

Join Us

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 Club 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):
up to 50% discount on an adult ticket for the Season Pass holder (to a minimum ticket price of £10, £8 concessions)
£2 off ANY number of additional adult or concession tickets
up to FOUR child tickets at up to 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
Box Office: 020 8567 5184
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 The Questors
THEATRE

JANE AUSTEN'S EMMA



20 – 28 June 2025

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

Find out more and name your seat: questors.org.uk/seats

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 proud of the quality of our real ales, we appear in the 2025 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.



Image: Robert Vass

EMMA

by Jane Austen

adapted by Doon Mackichan and Martin Millar

Walpole Park

20 – 28 June 2025

This amateur production of "Emma" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals.

EMMA IN WALPOLE PARK

Welcome to The Questors Theatre's first outdoor production since lockdown! Walpole Park, against the backdrop of Pitzhanger Manor, is to become our new theatre space. In the golden glow of (hopefully!) a classic English summer evening, we bring you a fresh, contemporary and thoroughly joyful take on Jane Austen's *Emma*. And not just any version of *Emma*, but the gloriously funny, cheekily modern stage adaptation by comedians Doon Mackichan (*Smack the Pony*) and Martin Millar. If ever a novel was ripe for the rom-com treatment, it's this one – and we've absolutely leaned into it. Unapologetic romantic comedy in all its matchmaking, misstepping, mischief-making glory.

2025 marks the 250th anniversary of Jane Austen's birth – a perfect opportunity to celebrate one of the most beloved, most enduring and most delightfully incisive writers in the English language. Her novels have been pored over in classrooms, adapted in every earnest (and not-so-earnest) way imaginable, and reimaged for screens and stages alike. But there's something incredibly satisfying about bringing her wit and wisdom out into the open air – where her characters can breathe, flirt, reprimand and banter just as they were always meant to.

Emma holds a special place in my heart for its humour: the sharp wit, the playful misunderstandings, the larger-than-life characters and the deliciously tangled web of social interactions. It is, in my humble opinion, the Austen novel with the biggest comedic heart. The characters are larger than life, and the social satire razor-sharp but never cruel. With Mackichan and Millar's script – full of clever anachronisms and comic timing – it sparkles even brighter. This version is fast-paced, funny and full of playful self-aware nods to the modern world that never overshadow the story's soul. It's Austen turned up a notch and it's been an absolute joy to bring to life.

This show has not been a small undertaking for our cast of eight. With almost double the number of named characters to actors, character doubling for our production is the norm and in some cases character tripling and in one case character sextupling! And in a playful twist, Jane Austen herself steps into her own story guiding us (and her nieces) through the misadventures of Emma Woodhouse and the residents of Highbury.

From the outset, I knew I wanted to embrace the rom-com energy wholeheartedly. All the ingredients were there: the spirited, flawed heroine; the will-they-won't-they tension; the embarrassing relatives; the unexpected revelations; the grand declarations of love. And of course, music – lots of music. We've incorporated an eclectic mix of songs, spanning centuries – from Elgar to the Jackson Five, to Alanis Morissette, with a dash of The Prodigy. I flatter myself that Jane Austen would have approved!

But while the comedy has been great fun (and I do hope you laugh – a lot!), we've kept sight of the warmth and wisdom at the heart of the story. Austen knew exactly what she was doing. Beneath all the banter, *Emma* is about growth, about learning to see others clearly, and about opening your heart and being brave enough to change. That message is as relevant today as it was in 1815. Maybe even more so.

And finally, a few thank-yous. To Michael and Alex for entrusting me to be the guinea pig director of The Questors' latest outdoor production – hopefully we have convinced you that it won't be the last. Thanks to The Questors' amazing marketing team Louise and Emily for embracing my modern take on *Emma*. Rob 'Tarantino' Vass for his *Reservoir Dogs* inspired trailer. Becky Hartnup for her casting match making. To my magnificent creative crew, notably Nikoleta (set) and Chloe (sound), two young designers thrown in at the deep end on an untried performance space; Emerson for his support; Freddy for her moves; Andrew and Robyn for their outdoor lights; Jenny and Helen (costume) who didn't flinch when I said Jane Austen period dress and trainers in the same sentence; and to my logistic magicians, Jane, Clare and Sarah for delivering the impossible. And lastly thank you to Priya, Caitlyn, Isabella, Sophie, Dina, Eloise, Anoop and Nick – my cast. The most playful, creative and funny ensemble actors. I have never had more fun directing a show!

