



The Jester



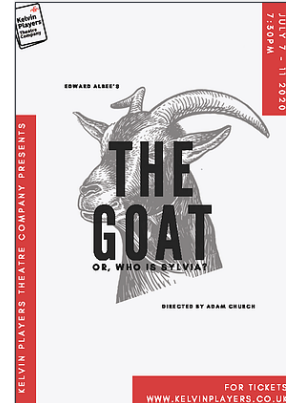
February—March 2020



11th - 15th February



15th — 25th April 2020



July 7th—11th

Our Upcoming Productions

Hi all Kelvin members!

As mooted in the last issue of *The Jester*, in this issue we start our first ever *Letters to the Editor* page, where people can write in about anything to do with theatre in Bristol in general (brief reviews etc, for example), and obviously about Kelvin in particular — comments about the club or any aspect or event, suggestions for improvements, praise,(!) previous shows, and anything really to do with the running of Kelvin, etc. I'd envisage it also as a chat forum for Kelvin members, but in letter form. So if you would like to send *The Jester* a letter, please email it to the Editor at: jester@kelvin.co.uk Needless to say though, I reserve the right to edit any letters..... Please sign your letter, and it will be published with your name. However, sometimes we can feel inhibited about making comments, especially if they are a bit negative, so if you feel you want to remain anonymous, that's fine, but please say so at the beginning of your letter to me, and your anonymity will be respected; otherwise your letter will be published with your name.

In this issue: details of our 2020 programme, beginning with Mat Rees directing *The Children*. 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. Keep up to date by joining the Facebook members' group, following us on Twitter, or checking out our website: www.kelvinplayers.co.uk

The deadline for the next *Jester* will be Sunday March 29th 2020 (it'll be in the *Digest* before)

A plea: Can everyone who wants/needs to submit articles to *The Jester* please **please do** put the deadline for the next *Jester* in your diary! **Please don't** preformat your articles, as it makes it difficult for me then to edit them for inclusion. *The Jester* is Kelvin's bi-monthly newsletter. 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

Geoff Collard (editor)

Letter from the Chair.....



Hello fellow Kelvin members, I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all a happy, healthy and successful year ahead in whatever endeavours you choose to take up. New Year and Christmas seem so long ago now and 2019 proved to be once again a successful year for Kelvin in bringing challenging and thoughtful theatre from our wonderful Studios to the community of Bishopston.

The good news is that this coming year will also bring a wide and varied season for all of the members to get involved in. There are so many experienced members in Kelvin willing to help and show newer members the ropes. Take a look at the letter written by George Howard who joined the club last September, perhaps there are other members out there who would like to share their experiences of being a member of Kelvin? Over the years that I have been a member, I feel very fortunate to be surrounded by so many talented members of this club. Let us grow together and

learn new skills to add to the ones we already have. You may surprise yourself and find out just how enjoyable it really is.

As I write this article the cast for Hamlet has just been announced and this is where we need your help. Have a think about how else you can enjoy that all-round experience that membership of this club brings and get involved. This is our first two week production this year so we are going to need all the help we can muster, help behind the bar, selling programmes, technical capacities, construction nights and many more.

Very shortly we will be seeing Mat Rees' production of "***The Children***" by Lucy Kirkwood. If you have not got your tickets then I urge you to support this production by buying one. It really helps the cast to be seen by their peers and have a drink with their friends after the show. Do you know someone who has never visited the studios, maybe this year is the chance to show them what a great little theatre we have in the Bishopston community! Remember, not all roads lead to Kelvin but the Gloucester Road certainly does!

Kind Regards

Sue



The Children

by **Lucy Kirkwood**

Tuesday 11th to Saturday 15th February 2020

Directed by Mat Rees

'Retired people are like nuclear power stations. They like to live by the sea.'

Hazel and Robin are two ageing nuclear scientists living in an isolated coastal cottage seeking to preserve a semblance of normality as the world around them crumbles in the wake of a disaster at a local power station.

There are blackouts, electricity shortages and they survive on biscuits. A geiger counter is on hand to check for signs of radiation. Robin now farms, the super-organised Hazel practises yoga and the pair keep in touch with their eldest daughter, who still needs them and whom Hazel is unable to let go.

But when Rose, an old friend and fellow nuclear physicist whom they haven't seen for 38 years, suddenly turns up, their precariously ordered minimalist existence is disrupted. Has Rose come to reignite her old affair with Robin or does she have some darker purpose?

