

August - September
2016 Issue

The Jester



The Official Kelvin Players Theatre Company Newsletter

WWW.KELVINPLAYERS.CO.UK

CHARITY NO 294367

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Di and Viv and Rose – practice...



The Triumvirate of Anna Bonnet, Rosie Collins and Lizzie Nicholson in rehearsal for *Di and Viv and Rose*

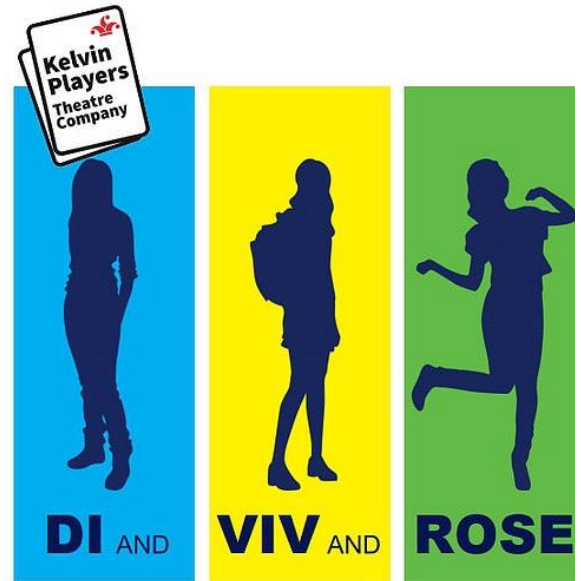
Review by Jacqs Graham

"Let's drink. To the fact. That we. Didn't f**k it up"

Said the character of Viv after her gala speech in NYC (Act 2 of DVR).

Judging by the generous responses of our sell-out audiences, plaudits on social media, and personal comments to me - we put on a great night's theatre. People used words like "sublime", "awesome", "intense" and "brilliant". It was deeply and immensely gratifying that audiences responded to our hard work and effort and fell in love with Di and Viv and Rose.

When I first set out to direct the show I hoped that we would achieve fast-paced, absorbing and emotionally-charged theatre and I'm so proud of the end result. I have learnt that the secret of a successful show is ... Choose a great script, choose a great cast and assemble a fantastic team of creative technicals. I lucked out with this production. Any of you who were involved with DVR know what a team effort this was and how hard everyone worked - that midnight Sunday tech ...phew!



by Amelia Bullmore

Tuesday 12 - Saturday 16 July 2016
Tickets £12 (£10 concessions - see website)
boxoffice@kelvinplayers.co.uk or 0117 924 0899
www.kelvinplayers.co.uk

A massive thank you to everyone involved. From the initial set design meeting that we had in February right up to the 'tweetshop' open during the run, the technical team were innovative, dedicated and extraordinarily patient. I won't name names (I did that at the after-show party) but I would like to make a heartfelt thank you to Delphine Delansay for Producing the show; she and Jerome will be missed by so many people when they return to France.

Finally, thank you to the cast of Anna, Rosie and Lizzie. For laughs, tears, more laughs, shared secrets and confidences, theatrical experimentation and love. The audiences fell in love with your stunning performances.

I am extremely proud of this production. But more than that, I am proud to be part of Kelvin's amazing artistic family.

"Let's Go Crazy"!!!

Jacqs Graham

Director



Message from the Chair

Welcome back to the Jester after several months absence. Big thanks to Andy Cotton as outgoing Editor, and also to Roger Shutt and Lucy Payne for taking on joint Editorship of the Jester. I would also like to thank Mat Rees for overseeing the transition.

Since the last Jester both the Black Box double bill and Secret Rapture have come and gone. However belated congratulations go to all three productions, particular to Craig Malpass and Sam Skelton as 'newbie' Directors. I would also like to applaud the newD member who showed real guts in playing the part of 'Fish' in 'The River'.

'Di and Viv and Rose' may well have also come and gone by the time this edition of the Jester hits the computer screen. The production seems to be shaping up well; even though large chunks of rehearsal time seem to have been spent in hilarity and laughter!

'Brief Encounter' is now well under way. The production is now cast; after a hard fought audition process. Interestingly the new Launch Night process also brought some additional decision making for Director Mary in that she had four set designers who all came up with really good ideas.

