



November 2020

## Online Rehearsed Readings (ORRs) Special Edition

Hi all Kelvinians!

I hope this special edition of *The Jester* finds you and your loved ones well and safe. Following on from the most recent October/November *Jester*, this special issue sets out fuller information about Kelvin's exciting innovation of our shiny new **Online Rehearsed Readings (ORRs)**!

Put a note in your diary: the first Online Rehearsed Reading **Launch Night** will be **Saturday November 14th at 7.00pm** (The first 'performance' nights will be 28th & 29th November at 7.15pm)

What happens is this: on the ORR Launch Night, the directors wanting to do an ORR will pitch their play to you (just like Rick's much loved Rehearsed Readings RRs), and you will decide which (if any!) of the plays you want to be involved in. **Our first ORRs will be Carol Fuller directing Tom Stoppard's *Albert's Bridge* and Simon Shorrock directing Enda Walsh's *Chatroom*.**

Full details of the way it will work are on the next pages. I hope you will get as involved as you can— after all, we're all pretty starved of theatre! It's a very relaxed way of doing a play online during this time of us being unable to get out much and do things theatrical. There is plenty of scope for all you budding would-be directors to try your hand at directing in a very safe unthreatening online environment! These will be good preparation for when we are finally able to go back to doing live RRs! (Although if they're successful, we may decide to continue ORRs even after covid has finally slung its hook!) If you would like to direct an online ORR, please submit your play to me. Everyone who does so will be given a slot to pitch their play to members at the next available Launch Night and also given a performance date. It will operate on a first come first served basis, so the quicker that you submit a play to me, the quicker you'll get to do it!

During the covid time, and since it's winter, I'm aiming to have an ORR Launch Night every month, because I think we need to have them more frequently whilst we're all at such a loose end theatrically. Initially, there will be two plays pitched each Launch Night, with both plays being performed each month over one weekend (usually a fortnight after the Launch Night).

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!

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.

Geoff Collard (editor)

**The deadline for the Christmas *Jester* will be Saturday November 28th 2020**

# *Online Rehearsed Readings*

## *(ORRs)*

**Hi all Kelvinians!**

**Online Rehearsed Readings (ORRs) will be (just as the name suggests!) rehearsed readings** (similar to Rick Proctor-Lane's well established Rehearsed Readings), **but which will happen entirely online through the medium primarily of Zoom. No social distancing needed!! The idea is that edited plays of up to a maximum one hour's length will be submitted by any fully paid up Kelvin Players 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 'rehearsed' during an online single 'rehearsal' Saturday or Sunday and then performed online the same evening to all Kelvin members who wish to watch it, (although there may possibly be scope to rehearse over two or three days if the director and cast wish and if it's not too logistically difficult). These are 'Rehearsed Readings', so even in 'performance' on the performance evenings the actors may have books in hand — that is up to the director and cast.

Each play received by me will be allocated a day for rehearsal and performance but only one play will be performed on a performance night. This is because directors will need up to an hour for their play, and having two plays (with a break) as with Rick's RRs would probably mean 2.5 hours online for the audience which I think is too long. So initially we will try and have two plays performed during one weekend, with one play rehearsed on Saturday and performed in the evening and another one on Sunday—we'll see..

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. Each director will have up to 20 minutes to present their play (synopsis, vision, cast and genders etc), and then a further 10 minutes Q&A session.

Two directors will pitch their plays each launch night (rather than 4 as with RRs, because again, nearly 3 hours online would I think be too much for most of us!) Members attending launch nights will register their interest in the play(s) which they wish to rehearse with the director(s) concerned, either at the end of the Launch Night meeting or privately by email to the director, and then the directors will choose their potential cast from those members who have indicated that they wish to perform in his or her Online Rehearsed Reading. Each director **must**, however, provide every member who has registered interest in his or her play with a link to the online script which the director is using, so as to give everyone a chance, whether or not the director actually ends up including a member in the actual rehearsal or performance.

Once the director has his or her group, they will let me know as soon as they can and then will be allocated a Zoom link so that the director and his or her cast can rehearse in a closed 'meeting' together online. During the 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! Though very similar to Rick's RRs, with ORRs there are obviously some different challenges, and there will inevitably be hiccups until we have run these ORRs for a while, so things may change in the initial weeks as we find out what works best..

***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** at [jester@kelvinplayers.co.uk](mailto: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 25th November** if you want to be included in the second launch night in December (the first is already full!) All the plays submitted will be listed for an online rehearsed reading performance, but in the order in which they are received. So it's first come, first served!!

**Geoff Collard** (ORR Co-ordinator)

# Online Rehearsed Readings

## Plays & Dates & Links

### First Launch Night: Saturday 14th November 7.00pm

Carol Fuller introduction to direct *Albert's Bridge* by Tom Stoppard

Simon Shorrocks introduction to direct *Chatroom* by Enda Walsh

### First Performance evenings: Saturday 28th November & Sunday 29th November 7.15pm

(one play each evening)

To join the **Zoom** meeting to participate in the **first Launch Night**, please click on this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/91235003764?pwd=bkFuQUJPTnVhYzJ4SGhDRllyV0RrQT09>

To join the **Zoom** meetings to watch the **ORR performance evenings**,

please click on this link for Saturday 28th November:

<https://zoom.us/j/95379486974?pwd=cXZ0VVlyQ0lTMk9uUy9TVdNvb1ptQT09>

And please click on this link for Sunday 29th November:

<https://zoom.us/j/95696154286?pwd=TmxHcjFGSUc1VzB1UVdwNjZJRDIvUT09>

You will need to have **Zoom** loaded on your computer— you can download it from the link beforehand. The meeting will start promptly at 7pm, so you need to be ready loaded!

## ORR Summary of Procedure

1. Would-be ORR directors each submit their play to me (maximum 1 hour performance time, so you may need to edit your play) at: [jester@kelvinplayers.co.uk](mailto:jester@kelvinplayers.co.uk)
2. ORRs are scheduled for a Launch Night (once a month) on a first come first served basis.
3. Dates, and Launch Night Zoom links and performance evening Zoom links, announced in *The Jester* — 2 plays to be pitched by directors each Launch Night.
4. Launch Night—first 30 minutes: introduction by host to ORRs, procedure, and plays to be pitched.
5. Launch Night— each director has 20 minutes to pitch his/her play and give their email contact details, plus 10 minutes Q&A.
6. Members register their interest with director(s) at the end of the launch meeting or by email and the director provides them with a link to the online script to be used.
7. Director provided with a Zoom meeting link for their 'rehearsal day' and in turn director then hosts his/her closed Zoom meeting with their group.
8. Performance nights (Saturday & Sunday 2 weeks after the Launch Night): audience logs into the online Zoom performance evenings.

## **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)