

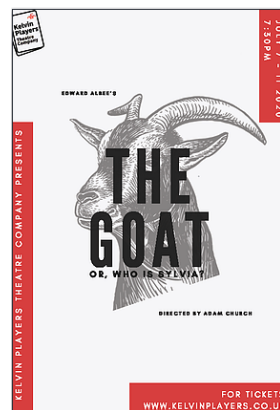


# The Jester

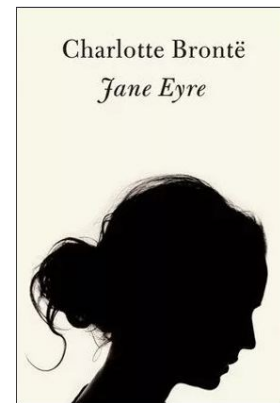
October — November 2020



2021



2021



2021

## Our Future Productions

I'm sorry that this edition of *The Jester* is rather late, but we were waiting for certain events, notably the Zoom meeting.

In this issue, we have information about the dear old Rehearsed Readings, and an exciting new innovation of Online Rehearsed Readings (ORRs). We also have Jonny Wilkinson's presentation of possible options for using David Higson's generous legacy which featured in the online Zoom meeting on 8th October.

The deadline for the December/January *Jester* (the Christmas issue!) will be 28th November. As it will be Christmas, can I urge you to send something Christmassy for inclusion in *The Jester*? Something to make us smile and give us some Christmas cheer!

With covid cases escalating again, it seems theatres will sadly be likely to remain largely closed for some considerable time, but as Rick tells us inside, maybe there are ways of overcoming covid a bit. And there's some good news locally too: yesterday Bath Theatre Royal opened its doors for the first time since the lockdown. The Bristol Old Vic also had the good news this week that it is to receive over £610,000 in support as part of the government's Culture Recovery Fund.

Whilst the dreaded c-word continues, *The Jester* has adopted a wider theatre magazine style approach. There will of course always be room for stuff about and related to Kelvin and its members (which of course I will prioritise). This could include stuff about upcoming Kelvin shows as usual, but also stuff about past shows (with accompanying photos if submitted!), your reminiscences, general things about Kelvin, the studio, the personal things that members are doing during the lockdown (not necessarily theatre related, and photos if you wish!). For the time being at least, *The Jester* is also a sort of Kelvin members forum for us all to get to know something more about each others' lives and families (for those who wish to share it).

Material can also include articles, reviews, poems, playscripts, short stories (not more than 2 pages), comedy sketches, comic pieces, comments etc written by any Kelvin members (or their families!), and in a wider context I will also welcome any comments, reviews, thoughts, or news about theatre (and film) in general, unrelated to Kelvin, whether local or national – so if you want to write a review about any stage play you like or have seen anywhere in the past, or perhaps a film or TV drama, whether amateur or professional, London shows, National Theatre, The Globe, etc please do so. We might for example, have a 'Shakespeare Corner'.....

Please try not to preformat or cut and paste your submissions if possible, as this makes it more difficult for me to manipulate them for publication. Thanks.

So 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](mailto:jester@kelvinplayers.co.uk) Do check out our website: [www.kelvinplayers.co.uk](http://www.kelvinplayers.co.uk) and follow us on Twitter, Facebook etc

Best wishes and keep safe,

Geoff Collard (editor)

# *Letter from the Chair*



Hello fellow Kelvin members;

Here we are still working from home as you can see by my office chair. This month is a special month for me as I finally become an “official pensioner”. I have my free bus pass and I’m ready to travel! That’s if the bus drivers who I have annoyed in the past let me on their buses!

As I look out at my window I notice the trees starting to turn into their autumn colours. Conkers are falling to the ground (we have loads where I live) and who would have thought that back in March I would still be working from home due to this pandemic. I can’t believe that Christmas is less than 10 weeks away but there we are, it is what it is and we must all look to the future when things start to return to normal again. Let’s hope that 2021 brings us the normality that we once enjoyed.

