



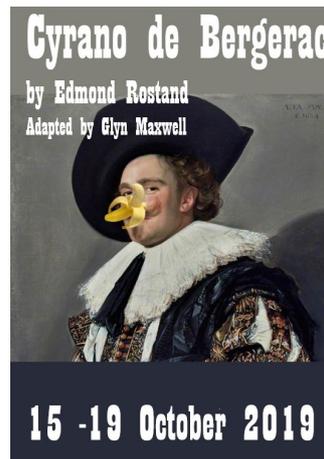
# The Jester



June — July 2019



9th - 13th July



15th - 19th October

Tim Firth's  
The Flint  
Street Nativity



December 2019  
Directed by Sue Stobbs

4th—7th & 11th—14th December

## *Our Upcoming Productions*

Hi all Kelvin members! Inside this issue, as usual, we report on upcoming shows. Don't be shy of getting involved in any or all of our productions, even if you're a new member. Approach a show's director or production manager to get involved, whatever you fancy doing. Whether you like being onstage or backstage, or pressing buttons on the balcony, or sourcing obscure props and costume, or even making tea for everyone during the get-in – there are numerous ways you can get involved. There are rehearsed readings and social evenings too: keep up to date by joining the Facebook members' group, following us on Twitter, or check out our website: [www.kelvinplayers.co.uk](http://www.kelvinplayers.co.uk)

**The deadline for the next *Jester* will be Monday 29th July 2019 (it will be in the *Digest* just before).**

**A plea:** Can everyone who wants/needs to submit articles to *The Jester* please please put the deadline for the next *Jester* in your diary. Every issue, I am having to chase people at the last minute for articles of importance: specifically, articles for the next upcoming productions. I do understand that directors and producers of the next production are very busy with it, but it really is important to remember to get stuff to me for the issue immediately preceding your production going into performance — after all, it's for your benefit as well as all our members! It's also nice if we can have a photo or two of rehearsals — especially in costume or part costume!

*The Jester* is our bi-monthly Kelvin Players members' newsletter. We aim to produce a newsletter about the 1st of December, February, April, June, August, October, and so on, i.e. 6 issues a year.

If you have something of interest to members to submit 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) Please try to avoid emailing it to me personally, otherwise your article may get lost in my own inbox!

**Geoff Collard (editor)**

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



Another sell-out production. **Simon Shorrocks's** *Road* was well and truly travelled. I understand quite a few of you were too late to get tickets. Shame, you missed a great show! We even had a talk-back session after one of the performances to allow the audience to get into a bit more of the nitties and gritties of the play/production.

Perhaps, if you get tickets NOW for **Adam Church's** production of Jez Butterworth's *Parlour Song* you might get to see this one. I believe rehearsals are going well. Not one to be missed!

Another thing not to be missed is **Jonny Wilkinson's** (that's me) production of *Cyrano de Bergerac* by Edmond Rostand (adapted by Glyn Maxwell). Read through and Auditions are coming up very soon. More details inside.

The building continues to be developed. We've had new curtains fitted in the studio which will now seal down the edges and tuck in at the bottom to hopefully cut out light bleed (particularly in summer). In the Morris Room there is a new divider curtain to enable us to section off the dressing area during productions to provide some privacy for the cast, whilst still allowing use of the kitchen facilities to crew/FoH.

**Andy Payne** has been beaver away to lower the ceiling in the corridor downstairs and to fit new lighting. We'll soon be in a position to get plastered and painted. **Susan Howe** has been repainting the studio window frames after the mass-paint-in (post Going Postal).

I mentioned I think in the last *Jester* that there has been some interest in a Film Club at Kelvin – a regular night (perhaps monthly) when members can gather to watch moving picture of old Kelvin shows/events. It would be good if someone could get in touch to lead on/coordinate this going forward. We tend to focus on productions and (other than Rehearsed Readings and other occasional events) we don't do much which is

purely social. It would be nice for those not involved in productions to meet up on a regular basis and watch some films. See more on p.9 of this issue of *The Jester*.

