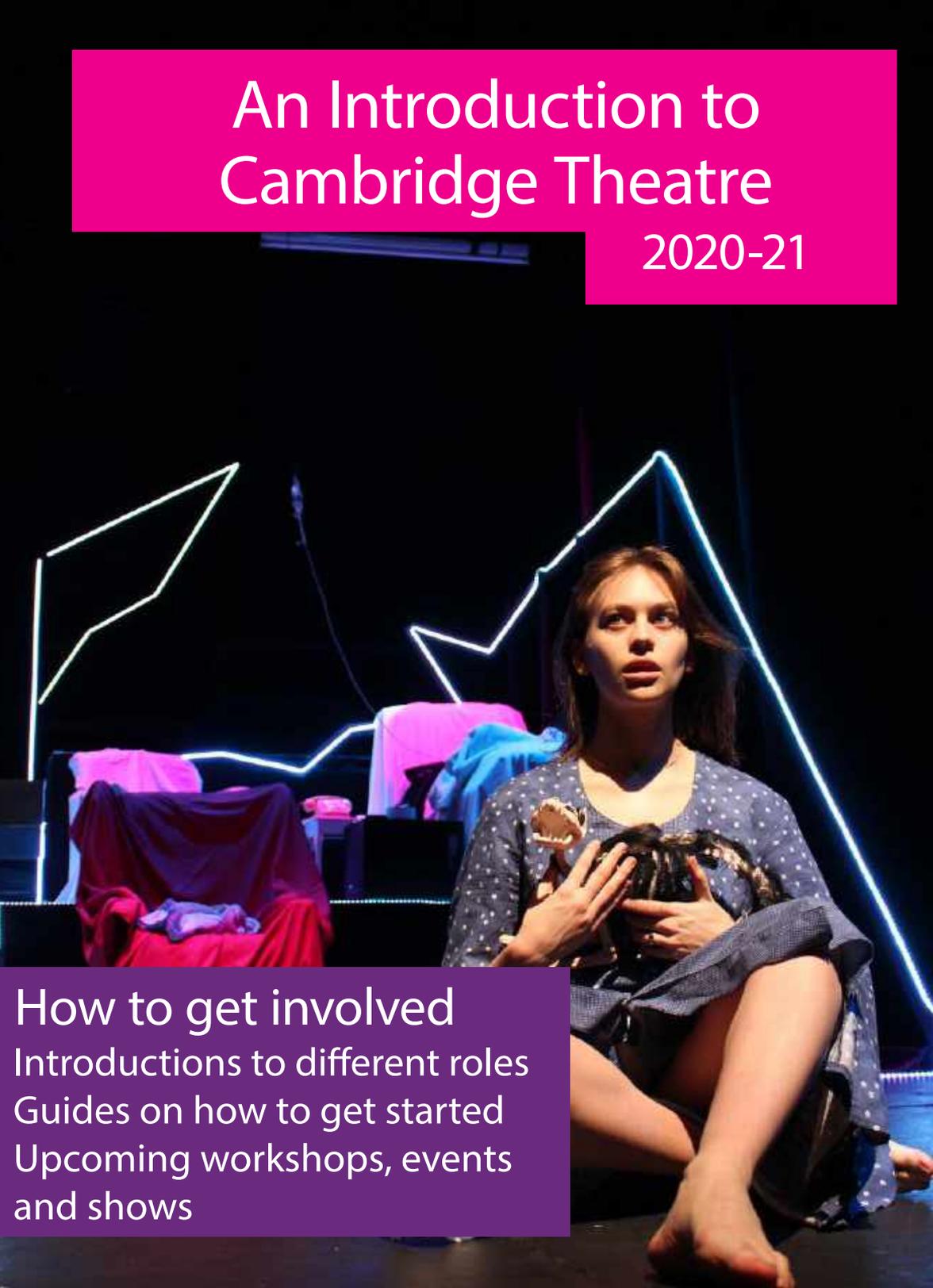


An Introduction to Cambridge Theatre

2020-21

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a blue polka-dot dress, is sitting on a dark stage. She is holding a small black dog. The background features neon lights in white and blue, forming abstract shapes. There are several chairs or pieces of furniture covered with red and blue fabric on the stage.