'A Christmas Carol' is also well underway. With my Director's hat on can I ask you to all look at the separate article in this Jester.

The maintenance work to the stonework at the Gloucester Road end of the Studio has now been completed. It is one of those jobs that, if you didn't know what to look for, you probably wouldn't even notice that anything has been done. In reality the most exposed outside wall of the building is now safe and protected from the elements for several decades to come.

I am sure that Jonny will be mentioning this in another part of the Jester, but plans are being put in place for a single storey extension over the car parking area to the side of the building. This is to create a proper foyer and Box Office area.

Important date for your diary.

AGM SUNDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER at 7.30pm

Cheers *Robin*



Full steam ahead for Brief Encounter!

We're busy getting cast and crew on board with Emma Rice's version of Noel Coward's play – and it's a great journey already!

When the October programme changed from 'The True Mirror' to 'Brief Encounter' due to licencing factors, director Mary McCallum said, "I am truly excited to direct a totally different, but equally stunning play."

Many of you are familiar with the famous film starring Celia Johnson and Trevor Howard as the ill-fated lovers Laura and Alec. By adding a musical dimension with Noel Coward songs, bringing out the comedic aspects of supporting characters and using filmed elements, Emma Rice's adaption is a theatrical treat. It's also shining a light on hidden talents in Kelvin.

Spoilt for choice

Mary and assistant director Sam Skelton have had a tremendous task (and lots of fun!) selecting the cast. They've run acting auditions, singing auditions, plus there's been a brief dance workshop led by Lizzie Nicholson.

With 20 people auditioning for a cast of 11, the selection process was a tough one as Mary and Sam were genuinely spoilt for choice – as they said at the time on Facebook:

Mary: "A big thank you to everyone who auditioned with such good humour, to the chosen cast (many of whom have settled graciously for not their first choice), and especially to those who weren't cast for accepting the news without rancour. The standard was so good, Sam and I had many difficult choices to make and that's the truth. I can't wait to get started on this fun show."

Sam: "Woken up so happy after singing auditions last night. Such a lot of work put in, so many good voices. Kelvin's got singers. Who knew? Can't touch this."

Flyer and launch night

Some of you will have seen our flyer by now. Based on Mary's vision, Jonny Wilkinson painted floating lovers in the style of Marc Chagall to capture the romance at the heart of the story. And Anna Marshall made it work as a design for the flyer – many thanks to both.

To get the technical production ball rolling, at the beginning of June there was an overall 'launch night'. This is part of the new process to give everyone a chance to find out about the technical elements involved and select people in a fair and open way.

And the cast list is...

Albert	Dean Hawkins
Alec Harvey	Adam Church
Beryl Waters	Becky Keenan Barelle
Bill/Bobbie/Usher/Ensemble	Robbie McGirr
Fred Jessop/Stephen/	
Ensemble	Sam Grayston
Hermione/Dolly/Usherette/	
Ensemble	Lizzie Nicholson
Johnnie/Waiter/Usher/Ensemble	Rick Proctor
Laura Jessop	Nicola Rope
Margaret/Waitress/Usherette/	
Ensemble	Pat Needham
Myrtle	Jaqs Graham
Stanley	Josh Cooper

Production team

Our production team is coming together well.

Jonny won the pitch for set design in a close run competition with three other contenders. **Richard Newman** is designing the lighting and mentoring **Rosie Inman**. For sound, **Peter Spence** is technical engineer working with Sam on music and also sorting sound effects.

Martin Walsh is co-ordinating costumes with help from **Meg Pickup**, and **Chrissy Fryers** is providing invaluable expertise too. Props will be managed by **Bronwen Grover**, supported by **Rosie Collins**. We have **Tim Whitten** as SM, mentored by **Sue Stobbs** who's also managing box office, and **Anna Bonnett** is our DSM.

Joey Beard is producing key film sequences – she's particularly pleased to be involved as she directed Brief Encounter as a Rehearsed Reading a few years ago herself!

Watch out for more news about the production once we get underway and if you have any general questions, please get in touch with me: terimoni@gmail.com (mob: 07866 770184).

Teri Mohiuddin

Production Manager, Brief Encounter

terimoni@gmail.com

07866 770184.