Check the Members' website\* [www.kelvin-members.co.uk](http://www.kelvin-members.co.uk) and on facebook members' group, and twitter @kelvinplayers, for stuff that's coming up.

Choose Theatre. Choose Kelvin. Choose Life!

**Jonny Wilkinson**  
**Chair**





**Jez Butterworth's**  
**ParLOUR Song**  
9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> July 2019  
7:30pm  
**Directed by Adam Church**



*Demolition expert Ned lives in a nice new house on a new estate on the edge of the English countryside. He loves his job. Outwardly his life is entirely unremarkable. Not unlike his friend and neighbour Dale.*

*So why has he not slept a wink in six months? Why is he so terrified of losing his attractive wife Joy? And why is it every time he leaves on business, something else seems to go missing from his home?*

As our July production of Jez Butterworth's suburban masterpiece rapidly approaches, things in the rehearsal room are progressing really well and we're excited to bring this blackly hilarious tale of deceit, paranoia and murderous desire to the stage.

We have a fabulous cast including Rosie Closs (Joy), Sam Grayston (Ned) and Richard Hill (Dale) with a special guest appearance (or should I say vocal 'appearance') by Fiona McClure.. not to be missed!

Our wonderful set designed by Bronwen Grover is absolutely brilliant and our sound is being designed by the prolific Peter Spence with AV and lighting wizardry by Neil Bonnett.

ParLOUR Song really is a very special play which is in turn mysterious, funny and emotionally charged. At the time of writing this we're about halfway through the rehearsal process and I'm just amazed and excited by all the skill, determination and hard work that everybody in the production is putting into it. It seems that with every bit of exploration we do something new about this play reveals itself. Our interrogations continue to take us deep into the heart of the play as we strip away the veneer and find all the 'good stuff' beneath! Please do come and see it for yourself.

Tickets are available by clicking this link: <https://www.kelvinplayers.co.uk/current-production> or by emailing [boxoffice@kelvinplayers.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@kelvinplayers.co.uk)

We look forward to seeing you there!

**Adam Church**



Jez Butterworth is one of the UK's most influential and respected playwrights. His 1995 play *Mojo* premiered at The Royal Court and won the 1996 Laurence Olivier, an Evening Standard, The Writer's Guild and the George Devine Awards, as well as the Critics Circle Award. *ParLOUR Song* in 2008 was followed by the multi-award winning *Jerusalem* (2009) *The River* (2012) and *The Ferryman* (2017) which played over 350 performances at the Gielgud Theatre and transferred to Broadway in 2018.

# PARLOUR SONG

Demolition expert Ned lives in a nice new house on a new estate on the edge of the English countryside. He loves his job. Outwardly his life is entirely unremarkable. Not unlike his friend and neighbour Dale.

So why has he not slept a wink in six months? Why is he so terrified of losing his attractive wife Joy? And why is it every time he leaves on business, something else seems to go missing from his home?

Kelvin Players Theatre Company brings you Jez Butterworth's blackly hilarious exploration of deceit, paranoia and murderous desire, as the spirit of the Blues lands in leafy suburbia.

9-13 July 2019

7:30pm

The Kelvin Studio

253b Gloucester Road, Bristol, BS7 8NY

Licensed bar available

£15.00 (£12.00 concessions)



Book online at

[WWW.KELVINPLAYERS.CO.UK](http://WWW.KELVINPLAYERS.CO.UK)

Tickets may also be purchased by post. Please send a s.a.e. along with date you wish to attend, number of tickets and a cheque made payable to Kelvin Players to 23 Carfax Court, Durdham Park, Bristol, BS6 6XG

Kelvin Players is a non-professional company, registered charity no 294367, a member of the Little Theatre Guild of Great Britain and affiliated to the Avon Association of Drama.

