

FUNTINGTON PLAYERS

Draft minutes of the Management Committee held on Monday 11th December 2023 at Horndean Road, Emsworth

Present:

Richard Sanderson(chair) Tony Clark. Barbara MacWhirter
Sue Wilkins Margaret Edwards

Action Points in bold italics. Newsletter items marked N.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Aaron Baker, Clare Burt and Jan Copsey

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Barbara and Margaret found two typing errors in the section on the 75th Anniversary. Apart from that, the minutes were accepted as accurate.

MATTERS ARISING

Scilla had been asked to find out if the rights to *Crucible* were available now. They are available but there is less enthusiasm to make this a major production.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Tony said that he had completed the tax return and sent it off.

There was a good surplus of funds from *Disposing of the Body*. It was a relatively inexpensive production as sets were minimal and the cast wore their own clothes. The show proved popular with 92% of seats sold; with relatively modest costs and enthusiastic use of the bar, the show also turned in a healthy surplus. He produced a graph to show the pattern of ticket sales in relation to other productions. One of the electricity meters in the hall was not working so we spent a lot less on heating in the bar and kitchen than expected. The night storage heaters, which should be set on a low setting to provide just a background of low heat in very cold weather, had been tampered with so that a lot more heat came from them, thus further reducing our spending. This situation is being rectified. Tony recommended that we pay an additional £300 on our hall hire fee – this was agreed. It was also agreed that bar prices do not need to be increased for the next production as we made a good profit at current prices and as it is a cash bar, it makes adding up the prices easier. We briefly discussed using card sales but the signal is not good enough.

MEDIA REPORT

There continue to be a number of hits to the website though they do not always translate as increased ticket sales. Barbara suggested a one year subscription to the Funtington Parish Magazine to help publicise the 75th Anniversary. The contacts page is often looked at but only occasionally results in someone actually making contact.

HEALTH & SAFETY, TECHNICAL MATTERS

Tony said that the hinges on the front door of WAVH will be adjusted though this has not been done yet. A new ladder has been purchased as the old one was falling apart.

MEMBERS UPDATE

Margaret has had a number of contacts and forms have been sent out but no one has sent in a subscription to Tony yet.

MAJOR PRODUCTIONS

Disposing of the Body

Alan sent in the following report:

I was very pleased with the outcome, which was the result of a lot of hard work and total commitment from everyone involved. I feel it demonstrated the strengths of FPs across the board. Of course, it was a very strong script, and the acting was excellent, but the show was dependent on great backstage support. We do need to maintain this for every production and therefore encourage members to be involved as much as possible in rehearsals and integrate them into the team. I would like to mention Lisa who after having a large part in 'Alfie' offered to do Front of House, being there every night from start to finish - real team player! Also Scilla, who lubricated the customers which always helps.

With this support, directing is the easy part.

Shadow Factory

Tony said that he is now working on a rehearsal schedule around the availability of the cast. Barbara will do publicity for him and she stressed how useful it is to put a video on the website to promote the production. Having read the conditions of the licence, Tony is clear on what is permitted. He is making progress with the backstage team. Stage management, sound and lighting are covered. Props might be managed between Stage Manager and the Assistant Director. He will contact someone regarding costume and Margaret has offered to help. Some cast will find their own costume.

Autumn 2024 and Spring 2025

Hobson's Choice was read but committee was not sure that it would be suitable and Helen Harries-Rees who suggested it changed her mind about directing it. She was very keen to direct *Goodnight Mr Tom* for us and a number of committee members read it. We felt that though it was an excellent play, that CFT Youth had performed, there were a number of difficulties for FPs. Young teenagers would need to be transported and would need approved chaperones. The dog has an important role too which might also be a problem.

Twelve Angry Men is booked for the January play read and Gill has agreed to manage it. There was some discussion about changing the gender. The performance rights for *Crucible* are available but the person who suggested directing it is less keen now. *People* by Alan Bennett and *Sisterly Feelings* by Alan Ayckbourn have both been read by FPs in the past. These scripts will be passed around the committee to remind us of the details and they will be considered as possible contenders for a major production.

PRODUCTION-2024 75th ANNIVERSARY

Barbara will be in touch with a number of local people to start collecting stories and material that can be used by our writers. She sees it as a joint effort with AWD and her team. There will be an initial meeting in early January, she hopes so that writers will have plenty of time to produce their works.

FUTURE EVENTS/CAFE EVENINGS/PLAY READS/STUDIOS

- Friday 19th January 2024 play read *Twelve Angry Men* by Reginald Rose
- Friday 16th February play read Title TBA
- **Barbara** will enquire about fees in relation to a mask workshop on a Saturday afternoon in February.

SOCIAL EVENTS AND NEWSLETTER ITEMS

- Sue said that we need 45 people to have sole use of the restaurant so further reminders need to go into the News Letter. We have 26 people interested though not all have paid yet.
- Newsletter items as above.

AOB

None

NEXT MEETING DATES: 8th January 2024 in Bosham and Monday 5th February, venue TBA later.