

Committee meeting

25 September 2023

Present: Robert, Hannah, Martin, Claire M,
Claire W, Kate

Apologies: Alastair, Siobhan, James (and Alma)

Approval of previous meeting's minutes (19 July): Hannah approved, Claire M seconded.

1. Fringe Shows 2023

Claire M: generally, the Fringe went well. Hilary was happy with how things went, particularly in comparison to last year. She reported small issues with accessing Facebook account and with the view from the tech desk (when a full house, limited visibility).

Claire W reported that she was also very happy.

Martin congratulated everyone involved in both productions. Hannah noted a good audience and critical response to both shows.

Hannah has estimated box office takings from Fringe perspective, can't calculate precise takings for each show as Zettle logged all tickets as the same.

Estimates a healthy profit of £2500. Income about a thousand pounds less than last year but outgoings were significantly less than last year so loss in income is offset by this. Including Copenhagen, year to date is in profit.

2. Home Street

Claire W confessed that no clear out has happened with the group post-Fringe as she has failed to organise everyone into an agreeable date when she needed to reschedule due to changed availability. Kate noted that she and Michael have been making progress with the tidying, thinks that we are on top of the moths but we still have rats.

Hannah noted that the Colony Coffee Shop have noted their concerns about rats / hygiene to Edinburgh Council and the Council haven't done anything. Suggested that we set another clear out date and check in then with the Colony team about the best approach to the rats.

Follow up clear out agreed for 10:30am until 12 noon on Sunday 15 October.

3. Chalk

Hannah noted she has held auditions which were well-attended. She has a cast: Esther Gilvray and Rosella Elphinstone. (Esther is a member already; Rosella is not.) Elissa will do

lighting design. Dug Campbell will do sound design. Craig Robertson is going to assist with loading up cues on the sound system. Zack Collins will stage manage. She needs someone to operate sound / lights during show week. She's in discussion with Richard Spiers about building her set but she is speaking to Michael Mulligan this week in case he is able to help. Noted that production manager is Hannah. Claire W offered to put together a front of house rota – please send names to her when a call for volunteers has gone into the newsletter. Claire W also offered help with prompting, should that be useful. First rehearsal is Wednesday this week.

4. 2024 Programme

Eight responses received, seven of which are for plays: 2 for one acts, 2 for spring, 1 submission for Fringe, 3 for autumn and one is a series of workshops to run in the first half of the year with a potential showcase at the end.

For information, Wendy Mathison has been sending many historical plays set in Scotland written by someone she knows to Hannah, Hilary and Martin. Martin noted that none of the plays are suitable for production.

Hannah suggested that she circulate proposals in the short-term for collective review and invites people to share succinct feedback by email and then we meet prospective directors / producers on Wednesday 25 October at 7:30pm at 18 BP in person with an option to join hybrid. Decision to be communicated to prospective directors by 3 November.

Claire W to review prospective proposals and send an overview plus a possible rota for the director / producer meetings to the committee for review.

5. Treasurer / bank account

Claire W provided an overview of three potential candidates that she / Hannah / Alastair have met but largely don't seem suitable for various reasons.

Hannah urges us all to review Mio's review of bank accounts so that we can get back to her.

6. Membership update

Martin notes that he has had an email from Katie Galloway as she is putting on a new musical called *Treason* based on the Gunpowder Plot of 1604 and is offering a group ticket discount from 25 to 28 October 2023. Martin will email membership to ask them whether they'd like to go the pub one evening or attend the theatre as our next social outing.

7. Edinburgh University update

No-one from the faculty has replied to Martin's attempt to contact them to kindle our relationship. Martin has got contact details for Bedlam so will pursue this. Hannah suggested we revisit this once we've reviewed the 2024 programme.

8. Don Arnott

Hannah noted the sad news that longtime SCDA member Don Arnott has died. Claire noted that the funeral is scheduled for 1pm on Wednesday 4 October and will investigate whether or not there is a formal way to send our condolences.

9. Next meeting

Next committee meeting to be held online on Sunday 29 October at 7:30pm.