

www.questors.org.uk

Find out all about our forthcoming productions – along with a lot of other information about The Questors – on our web site.

Stay in touch

Just send us your details, and we'll keep you informed about our forthcoming productions at The Questors.

You can either write, phone or email us with your details.

Join us

If you enjoy theatre, why not join us and become a member of The Questors?

If you enjoy a regular night out at the theatre with friends, why not become a member of The Questors? As a Playgoer Member, you'll receive a 20 per cent discount on your ticket to most Questors productions, free tickets for your children to most Questors productions, regular information about our productions, and membership of the Grapevine Bar, so you can come and enjoy a quiet evening in the Grapevine throughout the year.

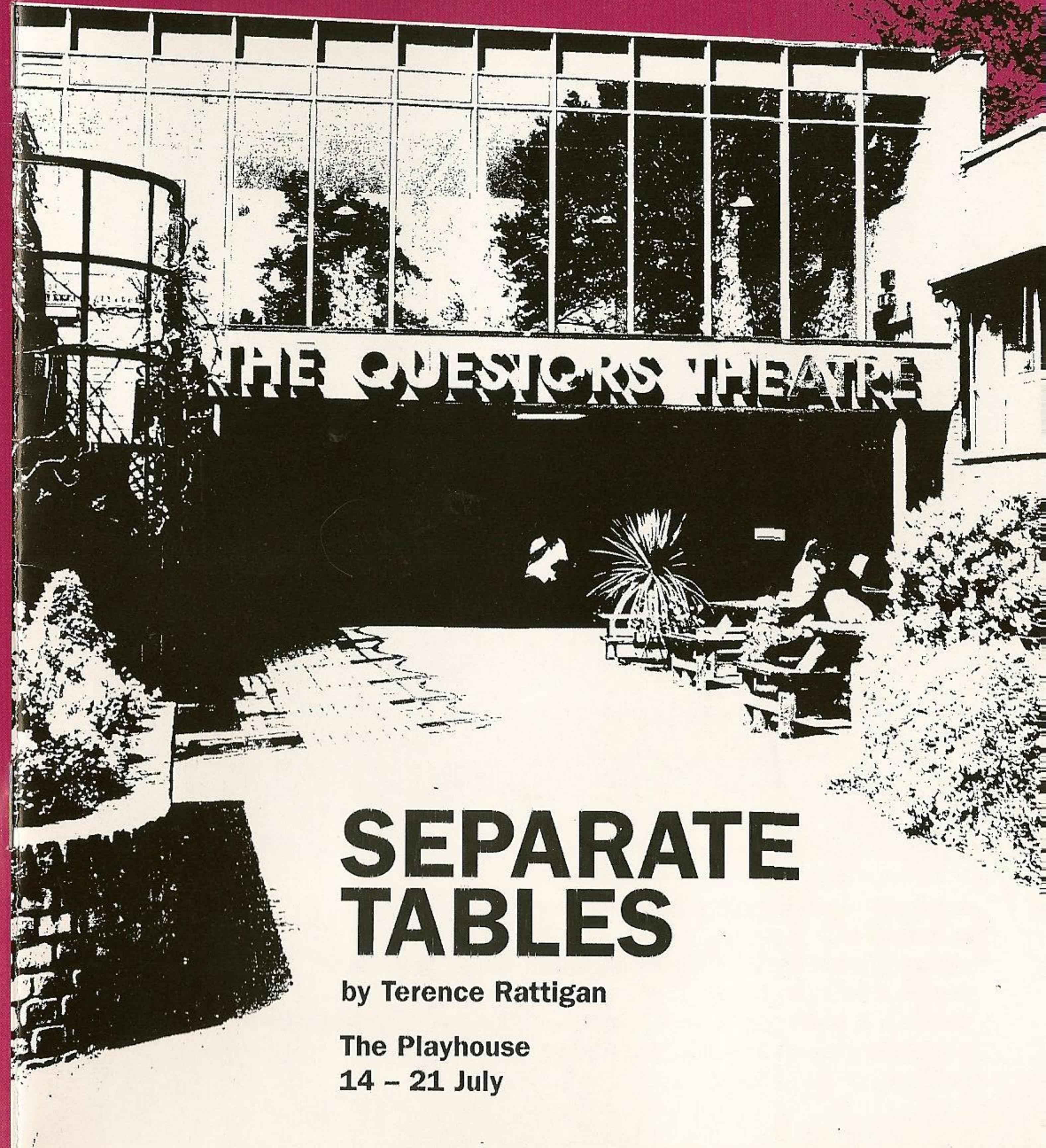
Or you could join as a Company Member and receive a 50 per cent discount on your ticket and opportunities to get involved in our productions, in addition to all the benefits for Playgoer Members.

