



ART DIRECTORS (Ghost light) BLOG

Hi



I hope you are all aware of the **#wemakeevents** campaign arranged by the industry to publicise their request for ongoing funding for the arts at this unprecedented time of theatres and venues in enforced darkness. We played our part on Tuesday August 11 when Chris and co. lit up our lovely QMT theatre in red, the symbol of support for the campaign across the country.

But things are beginning to move. There will be an announcement soon about how theatres can reopen to the public and we have our plans in place ready to do just that as soon as it is allowed. Luckily the QMT layout lends itself to a one way traffic system to get in and out of the auditorium so, although socially distanced with smaller audiences, we feel we are prepared.

I don't know about you but I am so glad that life is beginning to get back to some sense of normality. I guess that Covid-19 will remain in charge of just how much freedom we can exercise for some time. No doubt, it will ebb and flow so any plans we make will have to be adaptable, responsive and socially responsible. But we are confident we can do that!

So in the worst case scenario, no theatres will be allowed to open until say after Xmas. That's one extreme. The other is that in his upcoming announcement Boris will say we can open with strict conditions pretty rapidly. Yep - that's quite a range of options! Our plan is to plan for the best and prepare for the worst. In the best case scenario we will be casting small-scale one act plays that we can put on when it is allowed. We are already rehearsing one two-hander and more will follow. Watch this space.



Finally, please note that there are rules in place on using the QMT. The general rule is don't call in just to visit or to chat. At present only agreed meetings can take place and there are strict protocols about how that happens. But do come along to auditions if they are called and bit by bit, working carefully together, we will do all we can to bring the QMT back to life again.

#wemakeevents

Rory Reynolds

Arts Director

Thursday 20 AUG 7:45PM The Evolution of Theatre Lighting: Part 2

CREATIVE WORKSHOP

by Chris Lane

(LIVE FACEBOOK EVENT)

In this Live Facebook event on the QMT Facebook page , Chris Lane will cover lighting control basics, modern lighting control, LED lanterns, moving lights, LED walls and Pixel mapping — for the beginner.

It follows Part 1 in which Chris explained light, the evolution of theatre lighting and the future challenges theatres face as regulations change and new lighting technologies are adopted.

You can still catch up on Part 1 on the [QMT Facebook](#) page.

Thursday 3 SEPT 7:45PM

Finding your Voice

CREATIVE WORKSHOP

by Alison Hancock

(ON ZOOM)

Join Alison Hancock, an experienced Bancroft Players Member and voice specialist, who is leading an interactive online workshop on Zoom to help those who would like to improve their voice techniques. Open to members as well as non-members.

Reservation needed

There is limited availability so reserve your place early.

Email: getinvolved@qmt.org.uk

An eye on the next season:

Heisenberg: The uncertainty principle

Ready to open the QMT's next season

The first play is scheduled from Tuesday 22nd to Saturday 26th of September guidelines permitting.

'Heisenberg, the Uncertainty Principle 'is a complex but entertaining 2-hander by Simon Stephen.

This is 80 minutes of exciting theatre about the natural unpredictability of what happens when two very different people meet and strike up a relationship. Rory Reynolds and Claudia O'Connell are rehearsing with director Keith Swainston, sets and lighting are being designed, risk assessments drawn up , all in readiness for when the QMT doors can open once more. (even if we can't certain of the date).

So, whilst the Government's decision to open theatres has been postponed until at least 15 August, the QMT will be ready for its first indoor show.



THE QMT LIVE

Since the launch of QMT LIVE on Facebook on June 25th, performance evenings and a wide variety of workshops offer audiences joy and inspiration and an excellent opportunity to learn about theatre as members share their experience.



The first event showed the 2019 QMT sell out show **"The Importance of Being Earnest"**



The first editions of 'The Corona Chronicles' written by Emma Northcott premiered on July 16th. The two zoom comedies were recorded especially by Bancroft Players for this premiere. More editions are planned soon.

(If you missed any of the performances, you can still catch it on the [QMT Facebook](#))



The **"Finding your Voice"** zoom workshop by Alison Hancock will be repeated on September 3rd.



The first IN a series of Technical workshops by Chris Lane on **'Theatre lighting'** and the advances in theatre technology over the years. was hit with many members. The second one in the series is planned for Thursday 20th of August.



