



The Jester

October – November 2015

www.kelvinplayers.co.uk

Charity no. 294367

The Official Kelvin Players Newsletter

Kelvin Players Theatre Company

Annual General Meeting



Abigail's Party – *Invitations sent*



2016 Season – *Ghosts and Orphans*



Cardenio – *Braceo for Shakespeare*

If you would like to send in an article or idea to The Jester, then please e-mail or call Andy Cotton:

jester@kelvinplayers.co.uk

07706652436

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Message from the Editor



Greetings, my fellow Kelvinites! Welcome to the newest edition of the Jester – the AGM Autumn Edition...

With summer gone, it's subscription time once again, and the plans are out for next year!

Firstly, I'd like to reiterate my thanks to all of the Kelvin membership who voted for me in the category of Best Male Acting Performance. I am very grateful and honoured, particularly with such a strong level of nominations. Well done to everyone who was nominated across all of the categories. It has been a really strong year for shows.

On to the Jester...

I know that I promised a 'bumper' edition, however, as you can imagine during the summer the productions stop, and content is difficult to come by.

That said, I would like to know of any suggestions for anything else that can be added to the Jester for next year. I started my first edition with a crossword, and this appeared to be popular with some.

I am sorry that I have not been able to fill subsequent editions out with similar fun pieces. If I am able to juggle my work time a little more successfully, I will try and put some more in from the next edition.

As a reminder, you can e-mail me at the address on the front page, or contact me through Facebook if you prefer that method. All links in the e-Jester **should** take you where you need to go!

As always, a huge thank you to the regular contributors to the Jester. Remember, if there is something that you want in the Jester, let me know. It's your newsletter!



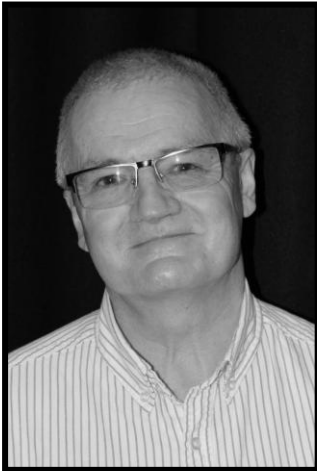
Tired of black and white?

Then, why not try colour!



Have your full-coloured version of The Jester sent direct to your e-mail!

Message from the Chair



Thank you to everyone who turned up for the Bar opening and AGM or sent their apologies, it was an excellent turnout.



Congratulations to all who were nominated for an award, the width and range of talent of those included was very high, which says a lot about the quality of work being produced by the Club.

A Full Committee

I am delighted to say that for the first time in some years we now have a full committee. I should like to thank Lizzie Nicholson for taking on the role of Secretary, Anna Wills as our new Membership Development Officer,

and Rachael Lane who joins as member without portfolio.

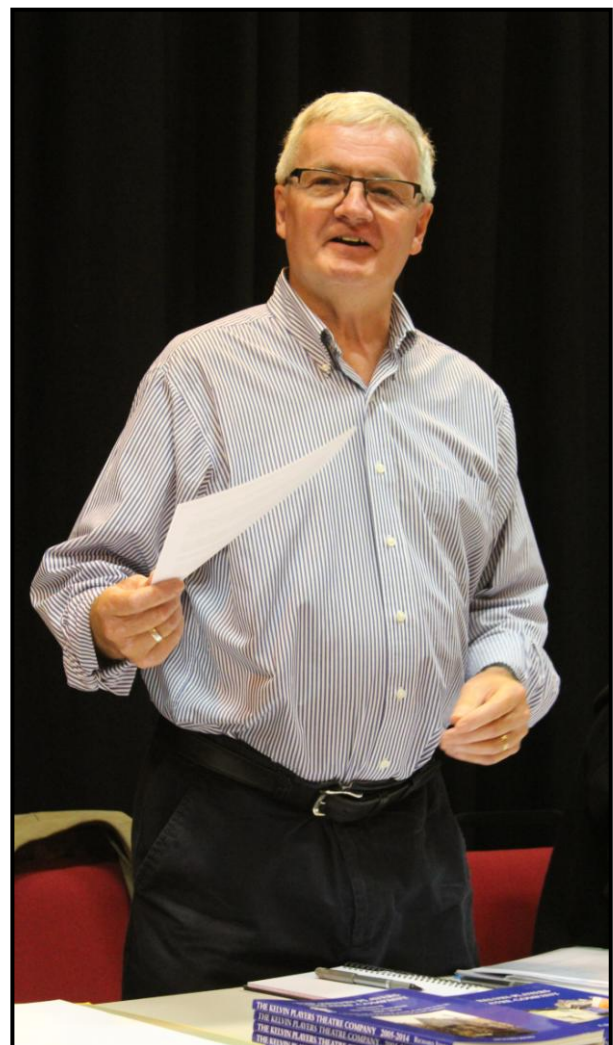
I would also like to thank Josh Cooper and the members of the APC for delivering what promises to be an exciting and challenging season of plays for 2016.

