

Minutes of Committee Meeting 17 March 2024

Present: Hannah Bradley Croall

Darran Cosgrove

Martin Foreman

Claire Morand

James Scott

Kate Stephenson

Claire Wood

Robert Wylie

Non-Committee Minute Taker: Alma Forsyth

1. Apologies: Siobhan McGovern; Alastair Smith
2. Approval Minutes of 11 February: Hannah proposed and Kate seconded.
3. **Taiwan**: update – Hannah offered congratulations to director Claire M, writer Martin, and James, one of the cast, on winning several awards at the SCDA (Edinburgh District) one act play competition. The production will go forward to the Eastern Division final in Killin where it will be seen on 4 April. Claire M reported that a van driver would be required, resulting in various solutions being put forward, among which sharing a van with EPT (also performing on 4 April), and making an appeal to EGTG members. To this end, Martin will request help in an email to members. Claire M thanked Claire W for describing the space at the unfamiliar Killin venue. Transport to and from the venue, however, remained the biggest problem. On behalf of the Committee, Hannah wished Claire M and those involved in *Taiwan* all the best for Round 2.
4. **The Fastest Clock**: update – Production manager, Claire W, informed the Committee that rehearsals were proceeding well and that set building and props acquisition were in hand. Following a nudge from Hannah, the Roxy venue had put tickets on sale. Claire W will ask director Abbye if she is planning a programme. If so, EGTG will have to provide someone for FoH. Hannah, in her role as EGTG communications officer, will consult Abbye regarding publicity.
5. **Fringe 24**: update - Claire M, production manager, was awaiting the proofs for EGTG's entries in the Fringe programme. This followed modifications relating to the duration of *A Singular Deception* and a trigger warning for *The Ruffian on the Stair*. A discussion ensued regarding a mention of each playwright in the Fringe programme (not a usual inclusion), particularly Joe Orton whose name, it was felt, would attract spectators. Hannah added that as writer Hilary Spiers was not being paid for *ASD*, she too should be mentioned. The print and online programmes permitting different word counts, it would be easier to include the writers in the online version. Claire W offered to edit the existing copy with a view to mentioning both writers in both print and online versions, which offer was accepted. In order for tickets to go on sale in April, the new programme copy has to be with the Fringe team by 20 March. Dates for a table read and auditions have been set for 3 and 17 April respectively, the former taking place in King's Buildings (University of Edinburgh) while EGTG's usual space in Buccleuch Place is being redecorated. Hilary has been in contact with a suitable male actor for *ASD* and has backed this up with a general audition call to actors from the global majority. On behalf of Robert, director of *TRotS*, Darran has been investigating the projector at the Royal Scot Club Fringe venue. According to Gordon Hughes and Richard Spiers it does not project well.

Darran will explore other sources vis-à-vis technical quality and cost with the aim of comparing them with the RSC projector before taking a decision.

6. **Devising workshops:** update – Following an announcement on Facebook that the workshops would begin on Monday 18 March, leader Claire M reported that prospective participants had been in touch. She explained that the aim of the workshops was to allow people to try, in a relaxed atmosphere, an activity outside their comfort zone, be it acting, writing or directing, with no constraint to produce a show at the end of it. In reply to Martin's asking for information on dates and frequency to put in the Newsletter, Claire M said the next session would not take place until after Killin and would probably be on a Monday or Wednesday, depending on availability of participants and space at BP.
7. **Autumn and Winter Shows:** update – **a) Dangerous Corner:** performance dates 15 to 19 October. Director Martin proposed a reading on Tuesday 28 May, leading to auditions on Thursday 13 and Sunday 16 June. This would depend on Fringe rehearsals at BP, which would not be set until the Fringe productions had been cast. Martin hoped to hold a few rehearsals before Fringe curtain up when activities would halt for most of August. Kate is production manager; Michael Mulligan will build the set which will be based on that for *Hay Fever*; and Lois Adams will be stage manager. An assistant director is still required. Martin fears the main problem will be finding a cast of the right age group. **b) baba:** to be performed in December. Writer Claire W was preparing to wield her red pencil to reduce the 21,000 words already written to a more appropriate count. She would like a read through, preferably in May, to ascertain the play's present duration and what may subsequently be cut. The play has a cast of 22 with a variety of skills required. As Claire W envisages a 'fun' read through Robert suggested inviting EGTG members and that it be combined with Ukrainian dancing proposed by a friend of Claire W. The afternoons of Saturday 4 and 11 May were discussed as potential dates with the venue to be decided.
8. **Membership:** update – Martin reported no change since the last Committee meeting.
9. **Treasury:** update – Hannah announced a change of account from the Royal Bank of Scotland to the Bank of Scotland, following which a first electronic transfer had been made. She is trying to set up a payment card for directors' show expenses. In future directors will have to sign an agreement to provide receipts for all expenditure, even those executed by card. Martin will contact B of S to ascertain whether it will accept the present debit cards held by Hannah and Claire W, which have no named authorisers. He was also anxious to set up a more formal procedure for co-authorising payments. He suggested that Darran (proposed treasurer) be the lead while Hannah, Claire W and Martin himself remain as authorisers and that they be recorded as signatories with any subsequent changes formally noted.
10. **AGM:** Hannah requested that the Committee arrive at 18h30 for a 19h00 start. A scratch night will be held after official AGM business has been concluded. Martin wished that it be made clear that the main purpose of the AGM is to change the structure of the EGTG's constitution and hoped Alastair would be present to deal with questions from the membership. It should also be mentioned that there is a vacant seat on the Committee. Regarding the scratch night, Hannah asked Kate and Martin to host the proceedings. Members would be advised to bring their own snacks and drinks. Robert wondered if the Committee should make a special effort to dress with care as it is EGTG's 70th anniversary. The Committee was divided equally on this matter.
11. **AOB:** a) Home Street – Another clear out was held the morning of 17 March. A persistent leak from the roof, discovered earlier by Kate and Michael M, was worse than previously thought. Kate will call a roofer. The cost of repair should be shared by other owners in the block and EGTG's insurance should cover it. b) James asked if anyone knew how many

members had taken advantage of the EGTG members' discount agreed with the Traverse for a recent show. A figure was not available.

The date of the next Committee meeting will be fixed at the AGM.