



The Jester



February 2023 — March 2023



14th — 18th February 2023



25th — 29th April



11th — 15th July

Hi Kelvinfolk! *Our Upcoming Productions*

Our new 2023 season kicks off on Valentine's Day with *Blue Stockings* directed by Ralf Togneri, about women's turn of the 19/20th century struggle to be allowed to graduate from university, followed in late April by Jennifer Haley's prescient *The Nether*. The Studio is constantly buzzing and it's great to see Kelvin back to full swing in all areas after the dreaded covid!! and with new innovations by our artistic director Nicky Schoonderwoerd, and other members' new ideas too.

Inside this issue, you'll find the cast list and rehearsal pickies of *Blue Stockings* directed by Ralf Togneri, and a break-a-leg personal letter from the playwright **Jessica Swale** herself! The launch **today!** of our spring season of Rehearsed Readings, details of *Splendour* by Abi Morgan and another very thoughtful blog from Mat, our philosopher Chair. There is scope for a '**Letters to the Editor**' page, so do feel free to write a letter on anything about or connected to theatre to 'Dear Jester'....!

Naturally I don't agree with any censorship at all, but as editor I do reserve the right to remove content which is inappropriate. But do feel free to criticise in *The Jester* anything about how Kelvin works (including *The Jester* itself!) etc - but definitely not of course individuals, nor of course will we publish anything which is against Kelvin's inclusion or safeguarding policies etc.

Do check out our website: www.kelvinplayers.co.uk and follow us on Twitter, Facebook etc.

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 (but **please note** — I use a PC, so if you use a mac, please put it into a Word file format). Just email them to me in plain text please, or in a Word file. Thank you.

Geoff Collard (editor)

The Jester is bi-monthly. The deadline for the next *Jester* is always a couple of days before the last day of the month before publication. And it's always given in the current edition, so you can always check the deadline as below in *The Jester*. **So, please note it in your diary!** (April/May is the next issue.)

The deadline for the next *Jester* will be Wednesday March 29th 2023

Blue Stockings by Jessica Swale

14th—18th February 2023

Blue Stockings is now well and truly under way with only just over a week to go before show week, and tickets I'm told are selling very well, so get those tickets very soon if you don't want to be disappointed! Programmes are being printed, flyers gone out, BCFM radio interview today 10.30!



What a wealth and depth of talent is out there! - many of our cast are new members, and many with very big roles. Some have acted in their first Kelvin show only just before Christmas and for some, this is their first Kelvin show, like Juliet O'Connor who has very recently joined, yet has the very big part of Tess.



I mention this to show that it doesn't matter who you are or how long you've been a member, anything is possible at Kelvin — there are no barriers — once you're a member, all you have to do is to put yourself out there!

And it's not just acting of course, there's all the production stuff: set to be built, costumes, hair to be styled, makeup to be applied, backstage crew during the show for scene changes, not to men-

tion lighting and sound, and getting the word out to our audience. Just ask if you want to be involved!

Most particularly we still need people to staff the bar and for front of house during the show's run, from 14th—18th of this month. If you would like to help with the bar, please email bar manager Mike Jessup: sloppa69@hotmail.co.uk or text him. Similarly, if you can help with Front of House, please email our hard working FoH manager Angela Markham at angelamarkhamz@hotmail.co.uk

In this final week, we still welcome people willing to volunteer to help with all these things, and the get-in, where we build and decorate the set is next weekend.

The play is about the fight for women to receive a university education and for that education to be recognised by degrees being conferred. In the background there is the fight for female suffrage going on. Old entrenched attitudes to be challenged and overturned.

Rehearsals are entering their final week and some pickies of them follow...!



I hope all are up for the challenge of bringing this brilliant play to the stage at Kelvin. And come to see it with your friends next week when we perform it!!