Amongst the many who work so hard to make Kelvin the Club that it is, I wish to draw particular attention to Denise Jones. Denise has worked tirelessly as Club Treasurer for the past 19 years, making this her 20th year in office. On behalf of the Club, thank you Denise.

Cheers



Robin Turner
chair@kelvinplayers.co.uk



Cardenio

14-17 and 21-24 October 2015



Director Jonny Wilkinson gives us an update on the rehearsals and crewing for his production of *Cardenio*.

As I write, rehearsals are going brilliantly. We have a cast of 14 of whom 7 are brand spanking shiny and new members. All cast, old and new are doing brilliantly.

“Award Winning Crew”

Award Winning costumier, Chrissy Fryers, as usual is doing an amazing job on beautiful (Spanish) Elizabethan costumes, with the added hurdle of making men’s costumes for five of our lady actors.

Award winning, Andy Payne, with his stalwart award winning team are building two enormous walls which Award winning designer Robin Turner will be painting.

Catherine Alcock is pulling together a bunch of props with the assistance of Award Winning Kate Buchan (Catherine’s only just joined, so hasn’t yet had a chance at the awards).

Music production by Paul Dyson (mentored by Award Winning Peter Spence) will include original music composed by Anna Wills (again too new for any awards yet).

All in all you might say it’s an award winning production – let’s hope so.

Tickets are moving so get yours now!





Jonny Wilkinson
Director

Abigail's Party

8-12 December 2015



**Director Susan
Lawrence brings
us up-to-date
with the casting
for her
production of
Abigail's Party.**

A little top up for you all....

As I write, auditions have been completed and Call Backs about to happen. The cast will shortly be revealed.

Thanks to everyone who came to show interest, have a nose, or try out for a part.

The show will be Kelvin's Christmas production – full of humour, cringe, and cheese & pineapple....

Back stage roles

There are a lot of back stage roles still available, so please e-mail me if you'd like to offer your support, or are interested for this production.

**e: susan_lawrence_evaluation@yahoo.co.uk
Mob: 0705 095 6156**

It will be 'smashin', yeah'...

Susan Lawrence
Director

The APC



**Artistic Director
Josh Cooper
enlightens us to
the next set of
productions to hit
the Kelvin stage.**

The author and motivational speaker Simon Sinek has said that, “There is no decision we can make that doesn’t come with some sort of balance or sacrifice.”

So it is with the selection of a new Kelvin season, where several potentially interesting options must make way to accommodate a balanced selection of plays.

Having said this, I feel that the APC have chosen another exciting and stimulating season for the club which will offer the membership a wide range of opportunities.

As always we offer our thanks to all directors who proposed a play this year, and we had to whittle down 14 proposals for the 5 available slots. Without these proposals, we would have nothing to debate and, whilst I know some directors will be disappointed not to have been chosen on this occasion, I for one am proud that Kelvin has such strong reserves of established and developing directing talent which keeps the club in a strong position and the quality of productions impressively high.

