

Luis Almonacid for Junior Treasurer

Hey everyone! I'm Luis, a second year English student at Clare and I'm running for Junior Treasurer. Over the past year and a half, I've loved being involved in Cambridge theatre in a variety of roles.

I'm running for the role of Junior Treasurer to help Cambridge theatre be all that I know it can be! I want to try and make sure that exciting, important theatre gets the funding it deserves while also keeping the Club's finances sustainable. Despite the tough times, Cambridge theatre has continued to innovate and amaze me, I hope to help that spirit continue!



Experience

Over the past year, I've acted as Junior Treasurer for both the Pembroke Players and the Marlowe Society. This has given me a wealth of experience. For the Marlowe, I was able to reorganise our old bank account and set up a new one. I also helped to overhaul our constitution and show contract to protect the society's finances and ensure money was spent in a responsible and effective way going forward. I also reviewed a wide range of funding applications so I have a good idea of how different shows can be budgeted and how the Club's funds might be spent most effectively.

Ideas

1. Cambridge theatre has a money allocation issue. There is no shortage of funds available between different societies but often these funds are not utilised as effectively as they could be. I would like to set up a regular meeting between the treasurers of the various Cambridge theatre societies. This could be to both discuss conventional funding applications and unique funding opportunities (e.g. contributing to start-up costs for a new access focused society or show). Hopefully, this will allow there to be greater flexibility and innovation in Cambridge theatre without asking junior treasurers to make significant financial decisions about their society. It would also allow for informal training and advice between Junior Treasurers who are often asked to manage financials in a significant way without any serious training.
2. The current funding application process can be confusing and creates unnecessary work for producers. Also, finding funding can be a great source of stress for new producers. As a solution, I'd like to create a central form where shows could apply to multiple societies for funding at one time. This would save producers having to fill out multiple applications that rarely differ and allow funding bodies to see a greater range of the applications for funding each term (i.e. not missing out on funding a show the committee would have been keen to fund because the producer of that show did not apply to one particular society)