

COSMOPOLITAN PLAYERS – AGM Tuesday 5th September 2023

Report of the Management Team

A warm welcome to you all it is good to see you.

It is hard to believe that it is a year to the day that we held our 2022 Annual General Meeting when special measures were put in place to ensure that the society continued to function. During these twelve months we have also lost three of our former members whom we have remembered at the start of our meeting with a minute's silence.

In view of the difficulties which were experienced in 2021/22 in putting on two shows in the year it was decided not to put on an autumn production in 2022 but to try our hand at putting on a smaller event in the form of an evening get-together with members performing individual items or small group sketches. In order to keep costs to a minimum it was also decided that this production would be held away from the Carriageworks. The end result was a production of *Cos Capers* which was held at Unity Hall in Morley. We are grateful to everyone who assisted with getting what proved to be a very successful evening off the ground. There was some concern initially about taking a production away from the city centre into an area of the city which was unfamiliar to our audiences but these were unfounded as the evening was very well attended and was enjoyed by a very enthusiastic audience and may have led the way into getting something similar on the road in the future.

We did agree to go ahead as planned with a production in March of this year and it is due to the efforts of Carolyn that we were able to get 'Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Baskervilles' on stage. This production was not without its problems and in spite of all the efforts made to get bums on seats audience numbers were very disappointing. It is also thanks to our committee member Leah that we were able to source rehearsal facilities with little or no cost, which enabled us to put on the show with a very limited budget.

Following the last production we reached the six months period at which it was agreed to review the arrangements put in place at the last AGM on how the society would be managed with a view to the future and a meeting was arranged at the Playhouse for Thursday 27th July. We were very pleased to see so many of our present and past members at the meeting and we had a very positive discussion with some good ideas on how we can take the society forward. Having already made the decision not to put on an autumn production again this year we will, with the help of some new members on the committee look forward to getting a production on stage in 2024.

In the immediate future, however, we have agreed to participate in the Carriageworks Take-Over day which LeedsCAN is organising for the 2nd November this year. It is an event which is intended to raise greater awareness of the general public to the activities and opportunities which are

available in amateur theatre, and to encourage greater support. This event will give the Society the opportunity to showcase itself as an active participant in the amateur theatre scene in Leeds and, hopefully, will encourage new members. Whilst plans have still to be finalised it is hoped that the event will be a tremendous boost to amateur theatre at the Carriageworks and in the wider community. As soon as we get some more detailed information as to the programme for the day and our participation, we will let you know.

Another of the things which the new Committee will be tasked with is an amendment to the Society's Constitution. Any amendments and updates will require the approval of the general membership before they can be adopted and it will therefore be necessary at some stage in the near future to call an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society to put a revised Constitution to the general membership for consideration/adoption.

On a positive note I would like to congratulate two of our members who were nominated for a LeedsCAN 2023 award, the winners of which were announced at the awards evening held last Saturday. Unfortunately neither of our nominees – Richard Hunt, who was nominated for Best Supporting Male Actor in a play, and Carolyn Craven, who was nominated for the Sue Elliott Award for Outstanding Service, was successful but we are very proud of their achievement in being nominated. Amateur theatre is a cut throat business but it is good to know that performances and commitment are acknowledged even if the nominees do not come away with the trophy.

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has pulled out the stops to keep Cosmopolitan Players afloat, be it on stage, back stage, front of house, as a member of the audience or as a valuable supporter. Without your commitment, enthusiasm and support, we would have been struggling.

Before I close I would like to say a massive thank you to my fellow Management Team members, Carolyn and Gillian, and to all the Committee Members for their support and commitment over the past twelve months, and also to our unsung hero Bryan who, with incredible patience, manages our website. I think we can say that the last twelve months has not been an easy ride but without your support and commitment we would not be where we are now and I think we can all look forward with positivity to a bright future for Cosmopolitan Players.

My heartfelt thanks to you all

Report prepared by Elaine Jackson, Member of the Cosmopolitan Players, Leeds,
Management Team

Presented to the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 5th September 2023 at the
Carriageworks Theatre