

BATH DRAMA AGM 2021 - Mon 18th Oct 2021

Meeting Minutes

Meeting started 7:40pm, Adjourned approx. 9pm

Attendees: Lauren Arena-McCann, Stephanie Mitchell, David Morrell, Gill Morrell, Matt Rushton, Andy Cork, Ally Buchannan

Apologies: Taruna Jamalamadaka, Simon Reeves, Carezza Ellery

- **Welcome by Lauren Arena-McCann, currently our standing Chairperson**
- **Recorded attendees and apologies**
- **Approved minutes from last year's AGM (2020)**

Chairperson's Report

Since our last AGM in October of 2020-(which was virtual) when we were under co-vid restrictions for the holiday period and into the early spring of 2021 Bath Drama held many events/rehearsals on Zoom.

-It was announced just before December 2020 that our Charity Partner for 2021 would be Julian House and we chose this charity because of the tireless work they do for the vulnerable. We asked for donations to help support the Christmas Appeal this was brought up at our Virtual Winter Social in which we did a reading of a Christmas Carol. It was a lovely, festive event to end 2020 on. A massive thank you to Gill who got in touch with Julian House and Matt for setting up our Just-giving Page as well as all of you who kindly donated to this worthy cause.

-Moving into 2021 we had a play reading every month starting with Androcles & the Lion by George Bernard Shaw led by Gill Morrell, Under Milk Wood by Dylan Thomas led by Gill Morrell and The Jungle by Joe Thomas and Joe Robertson led Andy Cork-which also entailed a discussion after the reading about how the arts opens our minds to issues and themes. Thank you again to everyone who joined us and for the committee members who choose such wonderful, though provoking and fun plays-I know I found it lovely to have that time to get together and listen, read and just engage with other people. As during those dreary winter months of lock down this very much welcomed and needed.

-Onward into the Spring-

Restrictions began to ease and we looked forward to actually having a show on the stage back at the Rondo for June 2021. This would end up being Time Flies a series of 6 comedic one act plays by David Ives. Which I directed and Matt Rushton was assistant director. *(During the AGM Matt went on to talk about this project – please see notes below).*

-Also I would like to mention our Spring 2020 production of School for Scandal which was to be directed by James Dennis was cut short due to the Pandemic and unable to be remounted the following spring. We had hoped to be able to revive it, but with so many rules and regulations regarding staged shows and also a good portion of the cast that was originally involved would not

have been able to commit to a future date. There was nothing we could do in the current climate to change this outcome. A big thank you to the cast and crew for their understanding.

-Now as we head back to some normality I would like to say that we are currently in rehearsals for Our Pantomime- Robin Hood and the Babes in the Woods which was written and is being directed by Gill Morrell (*During the AGM Gill went on to talk about this project – please see notes below*).

-Also, we have a play reading coming up on Mon 1 November- It is Our Country's Good by Timberlake Wertenbaker, which is to be led by Stephanie Mitchell (*During the AGM Steph went on to talk about this project – please see notes below*).

-We are also going to holding auditions next month for our spring production which will be Touched by Steven Lowe and will be directed by Andy Cork (*Andy went on to talk about this project – please see notes below*).

-And lastly we are going to be holding a Directors Pitch evening on 8 November. So if you have any ideas for a play that you would like to direct with Bath Drama for 22/23 season then please do get in touch.

-Well, that seems to be everything, Thank you all again to the Bath Drama committee who has made all of these events/shows happen and to our members who have continually supported us throughout quite a different and unprecedented year. We look forward to getting back to being creative and spending more time together here at the Rec and onstage.

Treasurer's Report – Accounts (David Morrell)

- Bank Balance currently very healthy – about £15k approx.
- We made a substantial donation to the Rondo during Covid times, and were pleased to be able to do this to help support our theatrical 'home'
- Our last production 'Time Flies' made a tidy profit of over £1100
- We are now back in our regular home of the Rec, and paying the very reasonable sum of £50 a month only.