Our fine cast are:

Rose – Frances Cox
Hazel – Gill Cowen
Robin – Ralf Togneri



Chernobyl — abandoned town

The Children was written by **Lucy Kirkwood**, who also wrote *Chimerica*. It is a slow-burning drama that asks tough questions about parenthood and social responsibility. And it offers a vision of the future which we may be responsible for if we don't change the world now.

mat_rees@hotmail.com or Sharon Dudbridge kittymadathome@gmail.com

**** REHEARSED READINGS (RRs) Spring 2020****

Dearest Kelvinians,

Dearest Kelvinians, as this edition of The Jester goes to press we're on the cusp of having a splendidly exciting RR Launch Night on Saturday 1st February - so if you're reading this in time, head on down to Kelvin (7:00pm bar open, 7:30pm start - just like always with RRs) and sign up to act in one or even two this spring. I'm delighted to say we have a great line-up once again this season, including new Kelvin-homegrown writing, newbie directors, experienced directors, and lots more besides - key details below, feast your eyes and write in those diaries (all Saturdays, as ever). A few more details on each RR evening will follow nearer the time, in the Digest email and via Facebook events on the Kelvin Members group - but for now like I say, just get those dates in your calendars. See y'all there at every one of 'em, lovely Kelvinfolk!

Saturday 29th February

Alex Needham ***Helter Skelter*** by Neil LaBute

Nicola Essex ***Tiny Beautiful Things*** by Nia Vardalos

Saturday 28th March

Angela Markham & Rosie Closs ***The Truth*** by Florian Zeller

Fiona Morrison ***A Song At Twilight*** by Noel Coward

Saturday 2nd May

Frances Cox ***All In The Timing*** by David Ives

Ralf Togneri ***Where's My Money?*** by Mike Manson

Saturday 30th May

Eszter Vass - some of her own writing

Sergio Romagnoli - some of his own writing

All Saturdays... 2020

Rest of the year dates are:

27th June - summer Launch Night

5th September

3rd October

31st October

21st November

Rick Procter-Lane

RR Organiser

07941 878 460

rick.procter@icloud.com

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I just wanted to use this opportunity to express my thanks for The Kelvin Players.

I have not been at Kelvin for very long but can easily say that I know that I will be staying as a member for the foreseeable future.

Initially I joined with the sole intention of acting in any of their productions and quickly realised the huge depth of work that goes into a play, from Front of House and Stage Manger, all the way to Set Construction and Sound and Lighting. Sadly I have not been cast into acting roles and I thought that there would not be anything else for me to do as I had no experience helping out in these technical roles, but I was surprised at the vast knowledge and skill of everyone as well as their ability to teach anyone who asks. Everyone has been so welcoming and so willing to help out that it shows that every member that I met so far fully loves the Theatre and is always more than happy to help. I also realised that there is so much more to a production, that there are so many gears running in the background. It is a heartwarming feeling to see something that you have created as a team on stage and there has been an infectious positive vibe every step of the way.

As the weeks have gone on there has been so many additional opportunities to flourish as an actor as well. Between workshops, Rehearsed Readings and general social events there have been methods to improve my acting abilities other than just performing in one of the productions. At the end of my first play I was sad to think that the people who I have grown close to, I may not see for a while until the next show where we might be working on together, but from these social events it is lovely to see everyone again where everyone talks like old friends. The more I have spoken to the people involved in Kelvin, the more I realise the enthusiasm that they hold for the theatre and how they welcome anyone with open arms, and that I am safe to assume that most members who I have yet to meet are the

I have spoken to friends and family trying to get them to join and take part as I believe that many people could benefit, as you do get as much out of this as you are willing to put in. Although they are intimidated by the idea of acting in front of an audience, I do my best to let them know that they are not joining just an acting troupe, it truly is the chance to join a full theatre and join a wonderful group of people.

Kindest regards,

George Howard

William Shakespeare's **HAMLET**

15th – 25th April 2020

Directed by Kris Hallett



January is all about exciting new adventures and it can't get much more thrilling than directing Hamlet, the first time Kelvin's history!

