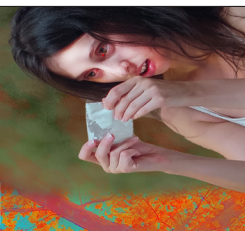


# Felix

ISSUE 1816

**10 YEARS ON**  
**OPENS: 7TH JAN NOON**  
**CLOSES: 28TH JAN NOON**



**Earthquakes in London  
 – can Imperial do  
 better than humanities  
 students?? >p7**

FRIDAY 6TH JANUARY 2023

# IC Sport at risk - rising discontent at Move Imperial

**Isabella Ward** News Writer

Last term saw growing discontent with Imperial Athletes, the main administrative body for all sports sector societies.

Move Imperial consists of the College's sports administration staff, and Imperial Athletes (IA) was an initiative designed to act as a bridge between the Union and Move Imperial. IA was first launched in 2020/21. IA was launched in a year plagued by the pandemic and its resulting restrictions, but it has proved unpopular for another reason: clubs have told Felix that often, the staff make running societies more difficult than should be.

This year in particular, frustration at Imperial Athletes has been snowballing due to frequent miscommunication and inconsistency in their policies. It was made clear to Felix that these communication problems are not limited to the last year.

Imperial Table Tennis qualified for the European Championships in Spring last year, and a member reported that IA had said they were unable to go. Imperial Athletes had told BUCS (British University & Colleges Sport) at the beginning of the academic year that – were Table Tennis to qualify – Imperial College would not be sending them due to budget constrictions. This was not communicated to Table Tennis at the time.

Table Tennis disputed the decision, arguing that it was a club decision. At this point, Imperial Athletes incorrectly told them that they had missed the deadline to enter anyway. Then, Table Tennis got in direct contact with BUCS. BUCS normally requests students refrain from doing so, to minimise disruption to BUCS offices. IA normally acts as a go-between.

Table Tennis were able to enter, and



*Move Imperial started an initiative with ICU called Imperial Athletes to support Imperial sports in London, national, and international leagues*

Imperial Athletes provided over £1800 towards the competition, in addition to £289.90 the club received from the Union through an Activity Development Fund bid.

Imperial Athletes experienced many changes in the last academic year including a structural overhaul to their financial model, through the work of the previous Deputy President (Clubs and Societies) and Athletic Clubs Committee (ACC) Chairs, supported by the Union. It was expected that the new structure would have teething issues. However, clubs have been “most frustrated by miscommunication, inconsistency, and lack of transparency from Imperial Athletes.”

The administration and funding for transport to matches has also undergone a dramatic change. Last year, all transport was arranged and funded by Imperial Athletes. This year, clubs were told that all transport costs would have to be covered by individual club funds, but that Imperial Athletes staff would

still aid the organisation of transport for BUCS fixtures outside of Zone 6 unless a club opted out of this.

This policy worked well for clubs at the start of the academic year. However, clubs were surprised on certain occasions when, on contacting Imperial Athletes to inquire about transport arrangements for upcoming matches, Imperial Athletes responded saying that they had made no such preparations. This left clubs having to book last minute train tickets for whole squads, at significant cost.

When clubs asked for further clarification, Imperial Athletes explained their policy: only when it is cheaper to book a coach than to book train tickets will they assist with transport arrangements.

Admittedly, Imperial Athletes did hint at this possibility when they updated their transport policy in July, stating in an email to all members “In the interest of full transparency, it should be noted that operating even a minimum service of transport is dependent on

a certain number of clubs utilising it. Should usage fall below this threshold, we may have to review its longer-term sustainability.”

However, clubs feel that there has not been ‘full transparency’ as it was not understood that this was something Imperial Athletes would use to justify their transport policy on a weekly basis, and not singularly in ‘longer-term’ as they claimed.

The timeliness of IA’s decisions have been a particular issue: clubs commented how, whilst perhaps when staff research the train tickets they are indeed cheaper than the bus, by the time the club is notified that they are not being assisted with transport arrangements, this is not the case.

IC Rugby were told to organise their own transport only two days in advance and, faced with the prospect of spending £1200 on train tickets, had to concede the match. They are already finding that

*Continued on page 3...*

# EDITORIAL

This issue was produced thanks to the work of

Jamie John	Deputy Editor and Chief Science Editor
Sam Lovatt	Managing Editor
Isabella Ward	News Writer
Sophie Reck Pointon	Arts Writer

And our numerous contributors



## Unions work for the many

Unions in the United Kingdom have a long history, and have represented the interests of the working population, and advocated for fair treatment.