We hope you enjoy yourselves!

Rachel Moorhead, Director

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EMMA

by Jane Austen, adapted by Dorn Mackichan and Martin Millar

First performance of this production by The Questors Theatre in Walpole Park: 20 June 2025

CAST

in order of appearance

Jane Austen / Mr Knightley	Priya Patel
Emma	Caitlyn Vary
Niece 1 / Miss Bates	Isabella Cottrell Kirby
Niece 2 / Jane Fairfax	Sophie George
Niece 3 / Mrs Elton / Mrs Weston	Dina Fahmy
Niece 4 / Harriet	Eloise McCready
Mr Elton / Mr Woodhouse / Robert Martin & others	Nick Thomas
Frank Churchill	Anoop Jagan

The performance lasts approximately 95 minutes with 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 Moorhead
Set Designer	Nikoleta Stefanova
Costume Designers	Jenny Richardson, Helen Cooper
Lighting Designers	Robyn Backhouse, Andrew Whadcoat
Sound Designer	Chloe Park
Assisted by	Emerson Bramwell
Choreographers	Freddy Sledge, Sophie George
Production Manager	Jane Arnold-Forster
Stage Manager	Clare Waldock
Deputy Stage Manager	Sarah Clopet
Assistant Stage Manager	Sarah Vass
Wardrobe Assistant	Anne Gilmour
Technical Support	Alisdair Graebner, Ben Hart
Lighting Assistant	Sydney Stevens
Sound Assistant	Dan Trigg
Set Constructors	Roger Brace, Stephen Souchon, Derek Stoddart
Set Painters	Greta Gerbert, Sophia Orzel, Katie Wrench
Get-In Team	Randy Banks, Henry Broom, Jacob Dalton, Michael Eppy, Paul James, Nicola Maddox, Dominic Murray
Photo/Videographer	Robert Vass
Community Captioner	Monica Lomas
Thanks to	Ian Black, Alex Marker

Biographies

Isabella Cottrell Kirby – Niece One / Miss Bates

Isabella joined The Questors world as a teenager, graduating from Student Group 73 in 2021. Past productions include *Quietus* (Jonne Wilson), *Strange Orchestra* (Rodney Ackland) and *Trojan Barbie* (Christine Evans). She studied drama at the University of Cambridge, has written for stage, and has a weakness for all forms of comedy and beautiful costuming.

Dina Fahmy – Niece Three / Mrs Elton / Mrs Weston

Dina joined The Questors at the end of 2024 and *Emma* will be her first production here. She has been acting with St Michael's Players, Chiswick for a couple of years. Earlier this year, she played Bobbie in *The Railway Children*. Last year she acted in *Harvey* and *The Government Inspector*.

Sophie George – Niece Two / Jane Fairfax / Choreographer

Sophie trained at the Guildford School of Acting. She joined The Questors in 2024 and has since appeared in *Tom Jones*, *The Welkin* and *Boudica*. Since graduating, Sophie has also worked professionally in touring pantomime, children's theatre and, most recently, in a short run of a new play at The Network Theatre in Waterloo.

Anoop Jagan – Frank Churchill

Anoop became a member of The Questors in 2018 and has since been actively involved in a range of productions, including *A Doll's House* and *Rafta Rafta*. Prior to this, from the ages of 11 to 20, he was part of a cultural organisation called KALA, where he gained experience acting in front of large audiences, whilst also assisting in directing plays.

