



## Em Sparkes: CUADC President Manifesto

A little bit about me before we get into it:

Pronouns: She/They

College: Christs

Subject: English

Current fav show (it always changes): Simon Stone's Phaedra

### **Why on earth should we pick them:**

- So why me? : First and foremost, I simply adore theatre. My background in both 'straight theatre' and musical theatre, from one night shows in the Larkum up to this year's LTM, (working in roles from director, choreographer, tech, and performer), gives me a uniquely balanced perspective that I can bring to the role of President, who can also act as a touchstone between different areas of the committee and wider society. My time on the CUMTS committee opened my eyes to how much goes on behind the scenes in running a theatre society, and while I am immensely proud of everything as CUMTS we have achieved, I want to take an active role in changing the way both the CUADC and the ADC as a wider system function to make sure that everyone has equal opportunity to feel like they are heard and respected in the scene that we all love so much. My time as CADS's VP has been equally insightful, and have been lucky to have had the chance to decide what shows to fund, and how to make sure on both a large and small scale that societies are working as productively as possible. Across my first year and a half in the Cambridge Theatre Scene, I also realise that at times I have completely overloaded myself with shows. But I think once again this can only benefit me in the role of President, as I've run at a million miles an hour and know how to support someone doing that, but I've also learned how to scale things back and make sure welfare is prioritised, something which I hope in the role of Pres, I'd be able to help others realise and actively prioritise across all CUADC areas.

### **My Plans:**

- **Open Society Meetings Twice a term:** creating an open space for members of CUADC to raise concerns/issues where they know committee members will be present and their voices heard to avoid the reoccurrence of things like ADCBridge: open communication -> positive, active change. 19.2. in the constitution baby! 21.10 needs altering
- **Practitioner and Industry workshops:** Use CUADC resources, contacts and alumni to create a series of workshops led by industry professionals to give access to professional training to ALL members of the society who would be interested, from audition technique to screen-acting. Likewise running student-led practitioner-based workshops would give people access to working with new styles of theatre and encourage real boundary-pushing, exciting theatre development within the CUADC
- **reshape welfare systems** - Actual training to make sure welfare reps are capable and safe as they welfare shows. Looking into preventative as opposed to reactive welfare measures. Reshaping 'frechie' structures and roles, alongside the tech rep's responsibilities. Looking into over-commitment in the theatre, particularly with enforcing timing out rules
- **collaborate with CUMTS** to make sure the two biggest shows of the year: panto and LTM feel accessible to all society members. Currently the CUADC runs no movement/dance/movement or acting through song workshops

**Experience:** CUMTS Bar Night's Rep 2023-24 / CADS Vice President 2023-24 / CCMS Special Events Officer 2023-24 / Paid Theater Tech @ The Core Theatre, Corby/ perches stow away and get in menace. Director, performer, choreographer, writer, techie