

EGTG Committee Meeting Minutes 10/11/24, 7pm, Zoom

Present: Hannah, Martin, Robert, Claire W, Kate, Claire M, Alexander Cook, James Gray, Adelle Ansara

Apologies: None

Minutes taker: Claire M

2. Approval of last meeting minutes (& confirmation of minute-taker for this meeting)
Hannah approved. Robert seconded.

3. Committee Membership

b. co-opt new members

Hannah, president, expressed how nice it was to have new faces joining in. The current committee members (H, M, R, CW, K, CM) voted unanimously the following people as committee members:

Alexander Cook

James Gray

Adelle Ansara

a. Resignation

Hannah reported on the resignation of Siobhan from the committee. Hannah thanked her for her contributions to the committee all these years - as she was probably the longest serving committee member to date. We are very grateful for her support all these years and appreciate she has given a lot of her time and effort to the committee. The committee is looking forward to having her continue her contribution as a regular member.

Martin asked that the two information regarding committee membership be put in the next newsletter. Hannah will add them.

4. Dangerous Corner

b. general comments

Director Martin expressed his satisfaction as what he thought was a very successful production. He was very pleased and grateful at all the contributions the production has received on and behind the stage. He thanks the team: Ross Hope as AD, Dug Campbell on sound, Gordon Hughes on lighting, Kate S on costumes and Michael Mulligan and Richard Spiers on set buildings for all their contributions.

Hannah congratulated everyone involved.

James, as cast, expressed how happy a production it was to work in and thanked both director and co-director.

a. sales / finances

167 tickets issued, 168 sold. The final settlement from Roxy is still to come and Hannah will chase.

Initial projection from Hannah as acting treasurer is that the show will break even, which is a very good outcome for an October show..

Martin expressed his disappointment that it didn't make a profit, given that there was a cast of 7 and the play was for a well-known director. Hannah clarified that the show met its

projected audience number, but costs were higher than anticipated, in particular the hiring of the van.

5. baba

a. general update - rehearsals, set etc

Claire W mentioned that with such a large cast it was, as expected, proving difficult to have everybody present at rehearsals on the same day. As a result, after 6 weeks of rehearsals, Thursday 14/11 is forecast to be the 1rst day where all the cast will be present.

At this occasion, a photographer will come - for free - to take pictures out and in costume. The rehearsal today was books down. Claire W finds the "theatre portion" of the production to be in good shape. There is still a lot of work to be done in every department, due to the fact that it is such a big cast and the production team, incl. props and costume, are working very hard.

There will be a set painting session next Saturday 16 November, 10am at Home Street, where some cast will help.

Van hire. Couple of options to explore: Claire W is checking with one of the cast Dad's if they'd be willing to do it. Kate will make introduction between Hannah/Claire W and her "person with a van" contact that she has used previously.

Cast recording of social media. As always, share and comment.

b. sales / finance

47 tickets sold far, which is aligned with sales of Ruffian this year and ahead of a Christmas Carol which was a December show, so this is so far looking good. Projection is that we need 200 full price tickets to cover venue costs.

c. programme

Adelle will draft a digital program for baba in canva in the form of a flip book. She is looking into business sponsorship to finance the printing cost of the program.

Adelle talked to local businesses and found Kev's class who is happy to contribute £100 towards the program printing cost in return of a half page / full page in the program and some complimentary tickets. Committee was happy with them as sponsors.

Adelle will work out and share a printing cost figure for 150 printed copies of the program and for 300 to see if this sponsorship covers all costs, or if some other sponsors still need to be found.

d. FOH etc

Hannah and Claire W asked for a committee member to organise the FOH rota as with 4 weeks to go, they don't have the resource to do it. The FOH should be 2 people for each of the 3 days, with two representations on Saturday (afternoon and evening). Dates of the show are 12 to 14 December, 7pm in the evening and 3pm for a Sat matinee.

Committee member to volunteer by email.

6. 2025 Season

a. SCDA - "Being Norwegian", director Paul Arendt

Hannah applied for the rights and paid for them and is waiting for the licence to come through. Auditions are planned for the 26th November and will be announced in newsletter. We'll wait for the licence to come through to publicly publicise. The plan is to start with some rehearsals in December, with the full bulk being done in January.

Production Manager : Claire W.

b. Spring Show 1: "Eureka Day", director Alexander Cook

Hannah has arranged the provisional dates with the Roxy for Sun 27th April get-in and show run Tuesday 29/04 - Friday 2nd May. Auditions to be held in January. Rehearsing from early February.

