



The Jester

December 2015 – January 2016

www.kelvinplayers.co.uk

Charity no. 294367

The Official Kelvin Players Newsletter



Cardenio

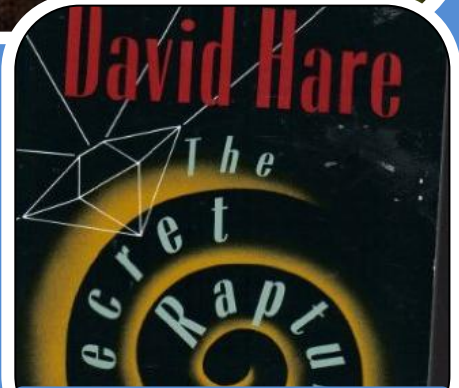
Shakespeare's Forgotten
Play Remembered



Abigail's Party – *Guests on the way*



Black Box Double – *The Return*



The Secret Rapture – *Audition soon*

If you would like to send in an article or idea to The Jester, then please e-mail or call Andy Cotton:
jester@kelvinplayers.co.uk 07706652436

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Message from the Editor



Greetings, my fellow Kelvinites! Welcome to the last edition of the Jester for 2015 – the Christmas edition...

Bring on 2016!

With the end of the old year, we look forward to the new one, with new seasons in the full productions and Rehearsed Readings. Unfortunately, we also have to say goodbye to one of our most supportive patrons, Bomber Harris.

In case some of you were unable to get the Kelvin Digest by e-mail, Bomber passed away on 24 November. There is more information and a small request from Mary McCallum in the Members' Noticeboard on page 13.

I apologise that this edition of the Jester is later than usual. I do try to aim for the start of the month, however, as those who know me are already aware, I have been undertaking a lot of other things outside Kelvin. This has unfortunately meant that I have had limited time to work on it this month.

As the amount of extra work that I have taken on is not likely to decrease any time soon, I would be very grateful if you could keep the dates for submissions to the Jester in your own diaries. I have been asked by a few to send out reminders, but this may not always be possible.

For those who have got articles into me on or before the submission dates, I am grateful and I apologise if I have not got back to you straight away to confirm receipt.

Anyway, to all, I wish you Happy Holidays, a Merry Christmas, and a Joyous New Year...

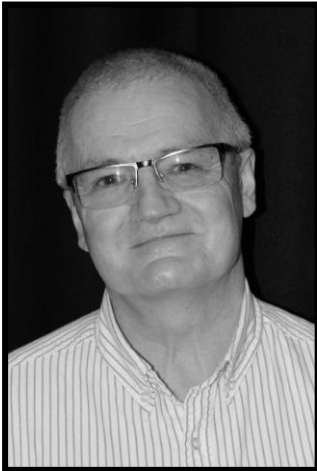


A tree is for life, not just for Christmas!



Have your full- coloured version of The Jester sent direct to your e-mail!

Message from the Chair



Robin Turner has a few messages for the membership.

Endangered species seeks safe haven

We are looking for a new home for one of the Sharks created for *James and the Giant Peach*. This delightful creature took some considerable time to evolve; but is now in danger of having to be put to sleep, due to lack of the correct environment.

The Shark has been carefully taken care of ever since James; having been rescued when found swimming aimlessly around the Studio. 'Sid' the shark would love to find a new and caring home. He would be happy in a child's large bedroom, or displayed at either a playgroup or Primary school.

If you can help give 'Sid' a new home, please contact his current keeper at chair@kelvinplayers.co.uk

“Why can't we use our own Studio when we want?”

At the last Committee Meeting, the question of why Rehearsed Readings can't have the use of the Hall on the Saturday morning was raised. It would make the whole process much easier and, after all, it is our building. Could we cancel the ballet classes for the Saturday of the Rehearsed Reading? It would be great to have been able to say yes, but the reality is that the Club depends on letting space in order to pay

for the running of the Studio. Below are the figures for last financial year 2014-15.

