Annabelle York
Technicians' Rep

Hi, I'm Annabelle (she/her), a 3rd-year engineer at Girton (classic Cambridge introduction: check) hoping to be your new Technicians' Rep! Whilst most of my tech experience is in lighting, over the past two- and a-bit years **I've had the opportunity to try out all sorts of roles** in Cambridge theatre and I've only had those opportunities because someone in our community took the time to teach me how! I think that's what Cambridge techies (and designers and SMs and TDs) do best: we learn from each other and then pass it on to someone else. I'm gutted that this year's freshers have had to miss out on those same opportunities, and with so many talented people set to graduate this year, cam theatre will desperately need new techies once the ADC is restored to its former glory. My manifesto sounds very fresher-focused but I think this is important for everyone in Cambridge theatre. Unless you're aiming for 1 billion camdram credits, you probably don't want eight producers a term sliding into your DMs to rope you into their show. I'm also sure producers probably don't enjoy the wild goose chase of finding people to fill their prod teams! For all our sakes, ensuring we continue **supporting and learning from each other** would be my focus for the year ahead.

From being Technician's Rep on the Marlowe Society, I know that sometimes the best way to get things done is to do it yourself. I intend to be super hands-on (sanitised, of course) in supporting techies in the **freshers plays**. I helped teach this year's amazing tech rep when we were on tour together for ETG and I try to make an effort to be a **friendly face** to freshers amongst the hecticness of a get-in, so I think I'd support the fresher's plays well. Techies have adapted brilliantly to the world of online theatre, and I'd love to offer support to video and sound editors as well. I'd also like to run **workshops**, ideally in person but online if need be, open to all, to show people what being a techie is all about

Of course, I can't do everything myself: the most sustainable way to make a difference is to support our community in doing what it does best. I'd like to ensure that (when theatre is allowed to happen again) every tech role in a show funded by CUADC, if not every show at the ADC and Corpus Playroom, is either filled by someone with little experience or has an assistant role available. I'd do this by liaising with producers to encourage them to advertise assistant roles explicitly for newbies where appropriate. From personal experience, the way a role is advertised makes a huge difference in giving people the confidence to apply! The aim is to **create extra opportunities for freshers** (this year's and next) as well as anyone else who's missed out on giving things a go! As Tech Rep, I'll be there as a point of support, but so will lots of other talented people who love tech as much as I do! I'd like to work with the Designers' and SMs' reps and the club TD to extend this to other backstage roles, where the opportunity to learn practical skills has really been lacking in lockdown.

Also apparently there's a **club cupboard**... I'll deal with that when I figure out where it is.

So, am I the best technician in Cambridge? No, but I've learned a lot and want to create opportunities for others to do the same.