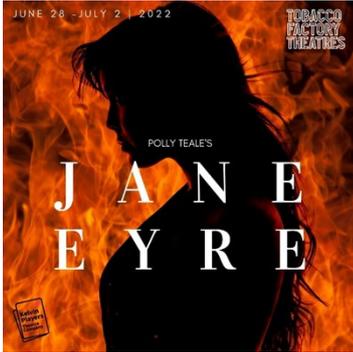




# The Jester



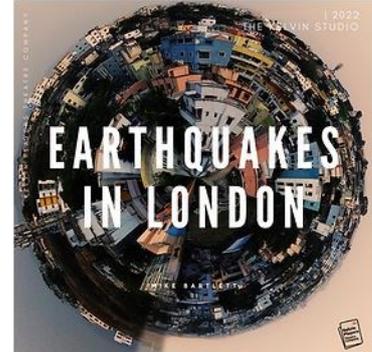
June — July 2022



28th June — 2nd July at  
the Tobacco Factory



25th — 29th October 2022



6th — 10th December

## *Our Upcoming Productions*

Hi Kelvinians!

Inside this issue, you'll find details of **this Sunday's Launch** of *The True Mirror* by Rona Munro, directed by Mary McCallum, news of our upcoming productions above, especially *Jane Eyre* which runs **at the Tobacco Factory** from 28th June to 2nd July, the Writers' Group under Sam Grayston's guiding hand, a postscript from Jacqs on the *Comedy of Errors*, another very thoughtful and heartfelt blog from our Chair Mat Rees for you to consider, a welcome to our new members, and as always, news of our upcoming **Rehearsed Readings**. I can strongly recommend checking the Kelvin Facebook members' page regularly to see what else is going on and for announcements (facebook login required):

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2364145819/?ref=share>

Do check out our website: [www.kelvinplayers.co.uk](http://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](mailto:jester@kelvinplayers.co.uk). But a plea: if possible, please do not send your articles in attached files 'ready formatted', as it can make it difficult for me to use them (especially if done on a mac — I use a PC). Just email them to me in plain text

**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 in the most recent issue. So, please note it in your diary! (August/September is the next issue.)

**The deadline for the next *Jester* will be Friday July 29th 2022**

# JAMES III - THE TRUE MIRROR By Rona Munro

Launch Event Sunday May 29th @ 2pm

Directed by Mary McCallum

**TOMORROW !!**  
**(SUNDAY 2PM)**



**Don't forget the launch for our October production of Rona Munro's *James III - The True Mirror* will take place in the Kelvin Hall on Sunday 29th May at 2pm.**

October productions often suffer from a rushed rehearsal schedule due to people being on holiday over the summer months but I hope to avoid this by starting the rehearsal period immediately after *Jane Eyre* is finished and holding rehearsals over the summer months to fit in with holiday plans and then hitting the ground running at the beginning of September with hopefully a number of scenes already well into rehearsal and all lines learned.

**Auditions will take place on June 8th, 10th and 13th**

**Rehearsals will start on July 5th** with a whole company read through.

## **Characters:**

**James III**, King of Scots, self centred, conceited, bisexual, he 'dazzles'. Playing Age mid-late 30s

**John**, Head of the Privy Council, devious, brooding, in love with the queen. PA 40-50

**Ramsay**, King's personal servant, faithful to a point, bisexual. PA 20s

**Cochrane**, King's architect and purveyor of fine wines, handsome. PA 20s-30s

**Sandy**, The King's brother, jealous, headstrong and impetuous. PA 20s-30s

**Jamie**, The King's eldest son, poetic, creative, later James IV. PA mid-teens

**Ross**, The King's middle son, King's favourite, petulant, jealous. PA young teens

**Tam**, A member of the household, easily embarrassed. PA 16-18

**Margaret**, Queen of Scots, Danish, proud, talented, devoted. PA early-mid 30s

**Annabella**, King's paternal aunt, curvy, funny, wise, experienced. PA mid 50s

**Phemy**, Young lady of the Court, pretty, saucy, can sing solo. PA late teens

**Daisy**, Laundress, the King's mistress, pert, attractive. PA early 20s

**Ensemble**, Parliament, members of court, soldiers, guards, choir. Any age or gender

All ensemble cast will play several parts.

