

COSMOPOLITAN PLAYERS – COMMITTEE MEETING –
THURSDAY 28 th July 2022 ON ZOOM

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

MINUTES: The notes of the meeting held on the 30th June were approved. There were no matters arising which would not be covered elsewhere on the agenda.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Rachel advised that she had received an e.mail from LCAN regarding the Awards Evening which was scheduled for Saturday 3rd September at 7.00pm

- (i) It was confirmed that copies of the relevant publicity information had been submitted to LCAN for consideration for awards and both Carolyn and Jan had submitted a short on screen video in relation to the After Dinner Murders, for showing at the Awards evening following a request from James Sidgwick.
- (ii) Unfortunately the deadline for nominations for the Freda McHale Trophy, the Tony Hoyland Youth Award and the Sue Elliott Award was not met

2. The meeting was advised that a further e.mail had been received from LCAN regarding the revision of hire charges for the theatre for the rest of the 2021/22 and the 2022/23 seasons. The current LCAN agreement with the theatre had been extended to the end of July 2022. Major items of note were:

- i) There is a new marketing agreement for all users of the Carriageworks. It was understood that a maximum of 15 performers would be allowed for productions in the Studio, although this had not been confirmed in the correspondence.
- ii) Removal of the 10% box office commissions although the ‘customer’ booking fee of 10% will remain
- iii) Increased pricing for Friday and Saturday performances

Considerable discussion ensued and it was agreed that some of the changes may work to our advantage but consideration would have to be given to performance times for Friday and Saturday.

3. Carolyn advised that NODA had advertised some Acting workshops being run by Tom Booth in September/October, further details to be circulated. But these were not being run by NODA so we’re not free to Members.

TREASURER’S REPORT

- (i) Gillian advised that the accounts had now been completed and requested the approval of the committee for these to be audited by Carole Holmes. This request was approved.
- (ii) The meeting was advised that as at 30th June we had £3,087.50 in the current account and £116.13 in the deposit account. The current account figure did not include three uncashed cheques.
- (iii) Contact from the Carriageworks in relation to hire charges for the Health Spa Murders was still awaited but it was anticipated there would be a loss of around £600 on the production.
- (iv) It was still hoped that we would be able to sell the saleable items of the stage set of the Health Spa Murders and this was still in hand.
- (v) It was noted that the LCAN adjudication for the Health Spa Murders had not yet been received. Rachel agreed to follow this up.

CURRENT PRODUCTION – FUNDRAISER

Lengthy discussion took place with regard to the very poor response to both the launch and the auditions for the Fundraiser, it had not been possible to cast the short plays which had been selected and regrettably the decision was made that the production should not go ahead.

Jan raised the issue of the possibility of postponing the event and following further discussion it was agreed that we should go down this route. The following decisions were agreed:

- (i) that the fundraiser event be postponed until November
- (ii) that the existing date of 9th September at Unity Hall be cancelled – *Gillian to follow up*
- (iii) that enquiries be made with regard to the use of Unity Hall for the 18th November – *Gillian to follow up*
- (iv) that information regarding the cancellation of the event on the 9th September be circulated on FaceBook
- (v) that members be asked for expressions of interest and support if the fundraiser was postponed until a date in November. Members to be asked to respond by Thursday 15th September
- (vi) that if sufficient interest was shown, auditions be arranged for Thursday 29th September
- (vii) that if there is insufficient interest expressed by the 15th September, the event be cancelled

Concerns were expressed with regard to possible costs involved if the performance of the Shakespeare extract was included and Jan confirmed that there would be no cost to the Society.

Leah was thanked for all the work she had put into getting the fundraiser off the ground. This had been much appreciated and the committee was hopeful that with further publicity the production may still go ahead.

FUTURE PRODUCTIONS

Carolyn advised that she was currently looking at suitable and more flexible casting plays for the Society like spoofs we have “previously performed” Ben Hur, 39 Steps, were previous successes recommended looking at Sherlock Holmes spoofs, Hound of the Baskervilles and Around the World in 80 Days. Carolyn agreed to make the list available.

Concern was expressed at the astronomical charges for some Licensing and Performance Rights and this would need to be a major factor in deciding on future productions

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- i) It was agreed that this be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 6th September at the Carriageworks. Gillian agreed to contact Matt Stirk to arrange a room booking
- ii) Rachel advised that she would be resigning as Chairperson at the AGM
- iii) the posts of both the Chairperson and the Secretary were up for nomination
- iv) Lara indicated she would like to remain as Vice Chair
- v) Gillian confirmed that she was willing to remain as the Society Treasurer
- vi) there were 7 general committee member posts available in total

FUTURE EVENTS

Summer Social

Carolyn confirmed that she and Bryan would be willing to host a summer fundraising event in their garden on Sunday 21st August, from 1pm. The cost would be £5. per head and members of the committee were asked to contribute to the refreshments by bringing along cakes/desserts and some drinks.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be the AGM at 7pm on Tuesday 6th September.