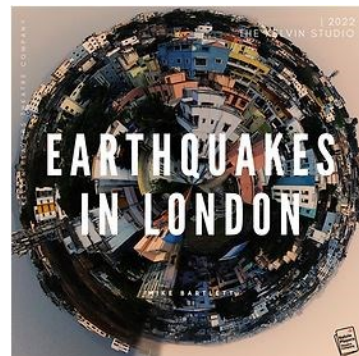




August — September 2022



25th — 29th October 2022



6th — 10th December 2022

Our Upcoming Productions

Hi Kelvinians!

Inside this issue, you'll find more details of ***James III: The True Mirror*** by Rona Munro, directed by Mary McCallum, news of our upcoming productions above, a postscript from Simon Shorrock on *Jane Eyre*, Chair Mat Rees' cleverly written piece on personal responsibility, a welcome to our new members. Most of all, as subs become due for the first time since covid struck, news of a special new subs rate in these challenging times.

I can strongly recommend checking the Kelvin Facebook members' page 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.

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**. But a plea: if possible, please do not send your articles in attached files 'ready formatted', as it can make it difficult for me to use them (especially if done on a mac — I use a PC). Just email them to me in plain text

Geoff Collard (editor)

The Jester is bi-monthly. The deadline for the next *Jester* is always a couple of days before the last day of the month before publication. And it's always given in the current edition, so you can always check the deadline in the most recent issue. So, please note it in your diary! (October/November is the next issue.)

The deadline for the next *Jester* will be Thursday September 29th 2022

James III : - The True Mirror

By Rona Munro
Directed by Mary McCallum
October 25th - 29th 2022



The True Mirror is the last of a trilogy of plays called The James Plays about the first three King Jameses of Scotland. The last was James VI, son of Mary Queen of Scots, who became King James I of England. Although few people are familiar with this period of Scotland's history Rona Munro's robust scripts, first played by the National Theatre of Scotland during the 2014 Edinburgh Festival, are exciting and accessible being written in modern Scots speech.

The play is set mostly in Stirling and Edinburgh Castles.

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Is your skill in making things happen either in constructing things, gathering stuff, organising paperwork, operating boards, liaising with everyone else and knowing what each one is responsible for?

So if you think you could help with any backstage role at all, please do get in touch whatever your interest.

Someone made a remark recently that in the professional theatre everyone has their own job to do and doesn't encroach on other people's territory. Well aren't we lucky to be able to dabble our toes in various areas of interest and learn about all aspects of putting on a production?!

Characters

James III, King of Scots
John, Head of the Privy Council
Ramsay, King's personal servant
Cochrane, King's purveyor of fine wines
Sandy, The King's brother
Jamie, The King's eldest son
Ross, The King's middle son
Tam, A member of the household
Margaret, Queen of Scots
Annabella, King's paternal aunt
Phemy, Young lady of the Court
Daisy, Laundress, the King's mistress

Cast List:

Sam Grayston
Jonny Wilkinson

Mike Jessup
Paddy O'Sullivan

Harry Wales
Patrik Rocz
Philip Burnett
Nicola Schoonderwoerd
Helen Hollick

Lucy Payne
Jess Brassington

Ensemble, Parliament, members of court, soldiers, guards, choir:

Ralf, Satadru, Avanti, Marion, Geoff, Sharon, Steve, Angela

Mary McCallum

Director, James III: The True Mirror

marygreencroft49@gmail.com

07776213916

Angela Markham - (Asst. Director) 07894916618

Eszter Vass - (Production Manager) 07401081198

James III : - The True Mirror

**By Rona Munro
Directed by Mary McCallum
October 25th - 29th 2022**

The Work in Progress...



When I decided to go for an extra long rehearsal period for this production it was not just because of the complex nature of the play's structure which includes a cast of 20+, choreography, original music, fight, multiple locations and scenes, and all the complications of staging all of this in our compact Studio premises, it was also because I wanted to avoid the stress placed on both the production team and cast in the event of the inevitable unseen hitches we would no doubt encounter on the journey 'from page to stage'. We have now completed our first month of rehearsals with some parts being 'read in' more frequently than by the actor cast; two cases of Covid (no doubt the calm before the storm); a last minute hunt for a Musical Director and actors for a couple of uncast parts and the dilemma of staging a play set in two Scottish castles without it stretching out to a four hour marathon due to interminable scene changes..