They have not had an easy path - when trade unions were decriminalised in 1867, unions began forming, and smaller unions combined to form the Trade Union Movement at the start of the Industrial revolution, which worked to improve working conditions and wages for men in different industries. This was the founding basis of the Labour Party.

Conservative governments in 1979-1997 oversaw the rise in anti-union laws: requiring ballots to strike, a requirement that they exceed 50%, restricting the right to picket, bringing members to support other unions, and the institution of fines.

According to the Trades Union Congress, unionized workers in the UK earn an average of 10.8% more than non-unionized workers. Unions are the reason there are pensions, workplace injury compensation, holiday leave, parental leave, a 40-hour work week, and a minimum wage. Not to mention - no more child labour.

In the last few months, the UK has experienced strikes by public sector employees not seen in the last 30 years. We saw the biggest nursing strike in NHS history, and are still experiencing rail strikes as the College returns from the Winter Break. Ambulance workers, the Postal Service, Civil Service, bus drivers, and school teachers. The Prime Minister was set

to institute new laws to limit strike action, and the government appears to be resolute in not talking to unions.

It is important to note that while unions generally work to represent the interests of workers and advocate

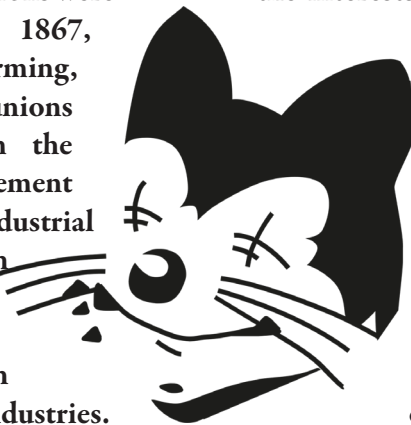
for fair treatment in the workplace, there have been instances where unions have not acted in the best interests of their members.

An example is when unions engage in strike action that is disruptive to the public or causes undue hardship for the workers themselves.

While striking, workers do not collect pay - this can put financial pressure on those who need unions the most. While the right to strike is an important tool for workers to use in negotiating for fair treatment, strikes can also have negative consequences for workers who may lose pay or face backlash from their employers.

As a large organisation reflecting the interests of many, unions may sometimes make decisions that are not favourable for all, for example, when negotiating pay or benefits.

Imperial's Constituent Unions formed in the late 1880s and 1890s. The Imperial College Union itself was established in 1910. As the students' union, ICU acts in the best interests of students, advocating on their behalf when they face trouble. The ICU manages and oversees the activities of over 300 clubs and societies at Imperial, and students should do well to remember that they are a students' union, run for students and by students.



## Statement of Intent

At Felix we believe that it is always in the interest of the students to know. Transparency in the workings of the College and the work of your student representatives is key. Therefore I, the Felix Editor, on behalf of the team promise that:

We will, to the best of our ability, tell you the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

We will keep your confidence and will only publish something you say to us if you have explicitly said that we can.

We will work to expose unfairness and discrimination in all forms that it takes at the College.

We will treat fairly any article sent to us, regardless of point of view, and do our best to work with you to prepare it for publication.

**Signed by Ameena Hassan**  
Editor-in-Chief

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...continued from page 1

train tickets are suffocating their funds. Clubs acknowledge that the cut back in administrative and financial support is likely symptomatic of larger scale funding allocation and limits, but feel that the situation is being exacerbated by “disorganisation, miscommunication, and inconsistency” on Imperial Athletes’ behalf.

When rail strikes coincided with BUCS matches, clubs were offered no help; instead Imperial Athletes staff advised a club that if they could not get to the game they would have to concede it and pay the ‘walkover’ fee (£250 for that club). This was the guidance set by BUCS when Imperial Athletes liaised directly with BUCS on the matter, but only if no other solution could be found. The club did not feel any attempt had been made to find another solution, and it was fortunate that the planned train strikes were ultimately called off and

that the fixtures went ahead as planned.

In addition to administration, Move Imperial “offer tailored support to ‘Performance level’ clubs”: clubs performing at the top tiers of the BUCS leagues.

IC Squash, despite having both their men’s and women’s squads competing in the first division of their respective leagues, initially had their access to strength and conditioning sessions cut, and have been dropped from the Performance Programme, according to a member. Move Imperial’s website still lists this club as a performance sport whom they support.

