

DIARY DATES

 Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen adapted by Sara Pascoe AUDITION NOTICE 2 & 4 March 2020	 The One by Vicky Jones Richard Wharmore STUDIO 10th to 14th March 2020	 Rock of Ages by Chris D'Arienzo 1st to 4th April 2020	 Airswimming by Charlotte Jones AUDITION NOTICE 7 & 9 April 2020
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ART DIRECTORS BLOG

So by now you've probably heard that we are now putting on *The 39 Steps* instead of *Urinetown* due to unforeseen circumstances. This excellent madcap comedy is now all cast and ready to set sail and it's destination is QMT, May 6 -11.

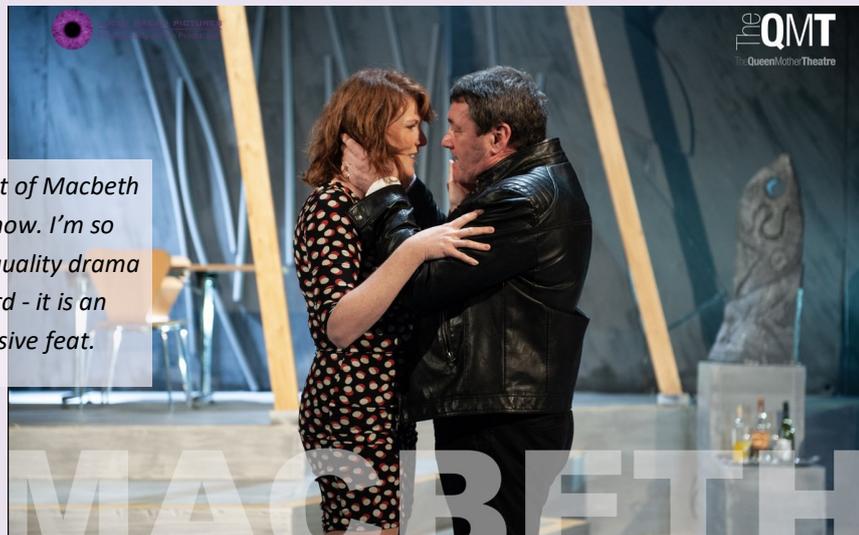
That leaves just one more main house show to be cast before the season is over: *Pride & Prejudice* which is auditioning Monday 2nd and Wednesday 4th March at 7:45pm at the QMT. There is also *Airswimming* which is the final Studio play of the BP year which is casting Tuesday 24th and Thursday 26th March. And that, as some old comedian used to say is 'ya lot'. Well at least for this 74th season. Our next season is going to be announced with a bang at a gala presentation night at the QMT. It's our 75th season of plays and we wanna PAR-TAY! The date will be announced soon and it's really a big-bash birthday knees-up for the society with drinks and food (first drink free!!) plus we introduce the 2020-21 season of plays with the directors on hand to explain all. Come along - it's gonna be a night to remember.

And don't let anything stop you from coming along to see *The One* in the Studio directed by Rob Hughes - it is officially my favourite small-cast play (10-14 March). And finally please, please, please support your wonderful Youth theatre in the 80's juke-box musical, *Rock of Ages* (1st - 4th April) directed by Katie Rallison. And that really is ya lot! See you at the QMT very soon.

Rory Reynolds

Arts Director

Congrats to all the cast of *Macbeth* on a magnificent show. I'm so proud we can mount quality drama of this high standard - it is an immensely impressive feat.



