



The Jester



August — September 2019



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

The deadline for the next *Jester* will be Friday 27th September 2019 (it'll be in the *Digest* beforehand)

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 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

Wow! Did you see ***Parlour Song***?? Wow! What a great production. What great direction and acting, what great trees. What a fantastic and fiendishly clever score and AV. Well done to everyone involved. If you didn't manage to get a ticket because you left it too late Oh, It's too hot (at the time of writing) I can't be bothered!!!

Just make sure you get your tickets NOW for my up coming October production of ***Cyrano de Bergerac*** by Edmond Rostand (adapted by Glyn Maxwell). We're cast and crewed and rehearsals are in progress.

Oooh, ooh, ooh, our **AGM** will be on 29th September. You'll be getting your invite and papers through by email (or if you've requested it, by Royal Mail Post). It's going to be a corker, with awards, and cheering, and voting, and...wait for it...the announcement of the 2020 Kelvin Season. Come along. (Reminder, you can't vote until you've paid your 2019/2020 subscription) but you can still come along and join in the fun! All those in favour say 'Aye'.

Talking of **Awards**, you get to vote. You can wait for the AGM papers to come out or you can vote online now at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/F655G53>

Film Club will be on 17th August with Alan Ayckbourn's ***A Chorus of Disapproval***. (more inside....)



Check the Members' website* www.kelvin-members.co.uk and on facebook members' group, and twitter @kelvinplayers, for stuff that's coming up.

This will be my last 'From the Keyboard...' as I'm standing down as Chair at the AGM. I'm sure that whoever replaces me will provide their own insights into their inner workings.

Check the Members' website* 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's battered and broken Chair!

(I hope he's not really! - ed.)



Cyrano de Bergerac by Edmund Rostand

(Adapted by Glyn Maxwell)

Directed by Jonny Wilkinson

Studio: 15 -19 October 2019 @ 7:30

And so we're off! Rehearsals have already started and tickets are already selling!!

The Cast

What a brilliant turn out for auditions. I could have cast it twice over... but didn't. (although those who are cast beware, you're not indispensable!)

As it turns out, for the most part we have a lot of new members together with one or two (well two actually) longer-term members who you may have seen before:

Adam Healey – Cyrano de Bergerac

Tom Summerill – Christian de Neuville

Alex Heath – Comte de Guiche

Michael Shah – Henri le Bret

Peter Phillpot – Ragueneau

Julie Clerc – Roxane

Frances Cox – Mother Margaret

Kiera-Marie Somers – Sister Claire

Charlotte Whitten – Sister Teresa

Fran Lewis – Sister Martha

Gemma Rogan – Sister Agnes

Emily Butler – Sister Rosa



We even have a **Tech Team** in place too! At present this includes:

Set Design – Bronwen Grover

Costumes – Chrissy Fryers/Carol Fuller/Mayble Pitt/Liz Smith

Lighting Design – Geoff Collard

Sound & Music Design – Simon Shorrock

Composer – Anna Wills

Flyer design – Daniela Faber/Lizzy Cleverdon

Props – Marion Brazier

SM – Hester Penny

DSM – Peter Spence

Sound/light operators – Rosie Inman/Joe de Silva

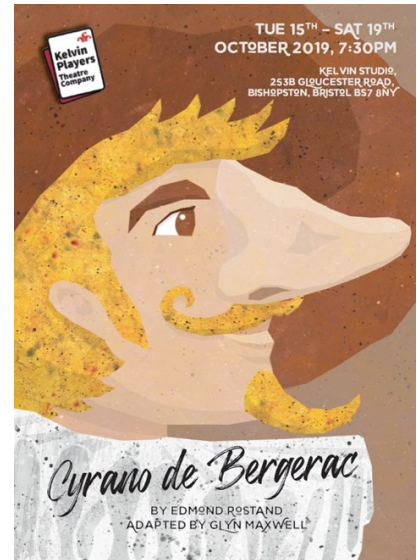


If you want to get involved, please contact Production Manager, Anna Freire Camacho on anna_fc@hotmail.co.uk

Most importantly, tickets are already selling, I've said it hundreds of times now, if you don't want to miss out on this production **BOOK EARLY!!!!**

Jonny (director)

Principal Characters (& brief synopsis)



Cyrano de Bergerac – wants to woo Roxane....

Roxane (his heart's desire! they were childhood playmates).

Christian de Neuville – Not worldly-wise or eloquent but full of bravado and energy.

Count Antoine De Guiche – Lustful, manipulative, vengeful, full of his own importance. 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 – 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 – similar to Cyrano. Great friend & Cyrano's posthumous biographer.

Nuns – and assorted other players....

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.

