

The Edinburgh Graduate Theatre Group AGM took place on Monday, 7 January. This AGM covered not one but two years of amazing work. Claire Wood's overview is below.

Owing to a delay in pulling together accounts for 2016/17, we were well into 2018 before they were complete, so it was agreed to hold over the related AGM and combine it with the 2018 AGM, which in turn had to be postponed until January 2019. All accounts are now finalised. Annual Trustees' Reports for the years ending 2016 and 2017 were both circulated to the membership over a month prior to the AGM.

A new committee was elected:

Post-holders

President – Angela Harkness-Robertson

Vice-President – Siobhan McGovern

Treasurer and Membership Secretary – David Grimes

Secretary – Alastair Smith

Publicity Secretary – Hannah Bradley

Additional committee members

Alma Forsyth

Dan Sutton

Claire Wood

Outgoing President, Claire Wood, delivered the following report, which neatly summarises the diverse, ambitious sequence of productions that EGTG has delivered over the past two years.

The evening after the Golden Globes, I feel I ought to make my (outgoing) presidential address a plea for diversity and a commitment that we will try and do better to represent all of humankind in our annual programme.

We're not doing badly. In 2018, we had four female directors and five if you count Emma. And two male directors. For 2019, we have five female directors and one male. I'd say that was a pretty good gender balance.

We're a presidential speech behind so I ought to be covering two years rather than just the one. 2017 saw us produce a very successful one act, Martin's *The Rose and Crown*; David's boisterous, gender-switching *Ladykillers*; a beautifully costumed romp of a *Volpone*, again from Martin Foreman; a horribly dark play about vanity and

paedophilia [Claire's own *beauty*], both in the Fringe; and with elf ears galore, a suitably dark Christmas show from David in *Reckless*.

2018 saw us field two one act plays: a brand new piece of writing from Hannah's grandad, *The Ram in the Thicket*; and Anji's *A Number*, which staggered through the snow to a second outing in the regional final at Killin.

Naomi and Staci brought us an abundance of men on stage with her production of the blood-soaked *Macbeth*.

Continuing the Shakespeare theme, David produced a lovely war-time *Much Ado About Nothing*, featuring a fabulous Beatrice and Benedick, that went on to collect a fabulous amount of money when it packed up and went on the road to Stratford. And I had a ball working with a cast aged from 8 to - a bit older in our other Fringe show, *skirt*.

And we wound up the year with the beautifully lit celebration of diversity, *All About My Mother* from Ross and Emma at Assembly Roxy.

A really varied programme of classic texts and some really fascinating contemporary works but all of these shows felt really current and had lots to say about the world we live in today.

Though I ended up as President again by accident, I continue to be incredibly proud of this group. It has always gone out of its way to make theatre that is more than just window dressing – it's here to make a point. Our 2019 programme is no different.

Thanks to all of you for coming along for the ride. We hope you'll stick with us for another sixty something years before we're done.

7-Jan-19
Claire Wood