On behalf of Mary McCallum, Director

Studio Report from your Studio Manager

Despite the hiatus in publication of The Jester, there's actually not an enormous amount to report. However, we haven't been resting on our laurels. Work around the studio continues.



Wi-Fi

A new telephone line has been installed (no telephone) for the new 'working' broadband. It is broadcasting signal from the Morris Room with a booster down in the bar. It was a choice of the Hall side of the building or the 'rooms' side, because of the thickness of the Hall walls. The password is 'Kelvin1929'.

Heating

Richard Jones has kindly arranged for the heating controls in the Morris Room to be 'simplified'. The heating is timed to come on but if it gets a bit chilly, we can now just 'advance' for an hour, which should be sufficient. This is to prevent the heating being left on, inadvertently and burning a hole in our budget.

Stonework

Stone Mason, Paul Oxley has been working on the Gloucester Road gable-end wall above the foyer to repair and consolidate after 100+ years of weather. More work has been scheduled for the future.

Building Development

I want to talk to you at the AGM about the possibility of developing the Wesley Road side entrance to the building. Please come along and help us make the decision.

I've said it before (although not for a while), when you're a very regular user of the building, you tend to accept, or simply not notice the little broken things around the place, like the broken spindle on the balcony at the top of the stairs. Well, that was mentioned and Neil Bonnett has done a brilliant job of turning a new matching spindle, which has been fitted. It may take a while but if there's anything you've noticed which bugs you, let me know and we'll do what we can to fix it.

New faces in Kelvin:



Ben Jackson-Ellery

Ben is a qualified Drama Teacher and has a Masters in Performance Making from Goldsmith's in London. He has worked in schools or been part of a performance company for many years. Ben has toured in this country and the Czech Republic, and has experience in both performance and backstage. He is a live arts multidisciplinary performer and would like to bring some new areas of specialty to Kelvin. Ben is interested in running workshops, is joining Kelvin to get back into practice, and wants to rediscover his 'Dramaturgical Mojo'! Ben also went to University with Alex Needham and could be relied on for any blackmail material if the need arose!

Mandi Bailey-Turner

Membership Secretary

membership@kelvinplayers.co.uk

Jonny Wilkinson

Company Stage Manager

stage@kelvinplayers.co.uk

Rhona Jamieson

Rhona has been involved on stage, backstage and in a production capacity as club secretary, promotion, front of house, photography, panto song lyricist and on occasion costume design since around 1988 with 2 groups in North Somerset and more recently in Clifton. She has played a variety of roles including a variety of drunken or murderous old hags, a co-dependent passive-aggressive chicken and a transgender vampire with a hallucinogenic coffee addiction!! She has never played a Princess! She would like to learn new skills and be involved with plays rather than musicals. She recently appeared in Lizzie Nicholson's Rehearsed Reading of 'Myrrha'.



A CHRISTMAS CAROL

by Charles Dickens



Adapted by Neil Bartlett

Directed by Robin Turner

Studio: Wed 30 Nov - Sat 3 Dec 2016 (inc. Sat matinee)
Wed 7 Dec - Sat 10 Dec 2016 (inc. Sat matinee)

Committee Liaison: Jonny Wilkinson

A Christmas Carol was first presented to an audience on 27th December 1853 at Birmingham Town Hall when Dickens gave his first ever public reading. Seventeen hundred people braved a snowstorm to attend. This was made up of the 'middling classes' who paid and 'working people' who were admitted free. It was a great success. The book has never been out of print, and the story has been retold many times on stage, screen and radio.

Creativity and versatility will be order of the day for this production.

Neil Bartlett's adaption uses only dialogue lifted directly from Dickens' original book. The play is performed by a cast of eight actors: 4 male and 4 female. One actor will be playing the adult Scrooge throughout. The other 47 characters will be played by the remaining seven! Some actors will be playing characters of either gender, with ages ranging from Tiny Tim (aged 9) to a seven year dead 60 year old Jacob Marley.

The play moves rapidly through a whole series of different settings so simplicity of design will be key, with minimal furniture being moved by cast. The production will also include, music, singing, puppetry, fog, snow, and some very fast costume changes.

A copy of the script is available to read on the website.

DATES.

The technical Launch Night - Sunday 24th July - 6.30pm, the Hall.

