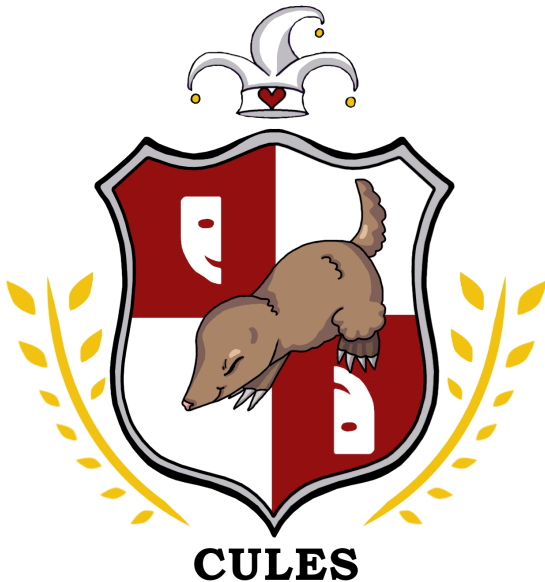


Christmas Calamities: CULES Live Show

Michaelmas 2023



(Art design by R. Hotwani)

If you love light-hearted silly shows that help raise money for charity and bring theatre to those who often don't have access to it, you've come to the right place!

This term we'll be putting on **Christmas Calamities** by Amy Hill. This is a comedy play about Christmas day in the Smith household, told by the family cats.

It follows an extended news report by Timmy Topcat and Mr Fluffles, as they give analysis of the events of the day, interjected by comedy sketches of the roving reporters in the house: inanimate objects like chocolates in the chocolate box, spices in the spice rack, and the tree fairy who's afraid of heights.

Will Operation Christmas day be a success, or will it end in tears?

See the end of this pack for a script sample.

We are aiming to put this on in week 8 of Michaelmas term, with one or two performances specifically for Cambridge students before taking it to local sheltered living facilities, libraries, care homes, and similar community venues.

Currently we are looking for a **director**, **producer**, and **publicity team** (more info on the next page). No experience is needed to do these roles, so please apply if this is something you want to do! We are also open to you applying to be an assistant director/producer if you'd like a lower-commitment way to gain experience in these roles.

To apply, send an email to cules.secretary@gmail.com by 11:59pm BST on 28th September saying your name, pronouns (optional), the role you are interested in, any relevant

experience you might have, and anything else that would be helpful for us to know. Enquiries can also be sent to this email at any time.

Role descriptions

Director/Assistant Director

The directing team has the main responsibility for how the show will play out on stage. Some aspects of the roles include:

- Running auditions and casting*
- Running rehearsals**
- Discussing potential script edits with the writer
- Liaising with crew about how to make the show happen and what it will be like

N.B.:

*CULES gives a part in one of our shows to everyone who auditions so casting is about assigning parts rather than accepting/rejecting.

**We rehearse on a fixed schedule two times a week, generally in the evenings. The default days would be Wednesdays and Sundays, so make sure you can be free then (or at least on one of the days if applying for an assistant role)! *If you are really keen to direct but the days are just absolutely not going to work, let us know and we may be able to arrange a different pair of days.*

Producer/Assistant Producer

Producers are administrative deities without whom we would be disorganised and flailing! Some aspects of the roles include:

- Setting and keeping track of deadlines for props, costumes, music, graphics, etc.
- Chasing people up on said deadlines so the show can happen smoothly
- Managing and delegate necessary tasks
- Keeping track of expenses
- Making a variety of spreadsheets to keep track of everything

Publicity Team

The publicity team is responsible for making and distributing publicity materials - you can apply to be either a graphic designer or publicity coordinator, or both as the roles mesh together very well!

The graphic designer:

- Designs the publicity material - this includes posters, cover pictures, profile frames, programmes etc. (we have a provisional logo but need a show poster and other material)

The publicity coordinator:

- Comes up with strategies and material to promote the show to encourage theatre-goers to attend; this can include memes, quizzes, character introductions, a trailer, etc.
- Makes a Facebook event and posts marketing at strategically-picked timepoints
- Makes sure physical posters exist
- Uses their authority and power to make cast and crew to promote the show and its publicity materials to all their friends/family/partners/enemies/acquaintances/Hinge matches/exes/etc.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Script Extract

Army Soldier

(Strict and commanding) Attennnnnntion! Absolute silence please. Tonight's mission commences in four minutes so lets go over everyone's profile once more. *(Sighs and groans from the other characters on stage)* You, first *(pointing to the ballerina)*

Ballerina

I am a beautiful, graceful ballerina who twirls and twirls when my music box is open
(turns stiffly before stumbling at the end, banging into the Teddy Bear)

Teddy Bear

(Annoyed) Oi! Watch where you're going.

Robot

Some people, no spatial awareness.

Nutcracker

(In love, Full of pride) Oh, my darling; you were amazing. That was absolutely stunning

Army Soldier

No, no, no, no! That was terrible. Your résumé said perfect poise and balance. My baton has more grace than you.

Nutcracker

(Insulted) How dare you insult my little sugar fairy...

Army Soldier

(Condescending) Well... Your *(mimicking)* "little sugar fairy" needs to learn some elegance. Right *(turns and points to Teddy Bear)* What is your role?

Teddy Bear

(Sweetly) I'm a soft, cuddly teddy that Molly can hug and love. I'm a shoulder to cry on in sad times and a happy face to share good news to. *(smiles)*

Army Soldier

Well done. Someone actually read their case file. *(turns to Playing Cards)* Finally, can you on the end give me a demonstration of your act.

Playing Cards

(looking at Robot) Take a card my dear friend.

(Robot takes a card while Playing Cards shuffles the deck. Robot does NOT give the card back)

Playing Cards

(Picking out a random card) Is this your card?

Robot

No

Playing Cards

(Hastily picking another card) Is this your card?

Robot

(Monotone, getting bored) No

Playing Cards

(Flustered) Hang on a minute. *(shuffles deck again, picks out another card)* Is this your card?

Robot

(Monotone) Still no

Playing Cards

(Getting really flustered) This isn't quite going right *(nervously shuffles the deck. Drops the cards on the floor)* Oops

(Playing Cards drops to the floor and picks up the cards, embarrassed. A long pause ensues as everyone watches Playing Cards)

Robot

(Talking to Teddy and showing him the card) This is my card. The idiot didn't ask for it back

Ballerina

(Naive) I like magic

Army Soldier

(Sits on the floor with head in hands, moans) This is a disaster. I will never be able to show my face in headquarters ever again.

Playing Cards

(Humiliated, muttering) It will be alright on the night

(Army Soldier groans. All toys freeze as the sound of footsteps are heard. Lights dim on stage left as the sound of footsteps gets louder)