Hannah, Martin and Claire W, as acting treasurer group, have examined the sales figures by day of past shows over the past years and found that Saturday nights tend to be the lower sell night and that this Saturday night did not attract additional audience from our base. As such, they have proposed a Tuesday to Friday run, which reduces the hire time and hire fee without projected loss of sales figures.

Once the dates are confirmed, Martin will take care of securing the rights.

Production Manager : James

A discussion of what the role of PM entails was had. The role is not yet clearly defined as such and depends on the type of director for the production - from who likes to do everything or who wants to focus on the directing side of things. PM is a go-between director and committee, notably for facilitating contact to build a production team.

Robert mentioned the document drafted for the Fringe. The committee will look into creating a document guideline on the role for the future.

It was agreed that the Production Manager will sit-in for some rehearsals at the beginning, at the middle and at the end of the rehearsal period for first-time directors with EGTG to confirm all is on track as expected on top of reports.

c. Spring Show 2: "Suddenly Last Summer", director Ross Hope.

Provisional dates talked with Roxy: Tuesday 24th to Friday 27th June - same run length comment as d.

Production Manager: Kate

d. Winter Show "The Curious Incident of The Dog in The Night Time", director Jac Wheble

Jac is looking for a flexible space in thrust or round. End of November is a difficult time to find space as everywhere is busy with Christmas show.

Queens Hall and Saint Bright are not available. Waiting to hear from Festival studio. King's hall not free on Sunday.

Committee to discuss by email of possible venues suitable, and find out Hire rate / availability 6/7 days

Production Manager : Adelle. Jac is a first time director with EGTG, so Production Manager will sit-in in some rehearsals in beginning/middle/end of rehearsal period.

d. Fringe

Fringe slots not filled with appeal for proposals. Brainstorming to find some options. After discussion and look at the season, looking for a show with a decent cast size (7/8), preferably with no rights cost, that would have some audience traction. Need to sort out our plan asap to be able to let Michael know if we can commit to our traditional 2-slots and be sure to be able to do it.

- Hannah will approach Jenny Templin who has directed last year the Fringe show for Arkle and has previously directed with "The Actor's Nightmare" for the Grads
- Martin, Claire M and Alex offered to write some proposals to direct.

The second slot could be a revival of "Being Norwegian", depending on how it goes in February and right costs. That would be decided in February

Decision on Fringe programme to be taken at the next meeting in December based on the propositions.

Hannah to look at numbers and potential show budget for the season and present it at next meeting.

7. Platinum Celebration

Platinum Celebration (exhibition + diner): The committee decided to postpone the celebration to January/February to ensure time to receive answer from the Grant and make sure people will be able to attend. Claire W waiting to hear back from her UoE micro grant application for £500 to cover the cost..

Claire W to ask past members when would be a good time for them.

Hannah will email UoE archives about loans for the exhibition.

Christmas celebration will still be done on the 6th December. As always, difficult to find a venue at this time of the year. Kate has been in contact with venues and is waiting to hearing back from some of them. If not sorted by Tuesday 12/11, we will do it in BP.

8. Membership

Kate reported 61 paid members.

9. Treasury update

Hannah to send financials for Dangerous Corner when settlement from Roxy comes through.

10. Home Street

a. physical structure

Kate reported that the deblocking of the pipe meant a lot less leak now and this was looking much better. Still waiting for the roof to be patched up as the roofer was on Holiday. Kate will continue to get it sorted.

b. next clear-out

Sunday 12th January 25, 10am

11. AOB

Martin asked about the cost of publicity, in particular if programs could be taken out of the director's budget for the show. After discussions, programs are listed under publicity and cost of publicity will stay part of the director's budget.

Hannah to put together a possible breakdown of the director's budget based on previous shows expenses.

Kate to draft a document on good places to start when looking at sourcing things for the show.

Martin acknowledged the fact that Claire W had made a proposal that the committee wanted to see for the 26 season and that came with workshops. Claire W will report back on when she plan on doing the workshop during the 2025.

After discussion, the committee decided to not create a WhatsApp group as some members weren't favourable to it. Discussion in between committee meetings will remain by e-mail. Hannah will do introduction email so emails address will be shared with new committee members

12. Date of next meeting

Sunday 1st December, 7pm over Teams (with zoom as backup).