Read Through – Wednesday 31st August - 7.30pm The Morris Room (All welcome).

Audition - All – Sunday 4th September – 2.00pm The Hall

Audition – Adult Scrooge only – Tuesday 6th September – 7.30pm The Morris Room

Call Backs – All – Wednesday 7th September – 7.30pm The Morris Room

If you are unable to attend any of the above but wish to be involved please contact Robin Turner.

DESIGNERS NEEDED FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- Set
- Projection visuals
- Lighting
- Sound

Design briefs for all the above roles will be available at the launch night

Actor	Character(s)
1 (Male)	Bob Cratchit (Age 38)
	Mr. Fezzywig (Age 45)
	Third Fat Gentleman
	A Shopper
	Old Joe
2 (Female)	Second Clerk
	First Portly Gentleman
	Tom (Age 11)
	Scrooge's Sister (Age 13)
	Mrs Fezzywig (Age 40)
	Scrooge's ex-fiancee's daughter (Age 6)
	A Shopper
	Belinda Cratchit (Age 13)
	Ignorance (child)
	Second Fat Business Man
	Mrs Dilber
3 (Male)	Third Clerk
	Second Portly Gentleman
	Dick Wilkins, School boy (Age 11)
	Dick Wilkins, Apprentice (Age 18)
	Dick Wilkins, (married with a daughter) (Age 32)
	Ghost of Christmas Present
	Ghost of Christmas yet to come
4 (Female)	First Clerk
	Harry (Age 11)
	Miss Belle Fezzywig (Age 17)
	Miss Belle Fezzywig (Scrooge's fiancée) Age 23
	Miss Belle Wilkins nee Fezzywig (Age 31)
	Timothy Cratchit (Tiny Tim) (Age 9)
	Scrooge's nephew Fred's wife (Age 23)
	First Fat Business Man + First Rich Man
	Other Woman

Actor	Character(s)
5 (Male)	Sixth Clerk
	Scrooge's nephew Fred (Age 24)
	The Ghost of Christmas Past
	Peter Cratchit (Age 16)
	A Shopper
	Second Fat Business Man
6 (Male)	Ebenezer Scrooge
7 (Female)	Fifth Clerk
	Jacob Marley (Ghost) (Age 60)
	Scrooge (school) (Age 11)
	Scrooge (apprentice) (Age 18)
	Scrooge (engaged) (Age 24)
	Mrs Bob Cratchit (Age 37)
	First Man of Business
8 (Female)	Fourth Clerk
	Boy (Age 10) singing off stage
	The other Miss Fezzywig (Age 18)
	Martha Cratchit (Age 17)
	Want (Child)
	A Shopper
	Second Rich Man



For further details please contact
Robin Turner (Director)
0117 3039253

robinandamanda@btopenworld.com

Kelvin and First Aid

Following on from the first aid course organised in June 2013 to ensure that Kelvin had enough first aiders to be present at show performances, a further free course to members was organised by Kelvin member Andy King in June so that certificates valid for three years from that first course could be renewed.

At the event, 10 members of varying ages attended and were all certificated for the next three years. Front of house managers Peter Garrett and Mike Luckett have been informed of those attending and will be in touch if additional volunteers are needed.

Those on duty at performances as advised by the FOH Manager are required to sit in designated seats next to the nominated steward in the auditorium and wear high visibility tabards provided. Duties will be explained in the event of anyone requiring first aid on the night.

On a broader basis the necessity to fill in an accident form for any incident, however small incurred whilst at Kelvin, is mandatory. The forms are kept in a hard-backed folder by the first aid kit and the members' mailbox in the Morris Room. Once completed the forms are removed and kept securely for three years.

There is a requirement for any item removed from the first aid kits (one in the Morris Room and one in the downstairs bar area) to be recorded on the form in the box.

A volunteer is required from the Kelvin membership to check the contents of these boxes and the eyewash station (in the workshop) and ensure that all bandages etc. are "in date" on a regular basis. These checks need to occur at least two or three times a year.

If you could help with this either please text Andy King (07592 818636) or call Richard Jones (01454 632797) to discuss the matter further.

More new faces!