How to get involved
Introductions to different roles
Guides on how to get started
Upcoming workshops, events
and shows



getting started

Welcome to Cambridge's theatre scene. With over 40 shows entirely run by students every term, the Cambridge stage is varied, vibrant and shaped by you, and there's always something to match your interests and availability. From stand-up comedy to musicals, Greek tragedy to new writing, pantomime to ballet, the Cambridge theatre scene provides opportunities to actors, directors and comedians, as well as hugely rewarding jobs in technical theatre, production and design.

This booklet lays out all the different roles available in Cambridge theatre and offers advice on how best to get involved in each of them. It's produced by the Cambridge University Amateur Dramatic Club, the oldest and largest theatrical society in Cambridge, alongside the Management team of the ADC Theatre. Our committee includes an experienced representative for every aspect of theatrical life, who will be very glad to answer questions and offer advice.

It couldn't be easier to get involved in the theatre scene: look out for auditions and adverts for technical positions on camdram.net and the Cambridge Theatre Facebook group (bit.ly/cam-theatre). Weekly email lists can be subscribed to at cuadc.org/get-involved.

We will be running a Q&A on the 9th where we will give more information about the Freshers' Plays later this term. Video auditions will open on Tuesday 6th October and remain open until Wednesday 14th October. Sign ups for backstage roles including Lighting and Sound design, Stage Management, Set Design and Building, Live Streaming Video Director and live camera operators, and Costume Designer will also open on Tuesday 6th October, and you can sign up for a chat on a doodle poll. These are informal five minute discussions to talk about what you are interested in doing backstage. These will be on Friday 16th and Saturday 17th, from 2-4pm, with the sign-up link being <https://bit.ly/3ldxjh5>. Finally for Directing and Producing, the doodle poll link is <https://bit.ly/3lovD4w>, and you can sign up for a 20 minute slot. We're so excited to see you all for a new year of shows and socials!



Use the QR code to sign up to our mailing lists for more information!

how does cambridge theatre work?

This booklet is here to help you understand the different places and societies and that you might come across.

Instead of having a single theatrical society, Cambridge has many. Many of the colleges run a theatrical society, like the Pembroke Players (Pembroke) and Fletcher Players (Corpus Christi). There are also larger societies operating between colleges: Cambridge University Amateur Dramatic Club (CUADC) is the largest and oldest, and is a resident company at the ADC Theatre. The Cambridge Footlights are the world-famous comedy troupe that run a sketch show named a Smoker every two weeks. Cambridge University Musical Theatre Society produces musicals, including Ordinary Days this coming term.

Most of these societies are funding bodies: they provide money to directors and producers, who build their own company, rather than having a permanent company who take part in every show.

If you want to put on a show in Cambridge, applications open midway through the term before. You can apply as a producer, director or actor, and you'll be interviewed by an applications panel where you will pitch your idea. If they like your pitch, you'll be assigned a slot for the next term! You can then apply to the theatre societies for funding. More information can be seen on the Put on Your Own Show page (p. 23).





diversity in theatre

Cambridge Theatre strives to be an environment where everyone is represented and valued. Send an email to Ross, the CUADC Social and Outreach Officer, at outreach@cuadc.org if you have any questions.

The LGBTQ+ scene in Cambridge theatre is large and welcoming. LGBTQ+ productions have been staged more and more often in recent years, especially with the founding of the Cambridge University Queer Players. We'll be creating and hosting dedicated group chats for members of the LGBTQ+ community who wish to get involved with theatre, administered as a safe space by Ross and Isobel. Check the Facebook group or scan the QR code to get involved!

Find links to Cambridge Theatre Facebook groups at cuadc.org/resources





Scan the QR code to be signed up to one of our group chats!

The Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) theatre community has also grown over the past few years, with numerous BAME shows each term and plenty of opportunities both on and offstage. You can find the link to the BAME Theatre Facebook group on our Resources page (cuadc.org/resources), where you can find opportunities posted for vacancies on and off stage, as well as discussion of BAME theatre in Cambridge. CUADC will also be hosting a BAME freshers group chat administered by Sameer so feel free to sign up and meet some other students virtually!

