



The Jester



October — November 2019



15th - 19th October

Tim Firth's
The Flint Street Nativity



December 2019

Directed by Sue Stobbs

4th—7th & 11th—14th December

Chernobyl - abandoned town



The Children by Lucy Kirkwood

11th - 15th February 2020

Our Upcoming Productions

Hi all Kelvin members!

In this issue you'll find the first report from our new Chair, Sue Stobbs, because Jonny Wilkinson, as you know, stood down as Chair at the AGM on 29th September.

Perhaps this is what Jonny feels like now.....!

We send Jonny our very very grateful thanks for steering Kelvin these last few years, and everyone 'nose' how hard he works and the incredible amount of time and energy he consistently puts into our club. Not only has he engaged in productions, he has undertaken a huge amount of work on upgrading the studio, much of which he has done himself, and we now have a brand new professional foyer for our theatre thanks to him and his helpers. And he is not ending his term having a rest - far from it, as *Cyrano* is about to be staged under his direction. The man never stops!



In this issue: details of our 2020 programme, beginning with Mat Rees directing *The Children*. Don't be shy of getting involved in any or all of our productions, even if you're a new member. Approach a show's director or production manager to get involved, whatever you fancy doing. keep up to date by joining the Facebook members' group, following us on Twitter, or check out our website: www.kelvinplayers.co.uk

The deadline for the next Jester will be Wednesday 27th November 2019 (it'll be in the *Digest* before)

A plea: Can everyone who wants/needs to submit articles to *The Jester* please please put the deadline for the next *Jester* in your diary. *The Jester* is Kelvin's bi-monthly newsletter. If you have something of interest to members to submit 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

Geoff Collard (editor)

Jonny has penned his personal "Goodbye" as Chair.....

"So it's Goodnight from Me....."

Three years seems to have flown by. It's not in our constitution that Chairs must not remain in post longer than 3 years (although possibly it should be, in order to keep new blood pumping) but I felt that 3 years as Chair (after many years prior to that being on committee in various roles) was enough for the time being and so I'm taking a break as soon as *Cyrano* is over. No more acting or directing or other active involvement from me for at least a year. I will of course, continue to support and come and see as much as possible. As Jenny is now involved in running the bar I might take on the occasional shift if needed.

My one keeping of my finger in, is that I'll continue to maintain the websites, so Directors, please continue to let me have your cast notes, audition stuff etc at **web@kelvinplayers.co.uk**

And that's it.

Thank you all for your support over the last three years.

Thank you, and Good Night!

Jonny

I'm sure that all members of Kelvin will wish to give their personal thanks to Jonny for all his tremendous hard work, commitment and general input for our benefit over the years..... Thank you so much, Jonny. Ed.

Letter from the new Chair.....

So.... first thoughts as I sat down at last night's AGM 'Rabbit ... Headlights', but then the nerves left me and I settled in to my new role. Once again, I personally would like to thank the retiring Chairman - Jonny Wilkinson for leaving such a great legacy and having worked so hard during his tenure over the last three years at Kelvin.



One of the things that struck a chord with me during the course of the evening was that Kelvin is an ever changing club with some members coming and going, some joining and making it a positive experience for themselves by staying and getting involved and then there are members who have been with this club for more years than I can remember, working very hard in their spare time, to keep the club prospering and holding this inheritance for future members.

It is this point that I would like to urge our members to think about this legacy in which we all have a duty to help keep the club prospering and going forward, each and every one of us has a part to play. Whatever the task required in this club it needs those volunteers. It's not just about paying a subscription and going on stage: the Cambridge dictionary defines 'club' as *"an organisation of people with a common purpose or interest who meet regularly and take part in shared activities"*. In Kelvin this can also mean helping in the bar on an evening, being a steward, first aider or house manager during a production, looking after the hall bookings, which help towards the upkeep of our wonderful premises, marketing, social media upkeep plus many other roles which are necessary and vital.