Miraculously quite a few of these problems have been overcome as we start our second month undaunted by the prospect of even more cast absences.

Much of this is due to the support I've had from Angela Markham (assistant director and master reader-in of all parts) and Eszter Vass (super efficient production manager and mother of a prince). And a special thanks to the cast for their good-natured acceptance of last minute changes in the rehearsal schedule when the unexpected or unplanned for happened.

Last week, our 'comedy choir' met our new-to-us and untried Musical Director for the first time, making up in enthusiasm for what (some) may lack in vocal expertise.

Last Sunday Jenny Foster started to put the whole cast through their paces in a modern/medieval Scottish dance, set to medieval/modern music!

Chrissy and I have had a lot of fun discussing inauthentic and bizarre costumes made or adapted from inauthentic and bizarre recycled materials and fabrics to try to match my vision for this theatrical, witty and above all totally accessible portrayal of an uncharted period of Scottish history.

By the end of August I hope we'll be ready for a complete change of pace in rehearsal practice and commitment as we knuckle down in September and October to serious work having mastered the superfluous side issues and miraculously become word perfect in the process!

One (evil) cast member has set himself the challenge of provoking me into losing my temper. Let's hope this relaxed soft start approach has made this less likely - but no guarantees!

One (evil) cast member has set himself the challenge of provoking me into losing my temper. Let's hope this relaxed soft start approach has made this less likely - but no guarantees!

Yours aye (as they say in Scotland),

Mary McCallum Director



LEARN COSTUME DESIGN AND COSTUME MAKING!
A SERIES OF WORKSHOPS OFFERED BY CHRISSY FRYERS

Who wants to learn the procedure followed to costume a play from start to finish under my supervision?

I'm looking for people to join me. I will be heading up a costume team for ***Earthquakes in London*** which runs from 6th – 10th December.

I'll take you through step by step instructions using the formula that I've used for years. It'll start with the first reading of the play with the cast and end with the dress rehearsal / performances.

We can treat each week as a workshop where we can support each other, take notes, create mood boards and look at the text for clues as to how to costume the characters in the play.

Earthquakes has a large cast so it gives us all an ideal opportunity to learn a great deal from this experience.

So who is going to join the team?

I'm pleased to say that **Jacqs Graham** and **Fran Lewis** have both said they are willing to be part of this.

All Kelvin members welcome! Kelvin Players needs YOU !!!!!

So if you want to learn how to design and make costume, or if you want more information, please email me at: **christinefryers@mac.com**

Chrissy Fryers

Kelvin's Costume Designer/Maker

Kelvin Summer Picnic on The Downs —Saturday July 30th

On a warm bright, if not sunny, afternoon about 16 Kelvin members met on the Downs last Saturday to share food (and drink!) in our annual summer picnic.

It was an enjoyable success with much chatting (of course), reminiscences—and of course, cricket!

People started arriving soon after 1pm and the gathering finally broke up about 5pm. We did get some photos, which hopefully we'll include in the next issue.

Our thanks to Lucy and Lydia for organising and advertising the picnic — much appreciated!

Geoff

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS 2022/23

Financially, it's been a tough couple of years for many of us. Suspending Kelvin subscriptions for current members over the last couple of years has no doubt helped. But this isn't a long-term solution and at some point we have to look at what we ask people to pay to become a member of this club.

As of 1st August, subscriptions for 2022/23 are due. However this year, following the recent membership survey, we've decided to take a new approach. **While our recommended subscription fee will remain the same (£40), we will also be offering a new pay-what-you-can-afford policy, with a £10 minimum,** to help those of us struggling during the current cost of living crisis. Whilst our members told us that the cost of Kelvin Players' membership compares favourably with memberships of similar organisations, we need to remember that not all of us are in the same position, and it's unfair to restrict some people from the club because their spending potential has been affected by fuel price increases and inflation hikes. And £40 is not the maximum fee – if you feel able to give a little more to the running of the club, then your contributions will be welcomed and very much appreciated.

