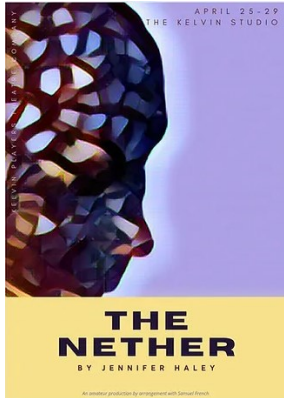




The Jester

April — May 2023



25th — 29th April



11th — 15th July



28th — 30th July

Hi Kelvinfolk!

Our Upcoming Productions

After the sellout of our last show, *Blue Stockings* directed by Ralf Togneri, Kelvin's very next production, Jennifer Haley's prescient ***The Nether***, comes to town later this month. It is a fantastic thought-provoking play and very well worth seeing. There are also details of ***Splendour*** by Abi Morgan. The Studio is constantly buzzing and it's great to see Kelvin back to full swing in all areas after the dreaded covid!!

For the first time (apart from *Radiant Vermin*) since well before covid, thanks to Nicky our dynamic artistic director, we welcome back Kelvin's Black Box productions, which begin at the end of July with Emile Zola's ***Therese Raquin***, directed by Jolyon Wolfen, followed at the beginning of September with ***The Amazing Angel-Man*** directed by Avanti Pursell & Eszter Vass. Black Boxes are stripped down performances of plays, with minimal set and technical input, and are seen primarily as a stepping stone for new directors before they go on to direct a full production. 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*'....!

*I have edited *The Jester* for several years now, and I believe it is now time for a change and a fresh look and approach for Kelvin's inhouse magazine. Therefore this will be my last issue as editor of *The Jester*.*

Naturally *The Jester* doesn't agree with any censorship at all, but the editor reserves the right to remove content which is inappropriate. But do feel free to offer critiques of Kelvin (or outside) productions, 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 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 for inclusion in the next issue of *The Jester*, you can do so at any time by emailing it to: jester@kelvinplayers.co.uk **Geoff Collard (editor)**

The deadline for the next *Jester* will be Monday May 29th 2023

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

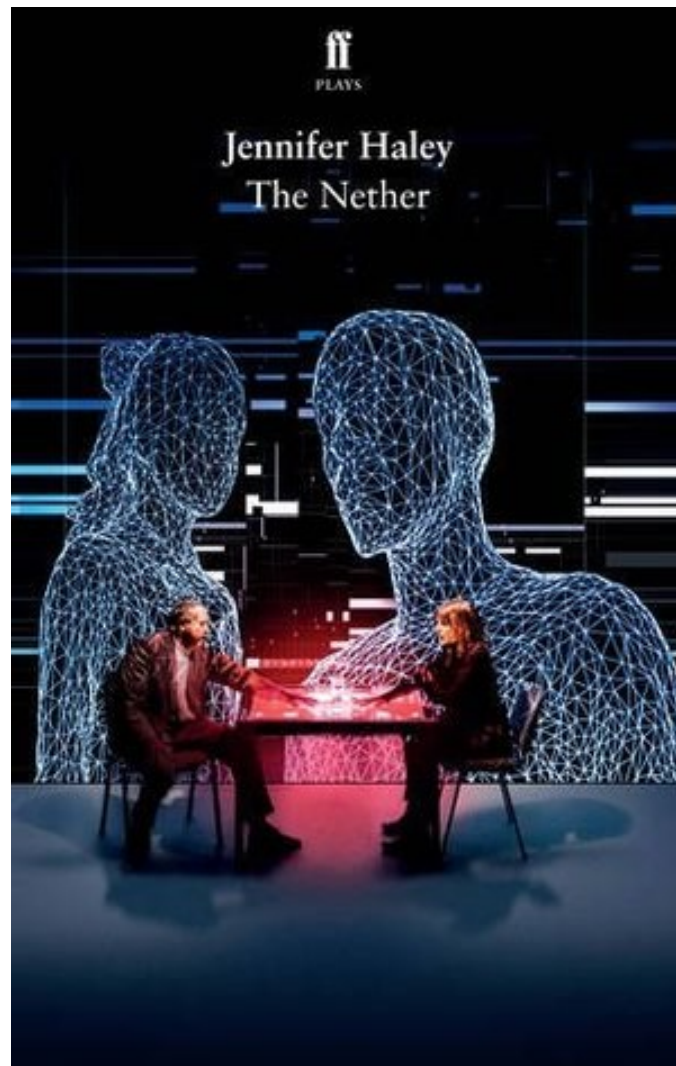
DOYLE – *A Middle Aged Science Teacher* – playing age 30s-50s

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

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

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.”



Front Of House for *The Nether*

25 - 29 April

Willing volunteers needed for our next production: ***The Nether*** !

Please get in touch if you can fulfil the roles of Theatre Manager, Box Office Supervisor or Usher (2 per night) for any of the performances.

Please remember the following:

Theatre Manager - will need to remain 'on duty' outside the Auditorium for the performance. If you are planning to see the show, you will need to purchase a ticket for any other night.

Box Office Supervisor - can complete box office duties and watch the show on the same night; remember to buy a ticket!

Ushers - are officially on duty in the Auditorium for the performance and, therefore, are not required to purchase a ticket for the show.

Any member who is involved in the production of the show, including Front of House duties, is eligible to watch the dress rehearsal performance.

Thanks so much for your support - our shows literally can't go on without our lovely, supportive Kelvin community.

