

UPDATE FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUND DESIGNERS

# THE HERALD

**ASD**  
ASSOCIATION OF SOUND DESIGNERS

## Dave Philip Palmer 1981-2018



Obituary by Gareth Owen and Andy Yiannaki

It is with great regret that we announce that West End sound engineer David Philip Palmer passed away in the early hours of Wednesday 7th of November at the age of 37. After a brave and prolonged fight against cancer, he leaves behind a fiancé, Alyssa Nicol, as well as mother Valerie, sisters Bonita and Heidi and brothers Gavin and Nick. We offer them our deepest condolences.

Dave and I first worked together on the musical Pippin at the Menier Chocolate Factory. I was uncertain about him at his interview – not only did he arrive carrying three guitars (plus the plans for several more he was planning to build), but background checks revealed that he once caused a catastrophic show stop on Beauty & The Beast while cleaning the mains distro during the performance... Luckily my fears were misplaced – Dave turned out to be an extremely talented sound operator, going on to mix I Can't Sing at the London Palladium as well as the Olivier Award winning productions of both Merrily We Roll Along and Memphis, in the West End.

Merrily We Roll Along reminds me of another favourite Dave Palmer story: after a late preview Stephen Sondheim himself walked up to the mixing desk to tell Dave how great the show sounded. Dave accepted the compliments with much good grace and then proceeded to point out how bloody difficult Sondheim had made it for the poor sound operators trying to keep up with his crazy lyrics. After an uncomfortable silence Sondheim burst out laughing, and while wiping tears from his eyes, let out a huge resonant fart before walking back in to the audience. To this day no one is quite sure if the sudden burst of flatulence was the eccentricity of an old man or a statement on Dave's opinions of his lyrics.

Dave's sharp wit, great compassion, and the fact that he always wore his heart on

one else could was legendary - but in an industry surrounded by colleagues, Dave was a true friend.

In the words of David Bryan from Bon Jovi “R.I.P. Dave, Heaven just got themselves a great sound mixer.”

If you have any thoughts, memories or photos of Dave you'd like to share, we have set up a memorial page for Dave [here](#).

## ASD News

### Mind Crafternoon

[Join us](#) in the Young Vic Club room from 11am on Saturday 1st of December, It's a great chance to meet other members and have a cuppa. We'll be selling hot beverages and cake, plus you'll have the opportunity to try your hand at a new craft. Bring your friends and raise some money for [Mind](#), the mental health charity.

### Congratulations to Sarah Angliss

Professional member [Sarah Angliss](#) is one of 5 composers to be awarded the Paul Hamlyn Foundation Artist award for 2018. Find out more about the awards [here](#).

## From Our Friends

### Autograph Presents: Wireless Innovations for Theatre



Corporate members Autograph, Shure and Wave Tool have teamed up to produce this amazing day of seminars on December 6th. Find out more and register your place [here](#).

### EM Acoustics Factory Tour



[EM Acoustics](#) have offered us a fantastic, exclusive opportunity to tour their factory in Guildford. Join the folks in the factory to find out more about how their products are designed. Register your place via the [website](#).

## Hardware, software and sounds

### Waves Axis One



Looking for somewhere to put your [Black Friday](#) impulse purchase Waves plugins? The Axis One from Waves is optimised to run your applications and travel well. Find out the specs [here](#).

### New Mac mini



The new 8th generation Mac mini promises to be 5 times faster than previous generations, with up to 2 terabytes of SSD, outputs on Thunderbolt 3 (USB-C), HDMI 2.0 and 10Gb Ethernet. What more could you ask for? Find out all the details [here](#).

A promotional banner for Krotos software. At the top, '50% OFF' is written in large white letters. Below it, the text 'Perform creature sounds, Foley, SFX, weapons and much more' is centered. The background features several screenshots of Krotos software interfaces, including 'REFORMER PRO', 'DEHUMANISER 2', and 'SIMPLE MONSTERS'. At the bottom, a red banner contains the text 'KROTOS NOVEMBER SALE' in white capital letters.

# 50% OFF

Perform creature sounds,  
Foley, SFX, weapons  
and much more

## KROTOS NOVEMBER SALE

The good people of [Krotos](#) have let us know about a secret code that will give you 50% off Dehumaniser 2, Simple Monsters, Reformer Pro and Weaponiser until 7th December. Simply enter NOVSALE at the [checkout](#).

## Meet the New Member

We hope you enjoy this new feature! Each month we will introduce a new member that has recently joined and ask them a few questions about themselves. First up: [Nicola Chang](#), member since November 12th 2018.



### What is your current project and role?

I'm currently the Musical Director and composer for Bounce Beat, a concert featuring piano trio and ping-pong players premiering at the Southbank Centre in January 2019. It's a project more down my "composer route"... I'm also sound designing a few fringe theatre productions at the Vaults Festival next year and will be Musical Director/Composer for the UK Tour of From Shore to Shore by Mary Cooper.

### What is the favourite part of your work/process?

Definitely sitting down and piecing apart the text and the design concepts with a director and creative team. I once received a prompt where the director wanted "a jazz saxophone in place of Marilyn Monroe"... these challenges excite me.

### What would you change about your work / the industry?

I'd love for more transparency and better communication between collaborators, producers, directors and creative staff, and more recognition from the theatre industry for exemplary sound design work.

mix but an octave lower than, say, the strings in my composition), and I double any staccato-y bass instrument with tuned skin drums. Really adds depth but doesn't draw attention away from the music.

### What are you listening to at the moment?

At the moment I'm listening to a lot of Bob Moses, Snarky Puppy, Sons of Kemet and Ayanna Witter-Johnson. The album "Your Queen is a Reptile" by Sons of Kemet is an absolute joy and fantastic musical journey - highly recommended.

## Interesting reading

The Stage look at how new technologies are fuelling a theatrical revolution [here](#), and ask if the show really must go on in [this article](#).

We might be a little late to the party on this one, but [this video](#) of Neanderthal voice coaching came across my inbox this week. Filmed in 2009 it shows voice coach Patsy Rodenburg investigating how the voice is affected by the shape of the vocal chords.

## ASD Benefits

### Exclusive New Fiat Van Savings for ASD Members



The Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) Affinity Scheme provides ASD Members exclusive savings on their range of new Fiat Professional vans. Discounts of up to 46.5% off the basic list price are available, depending on the model. Whether you are looking for a Fiorino Cargo for your equipment, a Ducato Crew Van with space for your passengers or the Fullback double cab pick-up take a look at the ASD Benefits site today!

\*Please contact your Fiat Professional Retailer for details.

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