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

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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

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Registered Charity no 207516

THE VISIT

by Friedrich Durrenmatt

The Studio
24-31 March



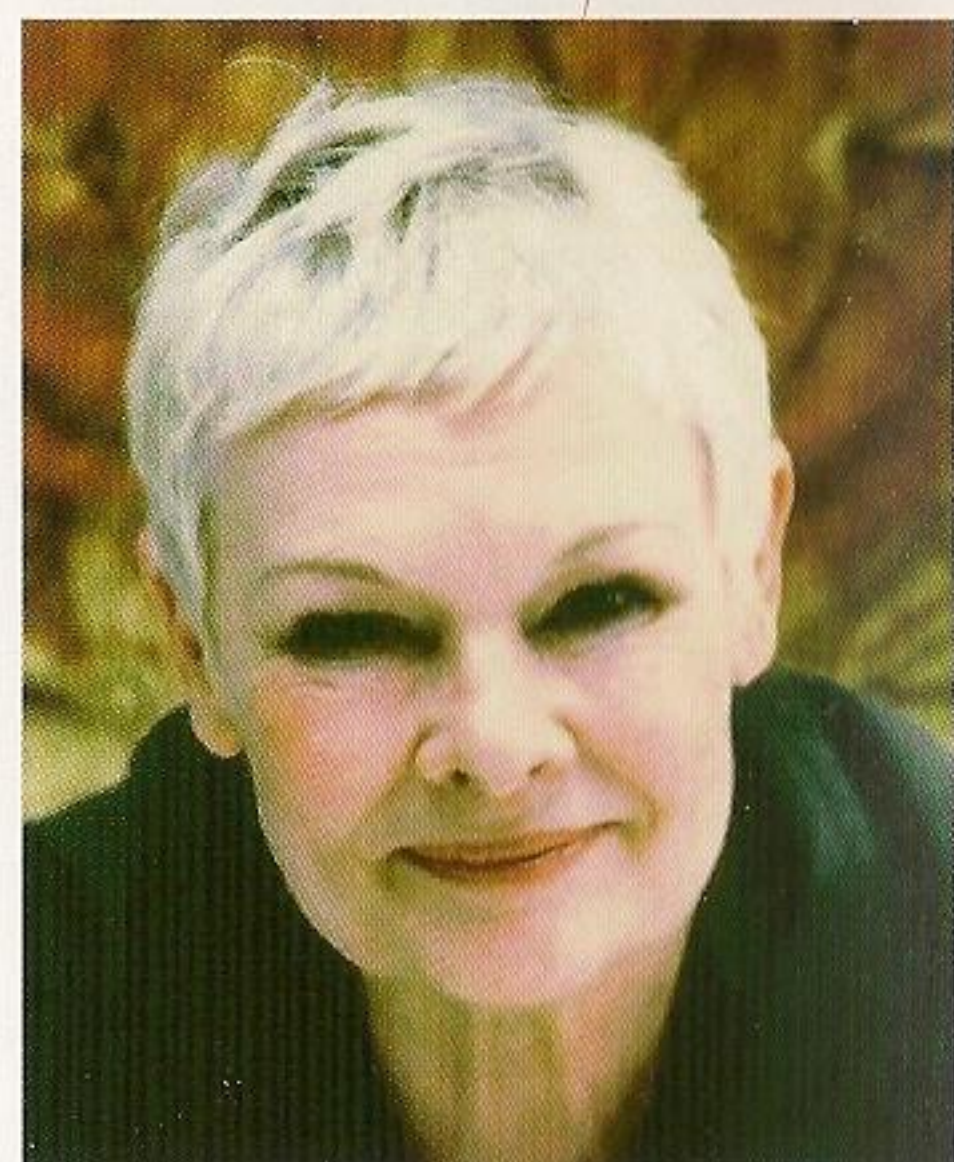
THE QUESTORS THEATRE



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.

