



February — March 2018

The Vagina Monologues  
by Eve Ensler



14-17 & 21-24 February 2018  
Kelvin Studio

Knowledge and a Girl  
(The Snow White Case)  
by Howard Barker



24-28 April 2018  
Kelvin Studio



## *Our Upcoming Productions*

### **REHEARSED READINGS PLAY DATES, SPRING 2018**

Dearest Kelvinfolk, the year has begun and already - yes, already - a whole raft of Rehearsed Readings (or RRs for short, as I fondly call them) have been cast at the Launch Night on Saturday 27th Jan, all ready for the performance nights - as per the following dates, so diaries out people!

#### **10th March**

Martin Walsh directs Christopher Isherwood's "Goodbye to Berlin" adapted by Tina Pepler (the film Cabaret was based on it)  
Alex Knibb directs "Peter's Friends" by Rita Rudner & Martin Bergman (adapted from the film by Kenneth Branagh)

#### **14th April**

Adam Church directs "The Goat" by Edward Albee  
Tessa Garrett directs "The Father" by Florian Zeller

#### **12th May**

Martha Graham directs "Road" by Jim Cartwright  
Simon Shorrock directs "Woyzeck" by Georg Buchner

#### **9th June**

Peter Spence directs "Horace & Pete" by Louis C K  
Ralf Togneri directs "A Streetcar Named Desire" by Tennessee Williams

All are Saturdays as ever, with doors and bar opening at 7pm for a 7:30pm 'curtain-up' of the performances. Come one, come all - hang out and chat with fellow Kelvin members and friends, support your club and fellow members, and watch as they act and direct in a low-pressure but high-buzz friendly environment. See y'all there, folks!

[Don't forget though that there is a second launch night for more Rehearsed Readings in the autumn and winter. Rick will advise of that date later in the year.]

Rick Procter

RR Organiser

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# ***From the Green Keyboard of the Chair's Desk***

Hello and welcome!

February – *The Vagina Monologues* by Eve Ensler directed by Rachel Fleming is rapidly approaching I'm desperately trying to avoid puns and 'double-entendres'. If you haven't got your tickets yet, you've missed the Early Bird Discount! That's not a reason to miss out on this exciting, bold production. Just because it has the 'V' word in its title doesn't mean it's not going to be fun! Do come! It's your duty to come and see the stuff we produce, otherwise who will come to see you when you're in something?

April - *Knowledge and a Girl* by Howard Barker directed by Sam Grayston - this is going to be weird!

July – *Anne Boleyn* (at the Tobacco Factory) by Howard Brenton directed by Jacqs Graham

Sadly, with all the above we're on the cusp of casting. Auditions may still be going on for Anne Boleyn. However, there are still opportunities to get involved backstage. Backstage doesn't mean sitting in the dark behind the set in a draughty foyer, it could mean sitting in the dark upstairs operating lighting or sound or calling the book, or it could mean being out in daylight doing make-up, hair, helping with costumes, finding props or helping to fabricate and construct the set.

Coming up later we have:

October - *The Effect* by Lucy Prebble directed by Mat Rees

December – *Going Postal* by Terry Pratchett and Stephen Briggs directed by Tim Whitten

You will have seen (if you haven't we want you to come back to the studio soon – it's been too long) that the building work for the new Wesley Road extension is very nearly done. Inevitably there were unforeseen delays. It took longer to 'get out of the ground' and Nico was sick over Christmas. I hope we're very nearly there by publication of this *Jester*. There will be tweaks and finishing touches but it's very close.

Don't forget (all those of you who frequent the interweb) that there's loads of stuff coming up all the time on the Members' website\* [www.kelvin-members.co.uk](http://www.kelvin-members.co.uk) and on facebook members' group, and twitter @kelvinplayers.

Get involved, get busy, get happy!

**Jonny Wilkinson**

**Chair**



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

# THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES

by Eve Ensler



February 14-17th & 21st-24th 2018



Director: Rachel Fleming

Production Manager: Annie Bethell

## In the Studio

As I write this, I am surrounded by articles about the suffrage movement and the 100 years anniversary of some women over the age of 30 being granted voting rights in the UK. There are emails from organisers of Bristol Women's Literature Festival who are running an event on Feminism and Protest. There are global campaigns like #metoo and celebrities wearing black at the Golden Globes in support of victims of sexual harassment and assault. 2018 is also the twentieth anniversary of The Vagina Monologues being published by Virago.