We're keen to encourage women and non-binary people to get involved in all aspects of Cambridge theatre, especially technical theatre: from Lighting and Sound Designers to Stage Managers and Technical Directors, there are loads of exciting opportunities to get involved. If you would be interested in being part of a female and non binary techie group chat then we'll get you signed up - you absolutely don't need any experience to get started in any area you want. Whether you're an English student, an Art Historian, or a Natural Scientist, technical theatre is for everyone and Cambridge is the perfect place to try it out, and Bella, Ella F and Ella P are happy to talk to you in their chat!



the venues

There are two main theatre venues in Cambridge: the ADC Theatre and the Corpus Playroom. Many colleges also have their own theatres, like the Pembroke New Cellars, or the Fitzpatrick Hall in Queens' College.

The ADC Theatre is the largest student theatre space in Cambridge with 228 seats. The theatre has a large stage and there is the ability to fly in set and

lights, making it an excellent venue for people interested in more complex technical theatre. Beneath the stage is the workshop, where student technicians build the sets. The ADC also has its own clubroom, which is open only to students and is yours to use, whether as a room for production meetings, or just as a space to hang out. The ADC is found on Park Street, near Jesus Green (CB5 8AS).





The Corpus Playroom is a smaller, more intimate venue, with only 80 seats. Shows at the Playroom are generally shorter, making it a great venue for comedy and new writing. With the audience surrounding the stage on two sides, the Playroom is a great space for small-scale, intimate theatre. The Corpus Playroom can be found on 10 St Edward's Passage (CB2 3PJ), a lane off King's Parade. Due to COVID-19 restrictions we are currently not programming shows for this venue in Michaelmas, but we are hopeful that in Lent we can resume performing here!

acting

There are many opportunities to act in Cambridge. With upwards of 40 shows every term, there is something for everyone. You can find auditions listings on camdram.net or on the Cambridge Theatre Facebook page (bit.ly/cam-theatre). Most auditions happen either at the ADC Theatre, the Corpus Playroom or in one of the colleges, and there is always an email address to contact if you don't know the way. That said, for the coming term it is likely that auditions will also be hosted via Zoom, or that video auditions will be accepted via email.

If you are interested in acting in Cambridge or just want a friendly face to talk to, speak to the CUADC Actors' Reps, Emily and Matt, by emailing them at actor@cuadc.org. You can also sign up to our acting workshops on Friday the 9th and Saturday the 10th at 6pm by following this link: <https://forms.gle/uQcq6uARqGR96awy9>, or also come along to the actor breakout room Q&A on the 9th October, which will be advertised on the mailing lists and on the Facebook group.



Sign up to the actors' list to receive details of auditions by emailing actor@cuadc.org

Come along to our Zoom Q&A and workshops on the 9th and 10th of October!

stewarding



Getting involved in Cambridge theatre does not have to mean getting near the stage at all! Every show at the ADC Theatre and Corpus Playroom needs volunteer stewards. In return for checking tickets and showing people to their seats, you get to see the show for free (and sometimes a free ice cream).

To sign up for stewarding, head to stewarding.adctheatre.com. Remember to show up with plenty of time and find a replacement if you suddenly can't make it. For more information email the ADC Production Manager, Lucia, at lucia@adctheatre.com.



directing



If you have seen a play and enjoyed it, you might be interested in becoming a Director, where you work with actors and a production team to bring a creative vision to life. There are two Freshers' shows that will be looking for brand-new Directors and Assistant Directors, so make sure to sign up to an interview by contacting Phoebe at director@cuadc.org.

Many Directors also start by working as an Assistant Director to an existing show. Visit camdram.net or go to the Cambridge Theatre Facebook group (bit.ly/cam-theatre) to see which shows are looking for an Assistant Director, and make an application! If you want to find out more, contact Phoebe at director@cuadc.org.

Get Involved

Sign up to the Directors' mailing list by emailing director@cuadc.org to find out what opportunities are available for Director and Assistant Director roles.