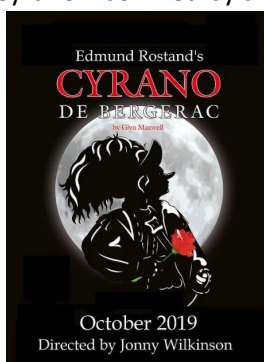
Savinien de Cyrano de Bergerac - duellist, playwright, poet and novelist - was born in Paris (not Gascony) in March 1619 and died in 1655, aged 36. He was injured by a sword cut to the neck at Arras and never fully recovered. The featured Siege of Arras took place in 1640.

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 Neuville - 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).



We remember:

JUNE WILSON

Not too many current Kelvin members will remember June Wilson whose death was reported in last October/November's edition of The Jester. June had been a member of Kelvin since 1949 and died last August aged 96. The intervening years had seen June playing a great many roles for Kelvin as well as directing and playing in some professional productions.

Whilst today's collective Kelvin members might struggle to remember her despite her maintaining a lively interest in all Kelvin was doing right up to the end, she certainly remembered Kelvin, as in her will she left the sum of £1,000 to the club, to be used to enhance the technical aspects of the club's theatrical endeavours.

For this and all that June contributed to Kelvin she is remembered very fondly.

**** REHEARSED READINGS ****
*** AUTUMN SEASON ANNOUNCED! ***

Well, dearest Kelvinians - with the sublime "*Parlour Song*" all done and dusted, as always with Kelvin it's straight on to the next order of business... Get ready to blow away those post-show blues with this most excellent bit of news - it's only those gorgeous "RR" Rehearsed Readings again, isn't it? The summer launch night happened a month or so ago now, and successfully saw casts filled for all 8 RR slots during the rest of this year - and so I'm now absolutely delighted to announce full details for the Kelvin RR Autumn Season 2019!

Feast your eyes below on the list of directors and the pieces they'll be presenting, and get those DIARIES OUT to firmly write in these 4 dates (all Saturdays, as ever). There'll be a bit more information about each evening nearer the times, with further reminders via Digest and Facebook - but you'll be well ahead of the game by getting those dates in right now, won't you Kelvinfolk? Yes you will! I'm already looking forward to seeing you there come the autumn, and I just know y'all are going to really enjoy all 4 of these most splendid evenings. So, the details are - fanfare, please...7pm doors and bar, for 7:30pm

7th SEPTEMBER

Adam Church directs
Franz Kafka's "The Trial" by Splendid Productions

Simon Shorrock directs
"A Very Very Very Dark Matter" by Martin McDonagh

5th OCTOBER

Frances Cox directs
"Brat" a piece of her own of writing

Tessa Garrett directs
"Escaped Alone" by Caryl Churchill

2nd NOVEMBER

Fran Lewis directs
"Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again." by Alice Birch

Josh Cooper directs
"The Nether" by Jennifer Haley

23rd NOVEMBER

Adam Healey directs
"The Seafarer" by Conor McPherson

Rick Procter-Lane
RR Organiser
07941 878 460
rick.procter@icloud.com



Parlour Song by Jez Butterworth

9th – 13th July 2019

Directed by Adam Church

It's been a couple of weeks since *Parlour Song* closed and I've been reflecting with a great deal of joy and thanks on what was my directorial debut at Kelvin. I feel incredibly grateful to the club and the Artistic Programmes Committee (APC) for trusting me and letting me loose on Jez

Butterworth's brilliant play. It has been one of the most rewarding theatrical experiences I have ever had.

I found everything from pre-production planning and launching, auditioning, casting and rehearsal, right through to production to be an absolute pleasure.

I was blessed with a cast whose happy energy, commitment and bravery showed in every performance. Our journey was a highly creative one and I couldn't be more proud of the skill and willingness to play that Rosie, Sam and Reg offered up, at every rehearsal, right from the start.

Bronwen's set design was, for me, a wonderful representation of the world of our play and beautifully fulfilled the challenging, black-box brief. Pete's sound, (which was mostly made up of his own original compositions), and Neil's lighting and projection elements all worked to achieved a perfect atmosphere within which our play came to life.

Thank you to those of you who came to see the production and took the time to write comments on our 'blackboard', or sent kind messages afterwards on social media. Some of the feedback we received was amazing and a real boost to the whole team. You called the show: "Compelling...brilliant", "Awe inspiring" and you said: "We were enthralled", "The acting was brilliant".

These comments, along with the Rosebowl adjudication, which was incredibly positive, reinforce not only the strength of our production but also the ability that Kelvin has to stage high-quality, challenging, contemporary theatre.

I am incredibly proud to be a part of the club...and if the APC let me loose on another play, I'll gladly do it all again!