MARCH AUDITION NOTICE

Pride and Prejudice

(adapted by Sara Pascoe from the novel by Jane Austen)

Directed by Brian Seal

- **Audition dates:** Monday 2nd and Wednesday 4th March
- **Rehearsal nights:** Mondays and Wednesdays
- **Performance dates:** Monday 22nd to Saturday 27th June

For our final production of the season there is a great opportunity to take part in a dramatised version of one of the classic stories in English literature. It demands a large cast with several minor roles as well as the more well-known ones, so do come along and join us at auditions. Depending upon who we have, there may be some doubling up of parts and there are a couple of ball scenes in which most people will appear. Audition notice is on our [website](#) and, as a guide, a brief character descriptions follows:

The Bennet family:

- * Mr Bennet – middle aged, long suffering head of the household
- * Mrs Bennet – his wife whose main aim in life is to marry off her five daughters
- * The daughters (Jane, Lizzie, Mary, Kitty and Lydia) – in the novel their age ranges are from 16 to 22, but there can be some leeway here and playing age is what is important. Jane & Lizzie are the sensible ones, Mary the quiet one whilst Kitty and Lydia are “two of the silliest girls in all of Christendom”.

Other Main characters:

- * Mr Darcy – good looking but brooding, playing age about 30
- * Mr Bingley – the Bennets’ neighbour, smitten with Jane, playing age about 30
- * Mr Wickham – a dashing soldier but a thoroughly bad egg, playing age about 30
- * Lady Catherine – self opinionated lady of the manor for whom self conviction is a birth right, a mature woman
- * Reverend Collins – Lady C’s protege. Obsequious to the last. Playing age about 30 but loads of flexibility here
- * Charlotte – a good friend of Lizzie so of a similar playing age.

Others:

- * Mr & Mrs Gardiner – Mrs Bennet’s brother and sister-in-law, so of similar playing age
- * Miss Bingley – sister of Mr Bingley, playing age a tad younger than her brother
- * Mrs Hurst – Miss Bingley’s friend, so of a similar playing age
- * Miss De Bourgh – Lady Catherine’s niece, so playing age late teens to mid-twenties
- * Miss Darcy – younger sister of Mr Darcy.

Books are available now. So do come along. I’d love to see you for this exciting venture!

Brian Seal

BANCROFT PLAYERS’ 200 CLUB

Another month, another set of draw results. Congratulations to our February winners! Apologies to Mr O’Dell who won £10 in January but somehow didn’t make the list of winners.

As always I am still on the lookout for new members. If you would like to help the theatre – each year £500 is donated to the QMT – for a really small outlay of £12 per year, then do get in touch. We hold monthly draws and In June we have a £50 prize and this rises to £100 in December. For more information, please contact me on either 07778 014428 or email paula.downes@ntlworld.com

Paula Downes

February 2020

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| 1. Jenny Rushbrook | £25.00 |
| 2. Anthony Golding | £20.00 |
| 3. Alex Hancock | £15.00 |
| 4. Pauline Sadler | £10.00 |



CASTING ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE 39 STEPS:

Richard Hannay Alex Hancock Annabella Schmidt etc. Laura Mead
Clown Keith Swainston Clown Saul Bailey

APRIL AUDITION NOTICE

Airswimming **(by Charlotte Jones)**

Directed by Harry Harding

Audition dates: 7 and 9 April 2020 / **Rehearsal nights:** Tuesdays and Thursdays /

Performance dates in the Studio: Tuesday 2nd to Saturday 6th June

ABOUT THE PLAY

Set in 1920's England, *Airswimming* is based on the true story of two women (Miss Kitson and Miss Baker), who have been incarcerated in a hospital for the 'criminally insane' for having borne illegitimate children. Forgotten by their families and not released until the 1970's, DORA and PERSEPHONE adopt alter-egos, DORPH and PORPH, to enact their fantasies and survive the silence of incarceration. Neither is sure why they are there, but as the years and the decades roll by and they become institutionalised you begin to realise that if they weren't mad when they went in, they certainly are when they get out. Spanning approximately six decades, Jones's depiction of these two female characters' descent into madness is as funny as it is chilling. By turns very funny and moving, *Airswimming* reminds us of the forgotten women of these generations in both Britain and Ireland.

Books available now FOH at the QMT. More information about the characters and audition pieces are available on the [noticeboard on the QMT website](#) or contact harry_harding12@hotmail.co.uk.