Turn up to the Freshers Friday Q&A on the 9th of October, or follow our Facebook page to find out more about workshops and opportunities!

writing



No matter your level of experience in writing, or your preferred genre and style, there are ample opportunities at Cambridge to develop and showcase your work.



Each term, the ADC and other theatres around town accept a number of pitches from students to stage productions of full-length shows they have written themselves – but if you're more interested in putting on something shorter, there are other ways to get your writing onstage. Student drama societies regularly host nights of new writing, such as the Marlowe's HATCH Night or the Fletcher Players' Smorgasbord, which act as showcases for a number of newly written pieces on a shorter scale. professional theatre practitioners.



If you're interested in any of these when starting your writing career, and want to know more, you can email the Writers' Rep Benedict at writer@cuadc.org

producing

If you like the idea of leading a team of people to bring together a show, then you might be interested in becoming a Producer! Producers oversee the entire process of creating a show from its initial idea to its performance on-stage: recruiting a team, realising designers' ideas, co-ordinating a publicity campaign, and much more.

The Producers of all shows at the ADC Theatre and Corpus Playroom are guided through the process by the ADC Production Manager, Lucia (lucia@adctheatre.com), so you don't need experience to be a Producer, just enthusiasm!

If you have any questions at all about producing or how to get involved, you can contact the CUADC Producers' Rep, Beth, at producer@cuadc.org

Wondering where all these great photos came from? Production photography is a huge part of theatre publicity.

To get involved, join the Cambridge Theatre Photographers Facebook group (bit.ly/cam-theatre-photo) or speak to Bella (details opposite).

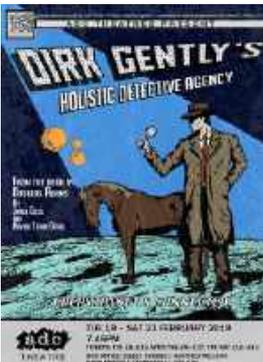
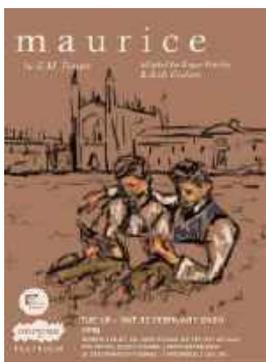


Get Involved

Sign up to the Producers' mailing list by emailing Beth at producer@cuadc.org to find out what opportunities are available.

Details for the Zoom producing workshop on the 21st October at 4pm will be posted on the Facebook page so keep tabs on what is going on there!

publicity



If you enjoy painting, drawing, or any visual art, you might want to become a Publicity Designer. Publicity Designers create the wonderful posters that advertise the shows coming up. If you've had no experience using image editing programs like Photoshop before, that's fine: the software is free to use at the ADC Theatre, and both the CUADC Publicist Bella (publicist@cuadc.org) and ADC Production Manager Lucia (lucia@adctheatre.com) will be happy to guide and help you.

If you don't think you have artistic ability but want to be a part of marketing a show, you can be a Publicist. These people work with the ADC Theatre to promote a show on social media and in the press. Contact Bella or the ADC Theatre Manager, Jamie (jamie@adctheatre.com), if you have any questions.

Send any questions to Bella at publicist@cuadc.org

Get Involved

Sign up to the Designers' list by emailing publicist@cuadc.org to find out what opportunities to be a Publicity Designer or Publicist are available.

set design



If you've ever been a dab hand at decorating at home, you might want to become a Set Designer!

The Set Designer is one of the most exciting and creative roles Cambridge theatre has to offer. Their role is to work with the Director and the Technical Director to turn a vision into a design. The sky really is the limit (even on a relatively low budget), with sets ranging from the stripped-back and surreal to the lavish and dynamic. There are many opportunities to get



involved with Set Design, from being the main designer to helping out with painting. If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact the CUADC Designers' Rep, Craig, at designer@cuadc.org.

You can sign up for a one-on-one chat with one of our theatre technicians on the 16th and 17th using the Doodle here: <https://bit.ly/3ldxjh5>

costumes



If you're the kind of person who hunts for the perfect outfit from TK Maxx, then Costume Design is the field for you!