Election / Re-election of Committee

- Chair person – Lauren Arena-McCann. Voted in by Stephanie Mitchell, seconded by Gill Morrell
- Secretary – Stephanie Mitchell. Voted in by Lauren Arena-McCann, seconded by Matt Rushton
- Treasurer – David Morrell (re-elected). Voted in by Andy Cork, seconded by Ally Buchannan
- Committee Members:
 - Gill Morrell
 - Matt Rushton
 - Andy Cork
 - Taruna JamalamadakaAll voted in by Stephanie Mitchell. Seconded by Lauren Arena-McCann

Time Flies (as told by Matt, Ass. Dir)

- Dates got shifted a couple of times due to Covid – initially our slot at the Rondo was April, this got shifted to May, and then eventually to June. The Rondo has been very supportive.
- Rehearsals came with challenges, but everyone involved rose to the challenge with aplomb! Started with virtual rehearsals, then moved to outdoor rehearsals in gardens before eventually moving into halls and the theatre itself. The actors loved doing some live theatre again after such a long break and even Matt had a small role!
- Considering we were still only able to accommodate 50% capacity of theatre seats, we still did very well! We made a profit of £1104.
- We came with some interesting and new ideas in terms of marketing and programming including online donations via a QR code for Julian House in exchange for programmes.

Next Play Reading 'Our Country's Good' (as told by Steph, leading)

- This will be Mon 1st Nov at the Rec – social media and newsletter have already advertised (thanks Taruna and Matt)
- Great play with lots of parts so should be a good one to do for our first 'in person' play reading in a while
- Written by Timberlake Wertenbaker and originally directed by Max Stafford Clark in the 80s, this play is Brechtian in it's feel, and very powerful. It is set in 1787, in the first wave of convicts arriving to Australia. A play is performed... essentially this is about the redemptive and transformative power of theatre.
- Gill has kindly obtained the scripts for us so we will be able to read this play with gusto!

Panto 2022 (as told by Gill, Director)

- Lovely to get back to some sense of 'normal' with rehearsals! Also great to get back into our 'home', the Rec.
- Making good progress so far, and enthusiastic cast. Quite a big cast, with 2 teams of children. Gill on target with her plan.
- Lauren singing coach, Matt is fight director. Gill excited about our Robin Hood (Chloe) swinging onto stage on a rope!
- We are doing 7pm starts instead of 7:30 so that we can market more to families (as well as the matinees).

Spring 2022 Production (as told by Andy, Director)

- 'Touched' by Stephen Lowe. Amazing play set in working class Nottingham, with a cast of 3 women and 2 men, and one child. The 100 days between VE Day and VJ Day – a great period piece.
- Audition dates now confirmed and advertising on social media for these have started.
- Rondo week is 1st – 7th May 2022 (shows will be Weds – Sat)
- Gill keen to sort costumes.
- Andy may try and contact the author to see if he might want to come and watch.

Director's Pitch

- Lauren spoke to us briefly about this – we are inviting new and experienced directors to pitch new ideas for plays for 2022 and 2023
- Nov 8th set as the date and will be advertised on social media shortly
- As a Committee, we will keep an open mind in terms of ideas and suggestions

Charity Donations

- Our current named charity is Julian House who are local to Bath
- After discussion about changing to another charity, or adding another, we drew a vote and have decided to stick with Julian House until the AGM in 2022.
- We may look at giving them a one off donation of £500 whilst the bank balance is healthy – this is up for discussion.
- We will have a collection for Julian House at all play readings, and also we will see if Julian at the Rondo is able to add a donation box on our Box Office tickets.

Any Other Business:

- We are very happy and grateful to be back at Bath Rec for rehearsals. A big thank you for Bath Rec for inviting us back.
- We need to ensure that our charity number is on all posters and publicity
- Banking - we are currently with HSBC, but they will be charging charities imminently so we will be changing. Our treasurer will do this – looking at deals with Natwest and Lloyds. We have been disappointed with HSBC for some time – they lost a whole load of paperwork recently including our new signatures! David will need all our Full Names, DoBs and Nationalities shortly to add us on.
- £10 Membership. This will be expected for everyone involved in a Bath Drama show, and will last 1 year. Applies to anyone over 18, and children are free. In terms of play readings, regular attendees will be expected to pay membership, although we will allow one free 'taster session'. In which case we do need to keep an eye on who is attending.
- Panto advertising – the main image will be needed sooner than the poster for the Rec – Gill, Steph and Matt will get onto this.

Meeting was adjourned, tea was drunk and cake was eaten. Until 2022!