Everyone is welcome to come along to the launch but only paid up members can audition.

Any questions please contact;

**Mary McCallum - (Director) 07776213916**

**Angela Markham - (Asst. Director) 07894916618**

**Eszter Vass - (Production Manager) 07401081198**

We look forward to seeing you at the launch **Tomorrow!**

# **James III : - The True Mirror**

**By Rona Munro**  
**Directed by Mary McCallum**  
**October 25th - 29th 2022**

*The True Mirror* is the last of a trilogy of plays called The James Plays about the first three King Jameses of Scotland. The last was James VI, son of Mary Queen of Scots, who became King James I of England. Although few people are familiar with this period of Scotland's history Rona Munro's robust scripts, first played by the National Theatre of Scotland during the 2014 Edinburgh Festival, are exciting and accessible being written in modern Scots speech.

I also want to promote interest in the Creative and Production aspects of the play. Many people wait till after the play is cast before showing interest in these other roles but this time there is no need! In most cases one role does not rule out another, in fact I intend to actively encourage it.

## **THE CREATIVES**

The play is set mostly in Stirling and Edinburgh Castles with 5 or 6 distinct areas such as 'The Great Hall' and 'The Garden' and demands a **scenic design** which depicts these two magnificent Scottish castles while allowing the various scenes to flow one into the other with a minimum of 'scene setting'.

**Lighting** will depict the many aspects of the climate while also portraying a bloody battle with appropriate **sounds**.

There is **music**, from a wild dance to a simple song but also with a small choir who comically follow the King around and burst into song.

**Dance** - could you choreograph an exciting dance in the great Hall of the castle?

**Costumes** will be unconventional and not tied to the few pictures of mostly rich people that survive from the time so dig out those old leather trousers or jerkins and be prepared to see them transformed.

**The Creative Team** will not be barred from being part of the performance team, indeed I hope that at least the choir leader and dance leader will very much wish to take part as well as doing their creative thing!

Creatives:- Assistant Director, Set Designer, Costume Designer, Musical Director, Choreographer, Lighting Designer, Sound Designer

## **THE PRODUCTION TEAM**

Is your skill in making things happen either in constructing things, gathering stuff, organising paperwork, operating boards, liaising with the everyone else and knowing what each one is responsible for? If so **YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU** and more specifically, **I NEED YOU!**

As with the Creatives, being productive need not bar you from performance as well.

**So if you think you could help with any role at all please do come along to our launch tomorrow afternoon at the studio**, (or at least get in touch). At this stage I especially want to hear from potential scenic designers so that we can start talking asap but please get in touch, whatever your interest.

Someone made a remark recently that in the professional theatre everyone has their own job to do and doesn't encroach on other people's territory. Well aren't we lucky to be able to dabble our toes in various areas of interest and learn about all aspects of putting on a production.

This show needs a large cast and large production and creative teams. Come along and join the fun. More later.

**Mary McCallum**  
**Director, James III: The True Mirror**  
[marygreencroft49@gmail.com](mailto:marygreencroft49@gmail.com)      07776213916



## ***FROM THE KEYBOARD OF THE CHAIR'S DESK***



### **Doing it for love** - **Mat's Blog**

The end of the school year means another set of school reports for my children – celebrating their successes and hard work, and looking for ways to help them improve. Not that they want my help with anything, mind you.

Over the years, we've received dozens of these reports and each time they remind me of the solitary report I can remember from my own school days, many years ago.

