

## FUNTINGTON PLAYERS

Draft minutes of the Management Committee held in Ratham Lane, Bosham on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

### **Present:**

Barbara MacWhirter (chair) Scilla Jutton-Holland Tony Clark Jan Copsey  
Richard Sanderson Alan Copsey (all in person)

Aaron Baker. Margaret Edwards Steve Pearce (all on Zoom)

**Action Points in bold italics. Newsletter items marked N.**

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies.

### **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes were accepted as accurate apart from the fact that there were 3 new members not 4.

### **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising that would not be dealt with later in the meeting.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

*Amateurs* did well financially, generating a surplus on production costs of £2000. We had £970 extra income this time that nearly all came from ticket sales and the bar made a good profit of just over £600. Programme sales produced a profit too.

However we are at risk of a substantial loss if a production has to be cancelled. The costs of mounting a show are remarkably consistent at about £3,500. The worst case scenario is if we had to cancel a show after the dress rehearsal – at this point our liabilities would be around £2,800-£2,900. Insurance helps a lot and covers such eventualities as cast injury and damage to equipment, but it does not cover Covid.

Most subs have been paid and Tony will check that all who are cast in the next play are paid up members.

### **MEDIA REPORT**

There have been a lot of hits, especially in the build up to the performance week. *Aaron* will take quite a few things from the production photos to post on social media. The photos will be sent to Pat for the website. It is not possible to access photos from previous productions via the website it seems. *Steve* will ask Pat to look into this as it is an important feature for present and prospective members to be able to see.

### **HEALTH & SAFETY, TECHNICAL MATTERS**

Ongoing technical issues at the hall are being discussed, Tony reported. Heaters in the kitchen that failed have been put right.

### **A BUNCH OF AMATEURS**

Alan was delighted with how the play was received and said that we are indebted to our appreciative audiences. The publicity has clearly worked well. There has been a strong back stage team that is also vital to the final product. The team attended many rehearsals so that their hard

work paid off. It was good to have new members becoming involved in important back stage roles too.

- **Box Office:** We need a new Box Office person as Claire is moving away. The FP's phone is hardly fit for purpose now and needs replacing. Most of the booking is done online but about 10% involves cheques and a phone call. Ticketsource works well for the most part. However, because of the long gap due to Covid, some previous history and booking details had been lost which generated a bit of extra work. Returns can be tricky as Ticketsource can cancel without refund or cancel with refund so the Box Office Manager needs to control the process. Also the Box Office Manager needs to be able to go into our Ticketsource account and deal with reservations. An appeal will be made to the members for someone to take this on. (N)
- **FOH:** We need some more bollards to stop people causing obstruction to our neighbours when parking. There was disagreement about how onerous the role of FOH Manager is. Duties are clearly outlined on the website role description. It is felt that now we only need one helper selling programmes not two. A mike that allows an appeal to be made to the audience, if necessary, would be helpful.
- **Bar:** The running of the bar went smoothly and there was no problem in getting a helper each evening. The notices asking people to return to the auditorium with their drinks worked and only a few needed a reminder. We were able to encourage a lot of people to make their interval order in advance which was helpful.

## **OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD AUDITION**

The play is fully cast now but there are some gaps in the back stage team. Tony has a Stage Manager, a new costume person, a sound manager and a prompter. A portion of costumes were already sourced. The bar is also covered. Scene changes will be managed by the cast. Pat will do publicity. She had done most of it already when we were cancelled last time. The licence has been reissued. He would like a PA to work with him. Props will be minimal. He expects the usual help in set building.

## **AWD**

*Chichester Area Talking News* would like to record the trilogy for their programme. Margaret has been in touch with the writers and Tiffin who are all happy with this. There will be a meeting of those interested on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30 to brainstorm ideas for the next AWD.

## **AUTUMN PRODUCTION**

Various options were discussed but there was no play that everyone agreed on, though whatever play we do, it will be a comedy. This is to try and retain a balance that we have always aimed for. An appeal will go out in the *Newsletter* for a director to suggest something. The protocol that Steve drew up will also go out to show the process of deciding what we will do, essentially though it has to be a good quality play that the director is keen to put on and the committee feels is 'doable'.

Some individuals will be approached to see if they are free and interested. Gill Lambourn will attend the next committee meeting to discuss whether *Crucible* will follow it.

## **COLLEGE DINNER**

We have 30 people for this event and booking is now closed.

## **FUTURE EVENTS/CAFE EVENINGS/PLAY READS/STUDIOS**

- Playread of the *The Madwoman of Chailot* by Jean Giraudoux Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January

- Studio of the above might be done at some time in the round if people like the play.
- Meeting to discuss the next AWD Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February
- Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February Bolton Twill
- Playread of possible contender/s for the autumn production TBA

### **MEMBERS UPDATE**

Nothing to report.

### **SOCIAL EVENTS AND NEWSLETTER ITEMS**

12<sup>th</sup> Night event on 14<sup>th</sup> January will be a meal at the college.

Newsletter - Feedback on the play; appeal for help with Our Country's Good; call for directors for the autumn 2022 main production and initial thoughts for the next AWD.

### **AOB**

- Sue has looked at an alternative venue at Oakwood School. She sent a report on her findings. **Tony** and **Barbara** said they would like to have a look at it in the New Year,
- The sound mixer is a replacement for the old one.

**NEXT MEETING DATES:** Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January and Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February at the Copeys' home.