You can get all of this for just £26.00 for Playgoer membership and £52.50 (£34.00 concessions) for Company membership, with discounts for payment by Direct Debit.

You can find Membership Application forms in the Box Office Foyer, or just phone the Theatre Office.



THE QUESTORS THEATRE



THE QUESTORS THEATRE
12 Mattock Lane
Ealing W5 5BQ

Box Office:
020 8567 5184

Theatre Office:
020 8567 0011

Email:
enquiries@questors.org.uk

Registered Charity no 207516

SEPARATE TABLES

by Terence Rattigan

The Playhouse
14 – 21 July



THE QUESTORS THEATRE



Welcome to The Questors Theatre, one of London's best kept secrets – except to its 2,000 members.

How do I know about The Questors? I am proud to have been its President for over 20 years. Founded in 1929, it has since grown into the largest community theatre in Europe with a reputation for the highest standards, not only in acting but in direction and design as well. Luckily, with so many members, we have a wealth of talent to call on for all aspects of production, and members are encouraged to be as actively involved as they would like. Alternatively they simply enjoy the social side of the club, including the friendly Grapevine Bar (one of the perks of membership) and the many and varied shows in our 370-seat Playhouse theatre and our more intimate Studio theatre.

The Questors runs a professionally recognised two-year acting course in conjunction with Kingston College. There are also acting courses for beginners, free backstage training courses, visiting companies from home and abroad, regular art exhibitions and workshops, and The Questors Youth Theatre. In short, theatre is something for everyone, and with annual membership from £12.00 to £52.50 depending on your chosen level of



commitment, it's great value for money as well.

But don't just take my word for it. The next time you're in Ealing, call into the Grapevine bar on any Wednesday evening at 8pm for a free tour of the theatre and a drink on us!

Worth looking into?

Definitely!

Dame Judi Dench

President of The Questors Theatre



SEPARATE TABLES

by Terence Rattigan

SIR TERENCE MERVYN RATTIGAN

June 10, 1911 – November 30, 1977

Born in London and of Irish Protestant extraction, Rattigan was educated at Harrow and then Trinity College, Oxford.

His education and privileged background are reflected in the situations and sharp class observation of his plays. He is remembered as one of England's most important twentieth-century dramatists.

Success as a playwright came early to Rattigan with his 1936 light comedy *French Without Tears*, set in a crammer; in 1939 Rattigan's well-known determination to write a more serious play produced *After The Dance* followed by the famous satirical, social drama *Bright Young Things*, fiercely reflecting the carefree youth of the 1920s, failure to engage politically in the darkening climate of the 1930s. *Bright Young Things* became a victim of its own subject matter when war did come, destroying the play's chances of a long run.

After the end of the war, a string of successful dramas secured Rattigan's place as one of the major dramatists of his day. These were *The Winslow Boy* in 1946, *The*

Browning Version in 1948, *The Deep Blue Sea* in 1952 and *Adventure Story* which was written about Alexander the Great. *Separate Tables* was written in 1954.

Rattigan was a firm believer in craft and structure; the emotional depth and chilling subtext of his plays are born of a very formal organisation. Unfortunately, such methodology and subject matter would mean that Rattigan, like *Bright Young Things*, would become a victim of his time: with the rise of John Osborne's *Look Back in Anger* (1956), such a mannered approach to theatre had become 'old fashioned' while the emotional explicitness and intensity which so shocked Osborne's audience became their expectation. The immediate critical disfavour and subsequent eclipse of writers like Rattigan was fatal to his career, as was the further damage he did to himself: his sensitivity to this decline in success and reputation resulted in a string of badly-advised comments in interviews and plays alike, turning him more and more into the caricature his enemies made of him:

a conservative, old-fashioned, play-carpenter with no sympathy or understanding of the modern world. This appearance was in contrast to the political and personal reality of Rattigan: not only was he none of these things, but he was a public supporter of Joe Orton and the Liberal Party, with some of the better work of the last twenty years of his life, like *Ross*, *Man and Boy*, *In Praise of Love* and *Cause Célèbre*, considered to be among his finest work.

