

COSMOPOLITAN PLAYERS – COMMITTEE MEETING –
WEDNESDAY 6th APRIL 2022 HELD ON ZOOM

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

APOLOGIES: Carolyn Craven

1. NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING –

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd March 2022 were approved, proposed by Gillian and seconded by Emma and agreed unanimously.

2. MATTERS ARISING

With regard to the income of £50 referred to under Item 4 – Treasurer’s Report, Gillian indicated that £10.00 of this amount had been paid to Carolyn for the hire of the dog costume. There were no other matters arising.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

- (i) Rachel advised the committee that she had written a letter of thanks for Paul Harding for stepping to sort out the sound for the play and that this had been acknowledged
- (ii) The latest NODA newsletter had been received but was still awaiting circulation

4. TREASURER’S REPORT

Gillian advised that there had been a slight change in the financial situation with the balance in the current account now at £2035.18. The balance in the reserve account remained static at £116.10. There was still a query outstanding with the Theatre in relation to hire charges but it was anticipated there would be a small profit on the latest production, in the region of £400/£500. Gillian advised that she hoped to have final figures available for the next meeting.

The Carriageworks had agreed to maintain their current room hire charges at the present rate until the 1st August when it was anticipated there would be a cost increase of 2½/3%.

Rachel expressed her thanks to Jan and to the cast for an excellent production and Jan expressed her thanks to all who had assisted with getting everything sorted out in time for the production to go on.

5. CURRENT PRODUCTION

Gillian advised the meeting that the play was not yet fully cast and there were currently two male and one female part still to cast. Approaches had been made to some potential cast who had expressed interest but had subsequently given back word. Jan advised that Steve had been contacted through Leeds Arts Theatre by a potential cast member and she would ask him to pass on the details to Gillian. Two potential cast had been auditioned, Sue Kettlewell’s daughter and Anne Weston who had been in ‘Calendar Girls’, both had done very good auditions but a decision was yet to be made.

It was noted that tickets should have gone on sale at the beginning of April so it was essential that the play was fully cast as soon as possible. The meeting was advised that both Gillian and Carolyn were actively pursuing possible cast through NODA and the Guild. It would not be possible to circulate information around Wharfedale societies as we were no longer a member. Imminent productions and clashing rehearsal times were proving to be a barrier to people coming forward. Gillian advised that a lot of the set had now been sorted. She had acquired two day beds but was still in need of a small, low coffee table in white, if possible.

In view of the situation with regard to not having fully cast the play, Jan raised the question as to whether or not we should consider postponing the production until October but the likelihood was that we would still be in the same position of not being able to cast.

Rachel agreed to put some information out on Facebook but the concern was that there was little interest. It was also necessary to start considering the programme for next year. It was agreed that we would reconsider the position at the next meeting.

6. FUTURE PRODUCTIONS

- i) Rachel confirmed that the Carriageworks theatre had been booked for February and June 2023.
- ii) It was necessary to start planning as soon as possible for an October production with regard to the format, date, time and venue.
- iii) The general feeling of the meeting was that this should be held at Unity Hall in Morley although Rachel expressed some concerns as to the impression this was likely to give to our audience
- iv) Gillian advised the meeting that if Unity Hall was used it would be possible to sell refreshments to the audience and it may also be possible to apply for an alcohol licence
- v) Unity Hall was considered to be good value and a good space and could seat up to 60 people depending on how the hall was set up
- vi) Any planned production would need good publicity in order to encourage people to travel 'out of town', away from our usual venue
- vii) The production could be a one-off on a Friday or Saturday night in September or October.

Leah indicated that she would be willing to organise the event and agreed to bring forward some plans and actions to the next meeting. Lara indicated she would like to be involved and would very much like to 'get back on stage'. It was suggested that a cabaret format with tables and chairs might be the best option with both an individual and a table price. It was agreed that enquiries should be made as to an acceptable ticket price and what people would be prepared to pay. Lara agreed to send Leah a copy of a sketch she had written and Leah agreed to contact Carolyn to obtain a book of sketches/monologues which might be suitable.

7. SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Rachel indicated that she had emailed Lee with regard to him being involved in organising social activities but she had not yet had any response.

8. AOB

- i) LCAN Reviews - Emma expressed her concern at the content and tone of one of the reviews of the last production as she felt these were a little OTT and not very constructive. Jan also expressed her concern and did not feel that consideration was given to the practicalities of space and finances and whether or not these reviews were of any benefit.

NEXT MEETING

It had not been possible to book Browns for the next scheduled meeting on the 27th April and it was agreed that this should be moved to **Thursday 5th May** at a venue to be agreed. Gillian tendered her apologies for the meeting.