Ralf Togneri *Director* & **Geoff Collard** *Assistant Director & Production Manager*

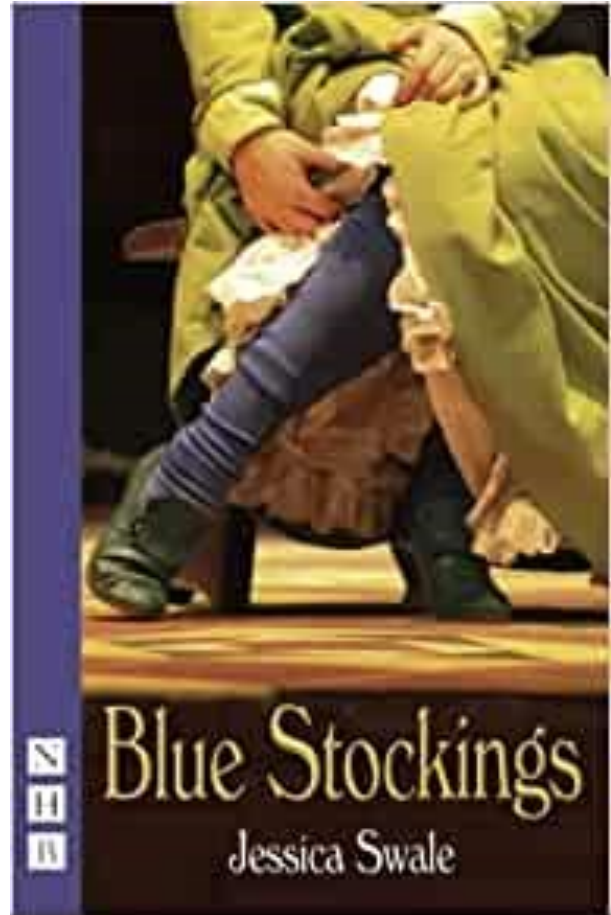




Cast List For *Blue Stockings*

Cast In Order of Appearance:

Dr Maudsley	-	Jolyon Wolfin
Mrs Elizabeth Welsh	-	Sue Stobbs
Tess Moffat	-	Juliet O'Connor
Maeve Sullivan	-	Evie Stannard
Celia Willbond	-	Katie Kneen
Carolyn Addison	-	Sarah Lawrence
Mr Banks	-	Alex Heath
Edwards	-	Harry Wales
Lloyd	-	David Hill
Holmes	-	Rob Kershaw
Ralph Mayhew	-	John Baddeley
Miss Blake	-	Fiona McClure
Miss Bott/Lady in teashop	-	Helen Hollick
Will Bennett	-	Tom Foster
Minnie	-	Claire Hughes
Billy Sullivan	-	Ike Sherr
Mrs Lindley	-	Kate Ryan
Husband at Table	-	Ralf Togneri
Professor Anderson	-	Mike Lockett
Professor Collins	-	Andy McBride-Coogan
Professor Radleigh	-	Mike Jessup
Librarian/Waiter/Mr Peck	-	Miguel Garcia





REHEARSED READINGS (RRs) - Update

Dearest Kelvinians,

That twice-yearly time is upon us once again for a Rehearsed Readings ("RRs") launch, for the spring season that awaits us just around the corner of winter. I've been lining up directors and it's shaping up nicely! **And so Saturday 4th February today! is the spring season launch night** and we have 8 directors ready and raring to go to recruit actors for their Rehearsed Reading pieces.

The dates being cast are: 4th March, 25th March, 15th April, 20th May - all Saturdays, as ever with RRs. If you come along to this launch, you'll be guaranteed at least one part - but fret not if you can't come, you'll still be in with a chance to be cast if you have your name on the casting reserve list. To put your name on this list, just let me know which of the 4 dates listed just above you can commit to - bearing in mind it's for the whole day, from early doors and through the evening. Please see contact details below, and drop me a message stating which of the 4 spring dates you can make.