Society's demands meant that Rattigan's homosexuality was concealed from all but his closest friends, and while it has been said that most of his work is autobiographical and contains many coded references to his sexuality, the repeated (and unfounded) claim that Rattigan originally wrote *The Deep Blue Sea* as a play about male lovers, turning into a heterosexual play at the last minute, should not detract from the fact that his female characters are in fact finely drawn as female and are in no sense 'men in drag'.

Rattigan was diagnosed with leukemia in 1962 and recovered two years later, but

again fell ill in 1968. His dislike for the Britain of the late fifties led him to move abroad in 1960. He spent the rest of the decade in Bermuda living off lucrative but forgettable screenplays (for a time he was the highest-paid screenwriter in the world). Rattigan was knighted in the early seventies and moved back to Britain where he experienced a minor revival in his reputation before his death from bone cancer in 1977 at the age of sixty-six.

Fifteen years after his death, largely through a magnificent revival of *The Deep Blue Sea* at the Almeida and a string of subsequent revivals, Rattigan's reputation was more than restored and he is now seen as one of the century's finest playwrights.

Note on the Text: Rattigan wrote two versions of Table Number Seven. The first is the one used by everyone. The second was thought far too risqué and was never produced in his lifetime. We will be using this version.

Compiled by Mark Fitzgerald and Rachel Knightley from various sources.

THE QUESTORS THEATRE Open Day



15 September
from 12 noon to 6.00pm

Have a peek backstage,
find out everything it takes
to put on a show, and even
get involved in your theatre.

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum

29 September – 13 October

In the Playhouse

Breakneck farce bursting with sexy
fun – one of the funniest musicals
ever written.

Mercury Fur

20–27 October

In the Studio

Shocking and horrifying drama of
feral teenagers in a future
wasteland.

SEPARATE TABLES

by Terence Rattigan

First performance: Saturday, 14th July 2007

CAST

ACTORS in order of speaking

Table by the Window

Mabel	Jude Claybourne
Lady Matheson	Barbara Christian
Miss Meacham	Elvina Muschett
Mrs Railton-Bell	Alex McDevitt
Doreen	Danielle Moran
Mr Fowler	Neil Gittoes
Mrs Shankland	Amy Brangwyn
Miss Cooper	Hannah Whiteoak
Mr Stratton	Chris Amah
Miss Tanner	Tiffany Sanders
Mr Malcolm	Stephen Kavanagh

Table Number Seven

Mrs Stratton	Tiffany Sanders
Mr Stratton	Chris Amah
Major Pollock	Rahul Mahant
Mr Fowler	Neil Gittoes
Miss Cooper	Hannah Whiteoak
Mrs Railton-Bell	Alex Mcdevitt
Miss Railton-Bell	Danielle Moran
Lady Matheson	Barbara Christian
Miss Meacham	Elvina Muschett
Mabel	Jude Claybourne
Doreen	Amy Brangwyn

The play is set in The Beauregard Hotel, Bournemouth.

Table by the Window

<i>Scene 1</i>	<i>The dining room in winter</i>
<i>Scene 2</i>	<i>2 hours later</i>

Table Number Seven

<i>Scene 1</i>	<i>18 months later in the summer</i>
<i>Scene 2</i>	<i>Evening of the same day</i>

Production Team

Director	Mark Fitzgerald
Set designers	Bron Blake Jenny Richardson
Lighting designer	Tim Edwards
Sound designer	Paul Wilson
Assisted by	Kerry Waites
Costume designers	Sue Millhouse Nichola Thomas
Stage manager	Sylvia Wall
Deputy stage manager	Michelle Weaver
Assistant stage managers	Mercedes De Lahitte Victoria Yassa Asha Reid Max Fedyk
Set construction	Colin Horne Mark Horne
Assisted by	Lawrence Sills Tommy Benham Harriet Darrach de Haldervang Claire Walker Sophie Bellou
Hair and make-up	Belles Berry Lucy Campbell Siobhan Murphy
Show photography	David Mosby
Lighting operator	Dan Webb
Programme editor	Rachel Knightley
Programme design and print	Considerthisuk.com

Thanks to: Henry Broom, Katy Gallantry, Doug King, Nigel Lawrence, Gordon Miller, Harriet Parsonage, Jo Perse, Liz Prior, Peter Salvietto, Pam Smith, Zyg Staniaszek, Anis Ukaye

The play runs for approximately 2 ½ hours including a 15-minute interval.