Costume is a key element of every show: it often anchors the show to its time period and ties the production together visually. There is a well-stocked costume cupboard run by the CUADC Designers' Rep Craig (designer@cuadc.org), and Costume Designers get costumes from here, local charity shops, and make their own.

To get involved with Costume Design, look for shows advertising on Camdram (www.camdram.net). Speak to Craig at designer@cuadc.org if you have any questions.

Get Involved

Sign up to the Designers' mailing list by emailing Craig at designer@cuadc.org to find out about vacancies.

Join the Cambridge Theatre Designers' Facebook page at bit.ly/camtheatredesign



set building

Set Building is all about making the Set Designer's plans a reality, choosing your materials and using the tools and machines at the ADC Theatre to bring the world of a show to life!

The ADC Theatre has its own carpentry workshop where sets can be built. If you've never used a power tool before, don't worry: the ADC Technical Manager, Eduardo, is here to train you in their usage and give advice. Contact him at eduardo@adctheatre.com.

To become involved as a set builder, or to hear about upcoming vacancies for carpenter roles, contact the CUADC Technical Director, Sam, at td@cuadc.org.

Large-scale shows like the Pantomime will be looking for a team of builders to help build their exciting shows, so you can chip in and be a part of creating something wonderful! No prior experience in set building is necessary as you will be trained on the job. Contact Sam at td@cuadc.org for more information.



technical direction

If you're organised and enjoy the opportunity to bring together lots of different people to work on a project, then you might be keen on becoming a Technical Director.

The Technical Director ensures that all technical aspects of shows are safe, running the get-in (where the set, lighting and other technical aspects are set up) and get-out (where everything is taken down). It's a great opportunity to see how all the roles in theatre interact with each other, and is fundamental to watching the show come together!

You will be guided throughout the process by the ADC Technical Manager, Eduardo (eduardo@adctheatre.com), so don't be worried if you haven't done anything like this before!

To get involved, contact the CUADC Technical Director, Sam, at td@cuadc.org, to find out about upcoming vacancies where you can apply to be a Technical Director for a show.



Get Involved

Sign up to the technical mailing list by emailing td@cuadc.org to find out about technical opportunities.

Sign up to discuss behind the scenes theatre in a one-one-one chat on the 16th and 17th of October using this link <https://bit.ly/3ldxjh5>

lighting

Being the Lighting Designer for a show is a great opportunity to play with cool technology while also using some creative flair. They control the position of lights, as well as their angles and colours, to create incredible atmosphere and effect.

There are other roles that work together with the Lighting Designer to bring the show's lighting design to life, such as the Chief Electrician (CLX), who helps to rig the lights and plug them in properly.

The best way to get involved with lighting at the ADC is to attend one of the get-ins for a show: this is the time on a Sunday morning where all the lights get rigged. Contact the CUADC Technicians' Rep, Ella, at technician@cuadc.org for more information.

You can also contact Ella if you'd like to be added to the Technicians' mailing list, and find out which shows are looking for Lighting Designers and Chief Electricians.

If you have never seen a theatre light before, don't worry! The ADC Technical Manager, Eduardo, is here to teach you how it all works. Contact him at eduardo@adctheatre.com if you're keen to find out more.



Get Involved

Sign up to the Technicians' mailing list, by emailing Ella at technican@cuadc.org, to find out about lighting and sound team vacancies.

Come along to our one-on-one Zoom calls about technical theatre on the 16th and 17th of October. To secure your spot sign up using this link! <https://bit.ly/3ldxjh5>

If you're female or non-binary and want to get into tech, sign up to our dedicated group chat using the QR code on page 7!

sound

If you've got a keen ear for film soundtracks or other music, then you might be interested in becoming a Sound Designer.

Sound Designers choose and create all the sounds that are heard on stage, from soundscapes that can create atmosphere, to live music that underscores musicals.

Sound design encompasses a vast range of different skills, from the person who finds the perfect gunshot sound for a scene, to the people who fit microphones on singers.