Whilst societies have requested that a Move Imperial representative attends the next general sports sector meeting to address Move Imperial directly, they have been told that it is ‘unlikely’. It is unclear if this is a Move Imperial, or Union decision. Even if student leaders were able to voice their concerns, many doubt it would change anything.

One club president told me “Move Imperial have always acknowledged their failures to us when committees have complained, but they have never changed anything”, adding “Or, where changes have been made, they have only been to our detriment.”

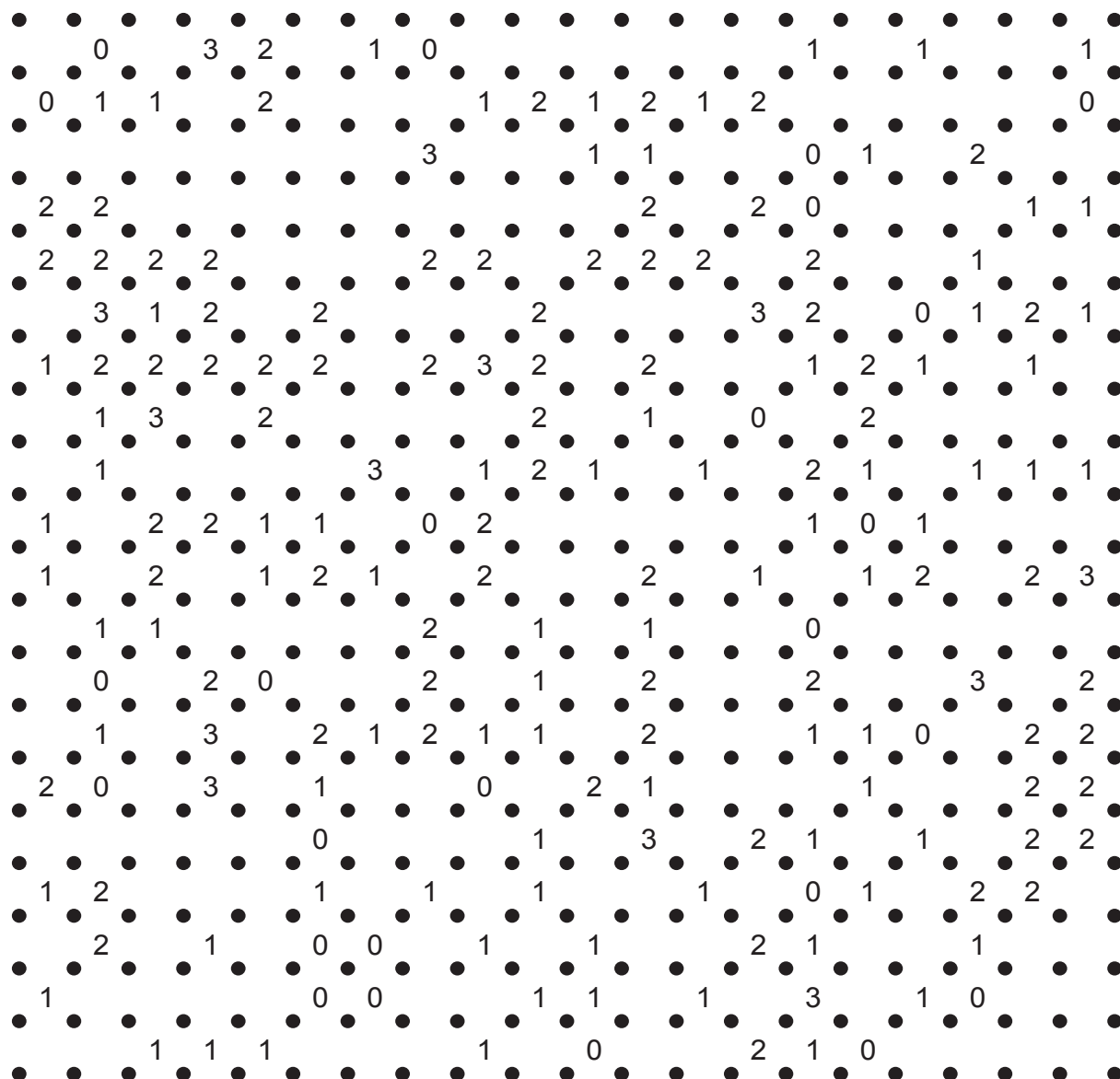
When a senior sports administrator exited their position in November, several clubs joked that, such was the lack of help they are receiving already, being left in limbo may not be any different to their experience so far this term anyway. A new sports administrator will be joining the team in early 2023.