Eve Ensler is an activist and author of the Vagina Monologues and founder of VDay, a not for profit body fighting to rid the world of violence against women and girls. She wrote recently in i News "The first time I performed it, I thought I would be shot."

Thankfully she wasn't and 2018 marks the year that our splendid theatre company, the Kelvin Players, are standing with hundreds of other theatre groups around the world to stage this epic piece of political theatre.

The VDay website states that staging a production of the Vagina Monologues in 2018 is an "ARTISTIC UPRISING, a RADICAL ACT, an ACT OF RESISTANCE". I couldn't agree more and I would love to go back in time to rally our sisters and brothers who fought so bravely for political equality to come and join us in celebrating this groundbreaking piece of theatre. So, my theatrical brothers and sisters, will you join me? Come and see this gorgeous ten strong cast of women perform pieces that speak of love, passion, abuse and liberation.

Rehearsals have been so much fun despite my request to be off book 5 rehearsals in. We even had a craft evening.

In just two weeks time we open on Valentines Day! So bring a date! After all, V is heart-shaped! (see pic!) It promises to be unforgettable.

[Being involved and having seen the run through, I can vouch for that!—ed.]

Rachel Fleming  
Director

The Vagina Monologues  
by Eve Ensler



14-17 & 21-24 February 2018  
Kelvin Studio

## ***SNOW WHITE—a Girl and a little Knowledge is a dangerous thing!***

*“Snow White’s wicked step-mother was also bidden to the feast. But iron slippers had already been put upon the fire, and they were brought in with tongs, and set before her. Then she was forced to put on the red-hot shoes, and dance until she dropped down dead.”*

**The Brothers Grimm**

**‘Little Snow White’**

Howard Barker’s ***Knowledge and a Girl***

is the Snow White story from the wicked stepmother’s point of view.

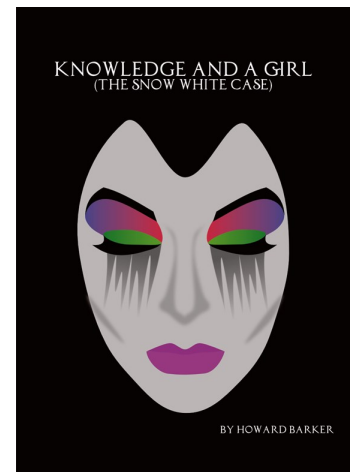
Disney is it not.

It is DARK

It is DIRTY

It is DEPRAVED

Here, the story is seen through a new lens - that of the wicked stepmother: a childless melancholic whose pain is sufficient justification for her cruelty. At times hilarious, at times devastatingly cruel, this will be an intriguing piece of theatre for all those who want to come on the creative journey with us.



As I write this, we’re on the cusp of the auditions for Knowledge and a Girl. By the time you read this, I hope to be announcing my splendid cast! As I write, I also think back to the Launch Night, where it was great to see so many of you, to share my thoughts about our play. Again, by the time you read this, I hope to have a beautiful set designed and be moving on with our other production roles.

How much a play can move along in two weeks...

I can imagine that we’re still going to need support, though! If you’d like to be involved with Knowledge and a Girl (The Snow White Case), then please let Tim or me know.

I’m thoroughly looking forward to getting going on this intriguing play, working with a fabulous cast on the script and characters, and a stellar production team on the vision for our play.

We have a couple of exploratory rehearsals before The Vagina Monologues (book your tickets now if you haven’t done so already!), and then we are full tilt through to opening night on 24 April 2018.

To get involved, speak to Tim Whitten or me; otherwise I look forward to seeing you during the run.

Thank you for your support.

Sam

07739 021915

[sgrayston@me.com](mailto:sgrayston@me.com)



# Anne Boleyn by Howard Brenton

10 - 14 July 2018  
Tobacco Factory Theatre



## *What a way to mark Kelvin's 250th Production!*

The core Production Team of ...

