



HOLLY VARNDELL

FOR ACTORS REP (SHE/THEY)

My name is Holly and I'm a 2nd year historian at Jesus. I'm originally from Seaford, a small town near Brighton with a beautiful beach!



EXPERIENCE

- ◆ Recently, I have co-founded the Jesus College Drama Society and am currently sitting as co-president. This role has given me direct experience in proactively beginning and managing projects, as well as in working collaboratively in a role-sharing committee environment, both of which are skills demanded by the role of actors rep.
- ◆ As the comedy rep for the Fletcher Players, I have been responsible for producing a brand new regular scratch night, the Fletcher Players Steamer. As such, I have learned how to conduct auditions and facilitate the production of a show from scratch, qualities that would come in handy when working on the Freshers' plays.
- ◆ I have performed in shows at the ADC and Corpus Playroom and at college level, meaning I have a detailed understanding of how productions work from the perspective of an actor. This also could make me an approachable and knowledgeable point of contact for actors to express their concerns and ask questions.
- ◆ My most recent contribution to Cambridge theatre was as assistant director on Amadeus. The experience was extremely valuable as it meant that I could add dimension to my perspective of how a production runs, being able to understand more deeply the relationship between actors and production team and how things need to be run with welfare at the forefront in order to make the experience fun and rewarding for all.

IDEAS

- ◆ I have heard from some students that they would like to get involved with Cambridge theatre but feel like they missed the boat if they didn't immediately immerse themselves during Freshers' week. In response, I propose running at least one introductory "theatre freshers"-style performance workshop every term to give students at all stages in their degree a chance to get involved without feeling too daunted.
- ◆ College theatre societies can be very valuable routes for attracting newcomers to performance on a low-pressure, low-commitment basis. Closer collaboration between the CUADC and college societies, with more support given from the CUADC in terms of workshops and information, could help these societies continue their work and encourage performers to make a step towards getting involved in broader Cambridge theatre.
- ◆ I feel it is important for the actors rep to work closely with other reps, such as directors, producers, or technical reps, in order to support actors who are looking to make the transition into production roles or vice versa. Close collaboration within the committee could help establish greater numbers of workshops and more comprehensive information for those looking to jump between departments, and hopefully will continue bridging the gap between performance and production.