**Miss Hallett: "Matthew clearly struggles with this subject..."**

That's it. That all I remember. There's nothing else she said that stuck with me. Just the fact that I did struggle – oh, and that was clear to all. **Yes, you see the reason it was clear to all was because the subject was drama!**

Yes, a drama teacher with years of experience of watching teenagers trying to act, could see that I was struggling.

I think what hurt even more was that I specifically remember thinking: "I thought I was doing ok..."

I suppose you could say that was my first review. And just like those other stinging critiques that I've received over the years (such as the review of my Smike in *Nicholas Nickleby* as "robust"), they tend to stay with you.

No doubt most of you will be able to recall at least one negative review you have received.

And yet, more than 30 years later, and I'm still acting. Still struggling, no doubt, but hopefully that bit is less clear to everyone.

**But why do I continue to call myself an actor (or a writer or a director) if I get such bad reviews or told that I'm struggling?**

I've recently taken up parkrun, and while I'm not very quick, I enjoy the feeling of community a Saturday morning run brings. Several hundred people of varying abilities all struggling to run 5k round Eastville Park. But whether they cross that finish line in less than 20 minutes, or finish closer to an hour, there is one thing those runners will all have in common – they will all call themselves a runner. They realise they don't have to be paid to call themselves a runner. They do so because it's their passion.

And so it is with us. Whether you're collecting an Olivier Award, or participating in a rehearsed reading, we're actors because we love it regardless of how good you are.

**I do this acting thing because I love it. It's as simple as that. Ability doesn't come into the equation. I don't need to be good at something to justify my participation. And I don't need a drama teacher to tell me whether I'm any good or not.....**

Thanks,

**Mat.**

[ Editor's note:

it was personally interesting to me that Mat mentions Kelvin's Nicholas Nickleby, as that was the first time I 'trod the boards' at Kelvin!

And that Nicholas Nickleby was directed by Mary McCallum, Kelvin's long time member who is directing *The True Mirror* which is being launched tomorrow! (See you there!)

Sometimes I do have to believe in synchronicity! **Geoff ]**

## Membership fee survey

Have you got 10 minutes to spare?

If so, we'd love to hear your thoughts on the Kelvin Players membership fee and what the club offers.

Do you feel you get value for money from being a member?

If so, what do you value most?

If not, what else would you like to see the club offer to make it more worthwhile?

There are only 11 questions, so please help us out...

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/DVW6K0/>

Thanks,

**Matthew Rees**  
**Chair**



# Kelvin Writers invited to craft new Rehearsed Reading

It's been an exciting first half of the year for the Kelvin Writers' Group. We've explored so many tools and techniques and written some great pieces of theatre.

**On 1 June**, I'm inviting writers to get together to decide what we want to do in the second half of this year: namely our Rehearsed Reading project. Tradition has it that the Writers' Group often collaborate on a project for Rehearsed Readings: sometimes around a theme, line of text, prop, or even a single storyline with every writer offering a scene! We haven't decided what we'd like to do yet, so all ideas are welcome.

Come along if you'd like to input and get involved in the writing. No previous experience necessary, but it'd be great to see the writers who have been exploring ideas from this year.

So, if you've got an urge to write and want to bounce ideas around with our merry band of writers, then **come along to Kelvin Studio's Higson's bar at 7.30pm on 1 June or online at:**

**<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3135413676?pwd=L29Kck40ZmRtdJTcStiaTVXWE5pQT09>**

Meeting ID: 313 541 3676

Passcode: 7c9UsD

Also, if you're interested in joining the Writers' Group, we meet every fortnight on Wednesday evenings in the Kelvin Bar from 7.30pm and on Zoom. We work, supportively, on techniques and the craft of writing. In time, we'll look to produce some performance work, but for now, we're a safe, creative space to explore ideas. Get in touch with Sam if you're interested in coming along and trying it out.

We've been working on lots of different techniques - character development, subtext, script layout and stage direction, even Aristotle's Poetics - all in the pursuit of discovering what kind of writers we are. This means we've produced lots of little bits of work when we've been trying out different techniques.