Doing this is right for several reasons:

Earlier this year, the executive group agreed that focusing on retaining our membership was our main priority. We don't want to lose people who are valuable members and who have contributed lots over the years. It's also worth bearing in mind that our current subscriptions are quite prohibitive for many potential new members from some of the groups we're particularly keen to encourage to join. Two years ago we highlighted that we are largely a middle-class group, and removing the fixed £40 fee helps to make us a more equitable club for those for whom £40 is too big an expense. We want more people from a wider variety of backgrounds, and reducing this burden is one way to help.

Therefore the recommended membership fee for 2022/23 will remain £40 for full membership. However, if this is too much for you right now, you can pay as little as £10 to retain your membership.

Come the AGM in September, we're also planning to introduce a new way to stay in touch with the club and feel a part of what we're doing, without committing to a full membership. The Kelvin Players community is much wider and goes much further than the 100 or so people who usually appear in or backstage at our shows, and we want to reflect that.

In the meantime, please don't forget – payments are DUE NOW and the DEADLINE for subscription renewals is the AGM (Sunday 25th September). A payment form with club bank details follows, or you can pay by cash or cheque (at the latest) at the start of the AGM. Many thanks,

Mat Rees, Chair

From the Membership Secretary: Dear members

You can now pay your subs for 2022-2023. Prompt payment would be appreciated as I am hoping to step down from this role this year and I don't want to leave my successor having to chase people for payment. Please let me and the Treasurer know when you have paid. Note the new special 'pay what you can' band of subscription (minimum £10) mentioned by Mat Rees above, to help if you find the usual rate expensive in these difficult times....

Kelvin Players
Subscription form 2022/23



To: **Membership Secretary, 10 Beaufort Rd, Southville, Bristol BS31PX.** or email:

membership@kelvinplayers.co.uk

I wish to renew my membership, I enclose a cheque made payable to KELVIN PLAYERS/ have made a BACS payment as per instructions below. My details are as follows:

Name	
Address	
Postcode	Email
Telephone (home)	Telephone (mobile)

New Members

[] £ Please talk to the Membership Secretary to find out the appropriate amount. The subscription rate is reduced at intervals throughout the Kelvin year to allow for new members joining part-way through. Please fill in the agreed figure in this box. (All new members are subject to a £ 10 admin joining fee).

Subscription Renewal (tick as appropriate)

[] £40 Single membership

[] £30 Concessionary rate membership (available to full-time students, pensioners or those in receipt of income support or job seekers allowance)

Patron Membership (tick as appropriate)

[] £15 Single membership [] £20 Joint membership (living at the same address)

BACS Payment Option

If you choose to pay via BACS you MUST confirm payment by emailing both the membership secretary and treasurer at time of payment: membership@kelvinplayers.co.uk and treasurer@kelvinplayers.co.uk

Please make your payment to the following account:

Lloyds Bank plc; Sort code: 30-99-38 A/C no. 02923749 A/C name: Kelvin Players

Reference: "Sub-(your initial & surname)" (to ensure we can identify your payment on the statement) (e.g. 'Sub-J. Smith')

Gift Aid Donation (optional)

I confirm that I pay an amount of UK income tax or capital gains tax at least equivalent to the tax on my Kelvin subscription. I want Kelvin Players to treat the above payment and all future payments as a Gift Aid Donation.



FROM THE KEYBOARD OF THE CHAIR'S DESK



Making a Stand - Mat's Blog

In the woods behind my house there is a set of wooden steps that run down to the river. These are the typical sort of wooden steps that you find outdoors usually in woodlands, with planks embedded lengthwise and side-on in the slope, wooden stakes either side holding them in, and the earth piled in behind it. Alongside the steps, running from top to bottom are additional runners to keep the compacted earth in place. They're a wonderful, simple creation to stop you slipping down the hill when the earth becomes a mudbath in winter.

Last year, while out walking with the dog, I noticed one of the side runners had broken and become dislodged. I carried on walking, thinking little more about it. I didn't know how to fix it or who to tell, and figured it was probably someone else's job.

A few weeks later, after countless more people had walked up and down the steps, I discovered that, with no runner holding it in place, one of the lengthwise planks had also become dislodged. Still not knowing what to do, I ignored that, too.