Hopefully lots of you can make it, I know it's a busy time right now at Kelvin - but RRs are the most fun of all that you can have at Kelvin, right?! If you're new to Kelvin and/or would like to know a bit more about this strand of the club's activities, there's a page on the members website here: <https://www.kelvin-members.co.uk/rehearsed-readings> - or feel free to just ask me, we can have a chat if you like.

The best way to find out though is to come along to this launch, so get ready for a rocking **Saturday night tonight, 4th February - doors and bar open at 7:00pm with the business of the evening beginning at 7:30pm**, see y'all there Kelvinfolk!

Rick Procter-Lane — RR Co-ordinator

0794 1878 460 / rick.procter@icloud.com (Whatsapp preferred)

RR DATES 2023

4th February - Winter Launch

SPRING

4th March
25th March
15th April
20th May

22nd July - Summer Launch

AUTUMN

9th September
30th September
4th November
25th November



FROM THE KEYBOARD OF THE CHAIR'S DESK



A Thank You - Mat's Blog

JUST CAN'T GET ENOUGH

Word went out in one of our many WhatsApp groups recently for more volunteers to work on a show, and slowly apologies starting coming in from people: "I'm on holiday. I'm already working on the show. I've got the kids. I'm working on another show. I'm already doing the bar that night. I want to actually watch the show..." Etc, etc.

What struck me was how apologetic everyone was. You could sense that people actually felt bad about doing other stuff – about having a life, and sometimes a family, outside of Kelvin.

Why do we feel bad about going on holiday with our family instead of working on a Kelvin production?

A while back, I spoke to someone who holds a similar position to myself at a local junior football club. The club operates a number of teams across different age group, each team giving dozens of people the opportunity to follow their passion. Of course, to run a club that size requires a huge amount of commitment from those running it – coaches, welfare, treasurers, secretaries, communications, referees, and many other roles across the club need filling each week to continue operating. Can they fill them? Often, no – and it usually comes down to the same extremely small number of dedicated individuals to ensure the club survives. Ah, just like us, I immediately thought.

And then I started thinking a bit harder, and reminded myself of the various people who carried out bar, box office, front of house, and theatre manager duties on Earthquakes, and other productions last year.

So I did a count. And I realised that across 2021/22, more than 70 people volunteered for various roles within the club – many were on FoH, bar, box office, while lots held roles within the club. That doesn't even take into account those that worked backstage in different positions.

Over the years at Kelvin two of the comments I've heard over and over again are that we can't get enough volunteers to help run the club, and that it's always the same old people running things: I don't think either is true. For a start, the makeup of the current committee proves that it's not the same old people.

What we see from the numbers above is that more than half of the members are getting involved in running the club. And so many more have done in the past or will do so again in the future, usually when time allows. It made me realise just how much people give to the club, and how much they value it. So I don't think we should ever feel bad if we can't get involved because we have other things going on in our lives. What we should be doing is celebrating every one of us who is able to contribute.

Thank you for all the time and effort you give to the club.