Biographies

Christopher Amah

Christopher's acting experiences started in secondary school where he appeared in three productions, one of which was written by Sarah Kane. He joined the Student Group in 2005. As a first-year he appeared as a bodyguard in *'Tis Pity She's a Whore*. He hopes to act professionally.

Amy Brangywn

Amy's interest in acting began at school with *Bugsy Malone* and *Guys and Dolls*. She trained with the Brighton Dome Youth Theatre and National Youth Theatre ending in performances of *A Man of Mode* and *Romeo and Juliet*. For The Questors she played Kordelia Kennedy in *Koda4Makbet*.

Barbara Christian

Barbara started out in musical theatre and hopes eventually to do straight acting. Following some experience at the Compass Theatre, Ickenham, she joined the Student Group in 2005.

Jude Claybourne

Jude completed the student group in 2005 and has since appeared in *The Shape of Things* and *The Weir*. She has written and

performed comedy and has made two short films but her proudest achievement is being the voice of Staubli, a talking brush attachment on a German Hoover toy.

Mark Fitzgerald – Director

Mark trained in Student Group 44 then at Drama Studio London. He worked as an actor for a few years before turning to directing. Credits include *The Visit*, *Saturday, Sunday, Monday*, *Henry V*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *This Happy Breed*, *An Ideal Husband*, *The Rivals*, *The Comedy of Errors* (twice) and *Amongst Barbarians*. Mark will be directing *Richard III* this autumn.

Neil Gittoes

Neil has played Kenneth in *The Woman Who Cooked Her Husband* and written and directed *Me* for the National Chinese Association at the Stratford Circus Theatre. His Questors credits include *'Tis Pity She's a Whore* and *Koda4Makbet*. He is the youngest member of Group 60.

Stephen Kavanagh

Stephen has acted at many levels including downstairs in the Shaw Room and upstairs in the Redgrave Room. Roles in the Student

Group have included Hamlet, John Proctor, Algernon and Jack and also Berkoff's Frank from *Kvetch*. Stephen has also appeared in The Questors' production of *As You Like It*.

Alex McDevitt

Alex was a late starter in acting terms: to date her repertoire has comprised Kathy Stapleton in *Hound of the Baskervilles* and the Vicar in Alan Ayckbourn's *Confusions*.

Danielle Moran

Danielle joined the Student Group in 2005. Her first experience on the Questors stage was in *'Tis Pity She's A Whore*.

Elvina Muschett

Elvina developed an interest in acting at the age of ten and went on to do a BTEC national diploma in Performing Arts at college. She has gained her stage experience through community awareness projects and has also worked backstage on *Saturday, Sunday, Monday*.

Rahul Nath

Rahul is a trained Indian dancer. Having studied at Lee Strasberg and Stella Adler (Los Angeles) he discovered method and

character acting, he joined The Questors in 2005 and has been seen in *After the Dance* and *Koda4Makbet*.

Tiffany Sanders

Tiffany started out in the Questors Youth Theatre, taking part in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in the Playhouse. This encouraged her to join the Introductory Group and then the Student Group. She ASM-ed on *Henry V* in 2006 and hopes The Questors will continue to be her second home.

Hannah Whiteoak

Hannah's interest in acting began at school and she went on to Salford University to complete her degree in Media and Performance in a number of roles. At The Questors she was involved in costume design for *Koda4Makbet* and wishes to continue being heavily involved with Questors life.

Great Expectations

10 – 17 November

In the Playhouse

Charles Dickens's frightening, funny and deeply affecting tale of betrayal, grippingly told.

Richard III

17 – 24 November

In the Studio

Shakespeare's compelling portrait of the ruthless and charismatic villain, seducing and slaughtering his way to power.

