

COMING UP IN DECEMBER

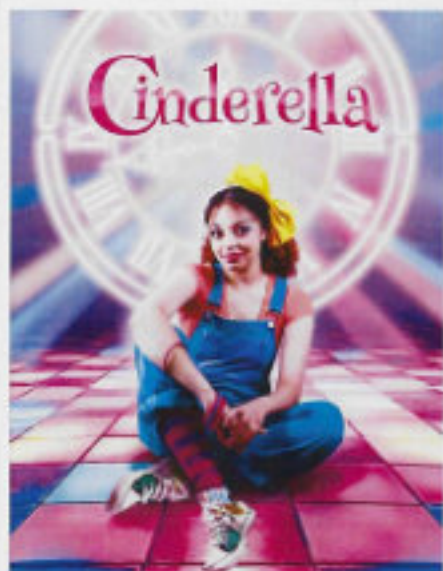
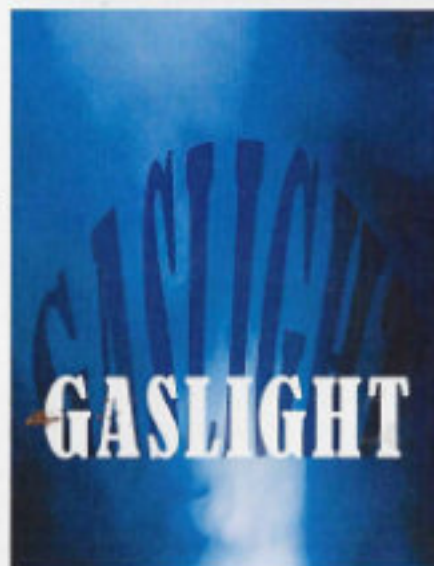
Gaslight

by Patrick Hamilton

Bella isn't well. Her husband Jack just wants her to get better. But when a stranger calls, Bella starts to question what is real and who she can actually trust...

This classic thriller is a chilling tale of deception and control, where love becomes a weapon. Gaslight - you know the term but do you know the story?

12 - 31 December
The Studio




Cinderella

by James Rushbrooke

Get ready for a riotous retelling of Cinderella like you've never seen before; louder, bolder, and dripping in 1980s glam.

Join The Questors Theatre this Christmas for our annual family pantomime and enjoy a glitter-fuelled joyride through rebellion, romance, and ridiculousness.

5-31 December
The Playhouse

 The Questors
THEATRE

BOX OFFICE
020 8567 0011

LIGHTNING BENEATH THE WAVES

A connection that shaped history



8 - 15 November
questors.org.uk/lightning

COME HERE OFTEN? TRY A SEASON PASS

Get up to **50% off** tickets to in-house Questors productions with a Season Pass!

Season Pass prices:

Single: £45 per year

Joint (for 2 people): £90 per year

Concession (Under 30s / those receiving benefits): £20 per year

A £10 minimum ticket price applies to standard tickets and £8 concession. Pantomime not included.

Find out more and become a Season Pass holder by visiting our Box Office or going to questors.org.uk/season_pass

THE GRAPEVINE BAR

The Grapevine, our award-winning bar, is open to members of The Questors Theatre and audience members with a valid ticket.

Our friendly bar 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. 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:

Mon – Sat: 7pm – 11pm

Sun: 1pm – 3pm

questors.org.uk/grapevine



Photograph: Robert Vass

LIGHTNING BENEATH THE WAVES

by David Hovatter and Company
The Studio

8 -15 November

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Lightning Beneath the Waves, for me, is about telling the story of one of those extraordinary and inspiring Victorian feats of engineering, and the leaps of faith it took to bring it to fruition and, consequently, affecting forever the lines of communication between the two continents, which, up until the cable was laid, in 1866, could only be forged by mostly wooden-hulled ships that took weeks or months to carry passengers and mail.

I came upon the facts surrounding the cable about 13 years ago, at the cable museum in Porthcurno, in Cornwall, and attempted to tell the story, admitted defeat, and put it away in a drawer. It is a difficult story to tell, with very few characters to flesh out, but many anonymous labourers and boffins, beaver away for a decade before achieving success. There is also the problem of making a lot of technical information sound dramatic.