Jacqs Graham, Director ([jacqsludgate@me.com](mailto:jacqsludgate@me.com)/07882600500)

Robin Turner, Technical Manager ([robinandamanda@btopenworld.com](mailto:robinandamanda@btopenworld.com))

Teri Mohiuddin, Production Manager ([terimoni@gmail.com](mailto:terimoni@gmail.com))

... are super-excited to be planning and developing the production of this brilliant play. Howard Brenton combines two historical periods to tell the story of Anne, Henry VIII's second wife, and the fascination in which she was held by James 1 of England (James VI of Scotland). This modern interpretation is a refreshing look at the historical events.

Featuring a large cast, (possibly as many as 42, I understand! - ed.), with singing, dancing and live music there are plenty of opportunities to get involved. Please get in touch if you would like to know more!

20 speaking parts (16 M/4F)

8+ 'extras' (6 M/2F at least)

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 30 January - Singing/Dancing audition

Thursday 1 February - Auditions

Friday 2 February - Auditions

Wednesday 7 February - Technical Pitching

Friday 9 February - Auditions

Monday 26 February - Auditions/Pitching (if needed)

Thursday 1 March - Call back/Pitching (if needed)

Tuesday 13 March - first rehearsal

4 rehearsals per week are scheduled throughout April, May and June and this will allow for singing and dancing sessions. It is highly unlikely that cast members will be called for more than 2 rehearsals per week, although this will increase as we reach production week. More details will be placed on the Kelvin Players website by early January 2018



# ***THE APC CHOICE FOR THE 2019 SEASON***

## **Kelvin's Greatest Hits FAQ**

**What is this 'Kelvin's Greatest Hits' you speak of?**

Good question. It's simply the name I've given to the fourteen plays the APC have selected from Kelvin's extensive back catalogue, in the hope that directors will propose them for inclusion in our 2019 season, which is Kelvin's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**Oh! I see. Very catchy. So, you want the whole 2019 season to be from the back catalogue?**

Nope. But at least one would be fantastic – we thought it would be a great way to commemorate ninety years of Kelvin – and if we get five amazing proposals, then who knows? But we're hoping for one or two.

**All right then. What if I want to submit a play that is from the back catalogue, but not one of the fourteen you've chosen?**

That's fine. Please do.

**And what if I want to submit a play that isn't on the list at all?**

Please submit ANY PLAY you like. The APC would love to hear from you.

**OK, no need to shout! I was just checking. So... the usual submission criteria apply?**

Yep. Check the members' site for details, or email me.

**Cool. I know you've already revealed the fourteen plays, but could you just list them again?**

No problem. They are:

*The Private Secretary* by Charles Hawtrey

*Rookery Nook* by Ben Travers

*When We Are Married* by JB Priestley

*The Heiress* by Ruth and Augustus Goetz

*The Love of Four Colonels* by Peter Ustinov

*Under Milk Wood* by Dylan Thomas

*Billy Liar* by Keith Waterhouse

*The Odd Couple* by Neil Simon

*The Accrington Pals* by Peter Whelan

*A Chorus of Disapproval* by Alan Ayckbourn

*Road* by Jim Cartwright

*Cause Celebre* by Terence Rattigan

*Lags* by Ron Hutchinson

*Top Girls* by Caryl Churchill

**That's quite a mix! How can I read them all?**

There's something for everyone. And they're all available to read on the members' website. If you'd prefer a hard copy, most are stocked in Kelvin's library (in the Morris Room).

**I hope I have time to read through them all – when's the submission deadline?**

Plenty of time – 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018.

**Phew! Thanks so much.**

You're welcome. Any questions, please get in touch!

Fran Lewis [artisticdirector@kelvinplayers.co.uk](mailto:artisticdirector@kelvinplayers.co.uk)

Thank you for reading! The APC are: Alex Needham, Alice Chadwick, Angela Markham, Mike Luckett, Tessa Garrett and Simon Shorrocks.

Fran Lewis, Artistic Director.

# *\*New and Returning Members\*!*

## **Sally Willis**

Sally is a trained actress and was a member of Kelvin Players years ago when she was involved in many productions. She says she is keen to get involved in any capacity and will be an enthusiastic member of any team. She has many talents and would like to be involved in directing, set dressing, playwriting and she is a singer.