£11,350 - Income from lets (*of which Annette Adams dancers were £5,036*)

Studio running costs

£8,405	- Heating, lighting etc
£1,282	- cleaner/cleaning supplies
£720	- telephone
£730	- Theatre insurance
£180	- Storage rental

£11,316*

**excludes sundry maintenance costs (£2k).*

Put simply, without the lets, Kelvin Players would have to go into liquidation!

Cardenio

Congratulations to the company on their amazing Rose Bowl adjudication. Well done to everyone involved. It was an exciting and creative show, and certainly deserved better audiences.

Morris Room Flooring

New carpet tiles will be laid in the Morris Room after *Abigail's Party* to replace the current very sad looking flooring.

Abigail's Party

Congratulations to all concerned with selling tickets. We have achieved an unprecedented 'sell out' three weeks before the run.

Members Interest Directory

Just a reminder that if you haven't returned your updated Interests form it would be really helpful if you could please.

And finally...

To close may I wish everyone a very Happy Christmas, and may the New Year bring all the good things that you could wish for.



Robin Turner
chair@kelvinplayers.co.uk

Cardenio

14-17 and 21-24 October 2015



Director Jonny Wilkinson brings us a closing round-up of his production of *Cardenio*.

“A critical success”

We’ve just met up for our Rose Bowl Adjudication reading. It was great to see everyone again. I’m sorry some cast members couldn’t make it – such is the joy of anything in December.



A copy of the Rose Bowl Adjudication and another independent review by Marion Crisp are published on the Members’ website.

Despite disappointing audience numbers, I think I can safely say, without fear of contradiction, that the production of *Cardenio* was a critical success.



It did however enjoy some benchmarks in the production. Here are some stats:

- The cast of 14 was made up of 7 existing members and 7 new members.
- The 12 male roles and 6 female roles were played by 7 men and 7 ladies (including Lizzie Nicholson playing 2 female and one very different male roles).
- 5 of the tech crew were new members (mentored)

It was, without doubt (and with the benefit of hindsight) and very happy, enjoyable production for me and for the cast.



And what a brilliant cast, led by Patrick McAndrew in the title role, Fran Lewis as Luscinda, Bea Vincent in the male role of the unpleasant Fernando, and Maddie Finch as the faithful Dorotea. I won't mention or thank all the other cast. If you want to see how brilliant they were, read the reviews.



The crew similarly were wonderful and committed to making this as professional a production as possible.



I was blessed to have an angel at my right hand throughout, in the form of Anna Wills, who not only Production Managed for me, but was also DSM, and composed the music for Dorotea's song and other incidental underscoring.



Thank you all. Here's to the next one.



Jonny Wilkinson
Director

SOLD OUT

Abigail's Party

8-12 December 2015



Director Susan Lawrence gives an update on her upcoming production of *Abigail's Party*.

As I write we're already nearly sold out... and by the time you read this it'll all be over.

The Cast

Thanks to the superb cast:

Beverley:	Rosie Collins
Laurence:	Rick Procter
Angela:	Pat Needham
Tony:	Alex Needham
Susan:	Fiona McClure





Eating, drinking, smoking, dancing and fast fire dialogue makes this show a treasure to do.

Thanks to everyone working so hard on it, and especially Mat Rees for stepping in to the Producer role.

More again post show.



Susan Lawrence
Director



Editor's Note

As **The Jester** goes to print, *Abigail's Party* has sold out for all night performances.

Congratulations to all involved!

Orphans and The River:

Return of the Black Box

16-20 February 2016



Production Manager Josh Cooper fills us in with preparations for the *Black Box Double*, directed by Sam Skelton and Craig Malpass.

A well attended read through saw the assembled throng experience the full range of emotions these two contrasting modern plays have to offer.

It was great to finally hear both plays read aloud and feel the audience go on these two emotional and powerful journeys.