Any questions, please do get in touch.

**Sam Grayston**  
**writers@kelvinplayers.co.uk**  
**07739 021915**

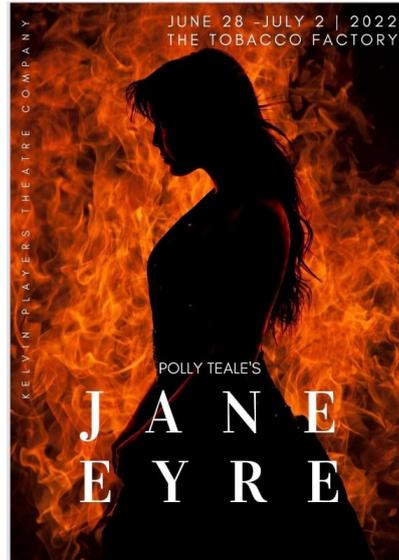


# Jane Eyre by Polly Teale

**Directed by Simon Shorrock**  
**Produced by Joanne Brooks**

**at The Tobacco Factory Theatre:**

**28th June to 2nd July 2022 @ 7:30**



This version of Jane Eyre from Polly Teale presents a Jane who is wrestling with the confinements of a Victorian society. She is strong willed girl of only 18 years of age when she leaves for Thornfield to work as a governess in the home of Rochester. Most of the play centres around the developing relationship between Jane and Rochester who is 20+ years her senior. Rochester hides his first wife Bertha in his attic and when Jane discovers of her existence she flees from Thornfield. She ends up at the house of St John Rivers, a missionary who takes Jane in to his home with the aid of his 2 sisters. When St John decides he wants to marry Jane, Jane is uninterested in a passionless marriage as the wife of a missionary and hurries back to Thornfield to discover a dishevelled Rochester, blinded and damaged by a fire started by Bertha. She vows to marry Rochester following Bertha's death in the fire.

The play presents an interesting twist in her relationship with Bertha, Rochester's first wife, who is locked in his attic, hidden away from Jane. Right from the start Jane and Bertha are intertwined, physically at points. Bertha, despite her apparent madness, represents everything that Jane wants to be. She has a freedom of expression ill afforded to a girl of her age in Victorian England. There is a kind of yin and yang relationship between them throughout the play where we see Bertha physically responding to Jane's trials and tribulations. Bertha will be visible on stage at all times in the 'attic'.

With over 30 auditionees the casting decision was extremely difficult and as a result I have stretched my 'troupe' to 14 players in order to accommodate as many actors as I can.

The Cast is:

**JANE** | Elly Warboys  
**ROCHESTER** | Ben Pavord  
**ADELE** | Maya Hingaroni  
**BERTHA** | Fran Lewis  
**ST JOHN** | Mike Shah  
**MRS FAIRFAX** | Wendy Withers  
**FOOTMAN, MAN, LORD INGRAM** | Jolyon Wolfin  
**CLERGYMAN, BROCKLEHURST, PASSERBY** | Alex Heath  
**RICHARD MASON, JOHN REED, TEACHER** | Joe de Silva  
**HELEN, GIRL, DIANA RIVERS** | Amy Clifton  
**MARY RIVERS, BESSIE, GIRL** | Jenny Hills  
**GRACE POOLE, ABIGAIL, GIRL** | Monica Gallagher  
**WOMAN, MRS REED** | Jacqs Ludgate  
**BLANCHE** | Emily Butler

We still have backstage positions available so if you are interested in being involved in our show, please contact Joanne Brooks on [joanne.brooks91@gmail.com](mailto:joanne.brooks91@gmail.com)

And tickets are on sale now! Be an early bird and get yours now by clicking the link below:

<https://bit.ly/3s4G0jH>

**Simon**

# REHEARSED READINGS

Dearest Kelvinfolk,

Two things - the next Rehearsed Reading Launch Night, but before that the imminent RR performance (last of the spring season) on...