Amid all the machinery, and all the science of the Atlantic cable project, one man dominated the enterprise, and that was Cyrus Field, who had made a fortune turning rags into paper and selling it wholesale. Maybe because he was a businessman, he took a speculation and made it viable. And, like all good entrepreneurs he stuck with it through thick and thin, despite the economic and personal sacrifices he made along the way, seeing his business collapse, and losing numerous members of his family to illness and disease.

Although the Great Eastern steamship played a relatively small part in the endeavour, the history of the ship and the character of Brunel, who designed it, fascinated me and, as far as I was concerned, deserved equal attention as examples of Victorian resourcefulness and ambition.

David Hovatter
Director, *Lightning Beneath the Waves*

VOLUNTEER

AND BE PART OF ALL THIS

All Questors productions are created, performed and run by volunteers! You too can get involved in:



To volunteer, join The Questors Theatre club for as little as £15 per year. As a member you'll get:

- To work on productions as an actor* or backstage
- Membership of the Grapevine members' bar
- Special invitations and offers
- Member voting rights
- Access to our members' website

£25

Standard*

£15

Concessions*

*All Club Membership periods are 1 year. Members must be over 18. To perform in productions, members must audition to become a part of our acting company. Concession rates apply for under-30s, 65+ and benefit recipients.

questors.org.uk/join

The Questors Theatre 12 Mattock Lane, London, W5 5BQ. Registered charity no 207516.

LIGHTNING BENEATH THE WAVES

by David Hovatter and Company

First performance of this production at
The Questors Theatre: Saturday 8 November

CAST

Cyrus Field/Ensemble	Craig Nightingale
Isambard Kingdom Brunel	Jerome Joseph Kennedy
Frederick Gisbourne/Ensemble	Marcus Boel
Ensemble	Mari Anton
Ensemble	Claire Campbell
Ensemble	Sunita Chana
Ensemble	Ania Choroszczynska
Ensemble	Ioana Feneru
Ensemble	Kate Kasampali
Ensemble	Falko
Ensemble	Ellen Softley

The first half of the play starts in Newfoundland, in 1853, and spans the years up until 1865, primarily in the United States. The second half of the play begins on the Thames, in 1857, with the launching of the Great Eastern, and ends 31 years later, with its scrapping, on the banks of the Wirral

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	David Hovatter
Lighting Designer	Megan Bostock
Sound Designer	Robyn Backhouse
Costume Designers	Jenny Richardson, Sophie Holt
Choreographer	Falko
Deputy Stage Manager	Gemma McDonald
Lighting Rigger	Chloe Park
Lighting Rigger/Assistant	Terry Mummery
Photographer	Robert Vass
Photographer/Videographer	Jane Arnold-Forster
Community Captioner	Eleanor Wilson

MUSICIANS

Robyn Backhouse
Margarida Bartilotti
Gareth Bevan
Niall Corbett
Chloe Park

Thanks to Sarah Andrews and Tim Pemberton.

The performance lasts approximately 90 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.

BIOGRAPHIES

Mari Anton - Ensemble

Originally from Slovakia, Mari's theatre debut was in *Dear Octopus* in Bromley Little Theatre in 2004. She pursued her passion for acting with a Diploma in Acting from CityLit, also appearing in some short and independent feature films, commercials and theatre productions. This is her second play with The Questors after *You Can't Take It With You*.

Marcus Boel - Frederick Gisbourne/Ensemble

Born and raised in Italy, Marcus was part of Student Group 75 at Questors and he performed in *Gut Girls* and *On the Razzle*. Marcus is also a keen singer, writer, guitar player, martial artist, world traveller, food lover and moderately funny person, when in the right mood.

Claire Campbell - Ensemble

A lifelong theatre lover, Claire actively performed in university theatre throughout her studies in Law and Psychology. Now bringing that passion to Questors, she is thrilled to be making her debut in what is also her first production with the company, *Lightning Beneath the Waves*.

Sunita Chana - Ensemble

Sunita is a musician, actress, model and dancer and is thrilled to be making her debut as part of the Ensemble. Having studied Musical Theatre at Goldsmiths University and The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, Sunita has appeared in *Cinderella*, *Have You Got What It Takes* and *Allow Me to Upgrade You*.