A Move Imperial spokesperson said: “Imperial Athletes is a collaboration between the Imperial College Union and Move Imperial. We together recognise that there have been continued difficulties in the past 4 months, not least around the administration of funding and transport. The changes to the funding model were proposed by the previous DPCS and approved by

the ICU Council; Imperial Athletes were then charged with operationalising this new model. It has undoubtedly brought challenges; nonetheless, we are committed to working with clubs to constructively find ways to improve the overall experience.”

Imperial Athletes boast on Instagram that Imperial is the most successful London University in BUCS. But if their administrative and communicative errors continue at clubs’ detriment, there is a threat that this may not hold true for much longer.

Readers should note that Felix spoke to members in multiple sports societies to gather information about their experiences. Almost all respondents were either reluctant, or stated that they would prefer to remain anonymous due to “fear of retaliation from the Union” through future application rejections, or funding cuts, for example.



Slitherlink

PUZZLES

Slitherlink is a logic puzzle in which the goal is to connect horizontally and vertically adjacent dots in a grid so that the lines form a single loop without crossing or branching. The loop must pass through the dots, and the number of lines that touch a given dot must match the number written in that cell.

Here are the basic rules of Slitherlink:

1. Connect the dots with vertical or horizontal lines to form a single loop.
2. The loop must pass through all of the dots and must not cross itself or branch off in multiple directions.
3. The number of lines touching a dot must match the number written in that cell. For example, if a cell contains the number “2”, there must be exactly two lines touching that dot.

No two lines can intersect, except at a dot.

The puzzle is solved when all of the dots have been connected in a way that satisfies **all** of the above rules.

Hint: Not all the dots in the top left corner are used in the loop.

**PUZZLES**

**Easy Sudoku\***

5			7	9	1			
2	1						7	
	4				3			6
8	2	6				7	3	9
1			9				2	
	3						4	5
			2	5	9			3

**Normal Sudoku\***

6	4		1			2		
3			4					7
				5	9			
1	3			8				
			7		1			
				3			7	5
			9	2				
2					6			3
		8			7		2	4

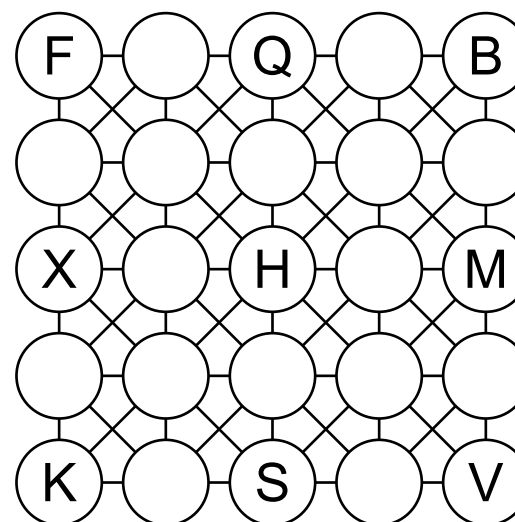
**Difficult Sudoku**

5		7		2		3		
				6				7
	6				5			9
			6			5	7	
	1						8	
	4	5			2			
1			7				9	
6				9				
		9		3		6		4

**Points**

Easy, Normal, Difficult sudokus	2, 3, 4 pts each
Shikaku	2 pts
Slitherlink	4pts
Gogen	2 pts
Minesweeper	2pts

**Gogen**



- Clues:**  
 FUNGI  
 BENT  
 FLAX  
 QUARK  
 SWIM  
 PRANCE  
 JOHN  
 DEMIS  
 EDGY  
 VISOR

**Minesweeper**

				1		1	1			1		1		
	2	1						2	1	1			1	
	1		2		1							1		
				1								1	1	
1	1			1				1				1		
			1	2		2						1	1	
	2	1				1			1	2				
			1	2	1									
	1	1		1			1		1			1	2	
	1		2				2		1			1		1
1	2						1		1					
	2			1		2		1	1			1		
2	2	2				2		2						1
		2		2			1					1		1

**Shikaku**

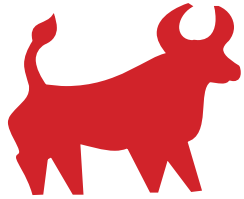
				5										2
2				3				25						4
		2	2											3
5													4	2
		8												
	7													
				15			10							
					42									
				6										
			5	4										
	10													
			4	2										
3		2				18								30