Eloise McCready – Niece Four / Harriet Smith

This is Eloise's first show with The Questors and she is delighted to be playing the role of Harriet Smith. Eloise graduated from the Victorian College of the Arts with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre and has performed at the Melbourne Fringe Festival and the Melbourne Recital Centre. Her credits include Patricia Milligan in *London Wall*, Trudi in *Apologia*, Sibyl Chase in *Private Lives*, Sonya in *Crime and Punishment*, Grace in *The Dark Room* and most recently Shirley in *Hangmen*.

Priya Patel – Jane Austen / Mr Knightley

Priya joined The Questors in 2023. Her previous roles here include Peg Carter in *The Welkin* (2024), Sarika Chatterjee in *The Contingency Plan* (2023) and Portia in *Julius Caesar* (2024). Previously, she acted with The Spread Eagle Players at The Bridewell. Highlights there include appearing in *Fawlty Towers* (Polly), *Sweeney Todd*, several pantomimes and *In Basildon*, which she also assistant directed.

Nick Thomas – Mr Elton / Mr Woodhouse / Robert Martin & others

Nick attended the Questors Youth Theatre before studying Classical Acting at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. Nick has appeared in several Questors productions, including *The 39 Steps* and *Equus*. This will be his first time performing outside.

Caitlyn Vary – Emma

Caitlyn joined Questors Youth Theatre at the age of eight and continued until the age of eighteen. Since then, she has trained at East 15 Acting School and is currently training at Drama Studio London. Caitlyn is now a teaching assistant at The Questors too! Most recent work for The Questors includes pantomimes *Robin Hood* (2019) and *Snow White* (2022), and *The Anniversary* (2025).

Robyn Backhouse – Lighting Designer

Normally found in the Questors Sound Department, or up in the Playhouse roof hanging in the rigging, this is Robyn's first foray into lighting design, apprenticed to Andrew Whadcoat, after designing sound for *Boudica*, *The Welkin*, *The Slaves of Solitude*, *Tom Jones* and others. She has been a member of The Questors for two years now and is always keen to try new things.

Emerson Bramwell – Assisting Sound Designer

Emerson most recently composed scores for *Low Level Panic*, *The Physicists* and *The Mystery of Fellstone Manor*. He also designed sound for *Apologia*, *Hangmen*, *Death and the Maiden*, *A Doll's House*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Arcadia*, *Albion*, *Whispers in the Wings*, *How To Disappear Completely*, *The Welkin* and *Posh*.

Helen Cooper – Costume Designer

Helen has been a member of The Questors since 2019. Apart from the occasional detour into writing panto lyrics, she can mostly be found in wardrobe where she has worked on costumes for *Treasure Island*, *Sara Sampson*, *The Welkin*, *Lion Boy*, *Boudica* and *My Fair Lady*.

Rachel Moorhead – Director

Rachel's previous directing credits with The Questors include *A Little Night Music*, *Company* and *The Shape of Things*. Other directing credits include *The Good Fight* (New Musicals Australia), *Sweeney Todd* (Adelaide College of the Arts), *Jersey Boys* (Director's Assistant Australian Tour) and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (4th Wall Theatre Company). She trained at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) – Performance Studies (Directing).

Chloe Park – Sound Designer

Chloe is a live sound engineer based in London, working across theatre and live events. She studied Music Technology and has contributed to various productions as a sound designer, sound operator and musician. Since joining The Questors in January 2025, she has worked on *Lion Boy*, *Trojan Barbie* and *Relatively Speaking*. Emma marks her fourth production with the company. Chloe also performed as a keyboardist in *Legally Blonde* at the University of West London.

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 *Under Milk Wood*, *Relatively Speaking*, *A Real Race Around the World*, *The Anniversary*, *The Cane*, *The Pillowman*, *Medea*, *The Slaves of Solitude*, *Whispers in the Wings*, *You Can't Take It With You*, *Albion*, *The Herd*, *The Contingency Plan*, *Murder on the Nile*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and *Little Dorrit*. Jenny is also frequently in demand as an upholsterer.

