

COSMOPOLITAN PLAYERS – COMMITTEE MEETING –
THURSDAY 30TH JUNE 2022 ON ZOOM

PRESENT; Rachel Bickerdike (Chair), Leah Hamilton, Elaine Jackson, Jan Morrell,
Lara Woodhouse

APOLOGIES: Carolyn Craven, Emma McGrath, Gillian Myers

Rachel indicated that the aim of this meeting was to determine the plans for the September Fundraiser and to get a review of the recent production, Agatha Crusty & the Health Spa Murders.

REVIEW OF PREVIOUS PRODUCTION

In the absence of Gillian at the meeting Elaine gave an overview of the production and advised that the ‘get-in’ on the Monday had gone very well as had the ‘get-out’ on the Saturday evening and the theatre area had been cleared within an hour of the production finishing. The show itself had gone very well but it was unfortunate that it was not better attended.

Gillian had sent through some comment in her absence which Elaine passed on to the committee:

- First indications were that it was likely we had made a loss on the production, possibly of around £600. This was down to poor ticket sales despite everything thrown at it on social media
- If it had been possible to get the flyers out a little earlier it may have improved ticket sales but there were other factors involved over which we had little control
- Other factors which may have contributed to poor ticket sales were probably in respect of the current recession, people not having a lot of excess funds and being selective as to where to spend it.
- Rehearsal room charges were the bulk of the expenditure but we could not have managed with less rehearsal time. The bill from the Carriageworks was still outstanding.

Carolyn who had also tendered her apologies had sent through some written comments:

- Ticket sales had been disappointing but this was probably due in part to members of other societies who would usually support us having been in rehearsals for their own productions, having just finished their own productions and also possibly taking long awaited holidays, etc. Inability of people being able to travel due to strikes in the public transport network did also have a bearing on ticket sales.
- Taking into consideration the various issues, June is probably not the best time to put on a production and may be worth considering for the future
- Delay in casting the show may also have had a bearing on ticket sales.
- Advertising material needs to be produced sooner with the possibility of using larger A3 posters which are more suitable for display in the theatre itself.

Thanks were expressed her thanks on behalf of the committee to all who had been involved in the production and that we would await the final balance sheet when this was available.

FUNDRAISER

Leah indicated there were four main areas where a decision required to be made at this meeting:

- i) The Name of the Event
- ii) Selection of the plays to be performed – ideally 5 but could be more or less
- iii) Ticket Price
- iv) Seating arrangements

- Carolyn had indicated that as soon as she was advised of a title for the event the publicity information could go 'live'.
- After considerable discussion it was agreed that the event name should be 'Cosmopolitan Players Presents – the Cos' Capers
- Following further information received from Carolyn regarding a booking fee on ticket sales, it was agreed that the cost of the ticket would be £8 incl. booking fee
- It was agreed that ticket sales should be monitored so that they could be managed
- It was agreed that tickets should remain on sale until the start of the performance, i.e, 7.15pm in case there were any last minute audience attendees.
- Any advertising material should include a brief overview of the event to read 'A cacophony of entertainment including short plays, quizzes, games and refreshments'
- Capacity at the venue had already been agreed at 50. (Could be reviewed depending on seating)
- It was agreed that if refreshments were to be served it would be more convenient for tables to be provided and discussion took place as to whether it would be better to have round tables or rectangular tables, which we knew were available at the venue. Gillian to be asked if she would make enquiries of the venue manager re availability of tables
- With regard to the possibility of using a raised performance area, Gillian had previously indicated that it may be possible to use staging from LCAN. Gillian to be asked to make enquiries. In this respect it would also be necessary to enquire if a ramp would be available for ease of access.
- With regard to the Launch evening, which had already been agreed would be held on the 19th July, Rachel indicated that she had access through her father to a zoom account which could be used for both the launch and the auditions, agreed to be held on the 26th July
- Lara, Gillian, Leah, Rachel, Steve Morrell and possibly Matt Tempest had indicated they would be interested in directing one of the plays
- After considerable discussion the following plays were selected:
The Sequel: Play 60: Excerpt from A Midsummer Night's Dream
With Play 60 and Anna & Scott being in reserve
Elaine had also submitted two short stories 'Washday Blues' and 'Wednesday Night is Quiz Night', both of which were selected and which it was agreed would be performed by Elaine.
- Committee members were asked to submit any further suggestions for plays as soon as possible

It was agreed that a further e.mail would be sent out to members reminding them of the launch night and advising that if there were any further suggestions for items for inclusion in the evening that these should be sent to Leah.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT MEETING

- a) Programme for the evening, including production of quiz/games sheets
- b) Seating arrangements
- c) Method of payment for refreshments, etc
- d) Confirmation of rehearsal time/space – to be arranged by each individual director
- e) MC for the evening/front of house staff/refreshment staff
- f) Any other matters pertaining to the organisation of the evening requiring a decision

FUTURE MEETINGS

Launch of the Fundraiser	Tuesday 19 th July on Zoom
Auditions	Tuesday 26 th July on Zoom
Committee Meeting	Thursday 28 th July (venue to be decided)