It was lovely to see so many members join us on our Zoom club meeting last week. I want to thank Peter, Fran, Jonny and Mat for giving such great presentations that were interesting and informative. Peter reviewed the accounts which are nearly completed with just a few final questions and answers to be sorted with the auditors. Fran updated us on APC activities and stated they were now accepting submissions for plays for the 2022 season (it seems so far away but as we all know time passes very quickly). Jonny gave us his initial findings on the Higson Legacy (there is more on this in the current Jester) and Mat provided us with an update on the Inclusivity Action Group. The IAG are still working very hard to pursue inclusivity in Kelvin and there will be further news on this early in the New Year.

The Zoom call was in my opinion a really worthwhile meeting and I intend to hold another of these early in January. I will send out details once I have discussed with the rest of my fellow committee members, so if you see the invite please do try and put it in your diary and dial in. We have all been separated by government restrictions so it’s good for the mental wellbeing to be able to chat and see others if only in a virtual reality space.

I know that Geoff is also going to try and do some rehearsed readings online via Zoom. Another great endeavour and it would be good to get some support for him on this. I’m sure he will be mentioning this in the Jester for you as well.

Finally, if by chance you should receive some strange email from me via the chair@kelvinplayers.co.uk please ignore it as the Kelvin account which is hosted for us by the company where our website is lodged with appears to have had hackers get to my email. I would never ask you purchase gift cards on my behalf. I will leave you with that thought. :-)

Please do contact myself or any members of the committee if there is something on your mind. Apart from the dodgy email above you can also reach me on stobbsy54@gmail.com. Take care, stay healthy and look after yourselves.

Kind Regards

*Sae*

Hello dear Kelvinians

As you're probably aware, there was an online Zoom meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> October. At that meeting I presented the options which have been suggested to us on which to spend the money left to us in a very generous legacy by long time Kelvin member **David Higson**.

In case you couldn't make it to the meeting, here below is my presentation.

If you want to log on to the Menti survey at the end, feel free to do so. It's still open for a while for you to tell us which three of the options you most prefer.

Cheers

Jonny





# Introduction

When long-time Kelvin member, David Higson, sadly passed away in 2017, he very generously left a large gift of £30,000 to Kelvin in his will, which has taken until very recently, to be settled.

The club would like to spend it on one, or more big capital projects which we might not be able to afford in normal times.

In addition, there may be additional funds available from production surpluses over the past few years.

Members were asked for ideas as to how we might utilise that money.

So the ideas have been narrowed down to 8 main projects for consideration.



## Straw Poll

Without making promises or tying the Committee down to a decision, I thought it might be good to take a straw poll from those attending as to which projects are favoured.

Log on to

**menti.com**

on either your mobile or laptop/PC and type in the code:

**80 92 29 8**

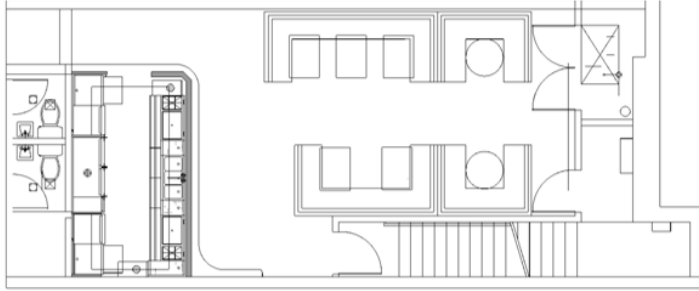
and **VOTE NOW** for your **THREE FAVOURITE PROJECTS**

# ... and the nominees are ...



# 1. Bar Refurbishment

Western Blueprint [www.w-blueprint.co.uk](http://www.w-blueprint.co.uk) is drawing up a plan for a substantial reimagining of the whole foyer/bar area, including structural works which may require a structural Engineer's report and planning consent. We still await detailed plans but any substantial building work could be undertaken by Neil and/or Dean on a professional basis (i.e. paid for their work).



It is expected that a 'Full Glitter Ball' transformation would cost no more than £25k but there is an option for a 'lite' version with some in-house work, and lower cost fixtures and fittings etc. which may cost as little as £15,000.



