Sherwin - Ethel the Mermaid**

As everyone knows, good acting roles are limited for mermaids so being offered the role of Ethel the Mermaid was a dream come true for Frances who otherwise spends most of her time splashing around in ponds or car park puddles. When not performing, Frances enjoys having buckets of water thrown over her and visiting friends at her local Sainsbury's wet fish counter.

### **Lizzie Turner - Isobel Hands**

This is Lizzie's third pantomime at The Questors – her second panto wearing fake hair (*Sleeping Beauty*, 2018), second in a costume of questionable gender (*King Arthur and the Twelfth Knight*, 2022) but her first time in a fake moustache. She is currently a Teaching Assistant with QYT and was previously Technical Co-ordinator in The Questors Office.

### **Robert Vass - Bates**

Robert has been performing with The Questors since 2003. Previous panto roles include Ugly Sister Beryl (*Cinderella*) and Stinkwort (*Snow White*). Other roles in the last decade include Mr Boo (*The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*), Frank Strang (*Equus*), Herman (*Sweet Charity*) and Snug (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*). He is also a production photographer and videographer.

### **Joel Watson - Jim Hawkins**

Joel has been part of QYT since 2019 playing roles in multiple productions such as the pantomime *Snow White*, and *Good Times Together with the Everly Brothers* earlier this year. Joel is excited to be playing in this year's pantomime and can't wait to bring his own 'spin' to the character of Jim Hawkins.

### **Helen Cooper - Lyricist**

Helen is most often found in The Questors wardrobe department. This year she has again traded stitching costumes for stitching up the cast, creating devilishly silly songs that were a pain to master. She has a background in Shakespeare, so the cast were lucky to avoid the full iambic pentameter.

### **Tim Edwards - Lighting Designer**

Tim became a member at 16 and has been lighting shows at The Questors for over 20 years. His lighting design credits here include *Rent*, *Broken Glass*, *The Libertine*, *Cinderella*, *Sleeping Beauty* and *Snow White*. Tim also runs a lighting design company for productions in the West London area.

### **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 *Arcadia*, *A Doll's House* and *King Arthur and the Twelfth Knight*.

### **Dave Roberts - Musical Director**

Dave is founder of Starlight Theatre Company and has directed, choreographed and musically directed over 100 productions including two in London's West End. Following *Rent*, *Aladdin*, *Bugsy Malone*, *Hairspray* and last year's panto, Dave is delighted to return again this year and would like to thank the cast and production team for such an enjoyable experience.

### **James Rushbrooke - Writer**

James is still a relative newcomer to The Questors but not new to writing. *Treasure Island* is his second panto, following last year's *King Arthur and the Twelfth Knight*. A drama teacher for fifteen years, James has written extensively for children but does also write 'proper plays' for adults. Panto is a creative compromise.

### **Howard Shepherdson - Director**

Howard has been a member of The Questors for almost 45 years and works as an actor, director and front of house manager. Howard last wrote and directed *India Gate* which later toured to Birmingham and The Nehru Centre in Mayfair.

You may also remember him as Sir Jasper Fidget in *The Country Wife* and Queen Dorothy (the pantomime dame) in *Sleeping Beauty*.

### **Michelle Spencer - Choreographer/QYT Coordinator**

Michelle is an experienced dance teacher and choreographer who has worked with a range of schools, colleges and amateur theatre companies, as well as recently directing the musical *42nd Street*. Michelle most recently took on the role of Youth & Education Officer at The Questors Theatre and is delighted to be joining the panto team for the first time this year!

### **Dan Tigg - Sound Designer**

Dan is a sound engineer and bass player who has worked in theatre for over 16 years. He has worked on shows in the West End, on UK tours and local theatre. He is excited to be designing the sound for his fourth Questors panto.

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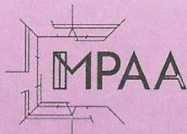
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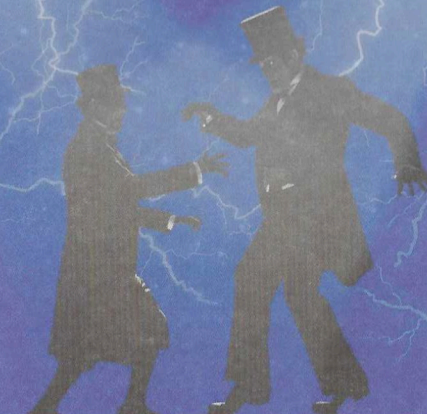
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# YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN

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MUSICAL THEATRE

8th - 11th May  
Questors Theatre,  
Ealing



Music and Lyrics by Mel Brooks  
Book by Mel Brooks and Tomas Meehan  
Based on the story and screenplay by Gene  
Wilder and Mel Brooks and the original  
motion picture by arrangement with  
Twentieth Century Fox.

