

THE QUESTORS THEATRE

Derek Chandler

1935-2022



In Fondest Memory

DEREK CHANDLER

We recently received the sad news of Derek Chandler's passing at the age of 87.

Derek joined the Questors in 1961. His first appearance on the "tin hut" stage was in the controversial production of Tom Sharpe's play about apartheid, "**The South African**" which was given its world premiere as part of The Questors New Plays Festival of that year and which created quite a stir in the press both at home and abroad.

Undeterred by this experience Derek quickly established himself as one of our most consistent, reliable and delightfully engaging character actors, beginning with Ned Poin in Alfred Emmet's 1961 production of "**Henry IV Part 1**".

Derek had an instinctive sense of comedy even in the "straightest" of parts. This is no doubt what warmed him to audiences and to his fellow actors. It was also possibly what contributed to the giggles that are reported to have met his entrance as Paris in Alfred Emmet's 1968 modern-day production of "**Romeo and Juliet**", dressed in a tight fitting Carnaby Street flared suit and carnation button hole!

Derek appeared regularly in over 50 Questors productions during his six decades with us, with a brief absence during the 1980s (I wonder who he was entertaining during those years!). He played everything from bishops to archdeacons, judges to policemen, Grand Dukes to cranky old men. He was equally at home as a country yokel, a highwayman, a Nazi officer, a chimney sweep - even the occasional rabbit.

We last saw him as a heavily winged angel in our 2012 Christmas production of "**It's A Wonderful Life**". The stage manager of that show remembers how he was 'snowed on' every night, and never failed to give her a full report of how much snow had landed on him!

He was loved and will be sorely missed by all his many friends at Questors. He was one of our unsung stalwarts, rarely playing the lead but always there to bring colour and humour to each new supporting role he was entrusted with. We treasure his memory, his warm friendship and his tremendous contribution to the life of our theatre.

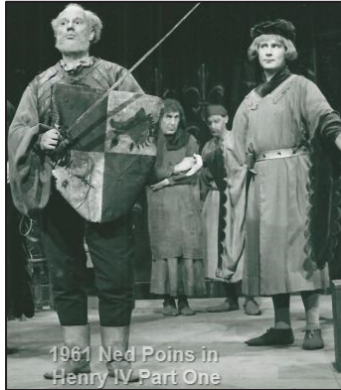
RIP

August 2022

Derek Chandler at The Questors

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1961 Henry IV Part 1 | 1999 The Venetian Twins |
| 1961 The South African (New Plays Festival) | 1999 A Woman of No Importance |
| 1962 Death of a Salesman | 2000 The Balcony |
| 1963 The Comical Lovers | 2000 The Constant Wife |
| 1965 Bad Dreams (Three Plays for Moderns) | 2000 The Wind in the Willows |
| 1965 The Shed (New Plays Festival) | 2002 Hamlet |
| 1967 The Father | 2002 The Madness of George III |
| 1967 An Italian Straw Hat | 2002 The Winters' Tale |
| 1968 In Search of Man (New Plays Festival) | 2003 The Learned Ladies |
| 1968 Romeo and Juliet | 2003 Nicholas Nickleby |
| 1969 Peer Gynt | 2004 The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe |
| 1969 Richard II | 2004 The Recruiting Officer |
| 1970 Henry IV Part 2 | 2005 Isle of the Departed |
| 1971 The Last Emperors (New Plays Festival) | 2006 Comedians |
| 1973 Lysistrata | 2006 An Enemy of the People |
| 1974 She Stoops to Conquer | 2006 The London Cuckolds |
| 1975 The King (Director's Showcase) | 2007 Arsenic and Old Lace |
| 1976 The Lark | 2007 Cinderella |
| 1976 Total Eclipse | 2007 A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum |
| 1977 Seagull Rising (New Plays Festival) | 2008 Bedroom Farce |
| 1978 Anthony and Cleopatra | 2008 A Servant to Two Masters |
| 1993 Lady Windermere's Fan | 2012 It's A Wonderful Life |
| 1994 The Beaux' Stratagem | 2012 Othello |
| 1994 Judgement Day | 2012 Romeo and Juliet |
| 1995 Amadeus | |
| 1995 Biography | |
| 1996 The Journalists | |
| 1997 She Stoops to Conquer | |
| 1998 Accidental Death of an Anarchist | |
| 1998 Dreams of Anne Frank | |
| 1999 First Post to Last Pint | |

Derek on stage at The Questors



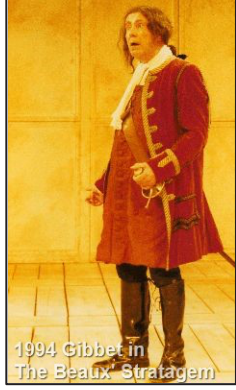
1961 Ned Poins in Henry IV Part One



1962 Happy in Death of a Salesman



1974 Sir Charles Marlow in She Stoops to Conquer



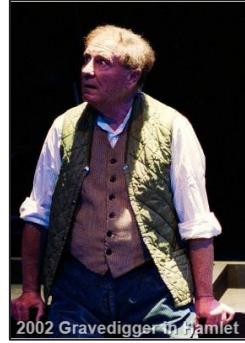
1994 Gibbet in The Beaux' Stratagem



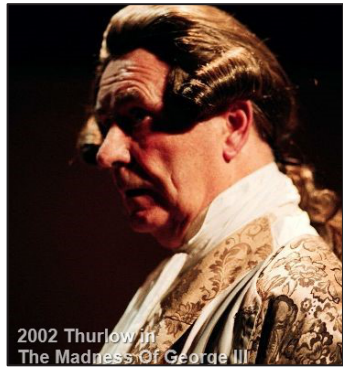
1999 First Post in Last Post



2002 Thurlow in The Madness Of George III



2002 Gravedigger in Hamlet



2002 Thurlow in The Madness Of George III



2003 Ned Cheeryble in Nicholas Nickleby



2004 Prof Kirk in The Lion the Witch and The Wardrobe



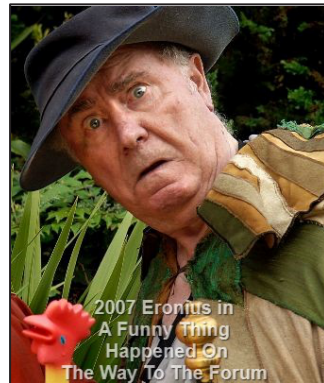
2005 General Koller in Isle of The Departed



2006 Aslaksen in An Enemy of The People



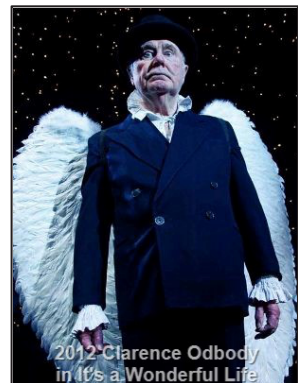
2006 Bert Challoner in The Comedians



2007 Eronius in A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum



2012 Apothecary in Romeo and Juliet



2012 Clarence Odbody in It's a Wonderful Life