

The Father: Post-production Review

Production details

Production name:	The Father
Date of production:	14-18 October 2025
Number of nights	Five plus Saturday matinee (6 performances)
Seats available / sold	398 sold
Ticket sales %:	<50% (number not available)
Programme sales	
Revenue from advertising	
Design costs	
Set building costs	
Lighting hire costs	Lighting budget £500
Sound costs	
Wardrobe costs	
Props costs	
Profit/loss:	
Number in cast	6

Behind scenes personnel

Role	Name
Director	Gloria Wright
Producer	Georgia Willans
Set Designer	Greg Ryder
Construction Chief	Greg Ryder
Sound Chief	Jerry Bucklow
Lighting Designer	Bruce Williams
Lighting Chief	Bruce Williams
Wardrobe	Jean Simmons
Stage Manager	Val Kent
Publicity	Marketing Team
Photography	Dale Stephens

Present: Gloria Wright, Georgia Willans, Val Kent, Bruce Williams, Graham Watt, Keith Heddle, Rebecca Cleverley, Kaity Eames, Sarah Enticknap (chair/note taker)

Casting

The production needed Chris in the role of André. He was the only one suitable for the role that auditioned. Directors need to be confident that they can cast their plays.

Kaity learned of the audition from the SP website. A little bit more information on the audition page on the website would be useful – information about the play/characters etc. Notice of when rehearsals start. Include the show date on the audition notice. (Get this on the website even before it's announced in the CX Times, if possible.) **(Action: Webmaster)**

Use Reddit more to advertise auditions?

Mailing list for future auditions? Send out something about auditions for the whole artistic programme, even if a bit vague. Also ask that people who see the notice, even if not interested themselves, pass on information about roles.

Superb cast.

Nice that 2 or 3 new people showed up for auditions.

Set Design

The set was amazing. Shout out to Greg and crew.

Greg so creative; had just a few discussions with Glo and presented designs.

Combination of set and lighting was exceptional. Greg and Bruce worked really well together. Essential teamwork.

Cohesion, support, teamwork. Everyone was involved.

Set Construction

Went well. No issues.

Stage Construction

On get-in, Greg was at the CX on his own. Other people came at 10, went for lunch and didn't come back. Needs to be stated that people have to be available all day. List of jobs and expectations should be provided.

Costume and Props

Props from Greg/Glo/Bruce. Blanket from Nicola. Crew were preparing food, etc. No props team (i.e. Anna and Sue) available during the run. We need additional props people. Perhaps run a props workshop? **(Action: SPC)**

Someone else to work with Anna and Sue?

Lighting

A lot more work than anticipated.

Dirty, heavy, sweaty job. Gratitude to crew.

Bruce was happy with what he achieved.

Being present during the rehearsal process is invaluable – Bruce was able to pass on his observations. Felt immersed in the production. Feel more lighting designers should be included in rehearsal process. Encourage all crew to get involved.

Production sessions should be held in the evening so that younger people can be involved.
Can attend evening rehearsals.

Took a long time to get some of the lighting right. Takes a long time to programme the lights.

Sound

A lot more work than anticipated. Glo worked for two hours with Jerry (at home). Impossible to say until they were on stage how many seconds of music were needed to cover scene changes. Jerry had to splice bits together to stretch the music. It was also a nightmare for Val and the crew as there was sometimes not enough music to cover the scene change. Ollie not there for the lighting session. Left with Jerry to sort it. Thought it was going to be just pressing buttons but was much more.

Jerry was called on last minute. Originally thought it would be just doorbells, etc. Late music was a problem. The music couldn't be looped.

Music/Choreography

14 pieces of music. A lot compared to other productions. Also see above.

Rehearsal Issues (Organising rehearsal schedule, Technical rehearsal schedule)

Enough time for rehearsals.

Tech rehearsal – be realistic about the time it will take. (Went longer and people had to leave.)

Didn't actually start (for actors) at time publicised. Start at 10 for crew and creatives, actors at noon. **(Action: SPC)**

Facilities Issues

Ran out of toilet paper and paper towels.

Video monitor in SM and studio froze. (Mike Baker is aware.)

Marketing

No leafleting. Kaity surprised it wasn't done. It should be part of the cast's responsibility to promote the play. Make it a requirement for the cast.

Glo got the impression there was too little too late. There were meetings, discussion, but then things fell flat and didn't move forward. No posters in shop windows as for past productions.

Trailer for cinema started to be shown quite late. Cast chats went out late.

The play was a hard sell, but no special effort was made. Glo suggested should be going to GP surgeries, explain about Q&A, etc. A play like this needs special marketing, not the usual approach so the appropriate message gets put out. **(Action: Marketing)**

Reach out to colleges/schools.

Georgia said this was the most marketing that's been done for a show. Marketing team doesn't have time to do more as they all work FT.

We need additional people to help with marketing/delivering leaflets/whatever when it's a 'difficult' show. **(Action: SPC)**

Given it's such a difficult play, director was never asked what dates she wanted to do (Glo feels a shorter run might have worked better, but Rebecca felt she wanted to do as many performances as possible.)

Emphasise the 'right' things about the play to attract audiences.

TikTok trends etc.

Marketing workshop? Sixth-formers – social media.

Working with Reading University Marketing. Nothing happened. Try Brookes.

Box Office/Ticket Sales

Less than 50% probably (numbers not in).

Performance Issues

Actors who change stuff mid-performance cause difficulties for the other actors. Must be discouraged.

Health & Safety

People in the flies couldn't see. Need blue LED light strip over the ropes. **(Action: SP/CX)**

Other?

One of the best things Keith's been involved in. High level of professionalism.

Very collegiate. No stress, everyone worked together well.

Recommendations to be drawn from this production.

Recruiting younger people – put on a play or musical that needs a lot of younger people.

People need to update their account on Membermojo, but don't know that they need to or how to do it. Put instructions about Membermojo on the website. Send out instructions via email/postmaster. **(Action: Membership)**

Encourage all crew (lighting, sound) to get involved in the rehearsal process.

Sound is a weak area at CX and needs to be improved.