Harry Harding

FIRST AID TRAINING - CALLING CANDIDATES



The theatre held a very successful training course towards the end of January. The latest list of first aiders is now displayed on the QMT notice board. I am very keen to arrange another course and indeed have a waiting list. But to make it worthwhile, we do need 12 candidates. This course is free and open to all people who work backstage or help out front of house – bar staff and coffee bar helpers, stewards etc. It lasts three hours and I aim to run them somewhere on theatre premises on a Saturday afternoon.

There is some confusion about these courses. Some of you did defibrillator training last year. THIS WAS NOT A FIRST AID course. Whilst First Aid courses touch on defibrillator usage, they cover far more. So if you feel that defib training is all that you need, please think again. These courses are not compulsory but you never know when the training might come in handy.

As St John Ambulance don't have sufficient staff to run these courses "in-house", ABC Life Support will deliver it. They are a voluntary organisation and the monies from the course go towards their work delivering free and subsidised physical and mental first aid courses for vulnerable and socially disadvantaged people in the community. As my contact there said "awesome". And all those present would agree our trainer was brilliant. His day job is a paramedic and he was able to use the knowledge gained from his work to enlighten some of our training.

Paula Downes (paula.downes@ntlworld.com)

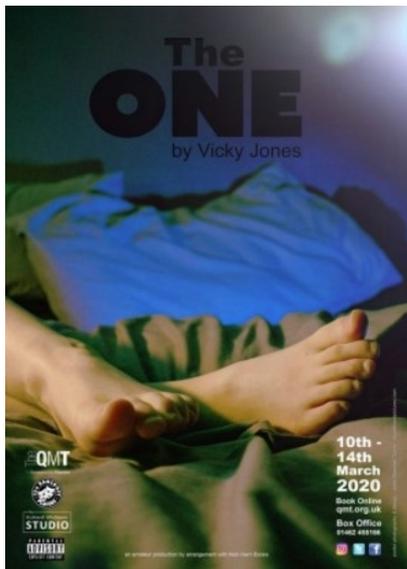
Three years ago this month: 'The History boys'

With Charles Plester as the sad Hector and

Seb Creasey as the equally sad Posner



COMING UP AT THE QMT:



[BOOK NOW](#)

The One

Written by Vicky Jones

Directed by Rob Hughes

March 10-14 —STUDIO

Harry and Jo are up all night drawing the battle lines of their relationship with sex, violence, wine and Wotsits. A viciously funny and daring play, *The One* invites you into the world of a couple trapped in a destructive and violent cycle of love and lust. Across 65 short, sharp, potentially shocking minutes, Vicky Jones's astonishing debut play vents opinions and shows you things on stage with a temerity that puts you in mind of someone skipping through a minefield as if looking for daisies.

The One is the work of Vicky Jones, the creative partner of *Fleabag*'s Phoebe Waller-Bridge. It was first performed in 2014.



[BOOK NOW](#)

Rock of Ages

By Chris D'Arienzo

Directed by Katie Milward

April 1-4 —MAIN THEATRE

Rock of Ages takes you back to the times of big bands with big egos playing big guitar solos and sporting even bigger hair! This Tony Award -nominated Broadway musical features the hits of bands including Night Ranger, REO Speedwagon, Pat Benatar, Twisted Sister, and other 80's hit groups.

It's a crazy night out that'll have you dancing in the aisles and shouting for more, more, more!!



[BOOK NOW](#)

The 39 Steps

Written by John Buchan / adapted by Patrick Barlow

Directed by Rory Reynolds

May 11-16 —MAIN THEATRE

Richard Hannay, upstanding gent and all-round good guy, finds himself in a bit of a pickle when he wakes up to find a mysterious woman in his apartment. Dead. Now on the run, pursued by all manner of suspicious characters, can Hannay evade capture and clear his name of murder before it's too late? Will he fall in love along the way? And what exactly are The 39 Steps?

A thrilling, inventive, fast-paced caper, four actors will play over 120 characters in this side-splitting comedy based on John Buchan's famous spy novel.