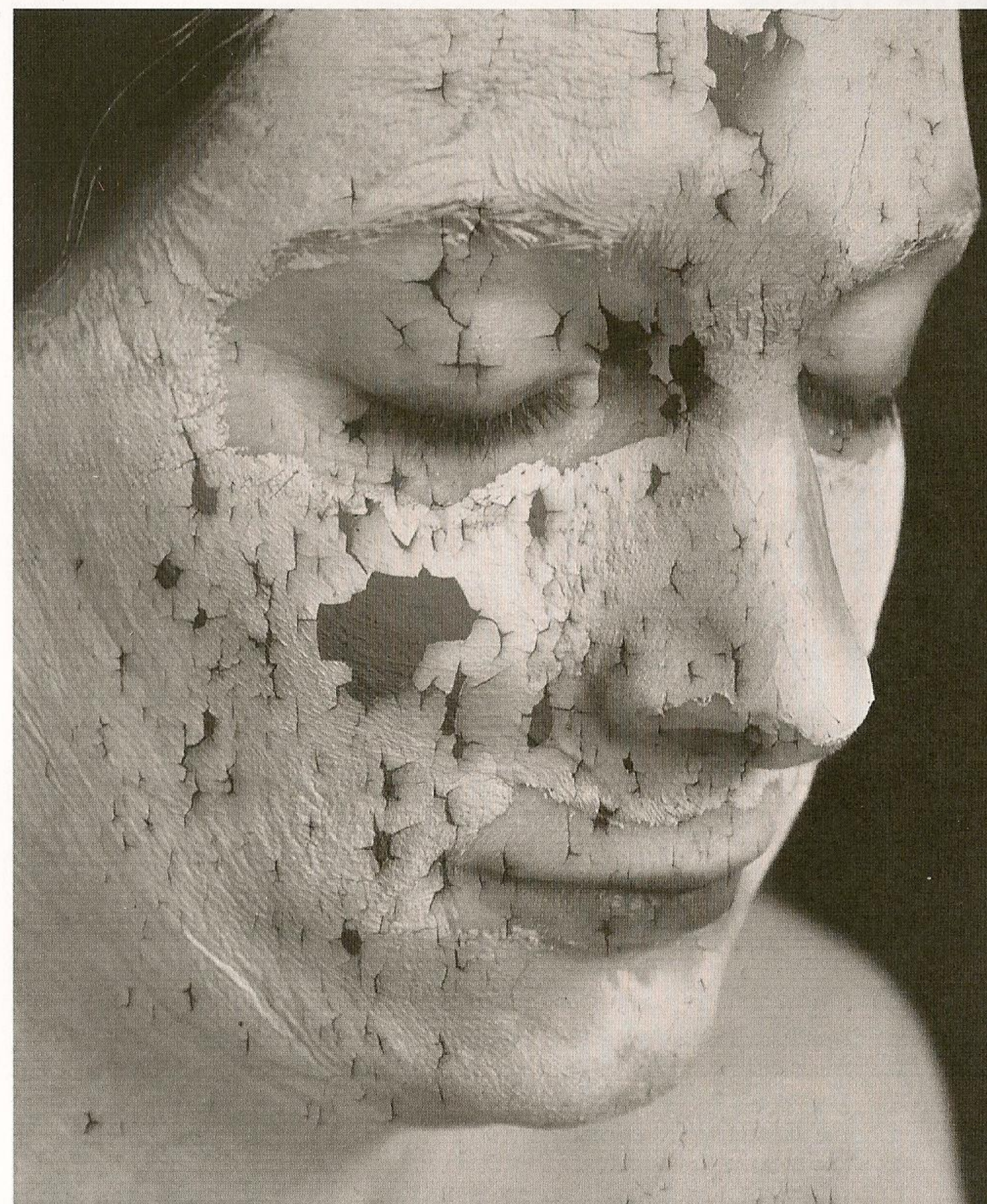
But don't just take my word for it. The next time you're in Ealing, call into the Grapevine bar on any Wednesday evening at 8pm for a free tour of the theatre and a drink on us!

Worth looking into?

Definitely!

Dame Judi Dench

President of The Questors Theatre



THE VISIT

by Friedrich Dürrenmatt,
adapted by Maurice Valency
and presented by The Questors 60th Student Group

THE VISIT

In rehearsals you tend to spend quite a lot of time in trying to find parallels between the play you are performing and real life events. This is partly to get the inner life of the characters, partly to help the cast have a clear understanding of the text and, in its turn, to help create the world of the play. It usually follows that if the cast believe in the world of the play, then the audience will, so, as you can guess, this is incredibly important to us. For some productions the creation of the world of the play is easier than for others. Some plays are based on true historical events, so you have a leg-up there; others are completely fictional. In the case of this play, not only are the events fictional but so is the world these characters inhabit.

The starting point is the town of Gullen (translated this means 'Sewer'), somewhere in Germany in 1954-56. Gullen is a run-down, penniless town; all the factories are closed down and the townspeople are starving and literally shoeless. In the world of the play, things are so desperate that the people are willing to do anything to change their miserable lives.

To find a parallel to this, I looked back to Germany of 1923 and the days of hyperinflation, a time when inflation was at five thousand percent. There was one man who dreamed of retiring and, on the day

of his retirement, after paying into a company pension for twenty years, he decided to cash it in. He went out and spent the lot on one loaf of bread. Another example was how if you bought a bottle of wine in the evening, by the next morning the empty bottle would be worth more money than the full one the day before. This was a country in which a whole life spent saving became worthless overnight, never to be recovered; where comfortably well-off people were made destitute and starving in a heartbeat.

