

## Studio Theatre Report 2023 – 2024

This year the Studio has presented a number of very different plays, all of which have attracted different audiences.

We started with the Vagina Monologues directed by Hannah Conway, which brought some new members to the Bancroft Players as well as a lot of new audience members. This was an important piece of theatre performed fearlessly by a strong cast.

Then we had Elsie and Norm's Macbeth directed by Allie-Marie Hunter. This was a traditional comedy with the two actors frantically playing the whole cast of Shakespeare's tragedy, and brought some welcome laughs to our winter blues.

Next up was Low Level Panic directed by Amy Sheilds. This was another female led play with a young and talented cast examining the effects of society's objectification of women. A funny and moving piece of theatre.

Finally, we had Samuel Beckett's Krapp's Last Tape directed by myself. This along with the short 'bonus feature' (Act Without Words 2) showed that there is still a place classic, and sometimes challenging, theatre at the QMT.

All these plays have been supported by our Tech and Set Build teams, and despite the limited budgets and resources, they have consistently delivered high quality production values, so special thanks to them for this.

This year the studio has also branched out into one off events, with a preview of Juno Theatre Company's Formally Big Fish and the Shout & Whisper poetry event. These shows brought new people to the QMT and on both occasions sold out (which was good news for our bar takings!).

There have been challenges though, Elsie and Norm did not initially attract anyone to the auditions despite this being a play chosen to offer opportunities to older members of the Bancroft Players. Luckily the team persisted with the

project and found a work-around with the original director taking one role and handing the directing duties over to Allie-Marie. However there was a good chance that this play would have had to have been cancelled and so it is a shame that more older members did not wish to audition.

Moving forwards, next seasons plays again are an eclectic mix of classic and new theatre, plus a musical as well which will be an exciting challenge to all involved. I wish all the upcoming directors the best of luck with their projects, and as ever support will be on offer if needed.

Finally, again I'd like to thank all those who have supported the Studio this season, whether that has been via involvement in shows or just by coming to see them. Your support is always appreciated.

Matt Gray – QMT Studio Theatre  
Manager