

Amateur Theatre Fest: an exciting new event for amateur theatre-makers

AMATEUR THEATRE FEST



- **Amateur Theatre Fest is presented by performing rights agents and theatre publishers Nick Hern Books, as part of their thirtieth anniversary celebrations which continue throughout 2018**
- **All-day event to be held on Saturday 8 September 2018 at The Questors Theatre, Ealing, West London**
- **Speakers include high-profile writers, actors and directors such as Mike Bartlett, Jez Butterworth, Simon Callow, Oliver Ford Davies, Stephen Unwin and Amanda Whittington**
- **Attendees will have the chance to take part in expert workshops on skills such as auditioning, directing, singing, improvisation, stage design, marketing and more**
- **Early Bird tickets go on sale at 12 noon on Tuesday 8 May, priced at £25 for individuals and £100 for groups of five**

Nick Hern Books has today (2 May) announced Amateur Theatre Fest, an exciting new event for amateur theatre-makers to be held on Saturday 8 September 2018 at The Questors Theatre, Ealing, West London.

The event will celebrate the UK's vibrant amateur theatre scene, and offer attendees the chance to meet others in the community, hear from some of the country's top playwrights, and learn new skills for their own productions, at a full day of workshops, talks and performances.

The programme includes a welcome speech from actor and author Simon Callow (*Four Weddings and a Funeral*, *Shakespeare in Love*), talks by leading playwrights Mike Bartlett (*King Charles III*, *Bull*, *Doctor Foster* on BBC One), Jez Butterworth (*Mojo*, *Jerusalem*, *The Ferryman*) and Amanda Whittington (*Be My Baby*, *Ladies' Day*, *The Thrill of Love*), and workshops, all delivered by expert practitioners, on skills including auditioning, directing, singing, improvisation, stage design, marketing and more.

Ticketing information

Tickets to Amateur Theatre Fest go on sale at 12 noon on Tuesday 8 May, at a time-limited Early Bird rate of £25 for individuals and £100 for groups of five. More information on the event, ticketing, and the full programme for the day can be found at www.amateurtheatrefest.co.uk.

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Matt Applewhite, Managing Director of Nick Hern Books, said:

'We're very excited to launch this new event for amateur theatre-makers, offering them a valuable chance to come together, hear from some of our incredible writers – whose plays are regularly performed by amateur-theatre companies all across the UK – and meet other members of the passionate amateur-theatre community.'

'NHB is very proud to work with so many talented, ambitious groups and societies to license and perform the plays we publish, and as part of our thirtieth anniversary festivities it's great to have the opportunity to celebrate with them. We look forward to seeing lots of you at Amateur Theatre Fest in September!'

About Nick Hern Books

Founded in 1988, **Nick Hern Books** is the UK's leading specialist theatre publisher with over 1,000 plays and theatre books in our catalogue. They also license most of their plays for amateur performance.

NHB's list of plays includes work by many of the UK and Ireland's preeminent playwrights – including Mike Bartlett, Howard Brenton, Jez Butterworth, Caryl Churchill, David Edgar, Helen Edmundson, Conor McPherson, Lucy Kirkwood, Rona Munro, Jack Thorne, Enda Walsh and more – as well as some of the most exciting emerging writers such as Alecky Blythe, Alexi Kaye Campbell, James Fritz, Debbie Tucker Green, Ella Hickson and Tom Wells. They work with major theatres and theatre companies across the UK and in Ireland to publish new plays alongside their professional premieres, often in the form of a 'programme/text' that combines the functions of theatre programme and playtext.

NHB also publishes many classic plays and plays in translation, together with a wide range of authoritative theatre books, many of them written by well-known theatre practitioners, including *Actions: The Actors' Thesaurus*, *The Actor and the Target* and the popular *So You Want To...* and *Good Audition Guide* series.

NHB celebrates its thirtieth anniversary in 2018. To learn more, visit www.nickhernbooks.co.uk.

About The Questors Theatre

The Questors Theatre is one of the largest community theatres in Europe, with a membership of around 1,500, of whom around 600 are actively involved in productions.

Situated in Ealing, West London, the theatre offers its members a wide range of activities and social events, in addition to a season of around twenty shows a year, a variety of courses and workshops, and a regular programme of visiting companies.

Since its foundation in 1929, The Questors has had a reputation for achieving the highest standards, both in the quality and the professionalism of its productions. With their own theatre complex (the flexible Judi Dench Playhouse seats around 340 people and the Studio caters for more intimate audiences of around 90), rehearsal space, workshop and professional-standard technical facilities, they offer opportunities in all areas of theatre production and design.

As well as exploring the mainstream of modern and classical world drama, The Questors has always been respected for championing new or rarely performed plays, and for encouraging experimentation.

The Questors Theatre President is Dame Judi Dench, and Vice-Presidents include Oliver Ford Davies, Amanda Redman and Michael Rosen.

To learn more, visit <http://www.questors.org.uk/>.

For further information and review copies, contact Jon Barton, Marketing Manager, jon@nickhernbooks.co.uk or 020 8749 4953