To get involved with Sound Design, contact the CUADC Technicians' Rep, Sam, at technician@cuadc.org, to find out which shows are looking for Sound Designers, and to attend the sound set-up period for an upcoming show.

Have you never used a microphone before in your life? It doesn't matter! The ADC Technical Manager, Eduardo, is here to give you guidance. You can contact him at eduardo@adctheatre.com



stage management



The Stage Manager is the glue that holds the show together. They find the props for the show, they make sure that the actors know where they are supposed to be on-stage, and they ensure that everything is done safely. Depending on the show, they even get to perform special effects like blank-firing guns or pyrotechnics.

The Stage Manager is accompanied by a Deputy Stage Manager (DSM), who sits at a desk off-stage and communicates with the lighting and sound designer. The DSM is responsible for ensuring that every lighting and sound moment in the show is perfectly timed.

All Stage Managers are trained by the ADC Production Manager, Lucia, who can be contacted at lucia@adctheatre.com.

If you'd like to be involved with Stage Management, contact the CUADC Stage Managers' Rep, Sameer, at sm@cuadc.org, to find out what opportunities are available.

Most shows are looking for Assistant Stage Managers, people who carry out effects on-stage (including flying set up and down). This is a great way to find out more about theatre: contact Sameer to find out which shows are looking for Assistant Stage Managers!

put on your own show!

The amazing thing about the ADC Theatre and Corpus Playroom is that anyone (and we really do mean anyone!) can apply to put on a show, as a Writer, Director or Producer. You don't need to be part of a society or club. You don't need to have ever done theatre before. You simply need to make an application and pitch your show.

Between Thursday 17 October and Thursday 31 October, applications will open to stage a show at either the ADC Theatre or Corpus Playroom in Spring term. To make an application, you simply need to visit

adctheatre.com/applications and fill out a form with your ideas for a show.

You will then be invited to give a five-minute pitch in front of a panel of students and ADC Management. This is not supposed to be scary, just the best way to hear your ideas for your show!

If you are keen on applying and want more information, contact the ADC Theatre Manager, Jamie, at jamie@adctheatre.com. He will also be hosting an event in the ADC Bar on Wednesday 23 October at 8pm where you can ask questions about applying!



Get Involved

Watch the Facebook page for more information about pitching shows for Lent term! Applications open on the 15th of the October and close on the 29th, so if you're interested in getting involved then start thinking about the shows that you would be interested in putting on!

To apply, visit adctheatre.com/applications and fill out an application form.

Contact the ADC Theatre Manager, Jamie, at jamie@adctheatre.com, if you have any questions or concerns, and feel free to ask us about pitching at the Q&A on the 9th of October, we'd be happy to answer!!

adc management

The ADC Theatre and Corpus Playroom are run by a management team of six full-time staff. Make sure to contact them by email, or drop by their office at the ADC Theatre and say hi - they're always keen to help!

theatre manager



Jamie Rycroft

jamie@adctheatre.com

As a student, Jamie was involved in Cambridge Theatre as a Producer, Writer and Sound Designer. He's responsible for programming each season at the ADC Theatre and Corpus Playroom, for running the Theatre's publicity campaigns, and for long-term planning. Feel free to chat to him about your ideas for putting on a show!

operations manager



Luke Dell

luke@adctheatre.com

As a student, Luke was involved in Cambridge Theatre as an Actor, Producer and Director. He is responsible for managing the ADC bar, for Front of House operations, and for the Theatre's day-to-day finances. Let him know your cocktail ideas, or if you have a question about funding a show!

technical manager



Eduardo Strike

eduardo@adctheatre.com

As a student, Eduardo was involved in Cambridge Theatre as a Lighting Designer, Chief Electrician and Actor. He is responsible for providing technical training and support to all our productions, so don't hesitate to get in touch with questions about any aspect of technical theatre!

box office administrator



Will Pears-Cooper

will@adctheatre.com

Having previously worked in ticketing at other venues such as the Cambridge Corn Exchange and the Junction, Will is responsible for setting up the shows on our ticketing system, ensuring that the website is up to date and generally looking after the Box Office. Will is also a musician and guitar teacher and has performed in musical productions in and around Cambridge.!