Alexandra (Ali) Tyndale

Ali has joined because she would like to be part of a production in some capacity. She completed a one-year acting course at City Lit in London and 'many moons ago' a one-year evening course at The Gaiety School of Acting in Dublin. She is happy to help backstage and front of house but acting is her main interest. Ali is also a keen photographer and would like to meet new people and have a creative outlet for herself.

Mandi Bailey-Turner

Membership Secretary

membership@kelvinplayers.co.uk

Rebekah Germain

Rebekah has decided to join Kelvin because acting was her profession before having children. She is not working at present and thought joining us would be a wonderful way to do what she loves. Rebekah has worked on theatre tours, short films and documentaries and radio (including Poetry Please on Radio 4). She has also narrated many titles for BBC Audiobooks. As well as acting she can sing and dance (including tap). She is very friendly, enthusiastic and passionate about theatre.



Rehearsed Readings: Update for the 2nd of the 2016 sessions September to November from *Rick Procter*

Dearest Kelvinians,

Well the sun's out....The July show is all done with, and what a barnstorming success it was... The October show is just getting underway, promising yet more exciting theatre... So what does it all mean? It means there's a brand new season of Rehearsed Readings in the offing, that's what it means! As I write, there has just been a wonderfully successful Launch Night where nine - yes that's right, nine new Rehearsed Readings have been cast. Highlights this season will include another TRIPLE bill, and a total of five, that's right, five brand new directors. Indeed, there will be at least one new director presenting on each of the four dates. Naturally there will also be a number of very experienced directors, a couple of whom are 'returning to the fold' somewhat, after a slight hiatus from directing due to other life commitments (specifically kids!). Anyway, enough of my usual rambling and waffling – here is the season to come in full, so get those diaries out folks:

All of these are Saturdays of course, as per the RR norm - and likewise, each evening will begin at 7pm with the opening of the doors and the bar, followed by a curtain-up of the first performance at 7:30pm. Come one, come all - see you there at all 4 evenings!

3rd September:-

Rachel Fleming directs her own adaptation entitled '**Maternity – Letters from Working Women**' of a book she found at her GP's surgery!

Kristian Baxter directs his own stepped-down adaptation of '**The curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time**'

Roger Shutt directs '**Writes and Wrongs**' by Andy Taylor

1st October:-

Matt Cotton directs his own adaptation of '**House of Leaves**' by Mark Z

Danielewski

Martin Walsh directs

'**doyouwishtocontinue**' by Christine Entwistle

29th October:-

Meg Pickup directs '**My Mother Said I Never Should**' by Charlotte Neatly

Ralf Togneri directs '**Macbeth**' by William Shakespeare

(both of which will of course be reduced versions)

19th November:-

Sam Grayston directs '**Christie in Love**' by Howard Brenton

Josh Cooper directs '**Lungs**' by Duncan McMillan

SOME IMPORTANT DATES FOR KELVINITES

Rehearsed Readings Dates (all Saturdays 7.30pm) **3rd September / 1st October / 29th October / 19th November**

Nominations for Kelvin Awards – Deadline **Thursday 1st September**

AGM Sunday **18th September** 7.30pm at Kelvin

Important dates for the Christmas Carol production:-

Read Through Wednesday **31st August** 7.30pm in the Morris Room

Auditions (All) Sunday **4th September** 2.00pm in the Hall

Auditions – Adult Scrooge only – Tuesday **6th September** 7.30 Morris Room

Call Backs (All) Wednesday **7th September** 7.30 Morris Room

Brief Encounter Performances:-**11th to 15th October**

EVEN MORE LIVE THEATRE TO BE ENJOYED!
Look at what else is on in and around Bristol over the next few weeks