This play is produced by arrangement with Nick Hern Books

*Praise for the UK premier of Parlour Song at The Almeida in 2009*

*'Blissfully funny... combines the comic, the erotic and the downright disconcerting with superb panache'*

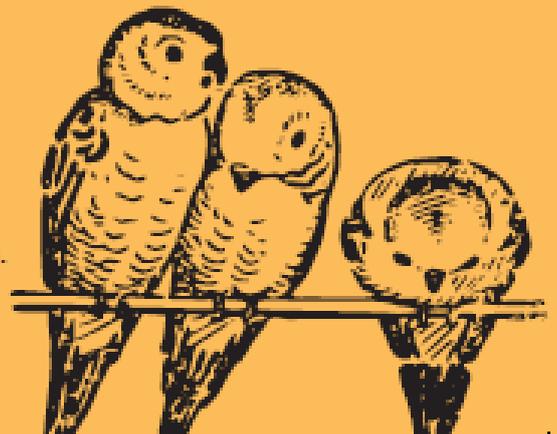
Telegraph

*'Exactly captures the mundane madness beneath the bland routine of affluence'*

Guardian

*'Painfully beautiful hilarious comedy'*

The Stage



## Rehearsed Readings ("RRs") Launch night Saturday 29th June

Dearest Kelvinfolk,

Yes, the time is nearly upon us for another one of those fantastical twice-yearly Rehearsed Readings ("RR") Launch Nights! The key date for y'all is **SATURDAY 29th JUNE** (7pm doors and bar, for 7:30pm start) - which you may well have in your diaries already with a bit of luck, but if not then hammer it in there right now. Just as you're reading this, I'll be in the throes of sorting everything out with all the potential directors currently chomping at the bit to present their RR - figuring out which directors can do which dates, lining it all up and so on. But hey, maybe YOU (yes, you) fancy directing something and haven't yet been in contact with me - and if so then heck, what are you waiting for? Get in touch now - my contact details are below. I mean, I can't guarantee that you'll be able to pitch your RR straight away and have it performed this year - but there's always 2020 and it'll soon come rolling by, so I'll have to find the directors from somewhere eh?

Meanwhile, if you'd like to act in a RR before the end of this year, then **29th June** is the key date to attend. If you're a new member, this event is a great way to get involved in something low-stakes but high-buzz. If you're new to the whole RR thing, I'll do my best to explain basically how it works at the launch on 29th - or in the meantime you can have a read about RRs on the Kelvin Members website, under *Members Stuff* > Rehearsed Readings (or feel free to get in touch, my contact details are below).

The dates for the RR evenings being cast on 29th June are: **7th September, 5th October, 2nd November, 23rd November** - all Saturdays as per usual, and of course more dates there for the diaries everyone (after all whether you end up acting in them or not, you're all going to come along and see them, eh?). If you really absolutely can't make it on 29th June but still wish to try and get cast in something, contact me a-s-a-p - making sure you **state which of those 4 dates you can and can't do** (and remembering that you have to commit to the whole entire day, 9am-10pm). I will then put your name on the casting reserve list, which we will turn to only for any parts not filled by attendees on the night - which means of course that this is no guarantee at all of casting, but at least it means you're in with a chance.

So, dearest Kelvin friends - until 29th June then, I shall bid you adieu...oh and, by the way - if you're reading this before 8th June, then you're not too late to catch the last of the current half-season of RRs. We have not only one but two first-time directors, so please come on down to Kelvin then too - 7pm doors and bar for 7:30pm start as usual, and if not on 8th June then definitely 29th June - eh?