We could then start to understand what can drive human beings to believe in anyone or anything that claims to be able to help them out of this life of absolute misery, or how, when offered the opportunity of credit and loans on the promise of vast amounts of money, they – or you – may well find it impossible to refuse.

Friedrich Dürrenmatt never mentions the Second World War directly but the events of its darkest periods are always underlying the scenes and the actions of the characters. Claire's offer, and her condition, may be unthinkable in our lives but to the people of Gullen it would seem heaven-sent. The warning is unmissable.

Mark Fitzgerald

List of Scenes

Gullen (Somewhere in Germany)

1. The Train Station
2. The Golden Apostle Hotel
3. The Forest
4. The Golden Apostle Hotel
5. The Shop of Anton Schill
6. The Police Station
7. The Balcony of the Golden Apostle Hotel
8. The Balcony of the Golden Apostle Hotel
9. Burgomeister's Office
10. Gullen Cathedral
11. The Street outside the Golden Apostle Hotel
12. The Train Station

INTERVAL

13. The Barn
14. The Shop
15. The Forest
16. The Town Hall
17. The Train Station

The Questors Youth Theatre present

Aftermath

by QYT Group 11A, Rachel Knightley and Samantha Wright

Teenagers are forced to deal with the consequences of a tragic event.

21 April at 2.30pm and 7.45pm

In the Playhouse

Tickets: £5.00

The Questors Youth Theatre present

Cogner au Plafond (Bashing on the Ceiling)

a play in French and English
by Wanda Duszynska

Poignant and comic drama of English students who encounter more than they bargained for on a school trip.

25-28 April at 7.45pm,
28 April at 2.30pm

In the Playhouse

Tickets: 25-26 April - £11.50
(£10.50 concessions, £5.50 students);
27-28 April - £13.50
(£12.00 concessions, £6.50 students)

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.

THE VISIT

by Friedrich Dürrenmatt
adapted by Maurice Valency

First performance 24 March 2007

CAST

(cast in order of speaking)

Messenger	Derek Stoddart
Claire Zachanassian	Alex McDevitt (Scenes 1-12) Hannah Whiteoak (Scenes 13-17)
Bobby	Steven Tillett*
Pedro	Rahul Kohli*
Max	Simon Rudkin†
Mike	Daniel Sormainis†
1st Blind Man	Nigel Lawrence*
2nd Blind Man	Alex Roustborne†
Anton Schill	Stephen Kavanagh
Frau Schill	Barbara Christian
The Son	Neil Gittoes
The Daughter	Danielle Moran
Burgomaster	Rahul Nath
The Pastor	Neil Gittoes
The Teacher	Tiffany Sanders
The Doctor	Amy Brangwyn
The Policeman	Christopher Amah
The Painter	Elvina Muschett
1st Man	Amy Brangwyn
2nd Man	Hannah Whiteoak (Scene 1) Christopher Amah (Scenes 5 & 14)
3rd Man	Alex Roustbourne†
4th Man	Nigel Lawrence*
1st woman	Elvina Muschett
2nd woman	Danielle Moran
Frau Burgomaster	Elvina Muschett
Adolph	Harrison Fitzgerald
Adolphine	Marie Balaguy
The Stationmaster	Barbara Christian
The Conductor	Danielle Moran
Reporter	Alex McDevitt
The Photographer	Rahul Kohli*
Radio Operator	Danielle Moran
Cameraman	Steven Tillett*

The action is set in Gullen, Germany. Approx running time: 2 hours.
There will be an interval of 15 minutes between Scenes 12 and 13.

Production Team

Director	Mark Fitzgerald
Designer	Alex Marker
Music arranged and accompanied by	Rachel Power
Stage Managers	Claudia Kees, Anis Ukaye
Properties	Sarah Brothwell
Lighting Designer	Chris Edwards
Lighting Operator	Dan Webb
Lighting Riggers	Francois Langton Danny Bailey
Sound Designer	Paul Wilson
Sound Operator	Paul Wilson
Prompt	Susan Oliver
Hair & Make-Up	Julia Cruttenden, Grace McCourt Lauren Taylor, Abigail Morris
Wardrobe	Sarah Andrews
Assistant Stage Managers	Andrew Pirrie Alex Lee Harriet De Haldevong
Set Painters	John Romley, Sinead Lawler
Programme	Rachel Knightley

THANKS TO: Mike Hagan, Christopher Hodgson, the get-in crew for *More Adventures in Time and Space*, Tina Harris, Jane Mason, Alice Pennicott, the Kingston College Technical Theatre course students. Thomas Kees for supplying the music from Germany and the London Wildcare Field Centre in Walpole Park for the donation of hay.

