

ÁINE MCNAMARA

FOR ACTOR'S REP



Hello! I'm Áine (pronounced like 'on-ya), I'm a second-year English student at Newnham and I'd love to be the next Actor's rep! I'm passionate about contributing to theatre at Cambridge in a positive way, ensuring it's a space where, regardless of experience or commitment, people feel welcomed and able to participate in anyway they choose.

why i'm running

experience

I'm currently the **Events rep for the Fletcher Players**, which has provided me experience with being on a committee, having to meet expectations and deadlines, organising and liaising with different societies, and most importantly, having to respond to and anticipate what people want theatre to look like during COVID. Asking how we can create a community, through events, when we can't physically gather-including a Freshers drop-in Q&A session, (and a series on lesser-known avenues in theatre, coming soon!)

I've been **involved with a variety of productions** in both acting and directing, in and outside of Cambridge. I'm incredibly grateful to have been involved in the Fresher Plays in my first year, and I know how important that experience was for me. I would love to be a part of fostering that welcoming environment for incoming freshers and participate in running it even more smoothly than my own!

Acting, outside of shows! Running a casual actors' group (play reading! drama games! the lot!) to give an outlet for acting, that isn't dependent on auditioning. This will be especially important this Michaelmas coming, where both the incoming freshers, but also the existing second-years will be relatively new to the theatre scene due to COVID. This will hopefully both create a community, offering a chance to socialise, whilst also addressing the issue of the sometimes competitive nature of acting in Cambridge, leaving little space for it to be a casual hobby.

Comms! Expanding on the issue above, I would also create a guide to auditioning in Cambridge both online and in-person, in order to improve transparency and reduce anxiety around the auditioning process. Additionally, I would like to start adding more opportunities outside of Cambridge in the actor's newsletter.

Work/life balance! As much as I joke about 'spending more time on theatre than my degree', reflecting on how much time I would normally spend cycling between the ADC and Newnham, rather than the EFL, I realise how unhealthy my own time management has been. I would make changing attitudes towards this as a valid welfare concern a priority, rather than allowing it to be brushed off as a matter of commitment.