### 8th June

Liz Smith directs "Constellations" by Nick Payne

Fiona Morrison directs "A Day in the Death of Joe Egg" by Peter Nichols

....and the rest of the Rehearsed Readings for 2019 :

### 29<sup>th</sup> June – Autumn Season - Launch Evening #2

7<sup>th</sup> September - RR #5

5<sup>th</sup> October - RR #6

2<sup>nd</sup> November - RR #7

23<sup>rd</sup> November - RR #8

Rick Procter-Lane

RR Organiser

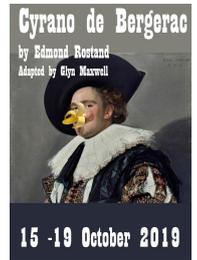
07941 878 460

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

# Cyrano de Bergerac by Edmund Rostand

(Adapted by Glyn Maxwell)

Directed by Jonny Wilkinson



**Studio: 15 -19 October 2019 @ 7:30**

Cyrano de Bergerac is a play written in 1897 by Edmond Rostand. Although there was a real Cyrano de Bergerac, the play is a fictionalisation following the broad outlines of his life.

**Savinien de Cyrano de Bergerac** - duellist, playwright, poet and novelist - was born in Paris (not Gascony) in March 1619 and died in 1655, aged 36. He was injured by a sword cut to the neck at Arras and never fully recovered. The featured Siege of Arras took place in 1640.

Swordsman, Philosopher, Poet, Raconteur Cyrano de Bergerac is all these things, but none of them makes him happy. What he desires above all, is the love of the beautiful Roxane. But his problem is as plain as the nose on his face. Surely, he is too ugly ever to be loved?

Salvation of a kind arrives in the form of the handsome yet tongue-tied Christian de Neuvillette - might Cyrano's eloquence and Christian's beauty together, win Roxane? Yet duelling, powerful rivals, and a war against Spain, all fall into Cyrano's path to keep him from Roxane.

The time at opening of the play is 1655 (with the majority of the play in 'flash-back' to 1639/40) and then closing again in the 'present', 1655. This is the time of the three musketeers.

Henri le Bret wrote a biography after Cyrano's death, confirming his country childhood, his military engagements and the injuries he sustained, his prowess as a swordsman and the circumstances of his death. Rostand suggests that Cyrano was killed by a log being dropped on his head (possibly by or at the behest of le Comte de Guiche).

## Play read-through and tech recruitment

So, the **read-through will be at 7:30 on Sunday 2nd June**. If you want to sneak a preview there's a script available for download on the Members' website.

Anna Freire-Camacho is my Production Manager. Bronwen Grover has designed the set (I'm sorry, it's my insecurity that forced me to require a set design, so I could plan/block the play rather than wait till launch.) Chrissy Fryers has agreed to costume the show. Associate Member, Anna Wills is composing some of the music. All other tech roles are up for grabs. I will need:

DSM

Stage/Props Manager

Lighting Designer

Sound Designer

Lighting Operator

Sound Operator

Fight Captain/Repetiteur

Basically, if you'd like to be involved in any way on or off stage, please come along to the read-through. If you can't make it to the read-through, just email me or Anna to let us know.

**Auditions** will be on **June 17th, 19th and 24th** with **Call-Backs** (if required) on Wednesday **26th June**. For Cyrano, Carbonne, Le Bret, and the Cadets, I may ask you to sing the first few lines from La Marseillaise (if you don't know it, maybe have a look/listen before auditions). There's a copy of the script and these details on the Members' website.

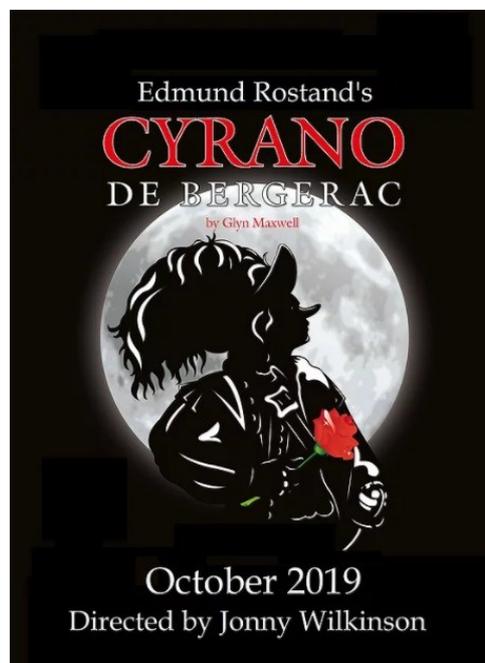
## Rehearsals

I know it's early, but I'd like to get a couple of rehearsals in before any summer break. Rehearsals will generally take place on Mondays and Wednesdays from 22nd July\* until the show (no rehearsals in August at all) with Sunday rehearsals on 22 Sept and 6 Oct, Tech Rehearsal on 13th October and Dress Rehearsal on 14th October. Because it is a very comprehensive play, most characters will be required for most rehearsals. I have tried to arrange rehearsals to avoid people hanging around if I can.