There were several plays we didn’t select despite the APC all really enjoying them, and as ever the balancing of the season is very

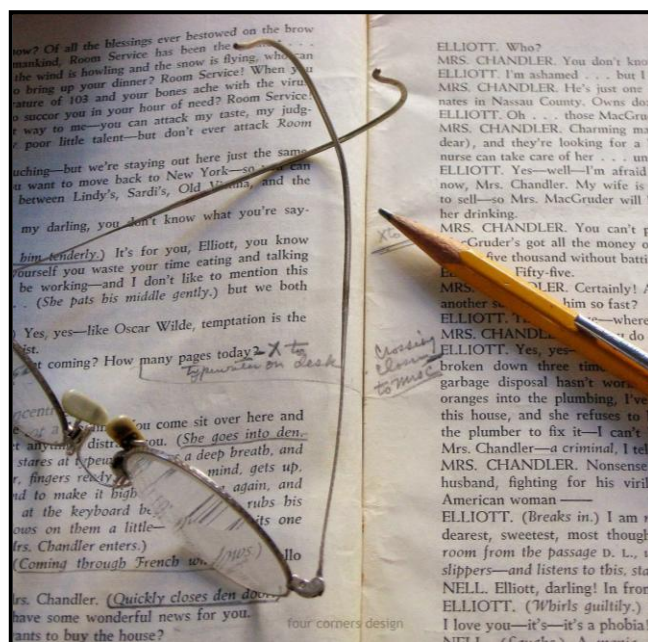
tricky and I hope my Jester article in the last issue helped you to understand the large number of factors we have to consider.

“A Wealth of Possibilities”

The 2016 season offers a wealth of possibilities for many different types of performers. Across the 5 plays there are 19 female roles, 17 male roles, a chorus, 3 puppeteers and a violinist! The roles cover a range of ages and we have two new directors entering the fray.

Interestingly this year all of our submissions were of plays written post-1950. However, we still have 3 period pieces, a dark modern play, a classic adaptation, a work by one of Britain’s most famous living playwrights, a large fish being gutted on stage, a modern medieval epic, an accessible comedy drama, a politically tinged tragedy and a big family Christmas show.

The season is as follows:



The 2016 Season

February 2016 – A Black Box Double Bill

The River by Jez Butterworth (dir. Sam Skelton) – a poetic and mysterious modern play by the author of Jerusalem.

Orphans by Dennis Kelly (dir. Craig Malpass) – a powerful and dark morality tale which asks questions about modern attitudes to race and social care.

As before, the Black Box production will continue to utilize cast members from one production as technical crew on the other to expand Kelvin members skill sets, and each of the new directors will have an experienced mentor to assist them in their development.

NB. Both of these plays are just over an hour long and given they are published plays we are not able to cut them down. Given the length restrictions of performances at the Bristol One Act festival we cannot enter either of these plays, so regrettably we will not be entering the festival this year.

April 2016

The Secret Rapture by David Hare (dir. Bob Havard) – first performed by Kelvin in 1995, this modern family tragedy remains relevant today as it explores the impact of a Conservative government on private interests and personal relations.

July 2016

Di & Viv & Rose by Amelia Bullmore (dir. Jacqs Graham) - a heartwarming and funny look at the developing friendship of three women from university to middle age.

October 2016

James III: The True Mirror by Rona Munro (dir. Mary McCallum) – touring professionally in early 2016, this will be one of the first non-professional productions of the final part of the National Theatre of Scotland's highly acclaimed historical trilogy.

December 2016

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens adapted by Neil Bartlett (dir. Robin Turner) – Using a strong ensemble cast, musicians, puppeteers and a script taken directly from the original text, this adaptation promises to be a popular family Christmas entertainment.

Probable Matinee performances on Saturday & Sunday of run.

I would like to thank the mostly new APC for their hard work reading, circulating and discussing of plays together and with the directors at pitching. Without their counsel we'd probably have a load of avant-garde tosh that I like.

I would like to conclude by saying that the 2017 Kelvin season is now open for submissions! As with this year the deadline for proposals will be 1st May 2016.

Keep your eyes peeled in the Jester & Digest for a potential idea for a themed season for 2017 in the next few months.

Joshua Cooper
Artistic Director
artisticdirector@kelvinplayers.co.uk
07947354227

The APC are: Anna Barry, Josh Cooper, Jacqs Graham, Fran Lewis, Sam Skelton, Peter Spence and Robin Turner.

