

COSMOPOLITAN PLAYERS – AGM Tuesday 6th September 2022

Chair's Report

Welcome everybody, it's really nice to see people in person again and that's what I have enjoyed about this last year, that we have been able to get back to relative "normal" again. We have had two fantastic shows directed by Jan Morrell and then Gillian Myers supported by Leah Hamilton. It was great to see Agatha back on stage and in February we had great success with ticket sales and made a small but decent profit for the society. Unfortunately, committee chose a June date for our second production which ended up being very difficult to cast as a lot of our members were on holiday or unavailable. I would like to give special thanks to Carolyn for her exceptional effort trying to find cast members to fill the roles in the show and searching high and low to find new members. And thank you to all those who have taken a part in a play this year and especially those who joined the society to help us out with these parts. Congratulations to Matt Jones and Graham Siddle as well who were nominated in the LeedsCAN Guild Awards for their parts.

As it turned out, a lot of potential audience members were also busy in June and we struggled to get ticket sales. This is something we have adjusted for next year and I hope we will have our main productions in February and October 2023 when more people seem available. We have pencilled in a potential February production and I have to say I'm very excited for that to be announced if and when we are able to get the rights.

As a committee we agreed with our directors to have a very limited budget for productions and we sourced a new rehearsal venue which was cheaper than the Carriageworks and has worked well for the majority of people. Something I love about Cos is the supportive family feel and it was great to hear about cast members and backstage guys helping each other out with lifts. However even with limited expenditure, the cost to put on a show, even Upstairs in the Studio, does take a large chunk of ticket sales and really we do need to sell out to make a profit. I would urge all members to continue to support your society by paying your membership fees, buying tickets for shows when you aren't performing and encouraging anyone and everyone you know to see our shows. It really does make a difference and any society needs all its members to pull together and help in any way they can.

That brings me to being able to say that I am sadly stepping down as Chair of Cos and resigning from the committee. My priorities have changed so I have made the decision to take a break from extra activities for a little while. I will still be in the audience to see your shows and offering all my love and support to what is going on. This was a personal decision for me and my family but it has been difficult as there is no one who has come forward to take on the role of Chair. I'll leave it to my fellow committee members to pick up on that later.

I would like to say a massive massive thank you to the committee who have been so supportive of me personally and also have managed to keep things

going with passion, enthusiasm and continued commitment. I'm not sure we would have had any shows, in fact I know we wouldn't have, without the current members of the committee. Gillian, Carolyn, Elaine, Jan, Lara, Leah and Emma - thank you. I won't say any more but a very heartfelt thank you to you all. We've been through a lot with the pandemic and coming back to the stage and it's been a pleasure to do it with you.

Thank you also to everyone who has been involved in cos in some way during my time as Chair. To all the stage managers, some of who has their arms twisted a little to take in the role! To our friends who come to help with props and costumes and support in the wings in show week. To Brian and Reasha who always help front of house. To all actors, I hope you have had as much fun as I have on the stage. To those who turn up for socials and stay in touch to support us, even if your main input is with another society. Thank you to you all.

Report prepared by Rachel Bickerdike, Chair of Cosmopolitan Players, Leeds, and presented to the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 6th September at the Carriageworks Theatre