Front and Back Stage formations

Auditions are currently in progress. We're really excited to be forming our technical crew, and getting the actors who are cast to get involved in technical roles on the other production to expand their skills. Even the fish gutting scene doesn't seem too daunting at this stage...

By the time the next Jester comes around rehearsals will be in full swing and the productions will be only a few weeks away. So make sure you come and support two new Kelvin directors and get a brace of fantastic modern plays for the price of one.

Josh Cooper
Production Manager
on behalf of Sam Skelton and Craig Malpass

The Secret Rapture

19-23 April 2016



Production Manager Ralf Togneri gives us a breakdown of Bob Havard's production of *The Secret Rapture*.

All the major newspapers produce a list of reading over the holiday season and I would like to add one to your lists. It is *The Secret Rapture* by David Hare, described by Michael Billington, the theatre critic of the *Guardian* and *Country Life*, as our greatest living playwright.

So what is it about?

The play opens with two sisters brought together by the death of their Gloucestershire bookseller father. The older sister, Marion, is a self-centred fast rising junior minister in a Tory government, irritated by emotional mess. Isobel, the younger sister runs a fairly successful small commercial design firm with her lover Irwin Posner, is humane, altruistic and moral.

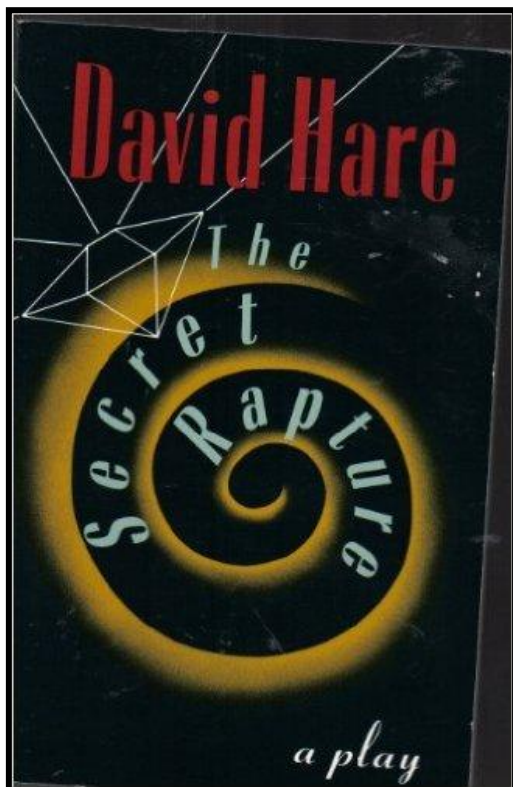
The sisters inherit a problem in the shape of their stepmother, Katherine, who is not only younger than them but is a relentlessly dependent ex-alcoholic full of a blackmailing helplessness. Which sister will take on this burden and what will it cost them, their family and those close to them? The driving forces of the play are the relationships between the characters and Isobel's very particular moral compass.

In October 1988, David Hare revealed the source of the play's curious title. "In Catholic theology," the playwright explained, "the 'secret rapture' is the moment when the nun will become the bride of Christ (at the point of death): so it means death, or love of death, or death under life."

Bob Havard will be directing *The Secret Rapture* which is on from 19th to 23rd April next year. This is what he has to say about it:

"*The Secret Rapture* is probably my favourite David Hare play. It is a morality tale, a modern tragedy, and is less overtly political than many of his plays. It also has some very funny lines and situations. Hare has a justified reputation of being a talented writer of female roles. He's also a dab hand at writing for male roles too!"

Make a note in your new Christmas diaries that the READTHROUGH is on Sunday 10 January 2016, 7p.m, in The Morris Room, with AUDITIONS – Tuesday 12 January, from 7.30, Friday 15 January, from 7.30 and call-backs 19 January from 7.30, all in the Morris Room.