Freddy Sledge – Choreographer

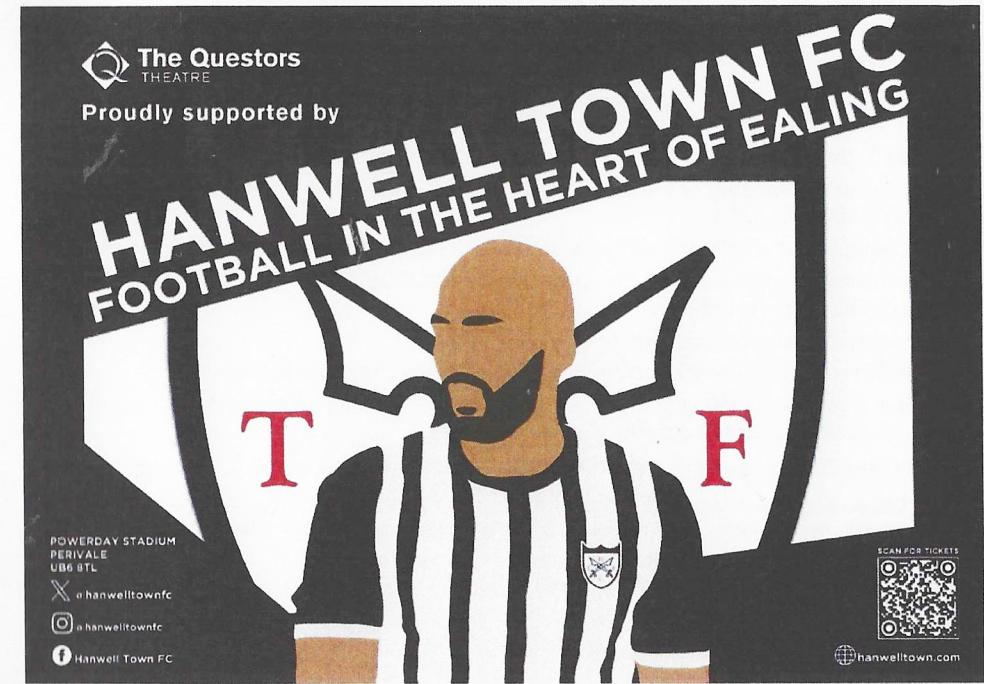
Freddy has been a Questors member since 1993 and later joined Student Group 49. She performed in *A Taste of Honey*, *The Mill on the Floss*, *A Clockwork Orange*, *Playhouse Creatures*, *New Boy*, *Dogs Barking*, *The 39 Steps*, plus many others. Freddy was delighted to help choreograph *A Real Race Around the World* and this wonderful production of *Emma*.

Nikoleta Stefanova – Set Designer

Nikoleta is an emerging performance designer completing her Scenography MA at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. With a background in performance, puppetry, and a passion for painting and making, *Emma* marks her fully realised set design debut. Nikoleta is committed to developing a sustainable approach and sharing environmentally responsible storytelling on London's stages.

Andrew Whadcoat – Lighting Designer

Andrew joined the lighting team in 2013 and enjoys lighting shows in the Studio and Playhouse and training new members. Recent lighting designs include the Churchill double bill, *Murder on the Nile*, *The White Carnation*, *Find Me, London Wall*, *How to Disappear Completely*, *The Mystery of Fellstone Manor*, *The Anniversary*, *A Real Race Around the World*, *Trojan Barbie* and *Under Milk Wood*.



NEXT AT THE QUESTORS



TABLE MANNERS

by Alan Ayckbourn

12 – 19 July 2025

The Judi Dench Playhouse

Annie has arranged to spend an illicit weekend with her sister's husband Norman. She has asked her older brother Reg and his wife to look after their widowed mother so she can get away. But when their plans are rumbled, the would-be lovers find themselves trapped with their spouses and siblings for an awkward weekend. The play is part of Ayckbourn's trilogy *The Norman Conquests*; three standalone plays that depict the events of a single weekend. A Questors student production.