production manager



Lucia Revel-Chionl

lucia@adctheatre.com

Lucia has worked as a Producer, Stage Manager and Technician at venues in Cambridge, Edinburgh and London. She is responsible for guiding teams through the production process and is your first point of contact for all things show related!

office administrator



Anna Perry

anna@adctheatre.com

Anna studied in Lancaster University, and has worked backstage on many of the shows that happen at the ADC outside of term. She was formerly Theatre Manager at the Cambridge Arts Theatre. She's responsible for HR, the casual staff rota and assists Luke with the Theatre's finances. She's always on hand to answer general questions if the others are away from the office!

beyond the adc

Unbelievable as it might sound, the ADC Theatre is just one venue, and there are even more opportunities to get involved with Theatre than the ones listed in this booklet!

We've listed some societies that you might be interested in contacting. To get contact details for any society, contact the ADC Production Manager, Lucia, at lucia@adctheatre.com

University-wide societies

Cambridge Footlights for stand-up and sketch comedy

Cambridge Impronauts for lovers of improvised theatre

Cambridge University Musical Theatre Society (CUMTS) for musical theatre.

Meet them at the ADC Bar on Friday 11 October, 4pm-6pm!

The Marlowe Society, staging verse drama, both ancient and modern

Cambridge University Opera Society for lovers of all things operatic

Eggbox Comedy, who fund comedy projects in Cambridge and beyond

Old Vag Club, providing alternative theatre in alternative locations

Relaxed Theatre Company, creating accessible theatre

...and many more!

Outside of Cambridge

Cambridge American Stage Tour (CAST), to venues across the USA

European Theatre Group (ETG), taking Shakespeare around Europe

Rickshaw, educational theatre workshops for children in India

University of Cambridge Asia Theatre Tour (UCATT), taking a classic to Asia

... and some new ones on the way!

College Societies

CADS (Christ's)

GODS (Churchill)

Fletcher Players (Corpus Christi)

DDS (Downing)

REDS (Emmanuel)

GADS (Girton)

The Arden Players (Murray Edwards)

Pembroke Players (Pembroke)

BATS (Queens')

Brickhouse (Robinson)

The Mighty Players (Selwyn)

The Dryden Society (Trinity)

Cue.5 (Anglia Ruskin)

...and more at nearly every college

Beyond the theatre

Cam FM, a student-run radio station

Cambridge Film Association (CFA), making and distributing films around the university



If you want to meet people in theatre for friends and advice, sign up to the theatre families scheme to be paired up with experienced thespians using this QR code!

CUADC committee



The CUADC committee is made up of 15 students who are elected by members in Lent term each year. We are here to support our productions and to help people get involved with theatre in Cambridge, as well as make decisions about CUADC.

The committee is led by the President and meets weekly, usually late on a Sunday afternoon. Each Club Show funded by us is given a committee member as a 'show contact' who is always on hand to help out. If you ever have a question about your shows or how to start getting involved, or want something raised at a meeting, you can get in touch with us here.

President – Nick Harris – president@cuadc.org

Junior Treasurer – Isobel Wood – treasurer@cuadc.org

Secretary – Ella Pound – secretary@cuadc.org

Technical Director – Sam Porter-Frakes – td@cuadc.org

Technicians' Rep – Ella Fitt – technician@cuadc.org

Stage Managers' Rep – Sameer Aggarwal – sm@cuadc.org

Publicist – Bella Biddle – publicist@cuadc.org

Designers' Rep – Craig Stewart – designer@cuadc.org

Directors' Rep – Phoebe Rowell John – director@cuadc.org

Producers' Rep – Beth Kelly – producer@cuadc.org

Actors' Reps – Emily Beck and Matt Paul – actor@cuadc.org

Membership Secretary – William Audis – members@cuadc.org

Social and Outreach Secretary – Ross Guinea-McIntyre – outreach@cuadc.org

Writers' Rep – Benedict Mulcare – writer@cuadc.org

Webmaster – Mahon Hughes – webmaster@cuadc.org



Cambridge University
Amateur Dramatic Club