

Production Manager (Main House Report for AGM held 9^h July 2026

What a great season it has been!!

We opened in October with “The Unfriend” directed by Keith Swainston. A great cast, a set including a full kitchen complete with fridge and sink. A full flight of stairs, a TV screen and a downstairs toilet. I won’t easily forget Gareth waving around that rather disgusting toilet brush or Ali Hancock’s flash back criminal mug shots on that screen.

Christmas brought “Nativity The Musical”, directed by Claire Adam and myself. How fabulous to join the Juniors up with the adult society. What started as a chat in Claire’s kitchen “Shall we do it then?” turning into an 8 show sold out run, incorporating a full band, 36 children, 14 adults and of course a dog! A Stage Manager’s nightmare! Sorry Amanda but let’s be honest...you loved it!

Next up in March couldn’t have been further away than a feel good, fluffy Christmas show.....“Titus Andronicus” directed by Steve Thompson. We were obviously very excited to welcome Steve to the QMT for the first time. A thrust stage and a abattoir style plastic sheet behind which some of the gruesome murders could take place and trust me there were many murders, alongside rapes and many hands being cut off (one with a cheese wire!!) We knew this show could be a risk as it is not one of Shakespeare’s most popular plays (no idea why) but in the end through the relentless perseverance of the marketing team it sold pretty well. It Also brought in some new members which is obviously fantastic and we hope to see them at auditions and in the audiences next season. We are already pleased to welcome Steve back next season for a studio show.

Lastly, “Backstairs Billy”. My first thought is “Pink”... What a set. It looked like a stage you would see in the West End. Absolutely marvellous! How nice to bring the Queen Mum to the Queen Mum. It sold very well and nice to see another dog taking to the stage. Great to see some Big Spirit involved with the adult society again. Also lovely to see the stage crew in costume too.....lovely touch.

A challenging set of shows for the set team who absolutely rose to the challenge. Thrust stages, bands on top of 6ft high rostra, meat hooks that fell from the ceiling, a crescent moon that had to fly across the stage, (with a child on) a TV screen that had to look like a picture, a whole carpeted pink stage. You met every challenge and seemed to take it in your stride. Huge congratulations to you. Every director said you were all fantastic and faced the challenges with professionalism, enthusiasm and dedication. We thank you so much for your time and your hard work.

Huge thanks to Chris Lane, Len Seymour and the tech team for providing lighting and sound support for all these super shows. Your work is appreciated by everyone.

Peter Smith did the sound for virtually every show this season and Peter we thank you for your dedication to the theatre.

Thanks as well to Laura and Jill for providing us all with splendid costumes, some of which I know you made yourselves.

I think you will agree it has been a very varied season with something for everyone. American serial killers coming to stay, A Christmas love story, people being baked in pies and the Queen Mum gracing the stage. All this and then some wonderful Big Spirit and Junior shows in between, which you will hear about in other reports.

As mentioned Titus Andronicus casting brought in lots of new members and it was really interesting to hear them saying how wonderful our space at the theatre is. Everyone commented on how lucky we are to have such versatile stage options. They commented that we have so much room, so much opportunity to stage things how we want to. Let's not forget how lucky we are with our theatre. We have so many creative people and the best performance spaces so lets enjoy next season and love what we do here as we are pretty awesome!

Claudia x