

Tom Shortland

(he/him)

CUADC President Manifesto



WHO AM I?

I'm Tom, a 2nd year Classics student from East Yorkshire at Corpus Christi.

AIMS

- support **underrepresented groups** and those new to Cambridge theatre
I'll do everything I can, by collaborating with societies like BREAD and the Trans Theatre Collective, as well as listening to your input, to make sure that student theatre across Cambridge is as accessible, inclusive and diverse as possible. For people who haven't had the privilege of many theatre opportunities before/at uni, we'll offer more practical, targeted workshops and skillshares; more easily accessible digital resources; and increased transparency in the Club's activities.
- accommodate better for **devised** shows
Devised theatre is when the whole creative team makes a show together, from scratch. It's a growing trend in the industry, which uniquely integrates design, music, and movement into the fabric of the play from the start of the process. Even though student theatre is uniquely suited to this process, it's hard to get a devised show on, and there is little support available. I'd look to different ways of encouraging, facilitating and supporting the creation of devised shows in different ways, e.g., implementing the option to pitch an ADC/Corpus show two terms in advance instead of only one.
- Introduce a variation of the **'pay what you can'** ticketing model
As well as opening shows to a wider audience, and encouraging first-time theatre-goers, 'pay what you can'

nights are almost guaranteed to sell out, which offers a buzz for the cast and creatives, but also a brilliant marketing boost via word-of-mouth.

- present **diverse narratives**
In my roles on show selection and competition panels, I have defended shows on their artistic merit, regardless of traditional Eurocentric notions of theatre. I suggested 'plays by Asian playwrights' as this term's show selection category, to take a fresh look at ADC programming and help expose people to more drama outside the western canon.
- actively listen to **your ideas**
I want to represent the views and interests of the Club as a whole, so that everyone feels valued, and your voices are heard: e.g., to hear from you what we can change to make things more accessible for people with disabilities.
- boring stuff to keep the Club running efficiently
As Fletcher Players president, I regularly attended ADC Exec meetings, and personally worked on and finalised our first constitution. I'm a bit of a loner, so I enjoy things like reading constitutions, attending committee meetings, and communicating between students and the university.

WHY ME?

Coming to Cambridge, I didn't know anyone or how to get into theatre (nobody told me about camdram!) so I know what it feels like to be an outsider. I've got experience running a drama soc (the Fletcher Players), I've held different roles in a range of shows, and I appreciate everyone involved as an equally valuable member of the student theatre community. I don't claim to have all the answers, but I am committed, experienced and capable.



Tom Shortland (left) and a sheep (right).

CONTACT ME

If you have any questions about my manifesto, or if you'd just like to chat, I'm always available:
email: ts830@cam.ac.uk
facebook: [Tom Shortland](https://www.facebook.com/ShortlandTom)