

Debby Moore - Producer
BA Economics (2nd Year)

Previous Experience -
This is Debby's first production
at NNT



Felicity Chilver - Director
BA English (2nd Year)

Previous Experience -
Acting - The Adventures of Anne
Marie de Bourbon (NNT)



I'll admit when Felicity first approached me with *The Master and Margarita* I was very sceptical. How on earth was she going to stage giant talking cats, a witch flying over the streets of Moscow and a beheading by tramcar? However, as we began to discuss it, I started to appreciate the play for all its craziness and, thanks to Felicity's directing, I believe it has all come to life on stage.

I've gained countless skills through the process, from learning how to use a doodle schedule with 19 people on it (so large that it crashed. Repeatedly.), to perfecting the art of passive-aggressive messaging, and crushing my director's dreams when I told her sourcing a live tiger was out of the question. I can't thank Felicity enough for inviting me to be part of this crazy show with her and putting up with me stressing out at her frequently (including one particularly large outburst over a bin bag - I am sorry for that!).

We have had so many great nights discussing ideas until the early mornings as a result - we have both locked ourselves out of our rooms at some point - but there's no way this play would have been half-way to being achievable without her consistent passion, ideas and energy. The cast have been incredibly dedicated to the show and have put in huge amounts of energy, time and thought into conveying their characters believably onstage and have been a real pleasure to work with.

When I read *The Master and Margarita* by Mikhail Bulgakov I was at once charmed, horrified, and excited by the idea of staging this adaptation at the Nottingham New Theatre (I think when I first approached Debby with the idea she was more horrified than anything else). With the largest cast of the season, the enormity of the task I'd set myself began to sink in after I made that first doodle. However, the cast were hugely dedicated to the play from the outset, and I loved watching characters from the self-doubting Master; to the charismatic Margarita; to the deadly, but loveable giant talking cat, come alive onstage. I watched as the actors brought the germ of an idea into something tangible and wrestled with their characters' complex emotions, motivations and desires, often surprising us all.

This show however, could not be what it is without Debby's constant attention to detail, her infallible scrutiny of our budget and outstanding talent with excel spreadsheets. She sat up with me until three in the morning typing scripts, sourced outrageous props including a severed head and ensured I woke up in time for rehearsals. She sat with me through all the hilarity, cried at the moving finale and was forever encouraging us all to reach our potential. I also would not have remained sane without the help of Daniella Finch who after getting home at five o'clock in the morning after her own rehearsals, would wake up and assist with mine. I've thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience and hope (if Debby and I are still on speaking terms after this) to direct many more plays in the future.

Hope you enjoy the show!