Insider's Look

The Ultimate Guide to the Backstage World

It has been suggested that members might like to have a little of an overview of things that happen behind the scenes.

Many members don't get involved much 'backstage' and it was thought beneficial to let people know how things work so that there is more of an understanding of roles and procedures. Anna Wills is working with me and Robin to update the production pack (available on Members' website) and as an initial salvo has prepared a document setting out ideal departmental structures and roles. It's a big document so I'm going to drip feed you.

Here's the way the Role Descriptions might look:

Role Descriptions

These Role Descriptions are in line with professional commercial theatre and are intended as a guideline. Should any Kelvin Creative, Production or Stage Management Teams wish to reallocate and/or combine responsibilities, that is entirely at their discretion but all roles do need to be assigned in some form.

The Production Team

Production Manager

The Production Manager is responsible for overseeing the work of the production team in the lead up to the show. They schedule and lead all production meetings and liaise with both creative and stage management teams to ensure that everything is moving forwards. The Production Manager is responsible for creating the production schedule from get-in to get-out and is responsible for overseeing all of the practical/technical departments. The

Production Manager will be required for the rig, focus and plot sessions and will jointly lead the technical rehearsal with the Director Stage Manager and DSM. During the tech:

- The Director flags up/deals with any element requiring creative input, for example cues happening too early or any tweaks to the sound or lighting states required.
- The Stage Manager flags up/deals with any element back stage that needs attention, such as quick changes, props placement, scene changes etc.
- The production manager flags up/deals with any technical elements of the show such as doors not opening properly in the set, problems with lights or sound equipment etc.
- The DSM communicates with the various operators to cue them appropriately and to keep them up to speed during stops with where we are in the script, what we're doing and then picks up the cues once ready to move on.

The Production Manager should receive rehearsal and show reports and be responsible for passing on actions to the relevant departments. Should a show move from one venue to another, the Production Manager will often be responsible for co-ordinating this.

Wardrobe Department

The head of wardrobe is responsible for taking the designs and ideas from the costume designer and making them a reality. The wardrobe department is responsible for making, buying and hiring any elements of costume required. For this reason, measurements of cast and fittings will be led by wardrobe and arranged via liaison with the Stage Manager. The roles of costume designer and head of wardrobe department are often combined.

Construction Manager

The Construction Manager is responsible for taking the designs and ideas produced by the set designer and making them a reality. The construction manager leads their construction team to build any scenery and large props and liaises with the lighting and sound designers if any 'practicals' are required. (A practical is a lighting or sound fixture which is part of the set but which actually works for example wall light fittings in a room set which need to light up.) In the Kelvin scenario, the construction manager should have a good understanding of flattage and other basics owned by the club which can be re-used, and re-dressed.

Construction Team

The construction team work with the construction manager to build elements of the set.

Chief LX

The Chief LX (chief electrician) is responsible for taking the design and ideas from the lighting designer. The term electrician used in this context simply refers to someone responsible for the electrical elements rather than a qualified electrician. The Chief LX will ensure that the hanging plot is adhered to during the rigging session and will often lead the practical elements of the focus session. The Chief LX will also be responsible for the patch plan and hiring of any additional lanterns and effects required for the show. Pyrotechnics, haze and smoke also fall under this remit. The Chief LX will be responsible for plotting cues into the desk during the plot session. The Roles of Lighting Designer and Chief LX are often combined.

Board Op

The Board Operator will operate the lighting desk during a performance. The Board Op will be cued by the DSM and will also be responsible for warming the up the lanterns

and performing a lamp check prior to each performance. They may also be responsible for powering up and powering down the dimmers.

Head of Sound

The head of sound sometimes reports to the Chief LX as part of their department and sometimes does not. The Head of Sound is responsible for running any speaking or xlr cabling required to transmit sound from the desk to any speakers positioned in and around the auditorium. This may well be fixed for most productions but there may also be the necessity for speakers to be placed within the set (practicals as previously mentioned) and the Head of Sound will be responsible for this. The Head of Sound will also be responsible for setting levels of any sound and music cues during the plot session.

