

## ARTISTIC DIRECTOR REPORT TO THE AGM – 3 July 2024

The year in the Theatre has gone very well. While not all the shows we presented have sold as well as we would have liked – I think artistically it has been a triumphant season.

We started the Main House season in September with **The Height of the Storm** which was beautifully realised throughout with an excellent cast and a mysterious storyline. This was modern drama which is a genre we love here at the QMT. It was I think Charles is cornering the market in confused old men, as an actor I mean.

The Christmas show was an incredible **Peter Pan** directed by Katie. It was literally an assault on the senses with a sensational set complete with a pirate ship. It showed the QMT at its best I think with all departments working together to produce a memorable result. Thanks particularly to Chris for making it his life's work to get a strong serviceable structure to the set and great lighting effects and our set crew for their peerless construction of the pirate ship (a work of art!). Never have backstage and actors had to work together so closely together and I think that was a good thing. Great houses too for this show.

The production of **Bleak Expectations** in February was a hoot! Putting a radio play onstage seems to be the coming thing and this production, directed by Brian Seal, was full of our top comic performers. And, wonderfully for the actors, you get to keep the script in your hand! Another excellent production and it was a lot of fun for the performers.

The last show of the Main House season was **Present Laughter** directed by Nicki Pope. This light comedy requires a deft directorial hand, and the result was, I think, as good as amateur theatre can aspire to be. That is – as good as any professional show. So well done to all our excellent directors actors, technical and backstage members for your crucial support.

My thanks to Matt who heads up our Studio plays – another cracking season in the smaller space, the details of which are outlined in his report.

The coming season in both houses is now published and I think represents a balance of popular and new writing that will appeal to members and punters alike.

As this is my last AD report, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish my successor the very best. It's been my pleasure to serve the Society and I am sure they will have fun too!

Rory Reynolds

Artistic Director, QMT & Bancroft Players