There are plenty of longer serving members who are willing to mentor and guide those members who feel they would like to have 'a go'. When I recall any task that I have helped with at Kelvin there were some which I had never done before, for example volunteering for this position of Chair. And whilst I accept I may make mistakes in the next few months there will always be members who have been in this position before me who will help and guide me as well as my supporting colleagues on the committee. So, my advice is to get stuck in and find out how much more enjoyable being a member of this club can be.

I finish this short piece in my new post with this quote that I came across the other day *"Your positive action combined with positive thinking results in success"*, source – unknown.

Looking forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones during this coming year.

Best Wishes

Sue Stobbs Your New Chair...!



Cyrano de Bergerac by Edmund Rostand

(Adapted by Glyn Maxwell)

Directed by Jonny Wilkinson

Studio: 15 -19 October 2019 @ 7:30

Rehearsals are coming on well.

We engaged Raphael Aldis of Stagefight.co.uk to come in to train and choreograph Adam Healy (Cyrano) and Charlotte Whitten (*Valvert* - amongst other roles) in a thrilling sword fight and other sword play. He returned to 'polish' the fighting after a month and was delighted. He said that it's the first time he's set a fight and on his return he hasn't had to teach people again or correct their movements! Thanks also must go to Julie Clerc, as our fight captain. She's the only member of the cast who can actually fence and is, I think, the only one who doesn't use a sword in the show!

We've had to replace Tom Summerill as *Christian de Neuvillette*, after he found he was not fully available for rehearsals and the show. So, we're delighted that Natalie Ling has stepped into the "breeches"! Despite a surprise trip to California mid-rehearsal she has hit the ground running and is doing a great job.



Everyone else continues to pull together to rehearse in excess of 35 roles (with a cast of 12). Chrissy's working like stink to pull together 'thousands' of costumes.

If you want to get involved, please contact Production Manager, Anna Freire Camacho on anna_fc@hotmail.co.uk

Tickets are already selling well, even this early before the actual production!

If you don't want to miss out on this production **BOOK EARLY!!!!**

Jonny

**** REHEARSED READINGS ****

CALLING FOR 2020 REHEARSED READING DIRECTORS

Dearest Kelvinians,

Whatever will happen in those gapingly empty periods of time between the main shows? The good old Rehearsed Readings ("RRs"), of course!

The RR dates for 2020 are at the time of writing still being scheduled, but in a Digest soon and in the next Jester the dates for the whole year will be fully publicised. The plan is (same as ever) to have 2 launch nights during the year, Winter and Summer, firstly around late January / early February and secondly late June / early July (approximately). At each launch night, a total of 8 RR slots should be cast across 4 dates (all RR evenings being double-bills, again as normal).

Now this is where you come in, fellow Kelvinites - how do you fancy doing a bit of DIRECTING, in a very low-stakes format that's perfect for having a go at something for the first time? I keep an ongoing list of potential RR directors, and I'm always delighted to add new names to the list - so what are you waiting for, get in touch (contact details below) and add your name to the list! I will then email everyone on the list sometime during November or December, inviting everyone to tell me what they'd like to present as their RR - and that's how the launch nights will be lined up, each with 8 directors ready to cast their RRs.

If you're new to Kelvin and/or you don't really know what I'm on about here, you can read a little something about what these RRs actually are on the Kelvin Members website - just look under Members Stuff > Rehearsed Readings, and you shall be enlightened. Of course you're always welcome just to get in touch with me directly; I'll be pleased to hear from you even if you just want to chat about what the RRs are all about.

All the best, all you most excellent Kelvinians - and I'll see you at the remaining RRs this year, the dates for which are listed below...

5th OCTOBER

Frances Cox directs

"Brat" a piece of her own of writing

Tessa Garrett directs

"Escaped Alone" by Caryl Churchill

2nd NOVEMBER

Fran Lewis directs

"Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again." by Alice Birch

Josh Cooper directs

"The Nether" by Jennifer Haley

23rd NOVEMBER

Adam Healey directs

"The Seafarer" by Conor McPherson

Lucy Payne directs

a piece of new writing by the Kelvin Writers Group

Rick Procter-Lane

RR Organiser

07941 878 460

rick.procter@icloud.com



BAR TASTING AND TRAINING SESSION...