Sound Op

The Sound Operator will operate the sound during a production, both operating sound sources such as CD players or i-pods and mixing cues using the sound desk. The sound op may also be responsible for powering up and powering down any racks and equipment required each night. In the case of Kelvin, the sound operator also makes auditorium announcements. (Back stage calls, front of house calls and audience announcements would usually be done by the DSM).

Paint Shop / Scenic Art

The paint shop/ or scenic artists are responsible for following the designs created by the set designer and making them into reality. This can involve painting/decorating pieces of scenery built by the construction team, painting and decorating any hand-made props and painting floors and cloths.

More next Jester



Jonny Wilkinson
Company Stage Manager
stage@kelvinplayers.co.uk

Studio News

If you attended the AGM, you will hopefully have noticed that the bar redevelopment was being formally opened by our glorious Chair, Robin. It's getting there.



'Re-carpeted'

You won't have failed to notice that the hall, stairs, Morton Room and Harrison room have been re-carpeted throughout with special non-slip flooring around the bar itself.

There's still work to be done finishing off the bar but it's nearly there.

If you're interested in helping with set construction (or indeed major building works), let me know and I let you know if/when we can use you. Construction Team generally meets on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7:30 until 10:00 ish.

The *Cardenio* set is coming along nicely but, the set for *Abigail's Party* (directed by Susan Lawrence - 8th to 12th December), designed by Joe Tellett, needs to be built. In fact, we're still looking for a willing volunteer to manage the construction. If you're interested in managing construction (being mentored through the process), let me know as soon as possible.

There is still tons to be done with improving the building constantly. If you see anything that niggles, let me know (except for installing the washing machine!).



Jonny Wilkinson
Company Stage Manager
stage@kelvinplayers.co.uk

The Digest



Diligent Digest Editor, Bob Havard, has a reminder for how to make use of Kelvin's e-mail updates.

The Digest, as its title implies, is a digest of news that may be of interest to members.

It sends out news about Kelvin, and Kelvin events, requests for support on our shows, Rehearsed Readings, other non-professional company shows, training and learning opportunities, casting opportunities in other companies, film and TV, and more.

The news items need to be fairly short, and to the point. If submissions are longer than half a page of A4, I may get back to the author, if time allows, or get my virtual scissors out and cut or precis an item.

On occasion, my pedantic streak comes out and corrects spellings, or gets back to the author when key information seems to be missing.

I usually send out Digest on most Sunday mornings. The deadline for items is midnight on Saturday. On rare occasions, late or urgent news can go out during the week in Interim Digests.

If you need to know more or want to post an item at some point please send an email to me.



Bob Havard
Digest Editor
digest@kelvinplayers.co.uk

Membership News



Our Membership Secretary Mandi Bailey-Turner brings us news of the newest recruits to the Kelvin family.

Delphine Delansay

Delphine brings a 'bit of frenchness' to the Club. She has experience in the fields of graphic design and illustration. She likes DIY, painting and crafts and is very happy to help build and paint sets. She used to play piano in a band. She is quite nervous of going on stage but wants to 'step out of her comfort zone'. She describes herself as a newbie; fresh and ready to learn! Jonny has taken her up on this and she has now been cast in *Cardenio*!

Jennifer Jope

Jenny was looking for a drama group to get involved with and heard from actor friends in Bristol that Kelvin was the 'bee's knees'! Jenny performed in lots of shows when she was at University and for the last 18 months she has been a member of the Bristol Improv Theatre Network. She also has some experience leading workshops, directing, producing and lighting. She can bring fun, creativity and the membership fee (her words!) to the Club.

Robbie McGirr

Robbie has joined Kelvin because he yearns for experience in stage performance and is passionate about acting. He hopes that his keen and enthusiastic attitude will help him to get involved in all areas of the Club.

Nina Nazir

Nina chose to join Kelvin after looking at our website and hearing good thing about the quality of our productions. She has an arts and theatre background having worked for professional theatres in the past. She has experience in performance, production, make-up and costumes. She loves the feeling of getting 'stuck-in' with a production and the creative 'making it happen' process. She is interested in developing her skills both on and off the stage.

Adebomi Olaitan

Ade used to be a member of the Apollo Players. She has experience of acting, backstage work and front of house. She is very enthusiastic about all aspects of the Arts. She is interested in directing but would first like to gain experience as an Assistant Director.