## **Jaleelah Galbraith**

We welcome back Jaleelah, a former member with a wealth of experience and talent. She has been performing since she was a child, studied drama at uni and then trained as an actor. She has experience in both plays and musicals. She currently works as a LAMDA teacher at Monkton School in Bath and is the Principal of the Pauline Quirke Academy Bristol, a weekend performing arts academy for those aged 4-18.

She wants to develop skill in voice work, physical theatre and comedy writing.

## **Fiona Morrison**

We also welcome back Fiona who has directed and acted with Kelvin in the past as well as with Questors and Tower Theatre in London. She would like to develop her skill in improvisation.

## **Hannah Scott**

Having loved performing and theatre since a young age, Hannah is really keen to get back into it, as she feels she needs more creative outlets in her life! She has performed in drama and musical theatre groups in the past, along with taking part in some theatre workshops such as the Bristol Old Vic Young Company. She also has experience singing in a wide variety of settings. She is a founding member of the Bristol-based acappella group The Humming Birds. In addition to acting and performing, she is a writer and has dabbled in directing before, both of which are things that she would love to be able to pursue further.

## **Kris Hallett**

Having spent the past couple of years since moving to Bristol writing about theatre as a critic for WhatsOnStage, Kris felt the pull to get back to becoming an active participant rather than always on the outside looking in. Kelvin has always stood out for its adventurous repertoire and the professional standards it sets. So when working last summer on a new writing night with Tim Whitten, his piqued interest turned into a solid resolution to join and embark on creative adventures.

He will bring passion, knowledge, fun and support for others to Kelvin.

He trained as an actor and worked briefly in the industry, setting up his own company and working on a number of productions on the fringe, directing classics from Ben Jonson to the Greeks along with new writing nights at the Jermyn Street Theatre, the Old Red Lion and a large commission for a street production for the Battersea Street Festival. He is a fully qualified drama teacher and still hold a desire to make a film.

## **Samantha Cousins**

Samantha has always loved performing but hasn't had much chance to do so since graduating and training as a teacher. She spends her days teaching drama to children but misses performing herself.

She has a degree in Drama and Dance and has trained in various dance styles including tap.

She will bring a good sense of humour to Kelvin and her facilitation and teaching experience will also be an asset.



## New Sponsorship Deal

After a considerable amount of diligence, Rosie Closs (and Sam Grayston before her) has secured a sponsorship deal with the wonderful Linden Accountants - an accountancy practice based in the South West who will be supporting us by generously paying the costs of our production printing. The connection came through Rick Procter, who works for them and who possibly thinks (incorrectly) that he deserves a bung.

# LINDEN Accountants

Linden Accountants' website says:

"We specialise in a wide range of services, including bookkeeping, payroll, statutory accounts and credit control. By using us, you effectively gain a finance department without having to spend time and money on employing extra staff or buying expensive accountancy software.

We make the management of your business finances smoother, safer and more efficient, leaving you to concentrate on running and developing your core business.

### What Makes Us Different

Linden Accountants Limited is a family business that offers a wide range of services to clients in Bristol and the South West, including accounts, bookkeeping, credit control and payroll for a wide variety of clients, from small local firms to companies with multi-million pound turnovers. We are specialists with over 50 years' combined experience in practice, who utilise our knowledge to help you and your business get ahead.

Reading the above, we wouldn't blame you for thinking that we sound like any other local accountancy practice. But we're far from boring number crunchers who get excited by the release of a new model of calculator!

We are 3 brothers – Michael Grant, Steven Baptiste and David Baptiste – and we know there is more to life than numbers. Over the years we all found ourselves joining City Accounts, our business's former incarnation which was owned by our Mum, Kate.

She ran the accountancy practice for over 15 years, but in 2012 she decided to step down and hand it over to us. At that point we rebranded as Linden Accountants, and when we asked our Mum if she would like to come and work for her sons, she accepted.

Over 5 years later, we are well established as one of the leading small accountancy practices in Bristol.

We have a growing team, a lovely office close to the city centre in St Werburghs, and a collection of valued clients who we hope love working with us as much as we love working with them. You can judge that by the testimonials on this website!