Cinderella

13 December – 5 January

In the Playhouse

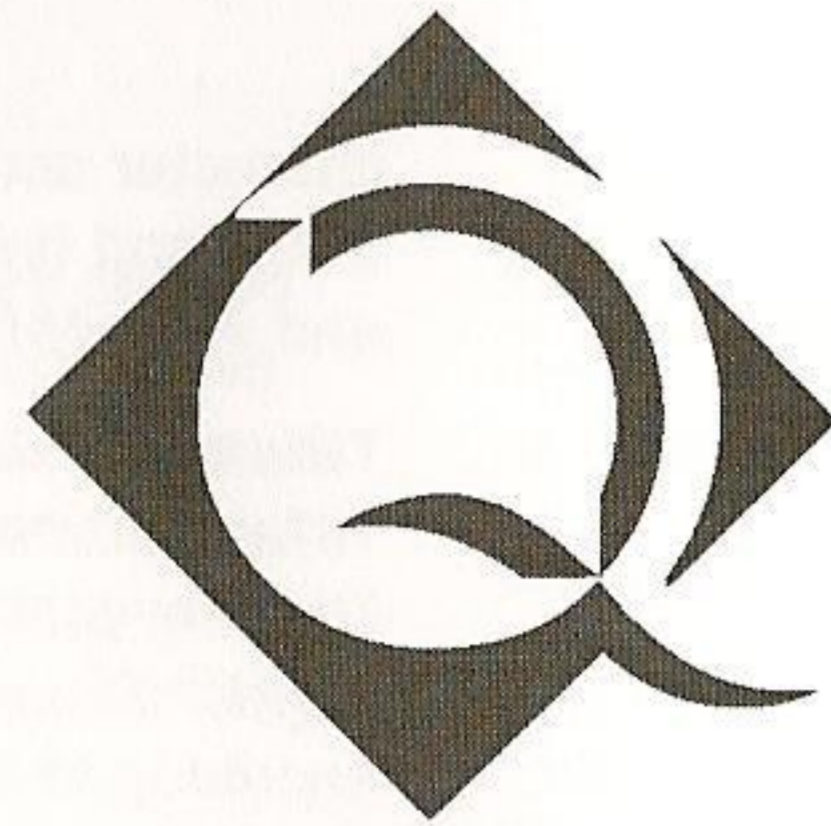
A charming family tale for Christmas – with a few unexpected twists.

Time and Time Again

28 December – 5 January

In the Studio

Grown-up comedy from Alan Ayckbourn, Britain's most popular playwright.



Questors E-News direct to your Inbox

Get all the latest news and offers for our shows by joining our e-mail lists.

- You can choose to receive short snippets of information every week or so, or longer round-ups every month – or both if you wish!
- We'll keep the e-mails as short and simple as possible – because we know you'd prefer it that way.
- And we'll have an unsubscribe facility (which actually works) at the bottom of every message!

It's easy to sign up – just a few clicks is all it takes.

Visit www.questors.org.uk/e-news.html and you'll start getting our E-News in your Inbox.



Getting the most from your membership

Many members join just to see shows, but there is so much more on offer to Company Members. So why not get involved?

Front-of-House is a great place to start. No previous experience is needed for selling programmes, stewarding or serving in the Café; and training is provided for anyone who fancies working in Box Office. If you want to meet people and have a good time, then the best place to be is behind the Grapevine Bar – and you can volunteer for just one night or several.

Backstage staff – including stage managers, prop makers, set builders, painters and wardrobe staff – are always welcomed, and whatever your skills we'll find a place for you. If you have some experience then The Questors is a wonderful space to be a designer. But even without experience, you can help out on shows, and you're sure to get some hands-on experience. The same goes for lighting and sound – the Playhouse and Studio are both well-equipped and excellent places to learn.

You can direct if you have some experience or training, but if not then we offer various learning opportunities. The Questors have a high standard of acting, and to maintain this, everyone wanting to act must first take an audition. These are held every month – so if you have some training or experience of acting, call the Theatre Office for details of the forthcoming auditions.

There are many other activities you can join in to help out. If you're free during daytimes, you can help with our monthly mailing or delivering leaflets, and if you're handy with maintenance then there are always little jobs to be done.

Only Company members can take part in our activities, so please contact the Theatre Office if you would like to get involved or receive further information about Company membership.