Lucy Payne

Lucy has experience in professional theatre and has a Degree in Drama and Creative Writing. She is enthusiastic and can contribute to productions in any way she is needed. She has done some backstage work and considers herself to be 'relatively knowledgeable' about mainstream theatre. She is looking forward to meeting people and getting involved.

Mandi Bailey-Turner
Membership Secretary
kelvinplayers_membership@hotmail.com

AGM Awards



A major point in the Annual General Meeting is the presentation of awards to the actors, directors and backstage crew in recognition of the parts they have played in the company's success for the year.

This year also saw the Committee present the rare honour of lifetime membership to Jonny Wilkinson, in recognition of the time and energy that he has consistently put into numerous Kelvin shows, as well as helping to update the studio premises.

The Member of the Year 2014/15

Claire Moulds

The June Wilson Cup for the Best Cameo of the Year

Pat Needham, as Sue Bayliss in *All My Sons*

The Milton Johns Award for Best Male Acting Performance

Andy Cotton, as Ray in *Glory Dazed*

The Higson Award for Best Female Acting Performance

Jacqs Graham, as Kate Keller in *All My Sons*

The Vice-Presidents' Cup for Best Supporting Performance

Rosie Collins, as Leanne in *Glory Dazed*

The Kelvin Players Award for Best Director

Mary McCallum, for *All My Sons*

The Harrison Award for Technical Achievement

Chrissy Fryers

The Tim Stevens Award for Rehearsed Reading of the Year

Josh Cooper, for *Two*



Jacqs Graham, Mary McCallum and Chrissy Fryers holding the Higson Award, the Kelvin Players Award, and the Harrison Award respectively



Andy Cotton was this year's winner of the Milton Johns Award for the Best Male Acting Performance



Pat Needham holding her award of the June Wilson Cup for the Best Cameo of the Year



Rosie Collins' was unable to attend the AGM to receive her award, which was picked up by Glory Dazed director, Alex Needham

Jonny Wilkinson was given an honorary lifetime membership for the time and effort he has put into the theatre company













If you have a notice that you want to appear in the next edition of the Jester, send me copy of the text that you would like to appear, along with contact details and a photo.

jester@kelvinplayers.co.uk

Deadline for submissions is 21 November 2015

Dates for the Calendar

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE	CONTACT
Sun 11 Oct	09:30	Get in: CARDENIO	Studio Theatre	Director: Jonny Wilkinson
Wed 14 to Sat 17 Oct	19:30	CARDENIO: Week One 	Studio Theatre	Director: Jonny Wilkinson
Wed 21 to Sat 24 Oct	19:30	CARDENIO: Week Two 	Studio Theatre	Director: Jonny Wilkinson
Sun 25 Oct	09:30	Get out: CARDENIO	Studio Theatre	Director: Jonny Wilkinson
Sat 31 Oct	19:30	Rehearsed Readings: THE MARTIAN CHRONICLES // SUNDAY MORNING AT THE CENTRE OF THE WORLD 	Studio Hall	Organiser: Rick Procter
Sat 21 Nov	23:59	 SUBMISSION DEADLINE		Editor: Andy Cotton
Sat 28 Nov	19:30	Rehearsed Readings: BLUEPRINT // IMMACULATE 	Studio Hall	Organiser: Rick Procter
Sun 6 Dec	09:30	Get in: ABIGAIL'S PARTY	Studio Theatre	Director: Susan Lawrence
Tues 8 to Sat 12 Dec	19:30	ABIGAIL'S PARTY 	Studio Theatre	Director: Susan Lawrence
Sun 13 Dec	09:30	Get out: ABIGAIL'S PARTY	Studio Theatre	Director: Susan Lawrence
16-20 Feb 2016		BLACK BOX DOUBLE: THE RIVER // ORPHANS 		Directors: Sam Skelton and Craig Malpass
19-23 Apr 2016		THE SECRET RAPTURE 		Director: Bob Havard
12-16 Jul 2016		DI AND VIV AND ROSE 		Director: Jacqs Graham
11-15 Oct 2016		JAMES III: THE TRUE MIRROR 		Director: Mary McCallum