

Minutes of the Cosmopolitan Players AGM held virtually on

Thursday 10th September 2020

Meeting attendees:

Jan Morrell (chair)

Rachel Bickerdike (secretary)

Gillian Myers (treasurer)

Lee Sharratt (committee)

Carolyn Craven (press & publicity officer)

Bryan Craven

Miranda Foxtan (committee)

Lara Woodhouse (committee)

Elaine Jackson

Emma McGrath

Richard Hunt

Leah Hamilton

Matt Hills

Louise Blackburn

Dianne McHale - Fannon

Linda McHale

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Barry Unwin and Joanna Bucktrout

2. REVIEW OF 2019 AGM MINUTES

The minutes were agreed.

Proposed: Lee Sharratt

Seconded: Lara Woodhouse

3. CHAIR'S REPORT

By Jan Morrell

“Good evening and welcome to this rather unusual AGM via zoom. It is nice to see so many of you joining us.

This will be my last meeting as Chair of COS as this year I am stepping down but sure that you will continue in safe hands.

I am sad that my last year has been such a hard one with the Covid 19 pandemic hitting the whole world with, lockdown for weeks meaning that we have been separated from our loved ones and friends and the tragic deaths in such large numbers across the whole world.

The pandemic has meant the closure of public buildings, pubs, restaurants, leisure facilities etc the one of course that has affected us most is the closure of theatres specifically the Carriageworks. But COS has not let this get us down and it has been nice to see us supporting each other and enjoying each other's company. With our regular zoom meetings on a Tuesday evening, We have had play meetings and all sort of quizzes and we have all enjoyed everything we have done. So many thanks to everyone that has contributed to making this such a success and these evenings are continuing until the time comes when we can all meet face to face albeit social distancing.

Sadly this was the year we lost a much loved long standing member of COS, Judith Unwin. We will continue to remember everything Judith did as Director, Actress and long time COS member in everything we do. We all have our memories of Judith and several dedications have been made to her over the months the last being from LCT at the Not the Guild Awards and I could not let tonight go by without us remembering her. Our thoughts and love go out to Barrie our President, who is sorry he could not make it tonight but wishes us great success as we move into the future. God Bless Judith and Rest in Peace.

But we were lucky to have managed to get a very successful show on before lockdown. In February Gillian Myers Directed Agatha Crusty and the Pantomime Murders. This was the premiere performance of this production and we were delighted to take on this challenge which I must say was brilliant. I am delighted to announce sold out every night it was so successful that the theatre asked us to put on an additional show, which we did at very short notice. So well done to everyone involved in that show.

Although the immediate future of the theatre is still unknown the Committee were keen that we did not just sit back and do nothing we have a slot booked in the theatre for February and even though we still don't know if live theatre will be viable by then. It was decided that we would carry on regardless and start on a new production, so we decided to put on Agatha Crusty and the Murder Mystery Dinner. We have now cast the show and are rehearsing on zoom a new challenge for all of us. Whether we will open in February or not this show will go on.

Despite the challenges we have faced over the last 6 months COS has moved forward and is staying strong. It is nice to see that we have started to build our membership with a younger generation joining us Oldies.

I would like to say a big thank you to committee who have supported me over the last few years and also members for there work and commitment. We don't know

how the immediate future will unfold but I am confident that COS will face the challenges ahead and come out winners.

As I now come to the end of my final report as Chair of COS, I am happy to pass the mantle on.

I have loved my time as Chair but this is not the last you will see of me I will continue to be involved and support COS in whatever capacity I can. I have been fortunate to have worked with some very talented people both on and off stage and seen such a diverse range of shows. We have laughed and cried along the way we have had disasters which the audience knew nothing about. We have faced and overcome many challenges along the way unfortunately we still have many to overcome – How big will our audiences be allowed to be, how do we rehearse with social distancing, but these are things we will overcome in the future.

Finally, I just want to say good luck and every success to the new Chair and Committee and everyone stay safe.”

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

The accounts were presented and explained by Gillian Myers as treasurer. It was noted that some of the payments associated with our production of Ben Hur were made this year, but were included in last year's report.

We had one show this year, Agatha Crusty and the Pantomime Murders, which made a profit of £621.41. This was a huge success, and we added an additional performance last minute due to high demand. Ticket sales also covered the cost of room hire for rehearsals for this show, which in previous years was billed separately. Additional costs were kept to a minimum and thanks was given to members for their help in reducing expenses.

It was clarified that we still pay some rent for Croyden House as we share in the use of LeedsCAN props and furniture, despite not having our own designated space.

A member suggested that the committee look at alternative venues for rehearsals, or reducing the number of rehearsals, to support reduced costs. The committee confirmed they have been reviewing options and will continue to do so.

See attached accounts sheets which have been audited and were agreed at the meeting.

Proposed: Rachel Bickerdike

Seconded: Emma McGrath

Action: Secretary to send thanks to Katy Smith our non-charging independent accounts examiner.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEE

Nominations had been collated prior to the meeting and a show of hands unanimously approved them.

Chair: Rachel Bickerdike
Vice chair: Lara Woodhouse
Treasurer: Gillian Myers
Secretary: Louise Blackburn
Press & publicity officer: Carolyn Craven
General committee:
Lee Sharratt (social lead)
Lara Woodhouse
Miranda Foxton
Emma McGrath
Jan Morrell
Lean Hamilton
Elaine Jackson

AGM MEETING MINUTES Prepared by: Rachel Bickerdike 30.09.20

AOB

- Next production discussed, fully cast, starter rehearsals via Zoom, hoping to hold some rehearsals outdoors. Theatre currently open only during day.
- CC asked members to like and share Facebook posts
- LH advised she had some ideas on how to publicise and will contact CC
- LS gave an update re social activities and apologised events have been cancelled due to COVID. Hoping to arrange something to celebrate 65 years of COS. Also aiming for a gathering at xmas if possible, may have to be virtual.
- Thanks given to Bryan and Carolyn Craven for creating and holding quizzes for members and also to Matt Tempest who has volunteered and created quizzes and sourced plays for readings.
- BC recommended committee review the society's constitution.
- CC mentioned other ways to perform, may look to stream performances and mentioned recent CAN performances.
- Dianne McHale- Fannon thanked the existing committee.
- Matt Hillis thanked the society for being so friendly and welcoming.
- LW thanked Jan Morrell for her hard work as chair
- LH asked to be considered to direct future productions
- RW thanked Jan and welcomed everyone and said she was looking forward to representing and chairing the society.