## Saturday 11th June

Jenny Hills directs *Twelfth Night* by William Shakespeare

Marion Brazier directs *Last of the Red Hot Lovers* by Neil Simon

...yet another double-directorial-debut by two glorious Kelvin women! Doors and bar open at 7:00pm, followed by curtain up at 7:30pm - see y'all there, and then just 4 short weeks later...

## Saturday 9th July - Launch Night - Rehearsed Readings Autumn Season

If you're interested in directing, right now is the time to get in touch with me - I've just recently sent an invitation to my list of potential RR directors, and I'll be using their responses to line up this 9th July launch night. If you've had this invitation email and not replied yet, please do so my lovelies - and if you haven't had this email, it's not too late to get in on it. Please just get in touch with me, either on the contact details below or any other means you may know of to contact me (Facebook, for example) - then I will send you the 'invitation to direct' email and we'll take it from there, and don't forget that RR directing is very low-stakes and designed for you just to have a try at it.

If you're interested in acting, make sure you have 9th July in your diary - this is the evening to come along to, as you're bound to get a part in something if you turn up. Doors and bar at 7:00pm, with a start to proceedings at 7:30pm (as always with RRs) - you'll hear from all the RR directors about the scripts they've been lined up to present un autumn, and you'll have a chance to sign up to act in a couple of them. More encouragement to come to the 9th July launch will follow nearer the time, via the Digest email and the Facebook group - and if you want to have a chance of acting but definitely can't make 9th July, all is not lost. Just **let me know which of the 4 dates listed below you can make** (bearing in mind it's a whole day commitment, 9am-10pm) and I'll put you on the reserve list for RR casting. No guarantee, but at least you'll be in with a chance.

I have listed below the dates when RRs will be presented during autumn - 4 dates in total most likely all double-bills. If you're new to Kelvin and/or are wondering what these RRs are all about, there's a page here on the members website <https://www.kelvin-members.co.uk/rehearsed-readings> (under Members Stuff > Rehearsed Readings) but if you just fancy having a chat with me about it, feel free to get in touch. See y'all on 9th July too folks!

**3rd September**

**24th September**

**15th October**

**12th November**

**Rick Proctor-Lane**

[rick.procter@icloud.com](mailto:rick.procter@icloud.com)

**0794 1878 460** (WhatsApp preferred)

## ***THE COMEDY OF ERRORS— a postscript and a great thank you***

After almost 4 years of planning (including the members' vote), we finally brought *The Comedy of Errors* to full production. As most of you already know, it wasn't always a smooth run what with a global pandemic still wreaking havoc on our proceedings. We'd honestly thought that by January of this year, covid-19 would be well behind us and we'd have a smooth run. Hindsight, eh?! As it was, we had to hold auditions and rehearse during December and January whilst still trying to maintain a covid-safe environment (not easy as the Hamlet tragedians will remember). We thought by February, we'd find things slightly easier and it was lovely to be able to finally start working with the whole cast, and begin to plan the production details. As we began to enjoy early Spring weather, we found ourselves having to replace some cast members who decided to leave the production, as well as disrupted rehearsals due to ill health. And yet, despite all these setbacks we were having a lot of fun at rehearsals! We were excited by the set design and costume fittings; some of the cast were learning new skills with our Fight Co-ordinator, and Assistant Director, Carol, became more and more busy (as Prompt) as books were finally, and tentatively, down. By end March, I was running extra rehearsals to give the cast 1:1 sessions to develop their characters. Rehearsals were a strange mix of high excitement and laughter as the team bonded and became more and more inventive and comedic, whilst at the same time we became more and more anxious as various cast members tested positive. By opening night we'd not had one rehearsal with the full cast; in fact, we didn't get the full cast together until the 3rd per-

I'm telling you all this to give you an insight into the amount of hard work that went into the production. The 17 strong cast and similar-sized production team were working flat out to make the show a success. You all know how many people are involved behind the scenes and many of you reading this will have helped out in so many ways, including loaning us furniture and props, running the box office, working front of house and behind the bar, running marketing and social media campaigns, the list is endless and the decisions that need making are relentless.



