



February — March 2021

Hi Kelvinians

I hope this edition of *The Jester* finds you and your loved ones well and safe and bearing up in these continuing difficult times.

This edition is brief I'm afraid, but it does contain messages from Fran Lewis and our Artistic Programme Committee.

Some Kelvin activity continues from time to time on the Kelvin Facebook members' page; I can recommend checking it regularly to see what else is going on and for announcements (facebook login required):

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2364145819/?ref=share>

Do check out our website: www.kelvinplayers.co.uk and follow us on Twitter, Facebook etc

As in recent months, activity continues to be much less because of covid, and with the likelihood that this will continue now at least until late spring, *The Jester* for the time being will be much briefer when it appears.

If you have anything at all to send me for inclusion in the next issue of *The Jester*, you can do so at any time by emailing it to me at: jester@kelvinplayers.co.uk

So depending on whether there is anything worthwhile to report, the next *Jester* will be at the beginning of April. If not, then I'm afraid that *The Jester* will not appear and I will suspend production of *The Jester* until such time as things change.

Geoff Collard (editor)

So depending on what happens

The deadline for the next *Jester* will be Saturday March 27th 2021

Some Messages from Fran Lewis **and our Artistic Programme Committee**

2021 Season News

Hello everyone,

I do hope you have all had a fabulous festive time, and are looking forward to the potential of better things in the New Year.

We have an update for you regarding Kelvin's 2021 season; obviously, with the current situation as it is, it's very difficult to plan our main productions when the risk of having to shut them down is more than likely – as was the case with *Hamlet* last April.

Therefore, we are suspending *all* planned 2021 productions, until we have a better idea of when these ongoing restrictions may end. Most professional theatres and venues are also doing the same.

Of course, we will regularly review the situation, and keep an optimistic notion of properly reopening in October with *Hamlet* – however, we do recognise that this depends on many factors, and we simply cannot confirm any dates for any main show right now.

Despite the suspension of the main productions, we are keen to programme a series of public events in the Spring of 2021 (these will need to adhere to government COVID guidelines). We feel it is important to provide opportunities for the whole club to get involved, not just produce plays that have already been cast. (See next page below for more).

These events could be monologues/duologues, storytelling, quizzes, comedy nights, readings, live music etc. As long as they can be performed within the COVID guidelines, we want to produce it! The APC will be meeting soon to discuss how this could happen.

So, our planned 2021 season (*Hamlet*, *The Goat*, *Jane Eyre*, and *The Comedy of Errors*) is being postponed again – this obviously has an impact on the 2022 season. If you were considering submitting a play for 2022, please do so. As yet, we have no idea what the future holds, but it would be good to have options!

I know this is disappointing news for many of you, and it has not been easy to make these decisions; however, our concern for the health and welfare of the membership takes precedence, and during this global pandemic we are doing all we can to run the club to the best of our abilities. Thank you to everyone for your support so far – and even if you do nothing but get through each day, please be assured that you are a valued member of the Kelvin Players family.

Keep an eye out for more news, coming soon – till then, lots of love and best wishes for the New Year,

Fran Lewis

Artistic Director, on behalf of the Management Committee

A Message of Hope from the Artistic Programme Committee

We're all having a rough time at the moment, right? And I know that suspending Kelvin's 2021 season was a proper gut-punch for many of us, yet ultimately the right thing to do. It was a difficult decision to make, and one that feels as though we've been left with nothing to look forward to, at least for a very, very, very long time...

Well I am glad to announce that we may have something for you to cautiously anticipate after all! The APC met up recently to discuss the notion of Kelvin hosting a series of live performances this summer – shows that would include the whole membership, everyone will have the opportunity to participate – and we would like to start the process of gathering ideas and thoughts from you all, before we settle down to the business of organising it.

We know the club has a wealth of absolute talent within its membership, so we're really looking for **anything** you fancy performing – poetry, singing, mime, dance, comedy, dramatic reading, storytelling, improvisation, as well as the more traditional monologues and straightforward acting-type stuff, and so on – you could give your own TED talk on the history of the ball bearing if you like – we are very much open to all suggestions at this stage!