Mat Rees

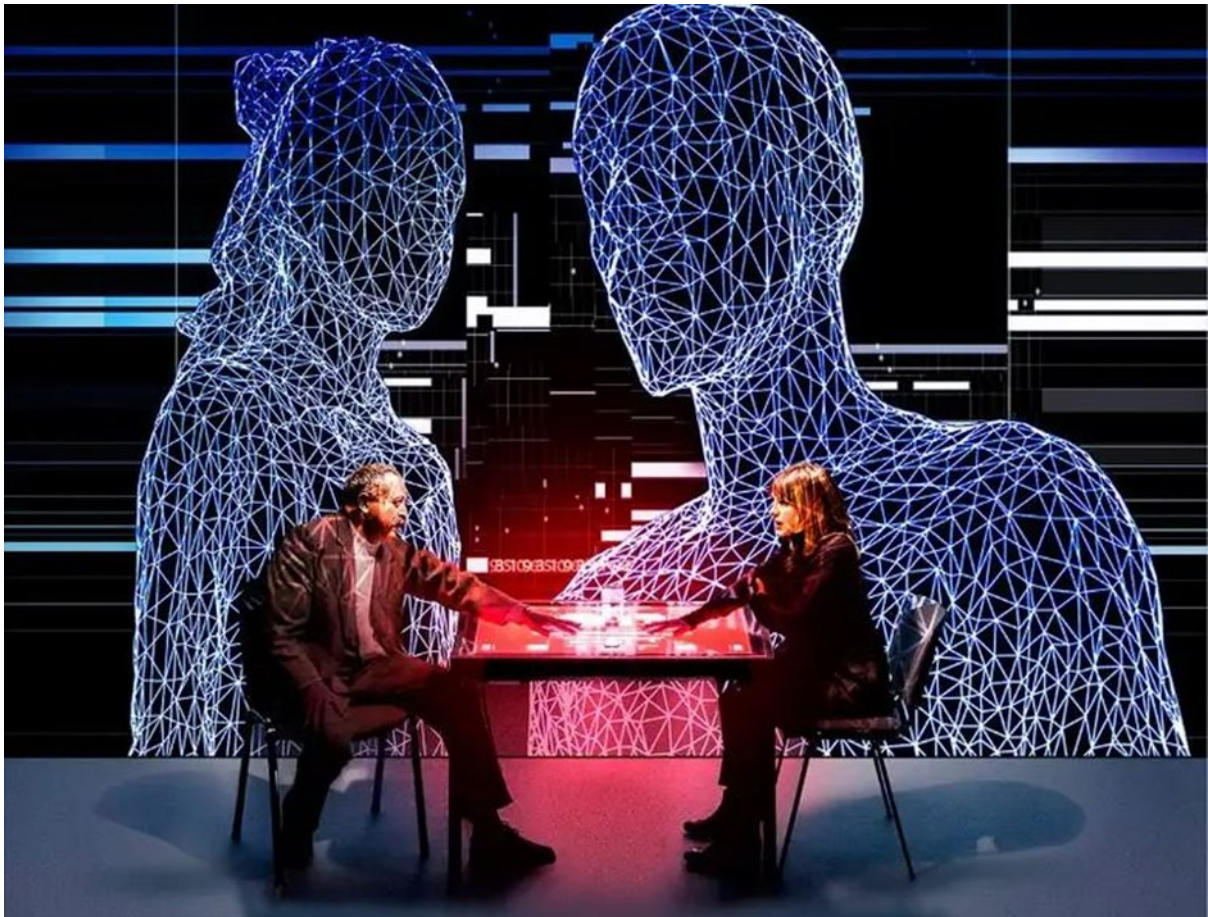
Chair.

THE NETHER by Jennifer Haley - 25 to 29 April 2023

Directed by Josh Cooper

“Just because it’s virtual doesn’t mean it isn’t real.”

The Nether flits between a future real world interrogation room and an online world known as “The Hideaway” where users can login, take any form and indulge their desires, some of which involve virtual prepubescent children. In the real world, the creator of “The Hideaway” is questioned about his motives to create such a place and what the moral responsibilities of such arenas are in the unregulated online world.



As you can probably tell the play contains themes and moments which some viewers may find dark or upsetting but this is a play which asks strong moral questions, is formally daring and cleverly written. It was widely critically acclaimed when it was first performed in the US and when it transferred to the Royal Court Theatre in 2014:

“Bravo to Headlong for programming this authentically challenging piece” - The Independent

“A thought-provoking, deeply disconcerting success.” – The Telegraph.

“A compelling, profoundly disturbing 80 minutes of theatre.” – The Guardian.

