

# Jonathan Powell for CUADC Writers' Rep 2021-22



## Who am I and why Writers' Rep?

Hello! I'm Jon and I'm a second year English student at Queens'. I want to be CUADC Writers' Rep because **I love storytelling**, in all its forms, and the incredible drama community we're so lucky to have here in Cambridge.

My passion has always been writing, and I want to use my experience of **working on over thirty shows** to help encourage and motivate a new generation of writers.

## Writing Credits

- The Man in the Air Balloon – ADC Online
- Over the Threshold – Hatch Online
- Moving Houses – Hatch Online
- The Backwards People – ADC Online
- The Balloonist Masterplan: Forgotten Lives – ADC Online



## Cam FM

As **Drama Commissioner for Cam FM**, my job is to look for new writing talent and help bring it the radio waves. Here I have **overseen the creation of 5\* satire series Tomorrow's News** and the radio broadcast of various ADC Online productions.

This role has allowed me to support new drama despite the ever-changing lockdowns and has given me great experience of committee work.

I love reading scripts, being that second pair of eyes to help people overcome the dreaded writer's block. As Writers' Rep, I would encourage people to **send in scripts to me so I can offer feedback and advice**.

## New Opportunities

The writer's vision is the spark for every original production in Cambridge theatre, and it can be a hugely daunting experience putting yourself and your script out there without any support.

I want to overcome this problem by providing **more pressure-free platforms for writers** to try out their work, encouraging risk taking and mistake making, where they can receive proper, constructive feedback. This could take the form of **new writing nights** like Marlowe Society's Hatch, a publication containing excerpts of scripts, a competition, or even **anonymously published work** if people don't feel comfortable attaching their names to something they consider to be unfin-



## Practicalities and Pushing Boundaries

Having worked in a variety of departments, from **directing to lighting to set design**, I have a good understanding of what can and can't be done on the various Cambridge stages. I have found this knowledge invaluable when writing my own plays, and as Writers' Rep I would like to share this knowledge by running both **Q&A and drop-in sessions** where writers can come to run their ideas and scripts past me, and we can look for creative solutions together.

I would also run **workshops lead by representatives from the various prod departments** so that writers can get a better understanding of the amazing resources we have on offer at the ADC to help them generate new ideas and push scenographic boundaries in their writing, as well as **encouraging dialogue and collaboration between roles**.

## Diverse Voices and Mediums

I don't think storytelling in Cambridge need ever again be limited to the stage, and I think we should strive to **retain the adaptable and collaborative spirit that has defined the last year**. We should be creating more inventive, thought-provoking and genre breaking pieces that tell important truths from a diverse range of backgrounds in whatever medium suits them best - whether that be radio, theatre or film.

Rather than be prescriptive, I'd like to create a platform, perhaps via email or a formalised google form, **where writers and creatives of all backgrounds feel confident to put forward their germs of ideas for important stories that they want to tell**, so we can work to find the best way to develop them and make them happen.