Anna Choroszczynska - Ensemble

Anna is an interior designer and mother of four, living in Ealing with her husband, children, and their cat. A member of Student Group 75, Anna has appeared in *Gut Girls*, *On The Razzle*, and *Albion*. Outside theatre, Anna enjoys ceramics, which she finds as restorative and inspiring as performing.

BIOGRAPHIES

Ioana Feneru - Ensemble

Ioana is a Romanian actress, theatre-maker and director based in London. A graduate of the University of West London, she has performed across stage and film, with her most recent credit being *Lightning Beneath the Waves*. Ioana also writes and directs, currently leading *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Kate Kasampali - Ensemble

Kate Kasampali trained as an actor at Drama Studio London and LAMDA. With Questors, she has appeared in *The Physicists*, *Tom Jones*, *A Real Race Around the World*, and as Octavia in *Antony and Cleopatra*. In 2024, she performed as Tiresias in *Nekyia*, a digital rhapsody staged at Greece's Ancient Theatre of Philippi.

Jerome Joseph Kennedy - Isambard Kingdom Brunel

Jerome is a character actor and director from South West London who joined The Questors as an acting member in 2011. Notable recent roles include Josef in *Birds of Passage* (Drayton Arms Theatre), Ralph in *Our Country's Good* (Hampton Hill Theatre) and Alan in Gary Owen's *Killology* (Putney Arts Theatre).

Craig Nightingale - Cyrus Field/Ensemble

Craig took part in the Student Group in 1983 and went on to study acting in England and France. He rejoined The Questors in 2023 and since then has appeared in *The White Carnation*, *The Physicists*, *Single Spies*, *The Anniversary* and *The Adventures of Georges Remi*.

Ellen Softley - Ensemble

Ellen trained as an actor at The Poor School, graduating in 1996. Since then, she has worked in theatre, film, TV, radio and voiceovers before focusing on PR promoting nature recovery. *Lightning Beneath the Waves* is her first production at Questors.

BIOGRAPHIES

Robyn Backhouse - Sound Designer, Musician

A singer-songwriter who loves country and folk music, Robyn has worked on numerous Questors shows including *The Welkin*, *Slaves of Solitude*, *Tom Jones*, *Boudica* (on which she composed and produced most of the music herself) and *A Number*. She loves rigging and programming lights.

Margarida Bartilotti - Musician

Having graduated from the London College of Music in 2023, Margarida has since been at Sherlock is the New Game, and recording/performing with her band Sunset Habits all around London as a singer-musician. More recently, she has performed with emerging London-based bands Knotsknotsknots and Darling Why.

Gareth Bevan - Musician

Gareth has been an acting member of Questors for over 30 years and this is the fifth time he has been involved in one of David's projects - they are always interesting and fun. His most recent productions at the theatre have been *The Ealing Club*, *Treasure Island* and *A Real Race Around the World*.

Megan Bostock - Lighting Designer

Megan has been with The Questors for two years and this will be her first lighting design. Having assisted the lighting group with many shows over this time and been the lighting assistant and programmer/operator on *Trojan Barbie* in the Studio back in March, she is excited to be doing her first design.

Niall Corbett - Musician

Niall is a local musician, and fan of Questors for many years, playing drums and percussion in numerous bands. Always keen to expand his musical horizons, this is his first theatrical outing and he is embracing this opportunity to perform at The Questors.

BIOGRAPHIES

Falko - Choreographer & Ensemble

Born in Zimbabwe, and from a dance background (ballet, jazz/pop and cabaret), Falko enjoys combining sign language with choreography. She is a BSL interpreter and has done theatrical interpreting at Riverside Studios, Compass Theatre and the Dell, merging her two passions of performing arts and BSL.

David Hovatter - Director

David joined the Questors during the mid 80s. Most recently he has appeared in *Dear Brutus*, *The Physicists* and *Boudica*. Usually David directs devised physical theatre, including *Dog and the Scarf*, *Little Dorrit* and *A Real Race Around the World*.

Chloe Park - Musician

Chloe is a London-based sound engineer with four years of professional experience in live sound, sound design, film and video post-production, composition, and keyboard performance. Since joining The Questors in January 2025, she has worked on the sound for *Lion Boy*, *Emma*, *Relatively Speaking* and *Emilia*.

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 *Strictly Murder*, *Emma*, *A Real Race Around the World*, *The Pillowman* and *Medea*.