\*Subject to availability, I will rehearse a couple of scenes with Cyrano and others in July.

Jonny

# Characters



As I've previously indicated. I'm prepared to gender cross-cast, so any of the characters (except Roxane, whom I need to be female) may be played by a male or female actor.

**Cyrano de Bergerac** – playing age 20 to 40 at the time of the play. Classic swashbuckler with a very large nose (not required in the actor as a larger prosthetic nose will be created for the role). Experience of sword-play will be an advantage. Should be able to sing.

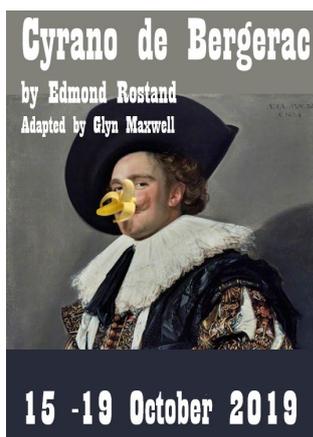
**Roxane** (Madeleine Robain/Arromanché)– playing age 20 to 40 (to be compatible with Cyrano – they were childhood playmates).

**Christian de Neuville** – So, if Cyrano and Roxane are, say, 30, then Christian is a young cadet then he's probably around 16 – so playing age 16-25. Not worldly-wise or eloquent but full of bravado and energy. Should be able to sing.

**Count Antoine De Guiche** – Playing age 30 – 50 Lustful, manipulative, vengeful, full of his own importance (think Trump). He wants to marry Roxane but is already married (to Cardinal Richelieu's niece), so tries to have Roxane married to Viscount de Valvert so that he can have 'access' to her at any time he wants.

**Ragueneau** – Playing age 25-60. Baker and patron of all the poets who frequent his shop (but not a poet himself). If they say they're a poet, he feeds them for free. Great friend and supporter of Cyrano. Married to Lise, he's a bit of a soft touch.

**Henri le Bret** – 20 to 40, similar to Cyrano. Should be able to sing. Great friend & Cyrano's posthumous biographer.



**Mother Margaret** (and Cuigy, Duenna and Captain Carbonne) – More mature – no fixed age.

Mother Margaret – think Mother Superior from the Sound of Music

Marquis de Cuigy – supporter and lackey of de Guiche– Ad libs with Audience

Duenna – nanny/chaperone to Roxanne as a spinster

Capitaine Carbonne – Captain of the Cadets. Should be able to sing.

**Sister Claire** (and Drunken Guardsman, Ligniere, Montfleurry, Musketeer, Clomire, Cadet #1) – playing age 20-30

Sister Claire – Mother's second in command (I think I've made that up)

Drunken Guardsman – duelling/fighting with other Drunken Guardsman who becomes ...

Ligniere – A Poet

Montfleurry – (bad) Ac-tor of the old school, conceited, extrovert and OTT with rounded enunciation

Musketeer (D'Artagnan) – 1 line in passing – one of 'The Three Musketeers'

Clomire (Bertha) - Roxane's maid/companion

Cadet #1 (Rafaël) – if you can play a pipe, fiddle or drum it will be a bonus. Should be able to sing.

**Sister Teresa** (and Thief, Valvert, Lise, Clomire, Cadet #3) - playing age 20-30

Sister Teresa - the sensible one

Thief – Early appearance in theatre scene – needs to ad lib to con the audience and Le Bret

Viscount de Valvert – Young lackey of De Guiche – the one who De Guiche wants to marry Roxane.  
Sword skills helpful.