HEOS Musical Theatre  
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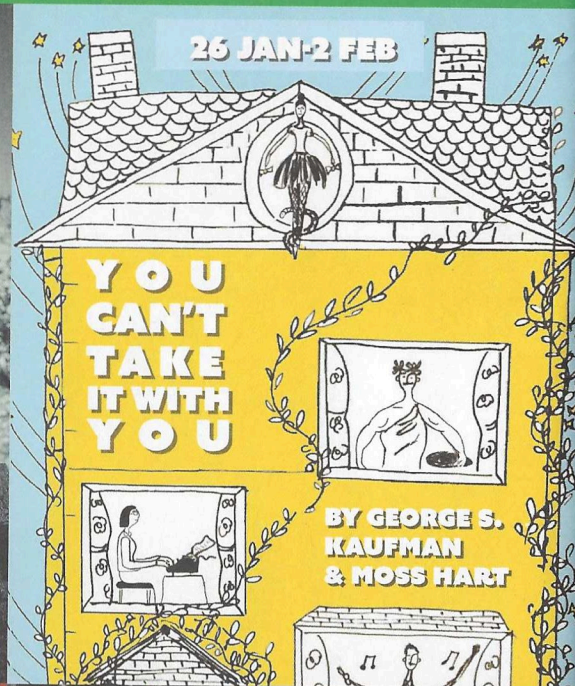


# COMING UP...

## CHRISTMAS GHOST STORIES

AN EVENING OF SPINE-TINGLERS  
AND SUPERNATURAL HORRORS

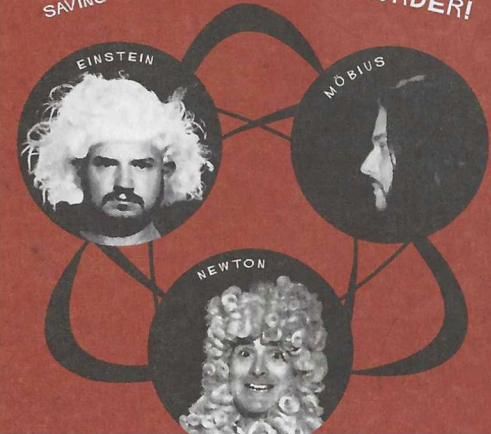
18TH DECEMBER  
7:45PM



## 19-27 JANUARY THE PHYSICISTS

BY FRIEDRICH DÜRRENMATT

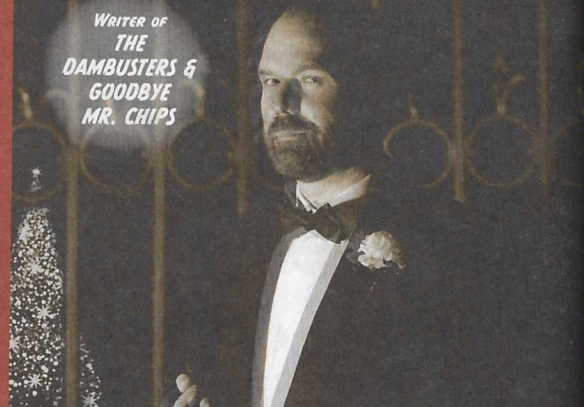
SAVING THE WORLD IS ABSOLUTE MURDER!



## 15-30 DECEMBER THE WHITE CARNATION

By R.C. SHERRIFF

WRITER OF  
THE  
DAMBUSTERS &  
GOODBYE  
MR. CHIPS



## Fields Cafe

### Opening hours

Mon-Sat: 9:30am-6pm

Additionally until 9pm on days  
with evening performances in the  
Judi Dench Playhouse.

Choose from a range of hot and  
cold drinks, as well as from a  
delicious new food menu full of  
snacks, cakes, sandwiches or  
cooked brunch options.



## The Grapevine

### Opening hours

Mon-Sat: 7pm-11pm

Sun: 1pm-3pm

The Grapevine is a members bar,  
open to members and audience  
members with a valid ticket. Join  
us before a show and pre-  
order interval drinks from our  
award-winning bar, featured in  
the 2024 Good Beer Guide.



# WHAT'S ON WHAT'S ON WHAT'S ON



See what we have coming up in our Questors season...

19-27 Jan

## **The Physicists**

by Friedrich Dürrenmatt

Saving the world is absolute murder! A world premiere of a new translation by Russell Fleet.

26 Jan-3 Feb

## **You Can't Take it With You**

by George S Kaufman & Moss Hart

Love and laughter shine through for one family of eccentrics in 1930s America.

16-24 Feb

## **Sara Sampson**

by Gotthold Lessing

Moral ambiguity and tragedy await in a world premiere of a new translation by David Emmet.

22-30 March

## **Single Spies**

by Alan Bennett

A cocktail of spies, lies, royalty and art sparkles in this comedy double bill.

3-11 May

## **Slaves of Solitude**

by Patrick Hamilton, adapted by Simon Roberts

WWII black comedy adapted from the novel by Patrick Hamilton, author of Gas Light.

Book now at [questors.org.uk](http://questors.org.uk)

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# TREASURE ISLAND

