

Minutes of Committee Meeting – 28 June 2023

Present: Hannah Bradley Croall
Martin Foreman
Claire Morand
James Scott
Kate Stephenson
Claire Wood

Non-Committee minute taker: Alma Forsyth

1. Apologies: Siobhan McGovern, Alastair Smith, Robert Wylie
2. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by Kate and seconded by Claire W.
3. **StagEHd**: report – Over the weekend, an estimated 1700 spectators enjoyed the 12 performances given by up to 500 participants. Feedback from all concerned was positive. Only the report to the National Lottery remains to be completed. On behalf of the Committee, Claire W congratulated Hannah on her splendid achievement.
4. **Fringe 2023**: update – Production manager, Claire M, reported that rehearsals were proceeding smoothly and, following the provision by Hannah of a calendar for social media posts, publicity was underway. **Sales** were healthy, particularly for *Shakers*, which was perhaps not surprising as the play is well-known. A problem with Facebook, however, was hindering **publicity** and, therefore, perhaps having an adverse effect on some sales. Hannah had designed a flyer for *Shakers* which was about to go to the printer. Claire W had ordered flyers for *crackers* but paying the printer was proving difficult because of problems at their end. As the provision of a **programme** is at the discretion of a show's director, digital versus paper was once again discussed. Both Fringe directors, Claire W and Hilary Spiers, prefer the digital option. Hannah advised, however, that a handbill giving basic information about each production should be available for non-digital spectators. Claire W wishes to donate her income from programmes to a mental health charity and Hannah said it would be possible to set up a link between EGTG and the chosen charity. Kate had taken rehearsal photos which were now available for publicity use. Claire M requested that a call go out for **FoH** volunteers. A discussion ensued as to how many would be required for each evening, who they might be, what their duties would be and if they should receive a free ticket to a performance. Claire W felt free tickets should be given only if a show were not sold out but that would be difficult to organise since tickets are sold via the Fringe box office. Hannah suggested setting up a Google poll for volunteer availability. Claire M will set this up. Martin maintained that each evening the desk at the venue should be permanently manned by a Committee member. Hannah agreed to put out a call for volunteers on social media and via a newsletter. The result would be reviewed after 14 July.
5. **Chalk**: planning – Hannah reported that the venue contract had been signed with the Roxy. Following a tacit agreement with the author of *Chalk*, the official rights were being sought. A table read and auditions would be held on 24 and 29 August respectively. Performances would run from 8 to 11 November.
6. **Membership**: update – The total still stands at 37. Having received a poor response to his request that members let him know of non-EGTG productions in which they are involved during the Fringe, Martin intended to repeat his request. He felt it was important to demonstrate that

EGTG supports all members' creative endeavours, regardless of the group with which they are involved. Hannah will disseminate the information in a Newsletter, along with a call for Fringe FoH volunteers.

7. **Treasurer:** Hannah reported that two volunteers had made themselves known but no meeting had as yet been possible. Claire W offered to contact them and set up said meeting.
8. **Home Street:** The next clear-out will be on Saturday 15 July from 10h30 to 12h00. Kate reported that the moth infestation was going from strength to strength. As a premises must not be entered up to four hours after the setting up of moth bombs, she planned to do this late on Sunday evening and will return on Monday morning to survey their efficacy. An electrician will be attending Home Street to give a quote for installing emergency lighting. An appointment has also to be made for PAT testing, although this is no longer a legal requirement.
9. **Programme 2024:** call for submissions – Claire W reminded the Committee that now is the time to put out a call asking potential directors to submit proposals for the EGTG 2024 programme, the constitutional deadline being 31 August. As EGTG celebrates its 70th anniversary in 2024, special shows and a celebration should be considered. Hannah proposed removing the budget question from the show proposal form as it is well-nigh impossible for a new director to know how to answer. In future the Committee should give directors a budget and leave them to concentrate on artistic matters. The Committee agreed to Hannah's proposal.
10. **AOB: Taglines** – Referring to an idea from the last meeting, Martin reported that two suggestions had been received from one person, neither of which were entirely suitable. Hannah apologised for not having found the time to make up a mood board, as mentioned at the last meeting. She proposed including another tagline call out in a Newsletter. **University contacts** – Martin and Robert have names to follow up regarding their previous suggestion of forging closer links with the University. **70th anniversary** – Hannah announced that a list exists of every show put on over EGTG's 70 years. She also mentioned Margaret Marr, a former member of the Grads, who would be a fount of information on its past years. Claire W offered to interview her after the Fringe. Martin asked Kate if it would be possible to instal a display at the Central Library and she will investigate. Hannah suggested Kate put this in a proposal as part of the 2024 submissions. Kate asked if the submission deadline might be postponed until September.

The next meeting will be held via Zoom on **Wednesday 19 July at 19h30**.