A little reminder that Jenny Foster, Rick Proctor-Lane and Susan Howe are holding a taster and training session on :

Friday 4th October (yes, tomorrow!) at 7.30 at the Kelvin bar.

Bill is standing down as bar manager at Kelvin at the AGM. *The Jester* and all of Kelvin would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to Bill for all his **20 years** of dedicated (and humorous!) service)

Jenny, Rick and Susan would love to welcome more people on board. They don't need you to commit to helping for every show and you can be bar helper the same night you see the show if it's difficult to get to Kelvin 2 nights in a week.



The tasting night is a great opportunity to think about what we stock and an opportunity to consider bringing in a few more ethical options. You can also make suggestions about how to make the bar even better than it is!

Email Jenny if you'd like to come on 4th, and also with any suggestions for the bar:

jennyfoster@gmx.com

And do thank Bill when you see him, for **over 20 years** of dedicated service!



THE FLINT STREET NATIVITY

4 - 7 & 11 - 14 December 2019

Director: Sue Stobbs

I'm pleased to say that 'Mizz Horrocks' class of 2019 has been cast for our production of The Flint Street Nativity as follows:

Mary/Debbie Bennett:	Rachel Fleming
Wise Gold/Dawn:	Lucy Payne
Angel/Shamima:	Jenny Hills
Gabriel/Jaye Dackers:	Mayble Pitt
Shepherd/Zoe:	Emily Butler
Innkeeper/Christian Jerrums:	Joe Silva
Star & Ass/Clive Cattle:	Mat Rees
Narrator/Tim Moyle:	Michael Relph
Herod & Joseph/Ian Rotherham:	Mike Jessop
Wise Frankincense/Adrian Atherton:	Dominick Fanning



There's more to **Flint Street** than at first appears. It is a comedy, but underneath there is a lot of pathos, and it calls for some very subtle acting. The play requires each actor to take two parts — themselves as seven-year-olds performing their school's nativity, then as their parents who have just watched them perform. It focuses on a Mrs Horrock's class of children aged seven and eight, and their involvement in a sole performance of the school nativity play. It follows the youngsters from the pre-performance classroom preparations, through to the final stage performance where calamity and chaos ensue.

We have had our first read-through with most of the cast, and some of the technical team also turned up and got to know the cast and the rest of the team.

The technical team are as follows, on the next page.....

I am pleased to welcome new member Eszter Vass who has immediately got involved and volunteered to act as my Production Manager. Eszter is being mentored by myself with help from Anna Freire-Camacho. I am also pleased to welcome George Howard, another new member who is interested in an acting role but has kindly volunteered his services as Stage Manager for the production. George is also new to this role so will be looking for help and assistance from other members who have previously worked in this capacity.

Producer: Eszter Vass
Set Design: Bronwen Grover
Costumes: Carol Fuller
Props: Mary McCallum & Nicola Essex
Technical Operator: Anna Freire-Camacho
Stage Manager: George Howard
Deputy SM: Liz Kelly
Committee Liaison: Josh Cooper

So ... all I need now is members who would like to design the lighting and someone to put the sound together for me. It is quite possible that we will need another technical operator up on the balcony as well.

I would just like to also give a big thank you to Fran's daughter Matilda Lewis who very kindly designed the marketing flyer for our production, giving the production an authentic feel of a nativity as seen through the eyes of a young child.

If any of you know anyone in the club who would like to be involved in the production in a technical capacity, they are more than welcome to contact either myself or Eszter. Set building will be on Monday and Wednesday evenings and all members are more than welcome to come and join us.

Sue Stobbs

Director

stobbsy@blueyonder.co.uk



The Flint Street Nativity

4 - 7 December 2019 & 11 - 14 December 2019

Our Perfect Vision for 2020

From Fran Lewis and the Artistic Programme Committee

Now the AGM is out of the way, and various directing cats are out of the bag, I can reveal to the rest of the membership and our adoring public what Kelvin's vision for 2020 will be!