*The Comedy of Errors cast*

**This is my chance to say thank you to each and every one of you who took part in the production, or helped out in any way large and small.** All your creativity, support and input is appreciated and admired. We tried to mention everyone in our digital programme and sincere apologies if we omitted your name - it was a case of rushing to meet a deadline, not ingratitude and I hope you'll forgive us.

The show was a triumph! I don't think I've ever experienced such an appreciative audience (apart from the first Thursday night, "a tough crowd"). The cast loved playing to full houses and everyone involved enjoyed being part of such a successful show. Everyone had a good laugh after the very difficult two years.

Despite all the setbacks and hurdles, we put together a cohesive and entertaining show and were the happiest cast and crew I've ever worked with! My final thank you is to the amazingly talented cast and creative team - true comedians from start to finish!!

**THANK YOU**

**Jacqs Graham**

**Director**

# Lis Miller Memorial

We have organised a memorial celebration for our late aunt **Elisabeth Miller** and we would like to invite Kelvin members far and wide who would like to attend to come along and celebrate Elisabeth.

The date for the memorial is **Sunday 3rd July at Kilmington Village Hall** in East Devon. Scott Foster will give the eulogy and her family may say a few words but our focus will be celebrating her life with friends from near and far, and family.

# ***New Members***

I am very delighted to welcome yet more new members for 2022:

**Phil Joyner** (membership secretary)

*(was anyone ever more aptly named?!! - ed.)*

## **Michael Gara**

Michael was a member several years back and performed in several productions. He hasn't provided any information about himself this time around but he is well known to many members of the Company. Welcome Back!

## **Daniel Connaire**

Daniel has joined Kelvin to work behind the scenes as a technician. Not yet 18, Daniel will be working with Neil Bonnet, honing his skills in sound, lighting and set construction.

## **Michael Mangan**

Michael has acting, directing, dramaturgical and playwriting experience in a range of semi-professional, professional, non-professional and educational contexts. He has taught Drama in universities since 1977, and has published several books about drama, theatre and performance. He moved to Bristol in October 2021 and is currently also a member of the Old Vic Adult Company (Summer Term). He is a guitarist, singer and songwriter, but not classically trained as a musician. Recent theatre experience (April 2022) has been working with a young peoples' theatre group on a production which was part of the National Theatre's "Connections" programme.

## **Jack Finney**

Jack has worked as a professional actor for over a decade, having heard of all the incredible plays staged by our company, he has long desired to join. Now that he has the time and money, he has decided to do so. He is a dedicated performer with stage and screen experience, who has studied under some of the best creative minds in Bristol's acting scene (including one of the Kelvin artistic directors), and is willing to go above and beyond in pursuit of excellence. He is also a qualified First Aider

# DIARY DATES

**JUNE — JULY 2022**

## May

**29th Sunday 2pm** Note time. Launch for *The True Mirror*, directed by Mary McCallum. At the studio. All welcome.

## June

**1st Wednesday 7.30pm** Writers' Group in Higson's bar at the studio (also online — see article).

**8th 10th & 13th** *The True Mirror* auditions

**11th Saturday 7pm** Rehearsed Readings double bill —

*Twelfth Night* directed by Jenny Hills and:

*Last of the Red Hot Lovers* directed by Marion Brazier

**28th June - 2nd July** *Jane Eyre* at the Tobacco Factory

## July

**3rd** Lis Miller memorial celebration in Devon.

**5th** *The True Mirror* whole company readthrough at the studio

**9th Saturday 7pm** Rehearsed Readings autumn season Launch night at the studio

# Organogram showing the Organisation of the new Kelvin Committee Structure

Approved at the Kelvin AGM 26th September 2021

