

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting on Monday 17th March 2025 held at Ratham Lane, Bosham

Present: Richard Sanderson, Tony Clark, Jan Copsey, Alan Copsey, Scilla Jutton-Holland, Sue Wilkins and Gill Lambourn

Barbara MacWhirter and Margaret Edwards joined via Zoom

Apologies

Clare Burt

Minutes of the last meeting

Accepted

Matters Arising

To be dealt with later in the meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Tony said that he had been spending money recently on the website fee, music, wood, wall paper, fliers and the mail shot. Ticket sales are following a predictable pattern. It is hoped that more members will buy tickets even if they are not connected to anyone in the play. The prompter's seat could be released for sale as there will not be one during the performances.

Media Report

Ninety emails have gone out to people who are likely to be interested in attending a performance. As anticipated, site sessions are up with 669 pages viewed. Mobile is the viewing mode of choice at present. Brief articles have been submitted to local magazines and to *The Observer*. Rosey has taken rehearsal shots.

Health and Safety, Technical Matters

Nothing to report.

Members Update

Margaret has had a conversation with a prospective new member. The previous two people who attended a playread have not returned so far.

Major Production

Last Tango in Whitby

Gill said that the cast are feeling more confident now that all will be well. Ticketsource do not display a poster specific to us. Tony will test the booster that we hope will improve the signal to the card reader.

Autumn Production

Enlightenment by Shelagh Stephenson was discussed as it is critical that a young man is found suitable for the role of the son. Alan said that it has to be someone who is about 18 to early twenties. Various groups were discussed where there might be such a person. Publicity for the audition needs to be wide ranging. It was agreed that it would be on Tuesday 6th May. Rights will be purchased immediately so that scripts can be bought for this. It was suggested that only 6 scripts are bought in case we have to change the play if we cannot find a suitable actor. The rights payment can be reclaimed if necessary.

Playreads

Whose Life is it Anyway? on 25th April. This will be a rehearsed reading that Barbara is managing. It will be in WAVH. She has already cast half of it so far. Friends will be invited to attend and it will be like a standard playread in that people will pay £2 for the hire and heating. Guests are not expected to pay but might offer a donation. There will be the standard travelling bar managed by Jan and Alan. Barbara would like a rehearsal in the hall that week, TBA, and some furniture and props.

The 16th May playread will be *Hidden Laughter* by Simon Gray.

AWD 6

Margaret will send a line to Jan for *The Newsletter* giving an update on AWD 6.

Weald and Downland Immersive Theatre

Barbara had discussed this with Hilary at length. The suggestion was that FP s present something at W and D in the summer. Hilary is enthusiastic about it and wrote a comprehensive response for committee. She included a number of questions for W and D about what is required and logistical details to be considered. Committee would be keen to work with her on this but felt that this summer was too soon, given that we do not have a play yet. We remembered that some years ago Leafy wrote a murder/mystery that was performed there and those involved will see if they still have a script. Leafy's family generously said that they were happy for us to use any of her works as we wished. Barbara will contact Hilary with our reply. It was noted that W and D have a wide programme of events this summer and that visiting groups are usually travelling players who manage virtually everything themselves so that W and D just need to sell tickets and provide the venue. It was noted too that there is usually only one performance of each play and it is in the evening.

Social Events

Sue reminded us that a group of FP s might like to go to Wimbourne Theatre to see Heather in *Calendar Girls* on Saturday 24th May, the matinee performance. Heather comes back to support our productions regularly so it would be good to see her in performance. As it is likely to be a small group, travelling would involve car sharing.

Newsletter Items

Playreads as above

Social Events: *Calendar Girls* as above

Get In starting on Thursday 3rd April evening with rostra going up

AOB

None

Next Meeting Dates

14th April, 19th May and 16th June