Below is an indication of the age ranges of the characters and, to whet your appetites, brief character sketches.

Isobel Glass – a flawed saint, emotional but usually manages not to be driven by them, owns a graphic design business, early 30s to mid-40s

Marion French, née Glass – ostensibly tough, unsentimental Tory junior minister, older sister of Isobel, late 30s to late-40s

Tom French – Marion's husband, slightly gauche, born again Christian, entrepreneur, mid 30s-mid 50s

Katherine Glass – damaged, dependent, reckless alcoholic, younger step-mother of the Glass daughters, mid 20s-mid 30s

Irwin Posner – Isobel's business partner and lover, graphic artist, similar age to Isobel

Rhonda Milne – mercenary, amoral assistant to Marion, early 20s to late 30s

Bob has a number of scripts he is happy to lend to members on a one-week loan basis between now and early January. This will give you time to have an informed think about the play and the roles prior to read-through and preparing for audition.

If you would like to borrow a copy please email Bob with your address and he will post a script to you. His e-mail address is: bobp@havard41.fsnet.co.uk

He also asks that you respect the deadline of the one week loan period.



Ralf Togneri
Production Manager
on behalf of Bob Havard

Rehearsed Readings



Rehearsed Readings co-ordinator, Rick Procter, has a message for the upcoming new year of readings.

Dearest Kelvinians,

Well, almost before we know it Christmas is nearly upon us - and plans are afoot for the next year of Rehearsed Readings, of which there will be the usual smattering on Saturdays throughout 2016 in amongst the season of main shows. So, diaries out folks - here is the full roster of 2016 dates...

Launch Night 1	30th January
RR evenings	27th February, 19th March, 30th April, 11th June
Launch Night 2	23rd July
RR evenings	3rd September, 1st October, 29th October, 26th November

At the time of going to press, I will shortly be contacting all potential directors to determine the line-up for the first half of 2016, ready for the first Launch Night on 30th January.

If you've contacted me in the last year about directing a rehearsed reading, you should be hearing from me very soon (if you haven't already). If you reckon you'd like to direct but haven't contacted me yet, there's still time - I'm sure we'll be able to fit you in sometime during 2016. What are you waiting for?

If you'd like to act in a rehearsed reading, 30th January and 23rd July are the key dates to come along to at Kelvin - 7pm doors and bar open for 7:30pm start. If you're new to this whole rehearsed readings malarkey and want to find out more, you can read about what the RRs are on the Kelvin members website - www.kelvin-members.co.uk under 'Members Resources' and 'Rehearsed Readings'. Or feel free to drop me an e-line, or give me a buzz on the contact details below.

If you'd like to act in a show but really just cannot make the launch night, get in touch and I will put your name on the casting reserve list. If you contact me for this purpose, it is important to say which of the RR dates you can and can't do (and remember you'd have to be able to commit to the whole entire day, 9am-10pm). It is no guarantee of casting, since the reserve list is primarily a resource used by directors who end up undersubscribed from the attendees on the launch night.

Right then, that's about it for now - I shall very much look forward to seeing lots of your faces at one or all of the RR dates above. Meanwhile, Merry Christmas to all you lovely Kelvinians!.



Rick Procter
RR Organiser
07941 878 460
rick.procter@icloud.com

Studio News

Work in the Studio

Special news for Jacqs Graham and Chrissy Fryers: the excellent Andy Payne, hero that he is, will by the time this Jester comes out, have finished (or very nearly finished) installing the washing machine in to the Morris Room.



The set for *Abigail's Party* is all but prepared, so I hope to get back to working on the finishing touches to the bar shortly.

Also for those who struggle to hear clearly in the Hall, ... I SAID 'FOR THOSE WHO STRUGGLE TO HEAR CLEARLY IN THE HALL ...', I hope to be able to install a hearing loop system for folks with hearing aids. However those actors among us who mumble your words, you still need to learn to enunciate clearly and project, dahlings! (How many times??!)