# New Year, New Horoscopes, Old Editor



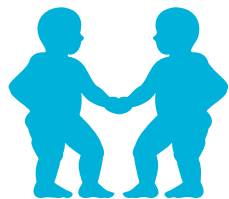
**ARIES**

This year you make a resolution to make no resolutions



**TAURUS**

This week you hang garlic outside your window for the Wolf Moon. Aaaaaaaaaoooooo



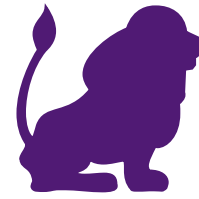
**GEMINI**

This week you start revising for the January exams. December was not your month.



**CANCER**

This week, differential equations start looking all the same to you.



**LEO**

This week your group project reports: "Although we were not able to find a working solution, we developed teamwork skills"



**VIRGO**

This week, you tell your friends you have exams, but you're really just sleeping that day.



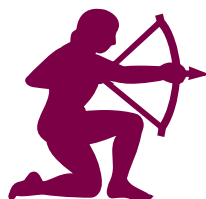
**LIBRA**

This week, you make the worst drunk mistakes, twice.



**SCORPIO**

This week, your girlfriend decides to leave you for your best friend. This falls apart when she figures out you don't even have a friend.



**SAGITTARIUS**

This week, the cat owners stop emailing Felix with cute cat pictures.



**CAPRICORN**

This week it's a brand new term! A brand new start! Same old disappointing you!



**AQUARIUS**

This week, you make the controversial decision to declare a "no snow, no heating" rule. Your flatmates ship crates of snow to barricade your door.



**PISCES**

This week, you're positive for the first thing in a while. You're positive for Covid.

*Illustration by Nicolas Gieseler-Toran*



# ETHOS<sup>®</sup> Competition



ETHOS are calling on Imperial students to propose a solution to the problem of mental health on their university campus

The winner will receive:



**ONE YEAR'S  
TUITION FEES**

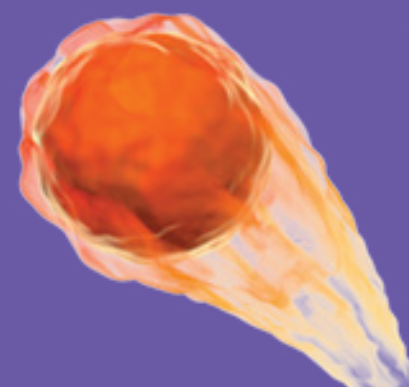


**£9250**



**Applications now open!**

Scan QR code to apply





FRIDAY 6TH JANUARY 2023

## ARTS

# Scientists on stage

## *Are humanities students inherently better at the arts?*

Sophie Reck-Pointon Arts Writer

On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>, a large part of Imperial's Drama Society (DramSoc) turned up at the Bloomsbury Theatre in Fitzrovia to witness a play put on by a cast of University College students.

Of course, it was mainly for educational purposes: the play, King Charles the III, was written by Mike Bartlett, the same playwright who wrote Earthquakes in London, DramSoc's next play. Interestingly, there was a lot of overlap between the two plays in terms of character arcs, a sly bit of inter-referencing going on and the use of projections. Bartlett wrote Earthquakes in 2010, four years before King Charles, which I would argue – casting a glance over the sublime stage directions on the script – makes sense, because Earthquakes is much more experimental and downright wackier, while King Charles tries to be a more sobering affair, given that it contains more instances of long dialogue and unfolds at a slower pace.

Watching the UCL students perform was an excellent prompt for

the question: *Are humanities students naturally better at performance/writing/the arts?* Clearly, they spend more time immersed in poetry, books, plays, classical works, depending on their degree, so this influence must rub off on them more and encourage them to have a better creative process, surely.

While the STEM students are wrapped up in numbers and dissections, coding and lab work, their artistic senses are sadly bereft of any humanities-related stimuli and must curl up and wither with every tap on the calculator, right?

Voicing aloud my rather negative thoughts on this matter, your fellow Imperial students confessed with startling ease: I have spoken to people who hold dreams of becoming poets, writers, actors and composers. It's a cliché by this point, but everyone needs an outlet from work and the near separation of Imperial from humanities subjects could mean STEM students are able to throw themselves all the more eagerly into their hobbies outside of their degrees. I must add having an experience of both science subjects and the arts means you would be a more rounded, knowledgeable individual, able to navigate a scientific community as easily as a bookshop. Or that's the hope, anyway. It must all boil down to this: passions aren't really passions if you don't fight for them.

