
MARIA CLEASBY FOR CLUB TD

WHY IM RUNNING

After ASM-ing a freshers show in my first year, I've fallen completely in love with technical theatre and (definitely to the detriment of my degree) I haven't looked back since! I came to the ADC with basically zero experience in anything technical so everything that I have learnt I owe to the community here. I know first-hand how intimidating technical theatre at the ADC can be but also how rewarding it is once you get stuck in.

As Club TD, I want to inspire the enthusiasm I've gained from tech in new members. By being available to answer the hundreds of questions I know I had when I started, I hope to encourage new and existing techies that they absolutely can do whatever it is they want to try. I'd really like to make tech as accessible as possible by being available and approachable and making TDing that bit less intimidating.



ABOUT ME

I'm currently a second year HSPS student at Queens' college but I've been doing theatre for three years. I started as an ASM and since then have done almost every role possible in tech. In the last year, I have really developed my interest and experience in TDing. I started building on Princess Ida at Minack and worked as a set assistant and head carpenter on View from the Bridge and Guys and Dolls respectively. I co-TDed Bluefish Cove (and finished the set build before it was sadly cancelled) and was meant to be TDing Astrid this term.

WHAT ARE MY PLANS

Communication: Tech can be isolating so making sure TDs can communicate (setting up chats, meetings etc.) is very important to me. This means that less experienced techies know where they can go for help and existing techies can learn from each other and share ideas and questions.

Workshops: I would love to keep the workshops already set up by the committee going, giving incoming techies or those wanting to branch out a non-pressured space to learn. I would also be keen to run tech workshops for actors and directors who are interested to learn more about what kind of sets or special effects are possible and how best to work with tech teams, or for those who want to learn more skills for get-ins and outs.

C*vid-19: Obviously there is no way of knowing what will be happening with the virus by next year but, having been TD on two cancelled shows this year, I'm familiar with the contingencies. Even if the pandemic is mostly over, I am committed to helping keep set costs as minimal as possible while not impacting the great opportunities of ADC set-building. This includes things like sharing wood between shows and working out how best to use existing materials to keep costs down.

Encouraging New TDs: Given the pandemic, it is possible there will be a shortage of people who feel qualified to TD next year. I would like to formalize a system where new TDs can be connected with someone with more experience as a consultant. Consultants wouldn't have the same commitment to the show but would make themselves available to answer questions or talk through things like sketch-up, good workshop practice etc. Hopefully this system would make the process of TD-ing a show alone for the first time much less intimidating.