Robin's been working hard fixing stuff. The cupboards in the Morris room are helping brighten the room somewhat.

If you're interested in helping with set construction (or indeed major building works), let me know and I let you know if/when we can use you. Construction Team generally meets on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7:30 until 10:00-ish.

There's still tons to be done with improving the building constantly. If you see anything that niggles, let me know.



Jonny Wilkinson
Company Stage Manager
stage@kelvinplayers.co.uk

Kelvin wins at the Rose Bowls



Membership News



Our Membership Secretary Mandi Bailey-Turner brings us news of the newest recruits to the Kelvin family.

Jess Farnish

Jess decided to join Kelvin as she is very passionate about theatre and would love to gain more experience working alongside like-minded people.

She is a Drama with Acting graduate so has learnt a wide variety of skills. She has sound and lighting experience and has done work experience at the Hippodrome. She can handle camera equipment. She has experience of screen and live performance and was an extra on *Skins*.

Kristian Baxter

Kristian is interested in theatre. He has joined to get experience both on and off stage and brings lots of enthusiasm.

Adam Church

Adam describes himself as 'an ageing actor/performer/luvvie returning to Kelvin in the hope of theatrical adventures and therapy!'

Sam Grayston

Sam has moved to Bristol from Plymouth. He has a Drama degree from Hull and has developed a passion for acting and directing. He has also got experience with stage management, lighting and set design. At university he wrote and directed a comedy centred around the life, death and life again of a failed salesman which he took to the Edinburgh Fringe. He is itching to meet new people and get involved with acting, directing and writing.

Tim Whitten

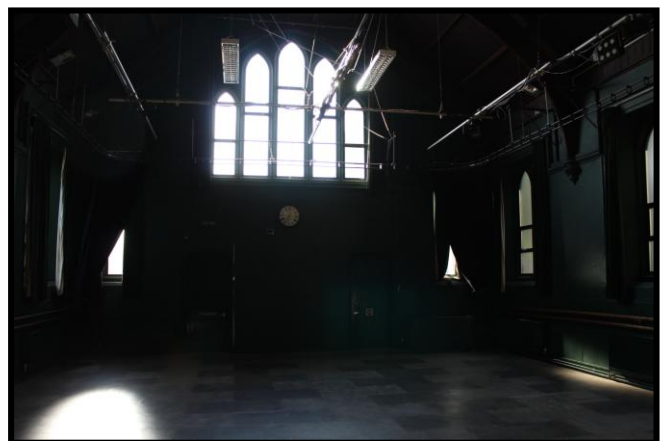
Tim is re-joining Kelvin after taking a break for a few years. He enjoys all aspects of theatre production and has experience both on and off stage.

He is good with a 'whizzer' (drill) and very good at climbing ladders!

He has had some interesting theatrical experiences. When working as a 'techie' he managed to leave a whole cast stranded in the dark, trying to carry on with a play while he ran around trying to find the 'make the lights go on again' button! His proudest achievement on stage was failing to hit a single person after he accidentally threw a wooden axe in to the front row of a full house!! You have been warned!!



Mandi Bailey-Turner
Membership Secretary
kelvinplayers_membership@hotmail.com



Members' Noticeboard

It's Just A Jump To The Left...

Fancy getting stuck in a time warp in your gold lamé hotpants, or seeing middle aged men in fishnets?!

Then this is the show for you!