THE NETHER CHARACTERS

SIMS / PAPA – *A Successful Businessman, Creator of the Hideaway* – playing age 40s-60s

MORRIS – *A Young Female Detective* – playing age 20s-30s

DOYLE – *A Middle Aged Science Teacher* – playing age 30s-50s

IRIS – *A Shining Little Girl* – playing age 12-14

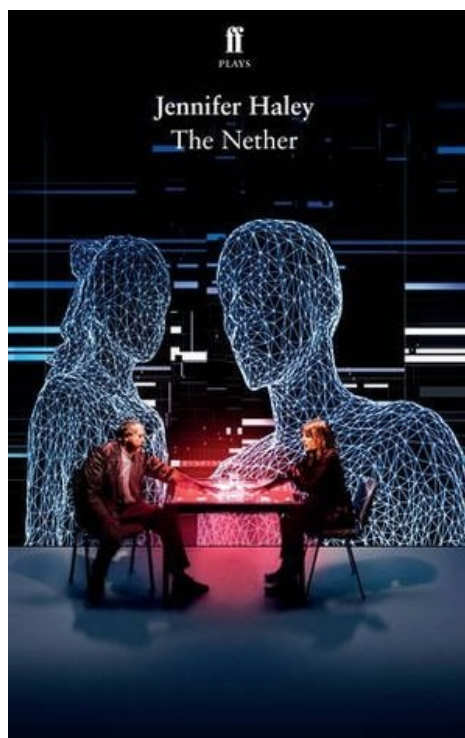
WOODNUT – *A Fresh-faced Guest* – playing age 20s-30s

NB. The role of Iris is open to any actors who feel they can portray a girl aged around 12 -14 years.

As The Jester goes to press, final auditions for the show are in progress.....

This is a challenging but powerful work which speaks directly to our times. I am thankful to the APC for giving me the chance to put this production on and am really looking forward to bringing this challenging and exciting play to the Kelvin Stage.

“We have a terminal here if you’d like to Log In.”



APC Artistic Director — Nicky Schoonderwoerd

Bristol One Act Festival

As I write this, Louise Gethin and her team are busily rehearsing their one act, ready to compete at the Bristol One Act Festival.

The Kelvin team will perform on **Friday 17th February, 7pm at the Olympus Theatre, Wise Campus, Stoke Gifford, BS34 8LP**. We have an allocation of tickets to sell – so if you are interested, please reach out to me or a member of the committee. It will be great to have some friendly faces in the crowd so come along! artisticdirector@kelvinplayers.co.uk



Nicky Schoonderwoerd

Black Box Performances

Watch this space for some exciting opportunities coming your way! Scripts have been approved by the APC and we are now finalising available dates to ensure we don't disrupt the current artistic season. I am exploring the potential opportunity to hold a Black Box of new writing and devising scratch nights. Reach out if you are interested or would like to know more. artisticdirector@kelvinplayers.co.uk

Emerging Directors 'From Play to Pitch' Mentorship Scheme

I am committed to removing barriers to entry for new and emerging directors from diverse backgrounds and underrepresented groups.

In the next few months, a mentorship programme will be opened to any individuals from underrepresented groups to support them in the submission process, resulting in the final pitch for the next season's artistic programme.

'From Play to Pitch' will be offered as a workshop (and regular drop in mentorship scheme) around March – [click here to register your interest!](#)

2024 Season Submission is Open

Directors of Kelvin – SUBMISSION SEASON IS OPEN!

If you have directed a recent rehearsed reading and performed a technical/backstage/design role, you are eligible to submit a play for the 2024 season. You can submit for either a black box (stripped back studio performance) or a full scale production.

You can propose absolutely anything – there is no limit to style, genre or period. If you think that Kelvin has the skills to do it – put it forward! If you are stuck with ideas but would love to direct, reach out to me or the APC – we have some fab suggestions that may light your fire!

The initial shortlisting usually takes into consideration of the following things:

Popularity of play - is it a bums on seats kind of play?

Balance of genres and styles across the range of shortlisted plays - submitting 2 contrasting plays in terms of style/genre/period is a good idea

Is the writing good? Does it provide adequate opportunity for our actors?

Is it a viable production in terms of the club's capability?