Yes, there are bad days of grappling with STEM and studying so hard your hair falls out, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't compose, write poetry, or miss out on theatre!

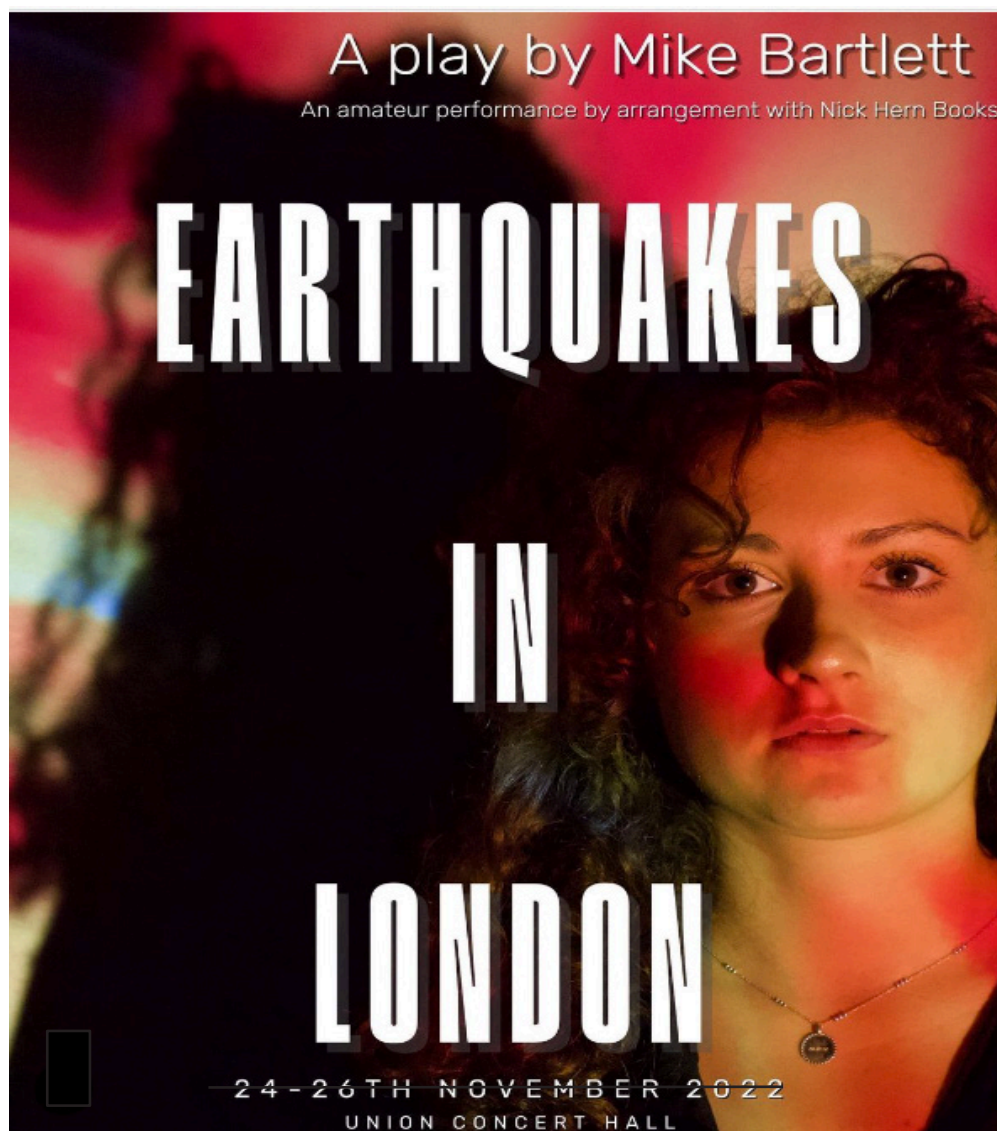
Speaking of, why don't you come to DramSoc's play, scheduled at the time of writing for January 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> at the Bridewell Theatre. You are very warmly invited to come see our production, a labour of much love: Earthquakes in London!



The Theatre - the place to be this January



A throwback to when Felix covered DramSoc's performance in Nov 2012





# FELIX DRUG USE SURVEY

## 10 YEARS ON

OPENS: 7TH JAN NOON

CLOSES: 28TH JAN NOON