# 2. Solar Panels

Some years ago I made initial enquires about the possibility of installing solar panels on our substantial south-facing roof. At that time, the estimated cost was £42,000 and the Government has just slashed the Feed-In Tariff (i.e. being paid for the electricity we produce). So we didn't go ahead.



I've been in touch with local company **Ecocetera** <https://www.ecocetera.com/>. They've been to the studio to survey the building. Their quote for supply & install of solar panels including Tesla storage is **£28,320** (Incl VAT).





### 3. Replace Audience Seating

I've been back in touch with Audience Systems for specific quotes for a bespoke seating system. They tend to work on massive auditoria with fixed or concertina type seating. By getting small units of seating, we can preserve our studio seating flexibility. We would fit and install the seating options on our existing steel-deck.



The cost of supply only, for 87 seats (standard studio layout) is **£14,076 - £15,770** (Inc VAT)



### 4. Stairlift or Lift

We're conscious that members who may have mobility issues may be excluded from rehearsals or activities in the Morris Room. Stannah <https://www.stannah.co.uk/> can install either a stairlift or a 'home lift'.



Stairlifts start at **£5,200** (or Reconditioned **£4,100**)

Supply & Install costs for Lifts start at **£15,000 - £17,500** All +VAT.

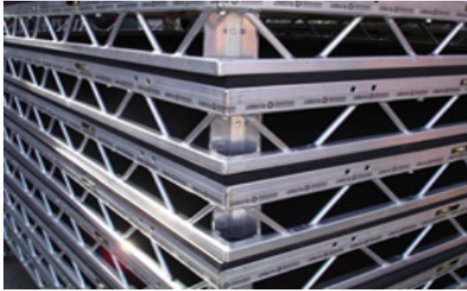
However the lift would require a substantial amount of additional prep work by builders for cutting out the hole in the floor in line with specification.



## 5. Supplement Lite Deck

How many of you have nearly put something out trying to lift our very old, very heavy steel deck? We could supplement our existing stock so that we have additional flexibility for a raised stage platform. (Note we probably wouldn't want to be drilling into these to accommodate new seating at 3 above)

S-Deck is a light-weight decking. Our current steel deck stock size is based on 3' (900) wide units. See [www.10outof10.co.uk](http://www.10outof10.co.uk).



The cost of  
10 units of 8'x4' (2400x1200) and  
4 units of 4'x2' (1200x600)  
(without peripherals)  
Is **£6240.36** incl. VAT



## 6. New Shower Extension



It would be possible to install showers by building a complete unit (maybe with other rooms) on top of the existing Back Store.

This would require planning permission and may be the opportunity to refurb the back store (beneath).

Dean suggests this could cost 'not less than' **£20,000**.



## 7. New Water Supply

Our existing water supply comes in to the Gym School next door. They are metered and billed and then we contribute to their bill. The plumbing into the Gym School comes into the basement and is probably well over 100-year-old in lead piping. However when it splits into our building we have non-lead piping (copper or plastic).

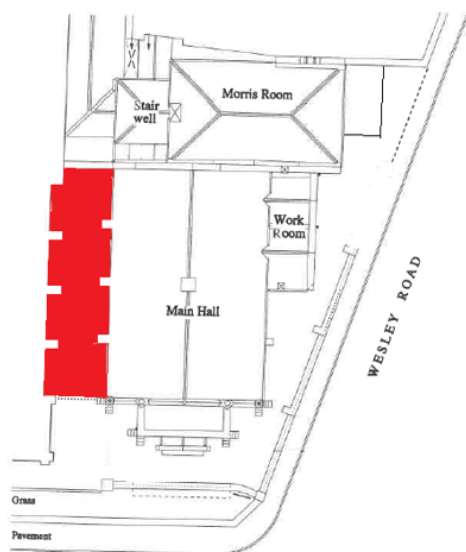


Richard had an estimate from our usual plumber some 5 years ago. With ground works to provide supply from Gloucester Road up Wesley Road and in to the workshop, and for the plumber to replace the pipework, the estimated cost was **£3000**. (It could now be £5,000)

We'd still have to pay for water though.