Without further ado:

11-15 February Mat Rees will direct *The Children by Lucy Kirkwood*

A near-future drama about the aftermath of a catastrophe at a nuclear power station. This is a really interesting piece for three older actors – two female and one male. Auditions open to anyone aged 60+, likely to be late October – more details coming very soon!

15-25 April (2 weeks, Weds-Sat) Kris Hallett will direct

Hamlet by William Shakespeare

Something is rotten in the state of Denmark – but hopefully not in Kelvin as we tackle this epic play. Sexy, dangerous, truthful, poetic: this will be a vivid and modern version of the Bard's greatest work, with a tight ensemble cast of twelve. Kris is keen to cast gender-blind too. More information available soon...

7-11 July Adam Church will direct

The Goat, or Who is Sylvia? by Edward Albee

A funny, disturbing, dark and modern play about a man who falls in love with a goat. Yes, really. Four excellent parts for one female and three male actors. Adam is fresh from the success of this year's *Parlour Song* and is looking forward to building on that with this challenging drama.

14-24 October (2 weeks, Weds -Sat) Simon Shorrocks will direct

Jane Eyre by Polly Teale

A dynamic version of the famous story, with strong links between the restrictions Jane faces and the freedom of the character of Bertha. You may have seen this in recent years at the Bristol Old Vic. Simon will require a highly skilled and adaptable group of performers, as well as a flexible set.

2-12 December (2 weeks, Weds -Sat) Jacqs Graham will direct

The Comedy of Errors by William Shakespeare

Our second Shakespeare this season, and the result of the vote earlier this year; Jacqs is thrilled to be directing this fast-paced, farcical comedy, with plenty of slapstick action and human sorrow to keep our audiences entertained. Witness the studio being transformed into a vibrant marketplace!

And there you have it – five delectable delights to whet your theatrical appetite. As always, these plays can't happen without the commitment and dedication of cast and crew; please, *please* make our directors' lives easier by volunteering for backstage and technical roles, as they can be a struggle to fill each time. If you would like to have a go at being DSM, for example, but you're not exactly sure what that involves, then never fear! We can find someone to mentor you and gently guide you through the process, until success and satisfaction of a job well done are entirely yours.

Please get in touch with the directors for more information about the forthcoming plays, and what assistance they'll need, or alternatively keep an eye out for future issues of *The Jester* or *The Digest*.

Other news! The APC (Artistic Programming Committee) are now taking submissions for Kelvin's 2021 season, which includes a May slot at the awesome Tobacco Factory Theatre in south Bristol. Yes, they have invited us back no less, after the successful runs of *Tartuffe* and more recently, *Anne Boleyn*. So, if you are a director and you have a play that you consider suitable for the TFT space, then this could be your chance to shine. Do get in touch if you would like to chat about this first!

All submissions for 2021 must be received by 1st May 2020 – this seems like ages away, but it comes around pretty quickly, so just go for it. The APC look forward to reading your proposals.

A reminder: to direct a main show for Kelvin, you must have directed at least one rehearsed reading, and undertaken a backstage/technical role for a recent production. New directors with little experience will be required to present a Black Box show as their first production.

Also, we have a real lack of female directors at the moment, so if you are a woman and you would like to direct a play, let me know, and we can explore the ways in which the club can support you.

Lastly but not leastly, a huge thank you to my effervescent APC (Alice Chadwick, Angela Markham, Tessa Garrett, Al Hedderman, Rick Procter-Lane, Simon Shorrock) for all their hard work and valuable input in selecting the new season. There is a waiting list to join, however there are changes every year so you may not be waiting too long – please let me know if you would like to go on the list.

Thanks for reading

Fran Lewis

Artistic Director (artisticdirector@kevinplayers.co.uk)

The Children

by **Lucy Kirkwood**

Tuesday 11th to Saturday 15th February 2020

Directed by Mat Rees

‘Retired people are like nuclear power stations. They like to live by the sea.’