Looking forward to hearing from you very soon

Jacqs Graham
jacqsludgate@me.com 07882600588

Diary Dates

April — May 2023

April

11th (Tuesday) Emerging Directors' Workshop 7.30 — 9.30pm In Morris Room or online

15th (Saturday) Rehearsed Reading 7.30pm Hall. Doors and bar

16th (Sunday) *Splendour* Launch (& lunch) 1.30pm

17th & 20th *Splendour* Auditions

25th — 29th *The Nether* in performance. Studio Tuesday— Saturday

30th *Therese Raquin* (Black Box) Launch 3pm

May

1st & 3rd (Monday & Wednesday) *Therese Raquin* Auditions

4th (Thursday) Deadline for play submissions for 2024 season!

4th Rehearsals for *Splendour* begin. Morris Room.

20th (Saturday) Rehearsed Reading Hall. Doors and bar 7.30pm

Kelvin Spring and Summer Plays Launch Dates

16th April Splendour Launch 1.30pm

Auditions 17th and 20th April

30th April Therese Raquin (Black Box) Launch 3pm

Auditions 1st-3rd May

4th June Death and the Maiden Launch 6pm

Auditions 5th, 7th, 12th June

18th June The Amazing Angel Man (Black Box) Launch 6pm

Auditions 23rd-25th June

2nd July Dead Dog in a Suitcase Launch 6pm

Auditions 17-20th July

REHEARSED READINGS (RRs) - Update

Dearest Kelvinians,

That twice-yearly time is upon us once again for a Rehearsed Readings ("RRs") for the spring season. There are two Rehearsed Reading evenings remaining. The remaining dates are: 15th April, 20th May - all Saturdays, as ever with RRs.

Hopefully lots of you can make the evenings, 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.

Rick Procter-Lane — RR Co-ordinator

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

RR DATES 2023

22nd July - Summer Launch

SPRING (remaining dates)

15th April
20th May

AUTUMN

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

Singing Workshop for Actors

We had great fun on Sunday March 12th at the singing workshop for actors. Roland Clare and Kelvin member Mick Mangan provided a full band experience and the opportunity to sing 12 songs as a collective. 25 members were able to take part in this event that sold out almost straight away! And they were not disappointed. A great warm up from our professional singing teacher and Kelvin member Kiera Somers, followed by a fabulous physical warm up with Mick Mangan. Then on to the main event, a selection of about a dozen songs each chosen for their stretch of the actor, in pace, emotion or volume!

The workshop lasted for 3 hours and it acted as a good starting point for our production later in the year of 'Dead Dog in a Suitcase' in which Mick and Roland's 5 piece band 'Pigsty Disco' will be playing songs from the show live. So Kelvin, we are in need of singers. Look out for details about the show in the next Jester.



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

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 and launch & audition pack are already on the members' area of the Kelvin website under the 'In Production' tab.

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

APC Artistic Director — Nicky Schoonderwoerd

2024 Season Submission is Open

Deadline is 4th May (Star Wars Day)

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!



Nicky Schoonderwoerd

The initial shortlisting usually takes into consideration 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 -

(so sometimes 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?

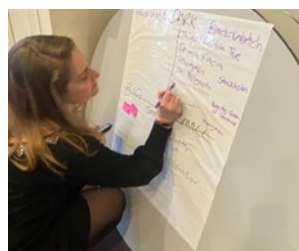
Does it provide us opportunity to increase diversity in the club?

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!

Emerging Directors – ‘From Play to Pitch’ Mentorship Scheme

This was a fantastic session, with a wonderful bunch of under-represented directors. Lots of positive discussion and idea generation to create a compelling pitch. Even my son, Dexter had a blast!



There will be a follow up mentor session with Jacqs to support these directors in refining their submissions, ready for the deadline in May. This is being organised directly with the group.

HOWEVER! I did promise to open up a similar session to the wider membership. So...

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Emerging Directors – ‘From Play to Pitch’ Mentorship Scheme

Tues 11th April 7.30 – 9.30pm (space booking allowing) is the date for the diary. If I can’t get into Kelvin, I will run an online session!

During this session we will explore:

- Skills & styles of directing
- Demystifying the current APC play submission process - what happens and when
- Crowdsourcing exciting plays

Creation of an artistic vision of a well-known story into a pitch

By the end of the session, you will be well equipped with:

- Some exciting potential plays you may want to explore further

The skills and toolkit required to create your own compelling play submission/pitch

Please sign up here to indicate interest so I know whether there is enough appetite to re-run this workshop: <https://forms.gle/nysbt8tA1cd26DX9A>

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



Avanti Pursell



Jess Brassington



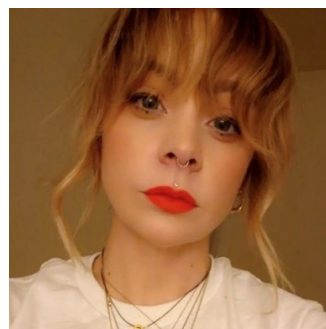
Geoff Collard



Ewan Poole-Gleed



Bob Havard



Keira-Marie Somers



Chrissy Fryers



Kelvin Players APC Play Submission

Please return to the APC Chair 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!

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 torments, Death and the Maiden is an unusual tale into 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>Major Sondheim has been assassinated. And so has his dog. Broadway the musical comes to the fore. 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 rehearsal 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, some of the first female university students, have 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 Concord Theatricals.</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, log in, choose an identity and 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 woman's professional desire, the intrigue of the election, she is back to take the part. The designer's wife, her best friend and an interpreter wait with her. Pleats, shoes, subtle grooves and light fingers lay out the tale. He is late, very late.</p> <p>First staged in 2015 to rave reviews, Splendour is a powerfully relevant piece of theatre for our time.</p> <p>An amateur production by arrangement with ATMA.</p> <p>JULY 11 - 15</p>