Date	Event	Venue	Information
1 st to 13 th August	'Goldilock, Stock and Three Smoking Bears'	The Wardrobe Theatre The Old Market Assembly 25 West St. Bristol BS2 0DF	Alternative comedy theatre performance
1 st to 6 th August	'Footloose'	Bristol Hippodrome St Augustine's Parade Bristol BS1 4UZ	Gareth Gates stars in this Rock & Roll Musical
3 rd August and 17 th August	'My Way or the Highway'	Windmill Hill City Farm Philip Street Bristol B3 4EA	Theatre for children with audience participation
3 rd August	'Lazy Town – Live!'	The Redgrave Theatre Percival Road Clifton Bristol BS8 3LE	All the childrens favourite characters from the Channel 5 TV show
4 th & 5 th August and 15 th August 17 th August 31 st August	'Bob Random's Shiny Quiz Time'	Kelvin Players Studio Theatre 253b Gloucester Road Bristol BS7 8NY	Childrens' quiz and game show, with teams chosen from the audience.
4 th to 6 th August	'Under a Cardboard Sea'	The Bristol Old Vic King Street Bristol BS1 4ED	Celebration of the theatre's 250 th anniversary. 100 youngsters giving various performances
9 th to 13 th August	'The Mousetrap'	Bristol Hippodrome St Augustine's Parade Bristol BS1 4UZ	A professional cast perform the Agatha Christie 60 th Anniversary Classic
19 th August	'Sky in the Pie'	Circomedia St Pauls Church Portland Square Bristol BS2 8SJ	A dynamic new childrens show by 'Hinged Theatre'
24 th to 28 th August	'3 Little Pigs'	Colston Hall ColstanStreet Bristol BS1 5AR	A 'very curly musical tale' for children 3+ by the writers of 'Mary Poppins' and 'Honk'
24 th and 25 th August	'The Railway Children'	Avon Valley Railway Bitton Station Bath Road Bristol BS30 6HD	Chapterhouse Theatre's open air production of the E Nesbit classic
26 th and 27 th August	'The Dumb Waiter'	Alma Theatre 18 – 20 Alma Vale Road Clifton Bristol BS8 2HY	'The Pigeon Collective' perform Pinter's renowned one act play

30 th and 31 st August	‘Cockroached’	The Wardrobe Theatre The Old Market Assembly 25 West St. Bristol BS2 0DF	Intense drama – 2 people trying to survive physically and mentally in a store room
30 th August to 3 rd September	‘The Sound of Music’	Bristol Hippodrome St Augustine’s Parade Bristol BS1 4UZ	Lavishly new staging of the timeless musical
1 st to 18 th September	‘Trainspotting’	The Loko Club Clocktower Yard Bristol Temple Meads Bristol BS1 6QH	A punchy production of the Irvine Welsh cult novel
3 rd September	‘Peter Pan’	Chapterhouse Theatre Company Tyntesfield Wraxall BS48 1NX	Performance of the classic tale with original music and songs
5 th September	‘Closer Each Day: The Improvised Soap Opera’	The Wardrobe Theatre The Old Market Assembly 25 West St. Bristol BS2 0DF	The ‘Closer Each Day’ company perform unplanned, unscripted and unconventional theatre
7 th to 9 th September	‘Time of My Life’	Hen and Chicken 210 North Street Southville Bristol BS3 1JF	SPP Theatre Company present Alan Ayckbourn’s time shifting dark comedy
10 th September	‘Simon and Garfunkel: Through the Years’	The Redgrave Theatre Percival Road Clifton Bristol BS8 3LE	A chronological journey of the music and behind the scenes events of the famous rock duo
19 th September	‘Only Fools And Boycie’	The Redgrave Theatre Percival Road Clifton Bristol BS8 3LE	An evening with John Chalis (Boycie in Only Fools and Horses) recounting anecdotes from the famous show
21 st to 22 nd September	‘Mark Thomas: Red Shed’	The Redgrave Theatre Percival Road Clifton Bristol BS8 3LE	The Comedy Box presents the third in a trilogy of shows, part theatre, part stand up and part journalism
22 nd September to 1 st October	‘Caryl Chhuchill’s Blue Heart’	Tobacco Factory Theatre Raleigh Road Southville Bristol BS3 1TF	2 exhilarating one act plays as a family await the return of their daughter from Australia
23 rd to 24 th September	‘The Boy With Tape On His Face – is Tape Face’	The Redgrave Theatre Percival Road Clifton Bristol BS8 3LE	The Comedy Box presents a re-imagining of the popular Edinburgh Festival Fringe comedy show
25 th September	Nicholas Parsons – A Laugh a Minute	The Redgrave Theatre Percival Road Clifton Bristol BS8 3LE	Anecdotal entertainment from the comedian and quiz

That's all Folks !!



Best wishes from Lucy & Roger