With no plank to hold it up, the earth simply collapsed and ran down the hill, putting pressure on the steps below. Over the next few weeks, as many more people continued to walk up and down the steps, further planks and runners became dislodged, until the point now where it's close to simply being a slope again.

All that hard work that someone put into building those steps to provide a safe, secure method of allowing others to go up and down that hill had disappeared. It could of course, be built again – but at a much bigger cost, and with a lot of extra hard work. It wasn't my fault the first step came out, I thought. But if only, I thought, I had spoken up and told someone when that first runner came free, it could have been put back in place quickly, and the whole set of steps kept together. I could have stopped that from happening. I could have prevented further damage if I'd told someone earlier.

Later this year, the club will be implementing a new, more robust inclusivity policy with the aim of providing more support to those who experience harassment, abuse and inequality.

The onus will be placed on every single one of us to be more considerate of the words we use and the actions we take. It's no longer enough to simply say, 'well, that's who I am.' They are your words and deeds, and they have consequences.

And responsibility will also be placed on each of us to take action where we see instances of discrimination or harassment. If you witness any form of abuse or sexual harassment, for example, please speak up and tell someone. The person on the receiving end may not feel as comfortable or as able to do so. We are a diverse, inclusive family and we want to keep it that way.

If you see a broken step, it's up to you to do something about it before it's too late. Thanks.

Mat.

Lis Miller's Memorial Get-Together, Sunday July 3rd 2022

Reflections by Richard Jones.....

A trip down to Kilmington Village Hall in deepest Devon, not too far from Lyme Regis to attend Lis's Memorial Get -Together on a lovely, but hot, summer's day. This was a pilgrimage that I knew I had to make to offer my last homage to a Kelvin member who played such a large part not only in my personal Kelvin career but also in the fortunes of Kelvin in the 1970s, 1980s, and early 1990s. This period was when she, as the 'she who must be obeyed' (meant affectionately), was a production Stage Manager and Director who so often brought calm to chaos in the hurley-burley of bringing a production to stage.

And that is not just me saying that. In his 'eulogy', Scott Foster said he met Lis in 1974 when he was a schoolboy at Clifton College. During a get-in for a Kelvin show he wandered in to the theatre and asked who he should talk to, in order to help, and was taken over to Lis. A perhaps unlikely friendship that spanned 47 years ensued with Lis undoubtedly shaping Scott's life, and career, in that he went on to study Stage and Theatre Management and had a successful professional career which Lis followed with great joy.

And he wasn't the only one. Neil Constable also a fellow pupil, is now Chief Executive at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. He told Scott that she had a similar influence on his life, describing Lis as the earliest professional/amateur stage manager he had ever met.

I always think that an 'enjoyable' funeral/memorial is one where you leave ending up knowing considerably more about the deceased. And so it was with Lis!

During the event, I was asked to speak on behalf of Kelvin. Unprepared as I was, the words flowed easily, and I passed on the thoughts of many Kelvinites who sent their fond memories but were unable to travel or make the journey. Perhaps inevitably a toast was raised in the drinking of a dram of malt in Lis's memory.

It was a pleasure too to meet up with Vickie Lennard who knew Lis from her Kelvin days. She had stopped over, returning from a holiday on a Thunderbird Triumph motor cycle in Lyme Regis and looked tanned and happy following the not so recent deaths of her sister Jacque and her husband whom she called 'Nige', saying that she and her new partner 'Barry the Bike' (owner and rider of the Triumph) often laugh in reminiscing about the good times she had with 'Nige'.

An exhausting day, but one I am so glad I made in the company of Denise (and of course, 'Badger' the dog).....

Richard



Jane Eyre

Director's Postscript

I feel very lucky to have had the opportunity to direct at the Tobacco Factory and the experience did not disappoint. It was tricky to take something from Kelvin and put it into a new location but on the whole I felt we got this right.

Out of our 14 strong cast, 5 were appearing in their first Kelvin production with another making a comeback after 12 years away.

A special mention needs to go to Elly who was outstanding as Jane. She nailed that part from her first audition. I could not believe how good she was and she never wavered from this level at any point in rehearsal,

But I was really blessed with a fantastic cast right the way through, and rehearsals, although a test at times given the conditions of the text, were on the whole delightful. Lots of laughs in the early stages and lots of hard work to pull it all together at the end.

