

Hi! I'm Derek, I'm a fresher studying English at Pembroke! Almost since I arrived in Cambridge I found my home in the ADC theatre and with the amazing theatre scene here, and I'd love to pass forward the same wonderful support I received from the community. I'm organised, dedicated and responsible, and think I'd make a great addition to this year's committee.

In these strange times, a lot of people in my year haven't had the chance to discover the wonders of the backstage world, and my focus as SM rep would be on helping to ensure stage management opportunities are accessible to newbies, and that training and events are open to encourage people to take part! If times remain strange, I'd like to ensure online workshops are offered for stage management, not just acting and comedy! Zoom prop-making sessions, live cuing through games such as among us, or bringing in old stage managers to tell horror stories of safety errors could introduce new people to stage management skills online, helping them to hit the ground running when we return. I know how lucky I was to have been given the chance to explore the Cambridge theatre world, and I'd like other freshers in my year and the next to have as many of the same opportunities I did, and to make sure those roles and opportunities require less seeking out. If we're able to run in-person training, I'd like to join forces with the tech rep to run tech taster sessions, where people could rotate between different roles in a low-pressure environment.

If things are able to reopen fully during my time as SM rep (fingers crossed!) I know so many people will want to be involved - the majority of my year haven't yet set foot in the ADC, and I've spoken to so many fellow freshers frustrated at the difficulties of getting involved - plus of course the rush of reopening will spur people to try new things. As SM rep and as a member of the committee, I'd like to make sure as many people as possible are encouraged to try tech: by making opportunities visible and advertised outside of CamDRAM and the Cambridge Theatre group, by helping to organise freshers' and refreshers' events, and by supporting those who do give it a go as much as I can!

Aside from welcoming new people into the best role in theatre, I'm excited to help maintain the props cupboard: taking inventory and organising the space to help people find what they want easily, and being on hand to help out with locating whatever people need. I really appreciated the role of the SM rep last term and am beyond grateful for all the help I received, and I'd love to carry on that level of inclusivity and support, making sure to check in with each week's SMs and helping to solve any problems either with day-to-day show running, or by representing their needs to the committee or management if required. My aim as SM rep would be to become a friendly face to SMs old and new alike.

TL;DR, I absolutely love the theatre scene here in Cambridge and really want to help maintain it, and to make it even better, especially for mine and the next generation of Covid SMs. As SM rep I would do my best to boost accessibility for stage management here, and provide support to stage managers.