Does it provide us opportunity to increase diversity in the club?

To reduce barriers to entry, I have also attached to the Jester article a Play Submission Form and some hints and tips to get you started.

Good luck and get proposing!

Meet the APC – feel free to approach us and ask us anything!



Avanti Pursell



Jess Brassington



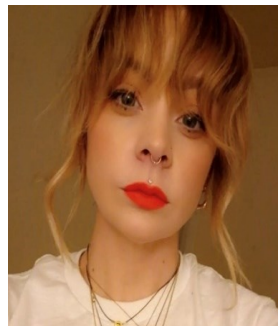
Geoff Collard



Ewan Poole-Gleed



Bob Havard



Keira-Marie Somers



Chrissy Fryers



Kelvin Players APC Play Submission

Please return to the APC Chairman or member of the APC with a copy of the script.

Play	
Author:	
Performing Rights holder:	
Director:	
(If Applicable) Production Manager:	
Proposed venue:	
Proposed date/slot:	
Brief synopsis of play:	
Any unusual Cost/Budget requirements (No need to submit a detailed budget breakdown):	
Cast (Number / Gender / Age range / Other restrictions):	
Costumes (Period etc.):	
Set (Overview):	
Lighting / Sound / Effects required:	
Publicity:	
Any other Information:	

HINTS & TIPS FOR PROPOSING PLAYS

1. Use the Submission form to help you. You don't have to write an essay, but the form is designed to help you and Kelvin. It will:

- a) Encourage you to think about each of the major aspects of production;
- b) Show the APC you are prepared.

In particular:

- What grabs you about the play, what is it saying?
- Think about your cast requirements
- Think about the venue most suited to the play and your conception of it
- Think about how much technical and stage crew resource it may need
- Think about wardrobe and set design
- Be aware of any special expertise the play may require
- Think about how much it will cost

2. Choose a play you love... or at least like, and are excited by. If you aren't motivated by it, it's unlikely other members will be.

3. Don't be afraid to be ambitious, but don't propose mounting a Musical version of War and Peace in the Bristol Hippodrome. If your play has a large cast then balance out the scale of the production some other way. Consider if you can save time and budget on the set design, for example.

4. Submit more than one play. Better still, submit plays from different genres if you can. The APC has to create a balanced programme, so by submitting more than one play, you make our job easier and your chances of success higher.

5. Contact the APC for help, feedback or guidance if you need to.

6. Try to make sure the performing rights to any play you propose are available.

7. Try not to pick a play that has just been, or is about to be performed elsewhere.

8. Don't be discouraged. If your proposal isn't accepted this time, don't take it personally – there are many factors in deciding on Kelvin's programme. Submit a new proposal, or try again next season.

9. Don't leave your submission to the last minute!

SPLENDOUR

by Abi Morgan

11 - 15 July 2023

directed by Jacqs Graham and Angela Markham

ADVANCE NOTICES OF IMPORTANT DATES

Jacqs and Angela are very excited to be starting work on this dazzling play.

For now, we're publicising dates for your diaries, as follows:

Launch (& lunch): Sunday 16th April 1.30pm at Kelvin

Auditions: Monday 17th April 7pm onwards in Higson's Bar at Kelvin and on **Thursday 20th April** in the Morris Room at 7pm onwards

Rehearsals will take place on:

Thursday May 4th at 7.30pm in the Morris Room and then every Thursday evening from then on until show week.

Sunday 7th May 11am — 4pm in the hall, and then every Sunday at the same time until show week.

Tuesday 13th June at 7.30pm in the Morris Room and then every Tuesday evening until show week.

The script will be published on the members' area of the Kelvin website soon, and we'll publicise audition pieces early—mid March

Angela and Jacqs are looking forward to working as co-directors on this wonderful play.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with either of us:

Jacqs via jacqsludgate@me.com / 07882600588

Angela via angelamarkhamz@hotmail.co.uk / 07894916618

Diary Dates

February — March 2023

February

4th (Saturday) Rehearsed Readings Spring Season launch Hall 7pm (for 7.30)

12th (Sunday morning) 9.30am — 11 *Blue Stockings get-in* (willing hands welcome!)