## 8. Land Purchase



It has been mentioned that as the rare event of us having capital to spend has arisen, it may be worth trying to acquire the 'dead space' between our studio and the Gym School.

The Gym School owns the land and wanted to build on it a number of years ago but we objected.

I've sent a tentative email without response. The question is should we continue?

Cost: **£?**



## Straw Poll

Without making promises or tying the Committee down to a decision, I thought it might be good to take a straw poll from those attending as to which projects are favoured.

Log on to

**menti.com**

on either your mobile or laptop/PC and type in the code:

**80 92 29 8**

and **VOTE NOW** for your **THREE FAVOURITE PROJECTS**



# *Online Rehearsed Readings*

## *(ORRs)*

Hi all Kelvinians!

**This month we have a new innovation! We are starting a new activity which is called Online Rehearsed Readings (ORRs). These will be (as the name suggests!) rehearsed readings similar to Rick Proctor-Lane's very well loved Rehearsed Readings (for more of which see next article), but which will happen entirely online through the medium primarily of Zoom. No social distancing needed!! The idea is that edited plays will be submitted by any club member who wishes to direct a play online.**

The format will follow that of Rick's live Rehearsed Readings, i.e. plays will be read together by a cast, and 'acted' during an online 'rehearsal day' and then performed online in the evening to all Kelvin members who wish to watch it. As with RRs, I envisage these will normally take place on just one single Saturday with the performance in the evening, although there may possibly be scope perhaps to rehearse over two or three days if the director and cast wish and if it's not too logistically difficult.

Plays received by me will be allocated a date for performance, and as with RRs, probably two plays will be performed on the performance night.

As with Rick's RRs, we will have 'launch nights', when directors will pitch their plays to all Kelvin members wishing to attend the launch night on Zoom. Probably 4 directors will pitch their plays each launch night. Members attending launch nights will register their interest in the plays which they wish to rehearse, and then the directors will choose their cast from those members who have indicated that they wish to perform in his or her Online Rehearsed Reading.

Once the cast of an ORR is chosen, the director will let us know and then will be allocated a Zoom link so that the director and his or her cast can rehearse in a private 'meeting' together online. During that private Zoom rehearsal is when the director will get to 'direct' his or her actors' voices and actions. They will then join a separate full members Zoom meeting in the evening to perform their ORR to Kelvin members.

Since this is an entirely new activity, I ask you to bear with us, as there will inevitably be hiccups in the organisation until we have run these ORRs for a while and got used to a particular system, so things may change slightly in the initial weeks as we find out what works best.. Though very similar to Rick's RRs, with ORRs there are obviously different challenges to get used to.

### ***So, how do you get to do it?!!***

Quite simple — initially at least! If you would like to direct an Online Rehearsed Reading, decide what play you want to do and then **submit your request to me**, from today, at: **jester@kelvinplayers.co.uk** putting **ORRs** in the subject line please. If you don't do that I may miss it! Please let me have your requests by the end of October if possible if you want to be included in the first launch night, which I aim to be around the middle of November. Don't worry if you can't, it just means that your play if submitted later will be put on the list for the following launch night. All plays submitted will be listed for an online rehearsed reading performance, but in the order in which they are received.

So — get your thinking caps on, and start those ORR plays coming to me! I will set initial dates once I know what the initial response is, after which I will work out a calendar of dates. **Geoff Collard.**

## **REHEARSED READINGS - TRIUMPHANT RETURN...?**

Dearest Kelvinians,

Yes, those poor long lost Rehearsed Readings have disappeared from view along with the Kelvin main shows - and of course so many of the other things we love, BUT... Eventually, one fine day, we will have all these things back - Covid be damned - including those marvellous little RRs, so in this spirit our illustrious Artistic Director Fran Lewis and I have been planning how we could dip Kelvin's proverbial toe in the soothing warm water of the RRs once again. The plan is to try and do a socially distanced RR, with a carefully rehearsed cast who will stay safe and keep to the government rules - and a managed audience who will stay in their bubbles within the Kelvin hall, but will nonetheless be able to enjoy something of a night out at Kelvin with a bit of RR performance fun. That is the plan, and a few weeks ago we even thought it might be feasible to put this on in November - but as we all know, Covid cases have been on a rather dramatic rise since then and it would clearly have been unwise and possibly even illegal.