Adam Church (director)



The Flint Street Nativity

by Tim Firth

4 - 7 December 2019 & 11 - 14 December 2019

Just thought I would give all members a heads up about the December production – a two week run as per the dates above.

I have now confirmed dates of Launch night, Read-through, auditions and rehearsal period. As I am away for the first two weeks in September I would like to get the Launch night and Auditions out of the way so we can get cracking for a couple of rehearsals prior to Cyrano and then immediately after that production finishes.

So a little bit about the play

There's more to Flint Street than at first appears. It is a comedy, but underneath there is a lot of pathos, and it calls for some very subtle acting. The play requires each actor to take two parts — themselves as seven-year-olds performing their school's nativity, then as their parents who have just watched them perform.

It focuses on a Mrs Horrock's class of children aged seven and eight, and their involvement in a sole performance of the school nativity play. It follows the youngsters from the pre-performance classroom preparations through to the final stage performance where calamity and chaos ensue.

Characters:

Innkeeper
Mary
Wise Man Gold
Shepherd
Gabriel
Star of Bethlehem/Ass
Angel
Narrator
Herod/Joseph
Wise Man Frankincense

Launch & Read-Through:

Sunday 18th August Morris Room 7.00pm

Auditions:

Monday 19th August Morris Room 7.30pm

Wednesday 21st August Morris Room 7.30pm

At this stage I am ideally looking for a producer and a set designer for the production, so if you are interested in either of these essential roles and would like to come and join in with the fun of this unique production please do come to the launch night.

Once again, apologies for being a little early but time flies so quickly in the summer and I seem to have so many holidays to have to take

Sue Stobbs

Director

stobbsy@blueyonder.co.uk





The People have spoken!!

Our first Film night will be at 7:30 on Saturday **17th August 2019** in the main Studio with our big, new mega-screen.

We'll be showing a recording of our 1989 Jubilee Production of Alan Ayckbourn's, *A Chorus of Disapproval*, directed by John Cousins and starring Pete Townsend, Richard Jones, Christine West, Mary McCallum and the late David Higson.

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. Below is a list of the recordings currently available. We'll see how August 17th goes and if it works, then we could run another in September? We'll see.

Can I ask you to email me, text me, tell me, telephone me, whatsapp me, PM me, facebook me, face time me, instagram me, send me a letter or a postcard (but not twitter – I don't do twitter) and tell me what you'd like to see next 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

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	"			

Kelvin's all-important MEMBERSHIP SUBS!

Dearest Kelvins

Here is a polite reminder that membership subscriptions will be due on the **1st September** at the very reasonable cost of **£40** (once again there has been no increase). You do not need to wait for the AGM to give me your subscriptions but can do so right now and avoid the rush. Thus dissipating the stress, mental anguish and confusion experienced by your Membership Secretary who is on the verge of senility and decrepitude. If you are paying by BACS please let myself (Phil Joyner) and the Treasurer know.

Kelvin Players Subscription form 2019/20

To: **Membership Secretary, 10 Beaufort Rd, Southville, Bristol BS3 1PX.** or email **membership@kelvinplayers.co.uk**

I wish to renew/apply for membership (delete as appropriate). I enclose a cheque made payable to KELVIN PLAYERS/ have made a BACS payment as per instructions below. My details are as follows:

Name	
Address	
Postcode	Email
Telephone (home)	Telephone (mobile)

New Members

☐ £ Please talk to the Membership Secretary to find out the appropriate amount. The subscription rate is reduced at intervals throughout the Kelvin year to allow for new members joining part-way through. Please fill in the agreed figure in this box. All new members must pay a £10 admin joining fee.

Subscription Renewal (tick as appropriate)

☐ £40 Single membership

☐ £30 Concessionary rate membership (available to full-time students, pensioners or those in receipt of income support or job seekers allowance)

Patron Membership (tick as appropriate)

☐ £15 Single membership ☐ £20 Joint membership (living at the same address)

BACS Payment Option

If you choose to pay via BACS you MUST confirm payment by emailing both the membership secretary and treasurer at time of payment as under:

membership@kelvinplayers.co.uk and treasurer@kelvinplayers.co.uk

Please make your payment to the following account:

Lloyds Bank plc; Sort code: 30-99-38 A/C no. 02923749 A/C name: Kelvin Players

Reference: "Sub-(your initial & surname)" (to ensure we can identify your payment on the statement) (e.g. 'Sub-J. Smith')

Gift Aid Donation (optional)

I confirm that I pay an amount of UK income tax or capital gains tax at least equivalent to the tax on my Kelvin subscription. I want Kelvin Players to treat the above payment and all future payments as a Gift Aid Donation.