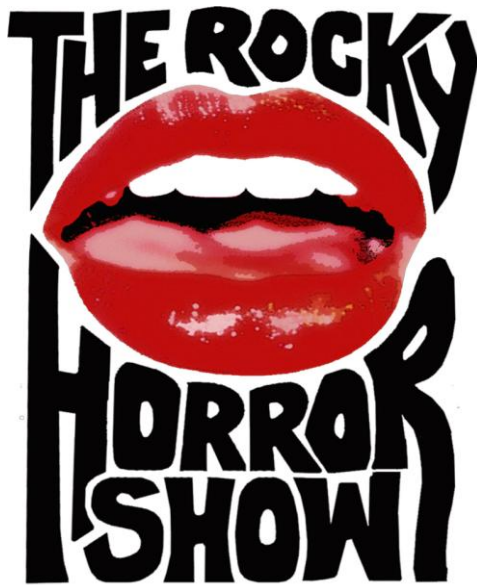
I'm organising a trip to *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* on Sat 23rd July at the Bristol Hippodrome.

Tickets are £34, but potentially cheaper if I get a large enough group.

Fancy dress is optional, but encouraged as you may feel underdressed in ALL your clothing!!!

Email me on tmreid80@me.com

Tracy M Reid



Bomber Harris

It is with great sadness that I must announce the death of Bomber Harris, a Kelvin Patron for many years and long-time supporter of Kelvin for many years before that.

He died on Tuesday at Southmead hospital after a deterioration in his health over the last few years.

The funeral will take place at:

**Westerleigh Crematorium, Westerleigh Road
BS37 8QP**

at **11.30 am on Saturday 5th December**, and afterwards at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, 2 Downside Road, Clifton.

I'd like to prepare an appreciation of Bomber for The Jester. Everyone seems to have a favourite story or memory of him so it would be good to share these. Please send your memories to me by email marygreencroft49@gmail.com

Also Peter Townsend is compiling a collection of anecdotes about Bomber to read out at his funeral. If you have any stories you would like to share could you send them to petet@dancestation.org.uk to arrive by midweek please. Thanks.

Mary McCallum

If you have a notice that you want to appear in the next edition of the Jester, send me copy of the text that you would like to appear, along with contact details and a photo.

jester@kelvinplayers.co.uk

Deadline for submissions is 21 January 2016

Dates for the Calendar

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE	CONTACT
Sun 6 Dec	09:30	Get in: ABIGAIL'S PARTY	Studio Theatre	Director: Susan Lawrence
Tues 8 to Sat 12 Dec	19:30	ABIGAIL'S PARTY 	Studio Theatre	Director: Susan Lawrence
Sun 13 Dec	09:30	Get out: ABIGAIL'S PARTY	Studio Theatre	Director: Susan Lawrence
Sun 10 Jan	19:00	Readthrough: THE SECRET RAPTURE	Morris Room	Director: Bob Havard
Tue 12 Jan	19:30	Auditions: THE SECRET RAPTURE	Morris Room	Director: Bob Havard
Fri 15 Jan	19:30	Auditions: THE SECRET RAPTURE	Morris Room	Director: Bob Havard
Tue 19 Jan	19:30	Call backs: THE SECRET RAPTURE	Morris Room	Director: Bob Havard
Thu 21 Jan	23:59	 SUBMISSION DEADLINE		Editor: Andy Cotton
Sat 30 Jan	19:00	Rehearsed Readings: Launch Night 	Studio Hall	Organiser: Rick Procter
Sun 14 Feb	09:30	Get in: BLACK BOX DOUBLE	Studio Theatre	Directors: Sam Skelton and Craig Malpass
16-20 Feb 2016	19:30	BLACK BOX DOUBLE: THE RIVER // ORPHANS 	Studio Theatre	Directors: Sam Skelton and Craig Malpass
Sun 21 Feb	09:30	Get out: BLACK BOX DOUBLE	Studio Theatre	Directors: Sam Skelton and Craig Malpass
Sat 27 Feb	19:30	Rehearsed Readings: <i>Night One, 2016 season</i> 	Studio Hall	Organiser: Rick Procter
Sat 19 Mar	19:30	Rehearsed Readings: <i>Night Two, 2016 season</i> 	Studio Hall	Organiser: Rick Procter
19-23 Apr 2016	19:30	THE SECRET RAPTURE 	Studio Theatre	Director: Bob Havard