After a well-attended launch with over 50 members, we went straight into auditions. The panel (of me, production manager Teri Mohiuddin who's also my assistant director, and costume designer Chrissy Fryers) saw wave after wave of Kelvin talent - all the proof needed that no one quite brings it like our club. Big thanks to everyone who auditioned, we could have cast this thrice over.

Building the jigsaw piece by piece and based on my gender-blind casting approach, we have a final line-up of 12 brilliant actors and an amazing production team:

Rehearsals have started in earnest and it already feels like this could be a very special show. It is definitely a little longer than most and **we've agreed with committee an earlier start time of 7.15pm – please make a note of this and spread the word.**

Of course, being a two week run means we need extra hands on deck front of house as well as behind the scenes. Your support is vital and very much appreciated so watch out for requests for volunteers from the bar and theatre management teams.

For now we need more help with set construction. We're also looking for lighting and sound operators for the show weeks – this can be shared to make it as flexible as possible. If you're interested in these roles or want any more info please contact Teri: terimoni@gmail.com or me: kris.hallett@gmail.com

Kris Hallett

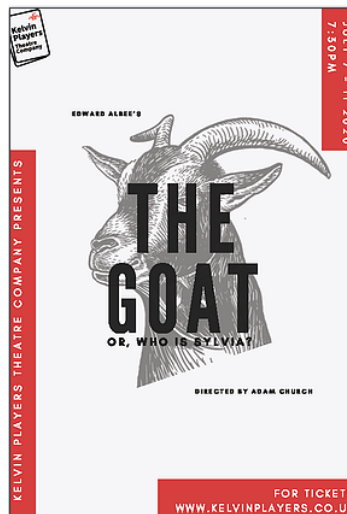
Director

Cast		Production team	
Claudius	- David Alexander	Costume design	- Chrissy Fryers
Gertrude	- Marion Brazier	Sound design	- Sam Grayston
Guildenstern	- Josh Cooper	Director	- Kris Hallett
Ophelia	- Alina F Flaherty	Set construction	- Dean Bentley Hawkins
Polonius	- Carol Fuller		- Peter Conway Hughes
Horatio	- Alex Heath	ASM and props	- Paul Kearns
Rosencrantz	- Jenny Hills	Costume support	- Angela Markham
Hamlet	- Fran Lewis	Production manager	- Teri Mohiuddin
Gravedigger	- Elizabeth Madgwick	Lighting design & DSM	- Hester Penny
First player	- Rick Procter-Lane	Set design	- Lucy Ross
Laertes	- Hannah Rousell	Sound consultant	- Peter Spence
The Ghost	- Tim Whitten	Stage manager & props	- Eszter Vazz

THE GOAT, OR WHO IS SYLVIA? By Edward Albee

7 – 11 JULY 2020

Directed by Adam Church



In Edward Albee's most daring, provocative play since *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, Martin is at the pinnacle of life: he has a loving wife and son, a hugely successful career as an architect and the commission of a lifetime. But when he embarks upon an improbable and impossible love affair from which there is no return, he must face the dizzying, explosive consequences — events that will destroy his family and leave his life in tatters.

"Every civilisation sets limits to its tolerances. It is my hope that people will think afresh about whether the values they hold are valid." Edward Albee

Join us for the launch night of this Tony Award winning, darkly comic masterpiece by Edward Albee **on Sunday 8th March 2020 at 7:30pm.**

We're looking for technical and backstage people, as well as actors to take on the following challenging roles:

Martin (Male – Playing Age 40-50)

Stevie (Female – Playing Age 40-50)

Billy (Male – Playing Age 18)

Ross (Male – Playing Age 40-50)

Everyone is welcome to attend. We'll be auditioning for the roles on **Tuesday March 10th at 7:30pm.**

The script and audition pieces will be going up on the Kelvin website soon!

If you have any questions, or would like to be involved but can't make the launch night, please contact me at: adamjchurch@gmail.com

Adam Church

WANTED!

The APC are ready for submissions for the 2021 season.

If you are thinking about proposing a play for 2021, stop thinking about it and just do it!

We are looking for top-quality submissions from visionary directors. Kelvin has a reputation for staging fresh, dynamic and creative theatre and we would like to uphold that reputation.

You may also wish to submit a play for the Tobacco Factory Theatre slot, currently scheduled for May 2021 (exact dates tbc). Please take into consideration the performance space at TFT – if you would like to chat more about this, please get in touch!