We offer a friendly and professional service which draws on our many decades of combined experience to meet the high standards you expect and deserve. We are proud of our reputation in the Bristol area and beyond, and are always actively seeking new clients to further expand our business.

Whether you're a pop-up in St Nicholas Market, a developer in the emerging Bristol VR scene or a restaurant on Gloucester Road, by using us you effectively gain a fantastic finance department without having to spend time and money on employing extra staff or buying expensive accountancy software.

We make the management of your business finances smoother, safer and more efficient, leaving you to concentrate on running and developing your core business."

I therefore commend Linden Accountants to you and would like to point you in the direction of their website at <http://www.lindenaccountants.co.uk/>



# ***EDITORIAL***

Hi all Kelvin members!

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

About the middle of the month before each edition of ***The Jester*** is due to come out, we will put a call in **The Digest** for articles about upcoming and recent shows, photos, submissions, diary dates and things of interest for inclusion in ***The Jester***. The Digest will tell you the deadline for articles for the next Jester. Of course, if you have something to submit for inclusion in the next issue of ***The Jester***, you can do so at any time by emailing it to us at: [\*\*jester@kelvinplayers.co.uk\*\*](mailto:jester@kelvinplayers.co.uk)

**Geoff Collard & Jon Bard, Co-editors**

I do urge you to go and see all our great upcoming presentations. The Vagina Monologues is a special, heart-stirring, funny, serious, emotional, poignant personal experience which is beautifully and poetically written. I had never seen the show before and was struck seeing the first run-through by the sheer poetry of the piece, quite apart from its feminism or anything else. Knowledge and a Girl also promises to be a unique and remarkable experience, and Anne Boleyn is going to be a sumptuous total Kelvin experience with opportunities for anyone at all to get involved in some way or other. Nobody could accuse Kelvin of being boring or unimaginative! So do get involved, and go and see them all! After all, it's your club, and I never cease to be amazed at the breadth and range of Kelvin's theatrecraft and adventure. The Artistic Policy Committee do a brilliant job choosing a great mix of classic plays, adventurous theatre, little known plays, comedy, musical theatre and large scale productions.

As you will have seen, in this issue, as well as the details of our upcoming productions, there are details of the plays and directors of the rehearsed readings for the first half of the year, and a call by the Artistic Policy Committee (APC) for directors for the Kelvin 90th anniversary year in 2019.

I have not received any interesting bits and bobs, apart from the new members info. It'd be good to have some information about the wider theatre events and happenings in and around Bristol, and perhaps have a listing of them, especially if, as so often, there are Kelvinites appearing in other productions.

We do need to develop our links with other local groups, and we should be promoting their shows as well as ours, just as they should for us.

I'd like to develop both these in ***The Jester***, so in future if anyone has any interesting items about Kelvin which are not connected to current productions or things normally mentioned in ***The Jester*** or mentioned by Jonny as Chair, please let me have them and we will do our best to include them in each issue.

Bye for now until April!

Geoff Collard (ed.)

# Your **DIARY DATES** at a glance

(all events at the Studio unless otherwise stated)

## February

10<sup>th</sup> Saturday 2pm. Vagina Monologues Get-in

14<sup>th</sup> Wednesday – 17<sup>th</sup> Saturday. **Vagina Monologues run** (week 1). Doors open at 7pm

21<sup>st</sup> Wednesday – 24<sup>th</sup> Saturday. **Vagina Monologues run** (week 2). Doors open at 7pm

## March

10<sup>th</sup> Saturday 7pm. Rehearsed Readings - **Goodbye to Berlin** and **Peter's Friends**

## April

14<sup>th</sup> Saturday 7pm. Rehearsed Readings - **The Goat** and **The Father**

24<sup>th</sup> Tuesday – 28<sup>th</sup> Saturday. **Knowledge and a Girl run**. Doors open at 7pm.

## May

1<sup>st</sup>. Deadline for potential directors' submissions for Kelvin's 2019 season to the APC (Artistic Policy Committee)

12<sup>th</sup> Saturday 7pm. Rehearsed Readings - **Road** and **Woyzeck**