There will be a few things for you to initially consider:

All performances will need to adhere to whatever government guidelines are in place at the time – obviously, we can't predict what they might be, however we're assuming some kind of Tier 2 level restrictions are likely, so that's a no-no for your large cast dream play, sorry (solo work ideally, or small casts within a bubble should be acceptable)

There won't be any chance of furnishing you with a huge budget, I'm afraid – you'll need to source your own props, costumes, set etc. Think the minimal, stripped back, simplistic look of the Rehearsed Readings. Use your imagination. Think outside the box, get creative! There's always the red leather sofa from the Morris Room (unless Jacqs has thrown it away)

Also, don't forget performance rights. We are actively encouraging you to use your own work, but if you must use a licensed piece please find out firstly whether you are allowed to, and if so, how much it would be for one performance. I don't want to rule anything out right now, but we don't have loads of money to pay for everyone's licensing fees.

Those are the key things to bear in mind for now. We don't yet know when this will take place, how it will work, whether we'll have a paying audience or just the membership (maybe a mix of both), what lighting/sound is available, whether you'll have tech crew or not – we simply don't have the answers to those questions yet.

All we can do at this time is ask for your ideas about what you would like to perform, and go from there.

Have a think, please – you can chat to us about it, if you like – and in the meantime, keep wishing (or praying, if that is your jam) that we are able to perform in our wonderful theatre this summer, and get our audiences back ready for whenever the main shows return.

Email me artisticdirector@kelvinplayers.co.uk or contact any of the APC (Al Hedderman, Angela Markham, Alice Chadwick, Rick Procter-Lane, Simon Shorrocks, Chrissy Fryers) for a chat, we'd love to hear from you.

Hopefully, we'll have more news soon. Take care everyone,

Fran Lewis (APC)

*** A note from the editor of *The Jester***

Regarding the above, it occurs to me to wonder whether the APC is also considering the possibility of outdoor performances in the spring and summer which, once the weather is warmer, could perhaps be performed somewhere outside on Gloucester Road and /or somewhere in the city centre. As well as being good for us all, such events would be a good way of promoting the club and also for us being seen as engaging with the community.

Geoff Collard

REHEARSED READINGS - The Waiting Continues.....

Dearest Kelvinians,

Happy New Year to you all, it's 2021 at last - and yet the pandemic keeps rolling on, forcing us all apart for a bit longer still. At this stage, as I'm sure everyone already knows, it's just too hard to call at the moment exactly when the next time a Kelvin event - including a live Rehearsed Reading - will take place. That said, there is light at the end of the tunnel...

Alongside our Artistic Director Fran's announcement, about the potential for other smaller scale Kelvin endeavours to come to fruition perhaps in another couple of months, there is a chance too that the existing RR directors will at long last get to perform the pieces they cast at the last launch a whole year ago now. I certainly haven't forgotten about them, and I want to make sure darn sure no-one else does either - so I've listed their names once again as below, so that you can all continue to look forward to their RR offerings.

For now I'm just going to keep hoping that these RRs will eventually be performed at some point in 2021, and as any progress is made I will of course keep all Kelvinites posted - so that when the time finally comes, you can come along and be that wonderful audience that I've missed so much over the past 10 months. We WILL meet again, dearest Kelvinians - bring on 2021, and the faster the better! Meanwhile, I wish the very best to y'all - stay safe, RPL

Angela Markham & Rosie Closs

Ralf Togneri

Eszter Vass

Sergio Romagnoli

Fiona Morrison

Rick Procter-Lane

Live RR Organiser

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Online Rehearsed Readings

Summary of Procedure

1. Would-be ORR directors each submit their play to me (ideally maximum 1 hour performance time, so you may need to edit your play) at: **jester@kelvinplayers.co.uk**
2. ORRs are scheduled for a Launch Night (once a month) on a first come first served basis.
3. Dates, and Launch Night Zoom links and performance evening Zoom links, announced in *The Jester* — 2 plays to be pitched by directors each Launch Night.
4. Launch Night—first 30 minutes: introduction by host to ORRs, procedure, and plays to be pitched.
5. Launch Night— each director has 20 minutes to pitch his/her play and give their email contact details, plus 10 minutes Q&A.
6. Members register their interest with director(s) at the end of the launch meeting or by email and the director provides them with a link to the online script to be used.
7. Director provided with a Zoom meeting link for their 'rehearsal day' and in turn director then hosts his/her closed Zoom meeting with their group.
8. Performance nights (Saturday & Sunday 2 weeks after the Launch Night): audience

Online Rehearsed Readings

Plays & Dates & Zoom Links

2021 ORR Dates for your Diary

Launch Night: Saturday March 13th 7pm

Performance Nights: Saturday March 27th & Sunday March 28th 7.15pm