

EGTG Committee Meeting Minutes

19 January 2025

Present: Kate, Hannah, Robert, Martin, Claire M, James, Alex, Adele, Claire W.

1. Approval of minutes from the last committee meeting

Hannah approved the minutes. Claire M seconded the approval.

2. Baba

Claire W commended the group for a great collective effort from a big cast and an equally large backstage crew that felt like a fitting celebration for our seventieth anniversary. She thanked Hannah for her help with co-directing the show and to everyone that got involved and made the show such a success.

Hannah noted that ticket sales were strong and the show therefore served up a profit of £941.

3. Being Norwegian

Claire W noted that we need a sofa for Being Norwegian, following the discovery that we're lacking cushions for our existing sofa, but they could probably use the white painted wooden sofa / seat if need be.

Kate explained that following research this week, she's discovered that it would cost £80 to £100 for a second-hand sofa that would serve for a range of shows, period and modern day. Including transportation, that's likely to total up to £130.

Group discussed whether or not other shows this year are likely to need a sofa. Alex would like a sofa for Incognito. Kate to check whether Suddenly Last Summer would need a sofa. Hannah observed that if we bought a new sofa, we would need to be certain that we could keep it clean and airtight in Home Street. Kate noted that provided it was properly wrapped and stored away from the fire exit, it should be secure.

Group agreed that this cost sounds reasonable and that if Kate could be so kind, she should try and purchase an appropriate sofa.

Claire W also noted that she would like a car to pick up boxes from Lois at Tesco to take them to Home Street to be fire proofed, also for the set. Claire M kindly offered to do this when she is back from France (end of January).

4. Incognito

Rights granted, read through on Wednesday, auditions this week.

James noted that he has returned contract to Roxy though Roxy haven't responded to forms being returned.

Alex is happy that he has got all the materials he needs for the read through.

Hannah keen that everyone support Alex on Wednesday at the read-through, especially as he's a new director.

Alex and Hannah are working on an image to be used for the show (filler image in use at the moment).

Adele kindly offers her support with creating a digital design and / or a poster, should that be needed.

5. Suddenly Last Summer

Kate confirmed that the contract is agreed and has been received by the Roxy. Group had a brief discussion about dates. Kate to confirm dates for a table read and auditions with Ross and his team. Hannah noted that she would like an image for the show in advance if possible.

6. Fringe 2025

First show: Virtuous Burglar – Jenny Tamplin in place and all is good.

Still have a gap for the other Fringe show. The deadline for the Fringe programme is the 5 March so we need to have a solution by then.

Also lacking a production manager for the Fringe.

Discussion about how to find someone else to direct another show as we're keen to keep the double slot as booked with Michael. Hannah to approach SJ and David Grimes to see if either would be interested.

7. Curious Incident of the Dog at Night Time

Jac Wheble and Hannah went to look at the Edinburgh Academy theatre which they found to be a black box space but nothing very different to Roxy Assembly.

Therefore, they are contemplating using Assembly Roxy downstairs which would be around £2500. Rights are £408 though we might need to buy scripts in addition.

General hope that a large cast and reasonable rights cost should make the total cost practical.

8. AGM 2025

Hannah shared the accounts and treasury report for last year with the committee prior to the meeting. Claire M checked them and noted a couple of queries which were discussed at the meeting. Hannah requested that other committee members look at and consider the accounts in detail before she submits them to our accountants and ultimately, submits them to OSCR. Claire M noted the committee's thanks to Hannah for doing this.

Hannah then asked the committee to consider suitable candidates for the required committee roles. She noted that whilst she has been acting Treasurer as a temporary solution whilst we seek a new Treasurer following Darran's departure, it is not either viable or desired that she continue to act as both Treasurer and President beyond the AGM.

Claire M offered to be President. Committee discussed this proposal and agreed that Hannah and Claire M to meet to work out which of them would be best suited to being Treasurer and which, best suited to being President but each is willing to be one.

Martin notes that he is stepping down as secretary at this AGM but is happy to stay on as a committee member.

Kate is happy to stay as a committee member and is very happy to stay being responsible for Home Street but would love to not be membership secretary.

Alex said he would be happy to take on the secretary or membership secretary roles. James is also happy to take the secretary or membership secretary roles. Hannah would love new membership secretary and secretary to proactively seek out opportunities for members (i.e. ticket discounts at Capital Theatres, etc.), quarterly social events and regular communications with members and non-members. James and Alex to have a chat later this week and agree which role each felt better suited to.

Adele said she is very happy to take the communications role.

Claire W noted that she is happy to continue as Vice President.

Kate noted that if we could agree an AGM date, she would start seeking a venue for the next AGM.

9. SCIO update

We are *prima facie* in a strong position to proceed with the backing of our members and Hannah will be able to support this with the minute from the last AGM. Technical difficulties for Robert accessing OSCR site have contributed to a delay in processing this for which Robert apologised for not addressing sooner. He will seek further help if this is not sorted by Incognito read through. James offered to help Robert if needed.

10. Membership update

Kate notes that we have 59 members.

11. Treasury updates

Accounts as discussed above.

2024 accounts essentially covered our costs for the year – made approx. £600. Good that we are covering our costs but we need to look to growing our income. Hopeful that we will make slightly higher income next year with larger casts so Hannah proposes that we consider a show budget of around £200 (a modest increase on 2024) for 2025 shows based on anticipated ticket sales of around 200 seats per show to ensure that directors have more flexibility with their productions. Hopefully, we can repeat the baba model and get sponsorship that effectively pays for a programme to be printed where we feel we need one.

Hannah would also like to propose a ticket price increase from 2026 to reflect escalating costs of venues, materials / paint and energy. Perhaps maintain member price at £15 and

increase general public ticket price to £17 or £18. Some discussion from the group about this. Kate offers to do an amateur group ticket price audit so we can compare proposed prices to others' pricing. Hannah to review ticket income over 2024 and look at incremental difference that a raised ticket price would have made to profit across the year.

Hannah also floats the idea of setting aside a small marketing budget that can be used to fund digital advertising (Facebook, Instagram promoted posts) for shows outside the Fringe to see whether we can increase audience numbers. Some discussion about this.

12. Home Street

Kate has booked a pick up for the sofa and massive cupboard that's always in the way. She will need two people on Sunday 2 Feb at teatime / evening to move them out to the street. Hannah and Claire M offered to help. Otherwise, looking quite good in there. Hires have really picked up over the last year so hopefully we can do more of that over the next year.

Kate to seek advice from Alastair about how to go about pursuing shared repairs and to talk to Michael and Richard about how to address more permanently the water ingressions at the front door.

13. AOB

SCDA have an online forum on Tuesday evening this week about growing audiences. Alex and Hannah to attend to see what we can learn.

Edinburgh University Graduates Association have their AGM in the Raeburn Room on Thursday 6 Feb at 11am. Martin is willing to attend.

SCDA asked if we would like to pay £20 for an ad in the One Act programme for future shows. Group agreed that this is not a priority given our current financial situation.

Claire M noted that she had to get the SCDA trophy for last year's one acts engraved and asked whether there is a preferred engraver. Agreed that she would get competitive quotes and go with the cheapest.

14. Date of next meeting

7pm on Monday 24 February proposed for next committee meeting – though we can move this if need be to fit around Incognito rehearsals.

11am on Sunday 2 March for the next Home Street clear out.