We had a greater number of backstage help than cast in this epic production and for me, every element carried equal weighting alongside the cast in creating an overall effect. Lighting, sound and music, set, props and costume had a huge bearing on the overall look and feel of the show.

We were extremely lucky with Covid. Only one cast member came down with it in rehearsals and sad as we were to have Chrissy go down with Covid in the last week of rehearsals, it was a miracle no cast member was taken ill during the run given the high numbers at that time.

I would also like to mention Mamadou, who was a fabulous addition (although not cheap!) to the show. Initially, I had only wanted the drums to complement the constant stage presence of Bertha (brilliantly played by Fran Lewis, I barely directed her, she was alert to every opportunity her role presented) but Mamadou insisted on using the Kora to counterpoint the aggression of the drums.



Bronwen's thought provoking yet simple set design gave me an open stage to play with and the lighting complemented it beautifully particularly during the fires, highlighted in the picture attached at the top of this article. Neil really has incredible vision for what can be achievable with lighting.

Chrissy's meticulous attention to detail can never be underestimated with the brilliant, beautiful and versatile costume choices (Giving me the opportunity to get Jane changed in and out of her wedding dress on stage) and Angela's help in the week with costume was invaluable. Joanne was a calm steady hand that I needed as production manager when it all felt like it was just far too much to manage.

Chris was an excellent DSM, attending almost all rehearsals and having to adjust his sound plans to accommodate and then instruct the musician. A great baptism of fire for Danny on lighting!

Thanks to Jonny, Andy and Susan for construction and lighting. Peter and Jess for help on painting. Avanti and Mayble on hair. Sharon and Caroline on props and SM. Sharon is always such a calm organised presence backstage and Caroline is so inventive with her prop finds!

I would also like to give an extra thanks to Mike, Alex, Joe and Jolyon for sorting all those scene changes. The bed was particularly cumbersome piece of furniture that was swiftly dealt with. Mike Jessup thanks for all those rehearsal shots!

Although I'm pretty sure we didn't make any money on this show, I hope the chance to perform at one of Bristol's premier theatres has opened up the club to a new group of theatre goers.

Simon Shorrock

Director



New Members

I am very delighted to welcome yet more new members for 2022:

Phil Joyner (membership secretary)

(was anyone ever more aptly named?!! - ed.)

Katie Kneen

Although Katie qualified as an Actor in 2012, she has been out of the industry for about 6 years now and is getting the itch.

She is enthusiastic and has a wide range of interests and influences with a good eye for detail.

She graduated with a BA in Acting from a London drama school.

Work after included Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and a small speaking part in *Doc Martin* (TV).

She has ASM'd for productions at a Drama Academy.

She has a first aider at work qualification.

She is also really interested in directing in the long term. She would like to shadow a director if they are happy to have her tail them.

Oliver Cumins

Impressed by the variety of plays we produce and knowing a friend who had only good things to say about us, Oliver wanted to get back into the buzz of live theatre

He believes he can bring energy, positivity and a sense of vibrancy and fun to the company, whether that be in script-reading or the rehearsal room.

He has toured and performed professionally and non-professionally many times, with several different theatre companies, mostly based in Cornwall. He was a member of Truro-based youth theatre Upstage for 3 years and studied Theatre Studies at Lancaster University.

He has attended several improv courses and performed in several improv shows. This has helped him to embrace the unpredictable and spontaneous, as well as celebrating both success and failure.

REHEARSED READINGS

Dearest Kelvinians

I have listed below the dates when RRs will be presented during autumn - 4 dates in total most likely all double-bills. If you're new to Kelvin and/or are wondering what these RRs (Rehearsed Readings) are all about, there's a page here on the members website <https://www.kelvin-members.co.uk/rehearsed-readings> (under Members Stuff > Rehearsed Readings) but if you just fancy having a chat with me about it, feel free to get in touch.

3rd September

24th September

15th October

12th November

Rick Proctor-Lane

Rehearsed Readings Director

rick.procter@icloud.com

0794 1878 460 (WhatsApp preferred)

Organogram showing the Organisation of the new Kelvin Committee Structure

Approved at the Kelvin AGM 26th September 2021