You have until 1st May 2020 to submit your plays. Please fill in the proposal form on the members' website as fully as possible, and send it to me along with a copy of the play (preferably online though a hard copy is acceptable). If you have any questions about your eligibility to direct, or about the submissions process, please check out the members' website or send me an email.

I look forward to reading your submissions!

Fran Lewis

artisticdirector@kelvinplayers.co.uk

What plays would YOU like to see performed at Kelvin?

The APC are looking to update their Recommended List of plays!

Are we producing the sort of theatre that you like?

Are there any plays that you've seen recently that you think we could do?

What play do you like best in all the world that Kelvin hasn't done yet?

If you have answers to the above questions, then let us know! We want to add some titles to the Recommended List of plays that the APC curates, so that directors in search of inspiration can peruse at their leisure. Plus, we just really like hearing about plays that might tickle our fancies.

Please get in touch by emailing APC member Simon Shorrock on simonshorrock@hotmail.com

Thank you in anticipation of your invaluable input!

Fran Lewis

Artistic Director

BIG SHINY DIRECTING OPPORTUNITY!

Hey directors! Fancy directing a BIG SHINY SHOW at one of the best theatres in Bristol/the South West/the entire known universe??

I don't mean our own Studio Theatre, though of course you may propose big, shiny plays for that, too, if you wish (more on that later) – no, I'm talking about the **Tobacco Factory Theatres**, one of the premier professional theatrical venues outside of London!

After the huge successes of our previous TFT shows *Tartuffe* and *Anne Boleyn*, they have invited us back to perform in the **May 2021** slot (exact dates tbc) – so, the APC (Artistic Programming Committee) are simply sitting back and awaiting the noble and insightful submissions from our esteemed gang of experienced directors, in order to select the very best to represent our awesome club in this exciting venture.

Please note, we are not suggesting a theme or specific scripts; we are very keen to hear which plays YOU think would suit that venue, and our club.

You will need to bear in mind things like:

- The TFT space – e.g. low ceilings, in the round

- Their programming schedule – what sort of plays do they produce?

- Our club membership – ideally cast size would be 10 plus, with equal m/f split

- Technical aspects – consider carefully what tech requirements you'll need, and whether they are in our capabilities

I would be very happy to discuss any initial ideas you may have, and if you have any questions about the venue itself, please have a chat with the inestimable Ralf Togneri (*Tartuffe*) or the effervescent Jacqs Graham (*Anne Boleyn*), or the magnificent Teri Mohiuddin (who was Production Manager for both), who I'm sure will be able to assuage your concerns.

The closing date for submissions is **1st May 2020**, with shortlisting and pitching a bit earlier than usual as the TFT have print deadlines.

If all this is a bit too shiny and in-yer-face, then never fear, as we are obviously still accepting proposals for the rest of Kelvin's 2021 season, to be held at our very own epic Studio Theatre. There will be some more news on that very soon (ooh... mysterious) but for now, please keep in the back of your minds (not too near the back – maybe more the middle) that the APC are open to submissions and are looking forward to seeing what comes our way.

We are looking for top-quality submissions from visionary directors. Kelvin has a reputation for staging fresh, dynamic and creative theatre and we would like to uphold that reputation!

Please fill in the proposal form as fully as possible, and send it to me along with a copy of the play (preferably online though a hard copy is acceptable). If you have any questions about your eligibility to direct, or about the submissions process, please check out the members' website or get in touch.

Many thanks

Fran Lewis

artisticdirector@kelvinplayers.co.uk

New Members

The New Year brings a wealth of gifted new members anxious to start honing their skills in the Kelvin machine, so I call on team leaders to search out new blood and put it to the grind-stone. Perhaps I'll leave this metaphor, sounds like torture and a bit messy but you know what I mean.

Andy Cotton

We welcome back Andy who some of you will know well. He hasn't furnished me with any details of his recent doings so I can't tell you much other than he's a jolly nice chap and very friendly.

Peter Cottell

Lived in Cardiff till 2009, acted in many plays, including Shakespeare's as Mac-Duff and Petruchio. He got into musicals when he moved to Bristol in 2009 but has performed in straight drama for Ship and Castle. Performed for BAOS and BLOC amongst others. Directed for BAOS adults and youth and Ivy Arts. Directing party entertainment for Christmas party company for 2019. A career change 6 years ago saw him as a part time freelance drama teacher, working with youth around Bristol and beyond. He has written plays that were performed in Cardiff and at Edinburgh Fringe.

