



THE EDINBURGH MAKARS

www.edinburghmakars.com

CAMERON CHISHOLM

Cameron Chisholm contacted the Edinburgh Makars in connection with his course work to see if he could assist with lighting and/or sound for our productions. The Edinburgh Makars is a long-established city Club for amateur dramatics and we stage three productions a year including the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Our productions have taken place at several city venues including St Bride's Community Centre, Murrayfield Church Centre, the Royal Scots Club and most recently the Church Hill Theatre. I have acted in and directed several of the productions including the most recent one this month; I have also held the positions of Secretary and President of the Club.

The play directed by myself at the beginning of May was "*Good Things*" by the well-known Scottish playwright, Liz Lochhead. There were three public performances at the Church Hill Theatre with Technical and Dress rehearsals held in the Theatre on the previous two evenings. Cameron's work experience involved helping to produce and operate the lighting and sound effects during rehearsals and performances of this production.

The play *Good Things* is set in modern times, in a charity shop where the lighting is for a brightly lit shop interior. At the end of the final act, there is a spotlight on a couple dancing. Cameron attended several rehearsals at our clubrooms in order to gain an insight into what was needed for both lighting and sound effects. After our move into the Church Hill Theatre, Cameron along with the Theatre technician sorted out the positioning of the lights on the lighting bar. The relevant settings were programmed by him into the Theatre's computer and tested during the Technical and Dress rehearsals.

The sound effects consisted of 15 minutes of interval music as well as separate introductory music at the beginning of every Act of the play. There were three Acts which each required a different piece of music, ie Act 1 the Rolling Stones' "*Love for Sale*", Act 2 a jazz version of "*Funny Valentine*" whilst in Act 3 a record of "*Have Yourself a Merry Christmas*" is played by the actors during which a clicking sound had to develop on the record. Other sounds also needed were the ringing of telephones, an upbeat ring tone of a mobile and an ambulance siren fading into the distance. All these sound effects had to be recorded onto the Club's laptop together with the necessary cueing software. Cameron had to liaise with the Stage Manager regarding timing of the opening of the stage curtain with the introductory music as well as the lighting going up on stage.

The Church Hill Theatre is administered by Edinburgh City Council and all operators of the lighting and sound equipment have to be vetted by the Theatre's technician. Cameron underwent and passed the vetting procedure.

Cameron performed all the tasks asked of him for this production very efficiently and with a flexibility to adapt when technical problems arose. He has a friendly, pleasant manner and is also hard-working and reliable. He works well in a team and maintains a good working relationship with others. I have no hesitation in recommending him.

Josephine M Barrow
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