The Questors Student Group is run in association with Kingston College.
Head of Performing Arts (Kingston) – John Davey
Director of Studies (Questors) and First Year Acting Tutor - David Emmet
Second Year Acting Tutor – Mark Fitzgerald
Movement and Physical Theatre Tutor – Nicholas Jonne
Voice and Speech Tutor – Marianne Micallef
All these members of staff are themselves graduates of The Questors Student Group

* Steven Tillett, Rahul Kohli and Nigel Lawrence are past members of The Questors Student Group
† Simon Rudkin, Daniel Sormainis and Alex Roustbourne are members of The First Year Student Group, Group 61

Cast 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. This is her first performance at The Questors Theatre.

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 *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*. This is his forty-third show.

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, Alferon and Jack and also Berkoff's Frank from *Kvetch*. Stephen has also appeared in The Questors' production of *As You Like It*.

Claudia Kees – Stage Manager

Backstage credits include *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, Oh! What a Lovely War, Oliver!, Guards! Guards!, Mouth to Mouth, Saturday, Sunday, Monday* and *Comedians*.

Rahul Kohli

Rahul finished the Student Group in 2006 after his performances in *Henry V* and *Saturday, Sunday, Monday*. As an acting member he has played Mr Patel in *Comedians*. Rahul has also made his first leap into the acting world in a short film called *The Vacancy*.

Nigel Lawrence

It's exactly twenty years since Nigel made his first appearance in the Student Group. Back in 1987, he played the man in Pinter's short double-hander, *Night*, and Erpingham in Joe Orton's *Erpingham Camp*.

Alex Marker – Designer

Alex joined the Questors Youth Theatre in 1988 and appeared in his first show the following year. Since then he has designed sets, created posters, made puppets, constructed, painted, acted, directed and drummed in over 80 Questors shows and events. He is the Questors Youth Theatre Director (since 2001) and Head of Design.

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*. Apart from the student look-in, this is Alex's first appearance on the Questors Stage. She hopes to become an acting member.

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*.

Alex Roustborne

Alex joined the Questors Student Group in September 2006 and has previously appeared in *The Dog in the Manger*.

Simon Rudkin

Simon is currently in the first year of the Questors Student Group. This is his first production at The Questors having previously worked with Sleaford Little Theatre in Lincolnshire.

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.

Daniel Sormainis

Daniel arrived from Greece in September 2006 and joined the Student Group. Since his arrival in the United Kingdom he has appeared in several TV series as a supporting actor. He is going to continue his studies and hopes to become a professional actor.

Steven Tillett

Steve completed The Questors Student Group in 2006. He has acted in *Saturday, Sunday, Monday* and *There'll Always Be a Brentford*.

Anis Ukaye – Stage Manager

Anis stage-managed *Saturday, Sunday, Monday* and *Henry V*, deputy stage-managed *Conversations After a Burial* and *'Tis Pity She's a Whore* and ASM-ed on *Peter Pan, Dolly West's Kitchen, The Good Person of Szechwan, New Boy, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and *Blasted*. He studied technical theatre at Kingston College.

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.

Next in the Studio: French Paste

by Richard Gallagher

1987: storms over England, Thatcher in for a third time and Tom and Stephen are "living in black and white in Brixton". Tom dreams of a place where he can live in glorious Technicolor: a place where there isn't any trouble, a place somewhere over the rainbow...

"This play is so funny it's some time before you realise it has something serious to say about human relationships"

Manchester Evening News

7, 10-14 April at 7.45pm, 8 April at 2.30pm

In the Studio

Tickets: £10.50 (£9.50 concessions, £5.00 students)

7 – 14 April 2007

The Questors present

Arsenic and Old Lace

by Joseph Kesselring

Macabre and hilarious tale of two innocent old ladies with a cellar-ful of corpses.

4-5, 8-12 May at 7.45pm,
6 May at 2.30pm

In the Studio

Tickets: £10.50
(£9.50 concessions, £5.00 students)

The Questors present

Waiting for Godot

by Samuel Beckett

20th-century comedy masterpiece of two irascible tramps' touching dependence on each other while waiting for Mr Godot to arrive.

22-26 May at 7.45pm

In the Playhouse

Tickets: 22-24 May – £11.50 (£10.50 concessions, £5.50 students);
25-26 May – £13.50 (£12.00 concessions, £6.50 students)

The Questors present

Company

music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim,
book by George Furth

Beautiful, bittersweet musical about five marriages.

2, 5-9, 13-16, 20-23 June at 7.45pm,
3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23 June at 2.30pm

In the Studio

Tickets: £10.50 (£9.50 concessions,
£5.00 students)



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.