

## CUADC Technicians' Representative 2021 Manifesto – Lily Blundell

My name's Lily Blundell, and I'm running for the position of Technicians' Representative for the CUADC Committee 2021

Please see my Camdram page for a full list of credits. In addition, relevant experience includes:

- 3 month mentorship with sound designer Richard Cooper at Playbox Theatre, 2017
- Academic rep, Faculty of Music, University of Cambridge 2020
- Foundation academic rep, East 15 Acting School, 2016

If elected I would aim to:

- Use the position to promote the involvement of female and non-male-identifying people – I've loved how welcome I've felt by the Cambridge community as a woman doing tech, but it's still a largely male dominated area. I believe issues such as imposter syndrome and a lack of representation are holding back talented people, freshers in particular, from getting involved in theatre early on, and I'd like to change that, whilst supporting and encouraging our male techies as well.

- Establish some clear training routes and opportunities for this year's freshers who've missed out on so many opportunities; once in-person shows start up again, this may involve capitalising on the theatre families scheme to pair up inexperienced techies with a more experienced person on as many shows and roles as possible, making assistant opportunities explicitly advertised and encouraged.

- Organise some visiting professional techie talks, interviews, hints and tips! We must have a wealth of alumni working in tech roles, or if not, inviting working sound and lighting designers or technical directors to talk about what their life is like in professional theatre would be hugely inspirational to techies here. Events like this could also be co-ordinated with the design and stage management reps.

Cambridge theatre has been incredibly welcoming to me as a fresher, and although severely disrupted, theatre has been one of the best things about this university. It's been a lifeline for meeting people and feeling accepted here, and I want as many people to experience that feeling of belonging as possible, whether they're coming with a wealth of experience or none at all. I also love being able to help people with their problems, even if that's just pointing them in the right direction, and I've enjoyed that immensely in my representative positions so far. I can't say I have the most numerous or various tech credits, and I've only set foot in the ADC a handful of times, but I think that gives me an advantage in this position: I wouldn't come to the role with any notion of how things *should* be done or *have* been done, just a willingness to improve what we already have and make the future of tech beyond Covid the best it can be.

Thank you.