

Minutes of EGTG Committee Meeting – 6 March 2022 via Zoom

Present: Angela Harkness Robertson
Alma Forsyth
Wendy Brindle
Hannah Bradley Croall
Martin Foreman
James Scott
Alastair Smith
Claire Wood
Beverley Wright

1. Apologies were received from Siobhan McGovern.
2. The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.
3. **Hay Fever:** Martin gave a financial update and wondered if the cost of a sofa required for the production would come from the *Hay Fever* budget or EGTG general funds. Anji confirmed it would come from EGTG to replace the old sofa which had to be disposed of during the Home Street clear out in February. Bev offered to draw up a list of second-hand furniture shops. Following a request from Richard S. who is building the set for *Hay Fever*, Martin sought clarification as to whether new flats could be bought. Anji replied that we will have to refurbish old flats. She will consult Michael M. and Chris A. about sourcing fabric at a good quality/price. At the same time she warned us that, following two years with virtually no income, EGTG funds are not as healthy as we would wish.
4. **StagEHd:** Hannah reported that contracts had been returned by nine out of the ten participating groups and that the programme would soon be announced; the poster design is already underway. She will be meeting with Edinburgh Council on 14 March to finalise the entertainment licence application. A call for volunteers for front of house will then go out. Hannah asked Wendy to verify that EGTG insurance will include an extra £5,000,000 to cover our involvement in StagEHd.
5. **rock:** Claire confirmed that the play had been cast but she was awaiting confirmation from two potential actors. She will confer with Anji regarding rehearsal timetables at BP and she will send marketing information to Hannah. Claire also asked Hannah to consult the technician for StagEHd about the range of the ten head microphones. Bev agreed to approach a friend about the possibility of providing BSL (at no cost) for the production. Claire reported that her application to participate in the Hidden Doors festival in June had not been successful.
6. **Membership:** Martin initiated a lively discussion about payment of the EGTG annual membership fee and show fee, particularly in light of our proposed new membership scheme. In the end the Committee agreed that anyone wishing to work backstage should at least be 'a friend' (£10) and anyone wishing to appear on stage should at least be 'a member' (£25). No additional show fee will be levied. This system will run for one year before being re-assessed. In order to boost membership numbers, Bev suggested issuing gift vouchers while Martin and Hannah will combine forces to target our website and social media.

7. **Home Street:** a) clear out – after a successful day on 19 February, Anji reported that Michael had arranged for the removal of all unwanted items at a cost of £180. Furniture and props had been reorganised and Hannah had painted the front door. Costumes have still to be tackled - Anji, Hazel and Kate will confer. b) deeds – when Alastair and Michael opened the trap door to the basement they discovered it appeared to have been taken over by our neighbours at N° 60. The deeds to our property at N° 60A having been mislaid, Alastair will consult the land registry to ascertain to whom the basement really belongs (estimated cost £40).
8. **Fringe:** Anji confirmed that our two Fringe shows, *The Merchant of Venice* and *Bloody Wimmin*, will appear at the Dunbar Battery the weekend after their Fringe performances. The Battery staff have agreed to a 50/50 share of bucket takings, with potential audience numbers ranging from 3 to 300! Prospective rehearsal schedules at BP for both plays and *rock* were discussed.
9. **A Christmas Carol:** Anji hopes to have a script reading at the end of June and auditions at the end of July. Rehearsals should start the Tuesday after the Dunbar Battery weekend.
10. **AGM:** Martin observed that in the latest SCDA magazine/newsletter, none of our forthcoming productions was mentioned and wondered why we don't make more of our membership. Anji brought newer committee members up-to-date on our past history with the SCDA and it was agreed to add this item to the agenda for full discussion at our next meeting.

The next meeting will be held **via Zoom on Sunday 10 April at 19h00**.