Lise - Ragueneau's wife. Bossy and very tolerant.

Cadet #3 (Jaufret) - if you can play a pipe, fiddle or drum it will be a bonus. Should be able to sing.

**Sister Martha** (and Drunken Guardsman, Busybody, Poet #1, Gremione, Cadet #2), playing age below 40

Drunken Guardsman – duelling/fighting with other Drunken Guardsman

Busybody quite loud (played as male) possible swordplay

Poet #1 (Croquembouche) - lightweight

Gremione, (Dora) - Roxane's maid/companion

Cadet #2 (Gabriël) - if you can play a pipe, fiddle or drum it will be a bonus, Should be able to sing.

**Sister Agnes** (and Brisaille, Poet#2, Gremione, Sentinel) – playing age 20-30

Marquis de Brisaille – supporter and lackey of de Guiche – Ad libs with Audience

Poet #2 (Montelimar) – lightweight

Priest – faux-pious, little moral fibre

Sentinel – plays mostly at back of audience.

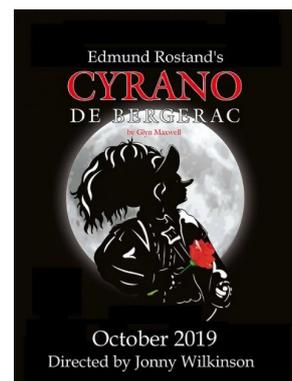
**Sister Rosa** (and Orange Girl, Poet #3, Cadet #4) – playing age 15-25

Sister Rosa - Novice nun, just joined the order

Orange Girl – raucous. Ad libs with Audience

Poet #3 (Blancmange) - Lightweight

Cadet #4 (un-named) – softer young soldier. Should be able to sing.





I mentioned in the last Jester the possibility of having a film night on a regular basis at the studio, initially showing some of our old productions but maybe moving into showing commercial films if there's an appetite.

Richard Jones (Vice-President and Company Archivist) has maintained a library of our productions on DVD including a compilation of excerpts of some of our productions back to 1964 and 'Kelvin Memories', which I presume is archive footage of some past members doing a 'piece to camera'. I think it would be a good starting place to show those two short videos and then maybe a longer film.

For a few years now, we've been video recording most Kelvin productions. I'm not sure when we started but it was on VHS (that's a magnetic tape cassette type thing for you younger members). Some may have even been on Super-8 (don't ask). We don't go as far back as Magic Lanterns.

The idea for the present is to set up the projector on a semi-permanent basis in the studio and have a monthly get together to watch Kelvin productions from the days of yore up to the present day. There may also be an opportunity, in due course, to show some popular commercially made moving pictures.

Can I ask you to email me, text me, tell me, telephone me, whatsapp me, PM me, facebook me, send me a letter or a postcard (but not twitter – I don't do twitter or snapgram) and tell me what you'd like to see from the list below. I'll create a shortlist and then I can Survey Monkey a decision! Does that make sense? No? I thought not. Just let me know and we'll go from there.

Jonny

[chair@kelvinplayers.co.uk](mailto:chair@kelvinplayers.co.uk)

07905 461013

Below is a list of the videos currently available. We could work through them from oldest to newest, but I thought maybe we could alternate between an oldie and then a newer one etc.