Two retired nuclear scientists, Hazel and Robin, are barely surviving in the small cottage they moved to their after their home was flooded. The flood was caused by an environmental disaster. There are blackouts, electricity shortages and they survive on biscuits. Their minimalist existence is shattered when a work colleague from the past, Rose, tracks them down with an offer they struggle to refuse.

The Children was written by **Lucy Kirkwood**, who also wrote *Chimerica*. It is a slow-burning drama that asks tough questions about parenthood and social responsibility. And it offers a vision of the future which we may be responsible for if we don't change the world now.

There are three parts:

Rose - female, 60s

Hazel - female, 60s

Robin - male, 60s



Chernobyl - an abandoned town

The launch night and read-through will take place on **Sunday 10th November** in the Morris Room. Doors open from 6:30pm for drinks, cake and mingling, and the readthrough will begin promptly at 7:30pm.

Auditions will take place on **Tuesday 12th November and Thursday 14th November**, with callbacks potentially taking place on Sunday 17th November if required.

If you have any questions, please give me a shout.

Thanks,

Mat Rees.

mat_rees@hotmail.com

tel: 07957593155

Kelvin's all-important MEMBERSHIP SUBS!

Dearest Kelvins

Here is a polite reminder that membership subscriptions were due on the **1st September** at the very reasonable cost of **£40**

If you haven't yet paid up, please do so forthwith otherwise you will cease to remain a member! Please end the stress, mental anguish and confusion experienced by your Membership Secretary who is on the verge of senility and decrepitude. If you are paying by BACS please let myself (Phil Joyner) and the Treasurer know. Last chance!

Kelvin Players Subscription form 2019/20

To: **Membership Secretary, 10 Beaufey Rd, Southville, Bristol BS3 1PX.** or email **membership@kelvinplayers.co.uk**

I wish to renew/apply for membership (delete as appropriate). 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 must pay 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 as under:

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.

Signed Date

New Members

We have a wealth of talent who have recently joined our club as we continue to go from strength to strength. This month:

Anna Baczkowska

Anna is relatively new to the world of Drama, though she is a member of CADS and played Puck in an outside production of *Midsummer Night's Dream* last year. Having seen our previous productions and having received very positive accounts from Kelvin members, she is keen to get involved.

Nicola Essex

Among Nicola's skills are puppetry (*Aslan, The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*) and singing (she has taken classes in solo classical singing). She plays the piano, is fluent in French and is handy with a needle. She is fully committed to any production she is a part of and is looking forward to taking a speaking part and developing her writing.

Niall Millar

Niall has been quite shy telling me about himself so I can't really tell you much. I do know he has been cast in the Kelvin Writer's project that you will have the opportunity to see in November so you will have the opportunity to get to know him then.

Welcome to you all.

Phil Joyner (Membership Secretary)

DIARY DATES

AT-A-GLANCE

October - December 2019

OCTOBER

October 4th (Friday - tomorrow!) - 7.30pm Kelvin bar training session

October 5th Rehearsed Readings

Frances Cox directs

"**Brat**" a piece of her own of writing

Tessa Garrett directs

"**Escaped Alone**" by Caryl Churchill

October 12th (Saturday 2pm) - Get in for *Cyrano de Bergerac*

October 13th & 14th - Tech & Dress Rehearsal for *Cyrano de Bergerac*

October 15th - 19th *Cyrano de Bergerac* (run)

NOVEMBER

November 2nd Rehearsed readings

Fran Lewis directs

"**Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again.**" by Alice Birch

Josh Cooper directs

"**The Nether**" by Jennifer Haley

November 10th *The Children* - Readthrough

November 12th & 14th *The Children* - auditions

November 23rd Rehearsed Readings

Adam Healey directs

"**The Seafarer**" by Conor McPherson

Lucy Payne directs

a piece of new writing by the Kelvin Writers Group

DECEMBER

December 4th - 7th & 11th - 14th *Flint St Nativity* (run)