Still, we won't be letting this dampen our enthusiasm and determination, not by a long cheese. We now have a new potential date in mind - **SATURDAY 23rd JANUARY 2021** - and we've got a cast and a director lined up who will be willing to give it a go, if Covid has calmed and the restrictions have loosened a bit. The fabulous Frances Cox intends make her Kelvin directing debut with "All In The Timing" by David Ives - a selection of several very short pieces, adding up to around the usual one-act 60-minute length. For logistical reasons we won't have the usual double-bill, but there'll still be an hour of entertainment and hopefully even the usual talkback with the director and yours truly - so, a little opportunity for a bit of chat of sorts, as well as the performance.

What we still need, of course, is an audience - and that's where you lovely Kelvinians come in! Who's up for it? If you - yes, YOU - reckon you'd be OK with coming along to an event like this on the evening of Saturday 23rd January, all you have to do for now is keep the date in your diary. We will be deciding nearer the time (probably just after Christmas) whether or not it will go ahead, and then you'll see another one of these announcements - which will probably invite you to "book" since we'll need to make sure of the capacity in advance for social distancing purposes, although of course there'll be no ticket price or anything.

Now then, aside from this January date, I have booked in several more 2021 dates in the hope that we can proceed with RRs in something approaching the normal fashion at some point in 2021. While you've got your diaries out, please also pencil in the following dates as potential RRs in 2021 - and bear in mind, there are several directors who were all lined up with casts in place ready to present their pieces this past year, but we all know what happened obviously. Undaunted, these directors are all still in place (along with almost all of their original casts) and will - yes dammit, WILL - get to present their RRs at some point in 2021, by which time they will have been waiting well over a year to direct. I mean, bloody Covid innit?! I miss you, dearest Kelvinfolk - and the RRs miss you too, most dreadfully - but finally one glorious day, gosh darn it we shall be reunited!

I so very much look forward to seeing you, lovely fellow Kelvinians, hopefully on 23rd January at Frances Cox's socially distanced RR - but if not on that date, then on at least one of the following dates.

<b>20th March 2021</b>	<b>24th April 2021</b>
<b>15th May 2021</b>	<b>26th June 2021 (Launch Night?)</b>
<b>4th September 2021</b>	<b>2nd October 2021</b>
<b>30th October 2021</b>	<b>20th November 2021</b>

(all Saturdays, as ever)

Rick Procter-Lane

RR Organiser

0794 1878 460

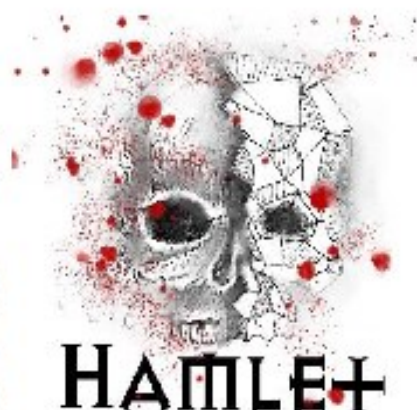
[rick.procter@icloud.com](mailto:rick.procter@icloud.com)

## William Shakespeare's HAMLET

Directed by Kris Hallett

As lockdown restrictions have evolved, we've kept a flame lit and our #Hamfam connected – with weekly zoom line bashes, plus a few quiz nights for fun.

After a readthrough of the whole play last Sunday (24 May) we're going to take a break, until a date is determined for Kelvin to re-open. It's been good to build muscle memory doing lines, and going through the entire play in one go was just great. A huge THANK YOU from Kris and me to everyone for your commitment in these crazy days. For now, we'll carry on keeping in touch – entertained by a steady chat stream on WhatsApp and generally keep the Hamlet flag flying!



Teri Mohiuddin,  
Production Manager