1	Kelvin memories: 1964-1969				Hmmmm ... what to choose? You decide!
2	Excerpts from plays: 1969-1979				
3	HTV Festival - 'Singles'	1984	44	Nicholas Nickleby (Part 1 only)	"
4	HTV - 'Scene West' 1989 (about Kelvin & acquisition of new Studio)	1989	45	Three Musketeers	2005
5	HTV Festival - 'Rag Doll'	1990	46	Pride & Prejudice	2006
6	Kelvin Studio opening & 2 one act plays		47	Miss Brill (Short film with Claire Vincent & other KP members)	
7	British Rail training video with Kelvin members	1989	48	75th Anniversary - Book launch - 10 April 2005	2005
8	A Chorus of Disapproval	"	49	The Ghost Train	2006
9	Camille	"	50	The Importance of Being Earnest	2007
10	Noises Off	1990	51	Abandonment	2008
11	Brighton Beach Memoirs	"	52	Scenes from Merchant of Venice (plus Mary Mc, Higson boys)	
12	Juno and the Paycock	1991	53	Jack Lear	2010
13	The Entertainer	1992	54	Hothouse	2012
14	The Gingerbread Lady	1993	55	Better the Devil/The Lover	2013
15	The Elephant Man	"	56	Jerusalem	"
16	Season's Greetings	1995	57	Canterbury Tales	"
17	Love of the Nightingale	1997	58	No Exit (Huis Clos)	"
18	Table Manners	"	59	A Month of Sundays	"
19	To Kill a Mocking Bird	1998	60	James and the Giant Peach	2014
20	Dark of the Moon	"	61	Pornography	"
21	The White Devil	1999	62	All My Sons	"
22	Relative Values	"	63	Lilies on the Land	"
23	Dracula	"	64	Black Box (Ghosts of Bedlam; Beckett; Make Yourself Comfortable)	2015
24	Twelfth Night (excerpts only)	"			
25	Pygmalion	2000	65	Tartuffe	"
26	Once A Catholic	"	66	Launch of Kelvin History - vol 2	"
27(a)	Inherit The Wind	"	67	Glory Dazed	"
27(b)	Mandy and Robin "Marry Me" TV series	"	68	Cardenio	"
27(c)	Evening for Daniel (Fundraising cabaret by Mixed Company)	"	69	Abigail's Party	"
27(d)	Mary McCallum 'Junk Mail'	2001	70	Black Box (The River & Orphans)	2016
28	School For Scandal	"	71	The Secret Rapture	"
29	An Evening With Gary Lineker	"	72	Brief Encounter	"
30	The Atheist's Tragedy	"	73	A Christmas Carol	"
31	Jack & Jill Went Up Pigsty Hill	2002	74	Dinner	2017
32	Party Piece	"	75	The Beaux' Stratagem	"
33	The Crucible	"	76	A Sense of Place	"
34	Ælfreda & the Burnt Buns'; & 'The Virtuous Burglar'	"	77	A View from the Bridge	"
35	Maskerade	2003	78	On Golden Pond	"
36	Much Ado About Nothing	"	79	Knowledge and a Girl	2018
37	Hay Fever	"	80	David and John Higson	"
38	An Inspector Calls	"	81	Anne Boleyn	"
39	Contiguity	2004	82	The Effect	"
40	Love's Comedy	"	83	Going Postal	"
41	Bouncers	"	84	The Father	2019
42	And Then There Were None	"	85	Road (to follow)	
43	75th Anniversary Ball	"			

## ***New Members***

*We have a wealth of talent who have recently joined our club as we continue to go from strength to strength. This month:*

### **Anna Tassie**

Anna has joined Kelvin to use her creativity and learn new skills. She studied drama up to A level and was part of a drama group up until 18. Now she is more interested in sound tech and keen to learn how to operate the board.

She can play a bit of piano and is learning the trumpet.

# DIARY DATES

**JUNE — JULY 2019**

## JUNE

**June 2nd** Sunday 7.30 - Cyrano de Bergerac Launch night and Read-Through

**June 8th** Saturday 7 for 7.30 pm Rehearsed readings:

"Constellations" by Nick Payne directed by Liz Smith.

"A Day in the Death of Joe Egg" by Peter Nichols directed by Fiona Morrison.

**June 29th** Saturday – Rehearsed readings Autumn Season - Launch Evening #2

## JULY

**July 6th & 7th** (Saturday & Sunday) - Get- in for Parlour Song

**July 9th - 13th** *Parlour Song* in performance. Studio 7.30pm.