The **'Design for Performance'** zoom workshops by Rosemary Bianchi and Christine Neal offered insight into the design process and invited members to come up with Ideas for a future production of 'the Wind in the Willows'

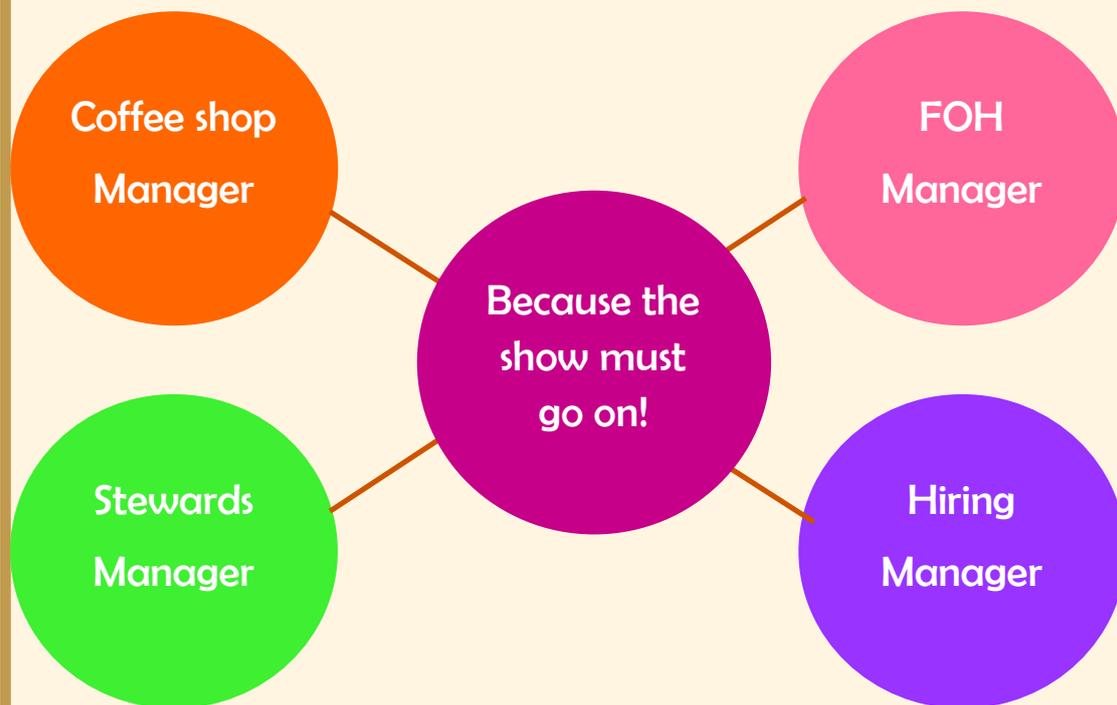
GET INVOLVED - YOUR THEATRE NEEDS YOU!

New individuals and/or teams are invited to get involved as vital roles are opening up.

As some of our longstanding and dedicated volunteers so vital to the running of the QMT have decided to hand over to a new generation, Front and Back of House roles that are critical reopening the QMT need new teams or individuals to help run our theatre.

Right now, small teams of volunteers are working to make the our theatre Covid-secure and maintained. Small plays are in production, ready for the moment that the QMT can open to entertain audiences once again. When we get that green light, the theatre can only open up if vital FOH functions are filled.

Your theatre needs more volunteers to get involved and be part of running our unique facility. Here are just a few roles on offer to groups or individuals:



Front of House roles that need to take centre stage to reopen the QMT

Thinking of getting involved or wish to know more?

Head for the [Get Involved](#) page on the QMT website for an overview of the roles above. Other areas of the theatre such as wardrobe, bar and back-stage are also always looking for new enthusiastic people.

Contact us on getinvolved@qmt.org.uk and we will contact you to answer any questions you may have.

**No one can do everything,
but everyone can do something.**

With thanks to Len for taking over the QMT diary coordination.

BANCROFT PLAYERS' 200 CLUB

Some things were not put on hold during lockdown and one of those was the 200 Club draw! We carry on as usual. So below are the July and August winners. And apologies to the August winners if you read this before the cheque arrives. As they say, the cheque is in the post.

Many congratulations to all of you.

	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>	
<u>Paula Downes</u>	Sue Mellor	Denis Bryars	£ 25.00
	Richard Whitmore	Ann O'Dell	£ 20.00
	Emma Northcott	Roger Newman Turner	£ 15.00
	Joan Cherry	Keith Crook	£ 10.00



The QMT and other community theatres like the Barn in Welwyn and Abbey Theatre in St. Albans lit up in red to show their support for the Red Alert campaign. The campaign aims to secure extended financial support for the events industry which has been particularly affected by the ongoing shut-down which has put the job of over circa 1 m. highly skilled people in the UK at risk.



STAY IN TOUCH

To stay in touch with what is happening, the best way is to get on Facebook and join the Bancroft Players members group.

For those involved in the creative activities that take place on Mondays' BP Live there is a WhatsApp group dedicated to the arrangements such as selecting players, plays and directors. Contact Christine Neal or Nicki Pope if you wish to join that group.