14th - 18th *Blue Stockings* in performance

19th (Sunday morning) 9.30am – 11 *Blue Stockings get-out* (willing hands welcome!)

17th Bristol One Act Festival: Kelvin's team will perform on **Friday 17th February, 7pm, at the Olympus Theatre, Wise Campus, Stoke Gifford, BS34 8LP.**

March

4th (Saturday) Rehearsed Reading

25th (Saturday) Rehearsed Reading

Our 2023 Season Flyer !!

		<p>kelvin players theatre company.</p> <p>SEASON 2023</p> 
<p>DEATH & THE MAIDEN BY ARIEL DORFMAN</p> <p>Reluctantly paired and filled with bitter enmities, Death and the Maiden is an unusual tale of the darker side of humanity - one in which everyone is implicated and justice itself comes to seem like a fragile, perhaps ambiguous illusion.</p> <p>Winner of the 1992 Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Play.</p> <p>An amateur production by arrangement with Concord Theatricals.</p> <p>OCTOBER 24 - 28</p>	<p>DEAD DOG IN A SUITCASE BY CARL GROSE MUSIC BY CHARLES HAZELWOOD</p> <p>Mayor Goodwin has been assassinated. And so has his dog. Who's got the contract? Who's in the house. What the hell is the world coming to?</p> <p>This radical re-working of John Gay's notorious medical satire and political comedy The Beggar's Opera, shines a contemporary light on greed and corruption to create a twisted evening tale for our times.</p> <p>An amateur production by arrangement with Carl Grose & Charles Hazelwood.</p> <p>DECEMBER 5 - 9</p>	<p>WELCOME TO OUR 2023 SEASON</p> <p>Kelvin has been entertaining our community since 1929 and we're always excited to meet new people of all ages and professions who want to get involved.</p> <p>Throughout the year we run five major studio productions as well as rehearsed readings, black- box plays, training workshops, a writer's group and an extensive social calendar too.</p> <p>If you'd like to join Kelvin Players we'd love to hear from you, no matter your level of experience!</p> <p>For tickets to our shows and for all membership enquiries please visit our website.</p> <p>WWW.KELVINPLAYERS.CO.UK</p>
		
<p>BLUE STOCKINGS BY JESSICA SWALE</p> <p>It's 1898 and Girton College, home of the first female university students, has just opened its doors. Its principal, Mrs. March, seeks to steer the students through their education, while advocating for their right to graduate like their male contemporaries.</p> <p>Jessica Swale's moving, eye-opening and powerful play comes to life at Kelvin Players this February.</p> <p>An amateur production by arrangement with First Night Books.</p> <p>FEBRUARY 14 - 18</p>	<p>THE NETHER BY JENNIFER HALEY</p> <p>The Nether offers complete freedom - a new virtual world where you can explore revelation, lust, ego, or indulge your every desire.</p> <p>Winner of the 2012 Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, The Nether is both an intricate crime drama and a haunting sci-fi thriller that explores the consequences of making dreams a reality.</p> <p>An amateur production by arrangement with Concord Theatricals.</p> <p>APRIL 25 - 29</p>	<p>SPLENDOUR BY ABI MORGAN</p> <p>In the opulent drawing room of the Presidential Palace, a British photographer depicts the return of the President. She is back to take her portrait. The subject's wife, her best friend and an interpreter wait with her. Pleats, shoes, subtle gestures and light fingers lay out the rules. He is late, very late.</p> <p>First staged in 2015 to rave reviews, Splendour is a powerfully relevant piece of theatre for our times.</p> <p>An amateur production by arrangement with A2Theatre.</p> <p>JULY 11 - 15</p>

Organogram of Who's Who in Kelvin