Signed Date

Little Theatre Guild Report

Background to the Little Theatre Guild

As many of the committee may not be aware of what the Little Theatre Guild (LTG) is and does I have started with a brief background. The LTG is the umbrella organisation to co-ordinate the development of independent amateur theatres across the UK and beyond. It is a vibrant community of over 100 member theatres which has been in existence since 1946. Membership of the LTG is open to amateur theatres that own or lease the theatres in which their productions are staged. Networking opportunities through regional and national conferences together with regular newsletters ensure strong communication on a host of topics.

The LTG is split into three geographical regions, Northern, Central and Southern Region. The current Patron is Sir Kenneth Branagh who replaced Sir Ian McKellen in 2016.

Kelvin Players has been a member organisation since 1993 and are in the Southern Region. Kelvin Players has hosted both Regional and National events over the years.

What has the LTG done for us?

In recent years the Guild has concentrated on administrative matters, holding a sequence of meetings on VAT and recently on Health & Safety, at various theatres across the country, using expert speakers and tutors. In addition the Guild has in recent years produced guidance papers on Children in the Theatre, Copyright Music, Child Protection, the Licensing Act 2003, and Employment Law changes.

It produces Grey Papers – effectively advice and guidance on a variety of subjects from those mentioned above to Fire Safety (Paper 12) for set designers, a reissue of Use of Copyright Music - PRS and PPL (Paper 7) and general Copyright Problems (Paper 17).

The reissue of Paper 7 arose because of questions by me and another theatre about the changes that would be made when PRS and PPL joined to form a single body. The Grey Paper gives a view from the LTG.

The LTG also produces a Year Book which records in full detail the activities of each member theatre – an invaluable source of information about plays presented and box-office percentages achieved. The LTG uses the information it gathers to promote amateur theatre in representations to Parliament and to the national press. You will find copies on the window ledge on the way to the Morris Room.

There you will also find copies of the newsletters which come out each quarter with interesting information about the amateur theatre world. Earlier this year Neil Bonnett responded to an advert in a newsletter for lighting being sold by Formby Little Theatre at a knockdown price. I read the newsletters and bring items of interest to the Chair.

The LTG has also been involved with academics working on the social and human impact of amateur theatre in the UK and Ireland. One such book, *The Ecologies of Amateur Theatre*, was launched at the last Annual Conference, following which I sent copies of Richard Jones' story of Kelvin Players to one of the authors based at Exeter University. The first draft of another book about the social good of amateur dramatics was delivered by Jenny Landreth. It is due to be published next year (2020).

The next Southern Conference will take place in Hastings during the weekend of 20th - 22nd September. I will not be able to attend. If any Committee Member is able to attend and wishes to do so, please contact me for details and information.

Ralf Togneri (Kelvin's LTG Rep.)

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:

Our first new member for this year is: Ta Daaa!

Tom Summerill

Many of you will remember Tom for his epic performance as Sloop in “Anne Boleyn” who’s vomiting and graphic descriptions of torture were beyond compare. An accomplished actor and singer with a wide range of experience, professional training and skills, Tom will bring passion, energy and enthusiasm to the club.

George Howard

George is looking forward to being a member of a close knit community where he will have the opportunity to explore many different experiences. He has a chirpy attitude, is very optimistic and understands the importance of being part of a team. He performed in “West Side Story” at school and has acted in other plays such as “The Hypochondriac”. Growing up he was part of The Battersea Arts Centre.

Joanne Brooks

Joanne has had many years of experience of being involved in all areas of performance, from writing, directing, acting, stage management, producing and marketing. She is currently undertaking a Masters Degree in Creative Producing at UWE.

When she is excited about a project she will bring a great deal of commitment and will be a huge asset to the club.

Hester Penny

Hester is interested in all aspects of backstage work. She is an A level student studying Theatre Studies and hoping to study Stage Management and Technical Theatre at degree level. She is joining Kelvin for a chance to immerse herself in backstage theatre and says she is enthusiastic and keen to learn from such an amazing company. She also hopes to have some fun and to develop her skills.

Phil Joyner (Membership Secretary)

DIARY DATES

AT-A-GLANCE

August — September 2019

AUGUST

August 17th Saturday 7.30 - First ever Film Night! Kelvin's 1989 production of Alan Ayckbourn's ***A Chorus of Disapproval*** in the Studio.

August 18th Sunday 7pm Launch night & Read Through of *The Flint Street Nativity* (our Christmas production directed by Sue Stobbs)

August 19th Monday 7.30pm — Auditions for *The Flint Street Nativity*

August 21st Wednesday 7.30pm— Auditions for *The Flint Street Nativity*

SEPTEMBER

September 7th Saturday 7pm for 7.30 **Rehearsed Readings**

Adam Church directs

Franz Kafka's ***The Trial*** by Splendid Productions

Simon Shorrock directs

A Very Very Very Dark Matter by Martin McDonagh