Soraya Moghadass

Soraya has recently moved to Bristol and is keen to get involved in Kelvin life after having had experience on stage and behind the scenes in other companies. She is very enthusiastic and enjoys working on shows. She will also be an asset to the bar and has worked on social committees.

Gill Cowen

Gill has acted in lots of productions with St Albans Players and CADS. She has been stage manager twice and helps with costumes. She has won awards in the One Act Festival and been nominated for Best Actress in The Rosebowl Awards.

She has written her first play and put it on at The Alma and is planning more writing in the future.

She is enthusiastic, conscientious and has a sense of humour.

Peter Conway-Hughes

Peter is a very practical guy who has joined to get involved with backstage activities such as set construction, lighting and sound. Although he has some experience of stage construction for his percussion band he is keen to learn some new skills. He is great at DIY and has restored a 14ft rowing boat.

He will also undertake some front of house duties if required.

Humphrey Lloyd

Humphrey has done historical re-enactments of mummers plays from a young age. With his troupe, The Suffolk Howlers, he's written and performed in many plays at historic houses, festivals and historical events. Together with friends he writes and performs a lively play for Bon Fire nights including effergy and fireworks, in the absurd tradition of the mummers. He studied literature and has read a lot of the classics of our dramatic cannon, particularly from the renaissance period.

He is a lively, enthusiastic, easy going guy who is also a folk musician playing the wooden flute and irish bag pipes.

Alina Foster Flaherty

We are delighted to welcome Alina daughter of Jonny Wilkinson to the company. She will bring humour, youth, imagination and music to the company and is about to do a stage combat workshop. She wishes to gain experience in more genres of theatre.

Wendy Walmsley

An experienced actor and team player with 25 years experience, she joined Kelvin for the high standard of our production and the fact that we have our own acting space.

Wendy is also a writer who has produced, coached and directed for schools and she has written plays including a one act performed in the Bristol festival.

Jolyon Wolfin

Jolyon trained as an actor (30+ years ago!) at Webber-Douglas and gained some professional experience touring in TIE, panto, fringe productions etc. He performed several times at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival whilst at university and after his one year post graduate diploma at Webber. Over the next 25 years he taught Drama in schools, returning to acting and directing when he moved to Bristol in 2014 and joined St Ursula Players. He has acted in ten and directed two shows at St Ursula Players.

He has thoroughly enjoyed many Kelvin productions and been impressed by the attitude and production values of the company. He would like now to broaden his horizons, meet some new people and work in a different space.

He approaches rehearsals with energy and focus and tries to connect with and support fellow cast members. He also has a first aid certificate.

Hannah Long

Hannah used to act regularly in the past doing lots fringe theatre in London. A baby son came along in 2014 and she hasn't been able to do it for a few years. She now wants to get her confidence back and return to the stage. Looking forward to working with lovely people, she is a team player both passionate and supportive.

Phil Joyner (membership secretary)

DIARY DATES

AT-A-GLANCE

FEBRUARY

1st Saturday: **Rehearsed Readings** winter launch night. 7pm

11th Tuesday - Saturday 15th: ***The Children*** in performance. Studio.

29th Saturday **Rehearsed readings, 7.30pm**

Alex Needham ***Helter Skelter*** by Neil LaBute

Nicola Essex ***Tiny Beautiful Things*** by Nia Vardalos

29th Saturday **11am & 2pm** Charlotte Whitten & Fran Lewis in **Mr Gotalot's Gotalot Shop Cheese Party** (for ages 3—10) at Wardrobe Theatre, Old Market.

MARCH

8th Sunday **Launch Night for *The Goat*** by Edward Albee, 7.30pm.

10th Tuesday **Auditions for *The Goat*, 7.30pm**

28th Saturday **Rehearsed readings, 7.30pm**

Angela Markham & Rosie Closs ***The Truth*** by Florian Zeller

Fiona Morrison ***A Song At Twilight*** by Noel Coward

29th Sunday - Deadline for copy for the April—May *Jester*

Reminder from Anne Gilmour at The Little Theatre Guild

A reminder to members of the 2020 LTG National Conference at The Questors Theatre in Ealing, London, 17th – 19th April.

All the best for the season.

Anne Gilmour

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