**Bath Drama 2023 AGM – Minutes**

Mon 30th Oct 2023 – 7pm

(Minutes recorded by Stephanie Mitchell)

**Attendance:**

In attendance:

Committee members – Lauren Arena-McCann, Stephanie Mitchell, David Morrell, Gill Morrell, Taruna Jamalamadaka, Jim McCauley, Steve Brookes

Bath Drama Members – Liz Hume, Simon Reeves, Ian Diddams, Penny Clegg

Apologies:

Andy Cork, Amy Goodspeed, Karenza Ellery, Phoebe Fung, Scarlett Hayler-King (post meeting)

**Welcome:**

-We were all welcomed by our Chair (Lauren Arena-McCann) and attendees and apologies recorded.

-Last year’s minutes from AGM 2022 were approved by Lauren Arena- McCann and Gill Morrell.

-**Chairperson’s report** – Lauren Arena-McCann:

**“**Since our last AGM in October of October of 2022 we have had lots of events here at the Rec alongside our rehearsals for our three shows. We had play readings, socials and even a very successful open mic night to kick off the Summer. Thank you to everyone who joined us and for the committee members who chose such fabulous plays. It is really lovely to be able to join with everyone at The Rec and have these events which always seem to bring together those faces new and familiar to us at Bath Drama.

-Our first show of 2023 was *Beauty & the Beast, a Pantomime*, which was directed by myself and Matt Rushton. It was such an amazing show and we received many wonderful responses from our audiences. The set by Alex Latham was incredible and very versatile coupled with the beautiful costumes that both Scarlett Hayler-King and Chloe Harris made for the production. I have to say I loved all singing and dancing along to all the popular songs and watching the entertaining characters that the cast worked so hard to bring to life for each and every performance.

-In the Spring of 2023, we brought a modern spin on *Julius Caesar* to the Rondo and that was directed by Phoebe Fung & Lauren Davis. By setting the show in a corporate world with many hues of black, red and grey running through the entire production, which brought a very successful response from all their audiences.

-We ended the Summer with a *“Do a turn” Open Mic* social evening, which was actually suggested by Steph Mitchell our secretary. Many of our longstanding members and some new faces joined in the fun. We had beautiful poems reenacted, monologues from a plethora of shows and some stunning singing. Afterwards we all got to chat and enjoy some food and drink. As it was such a great turn out we are expecting to do something similar for the Christmas social in December. Keep your eyes peeled for the details of that event.

-Our most recent production that has just finished this month was T*he Alchemist by Ben Jonson,* I’m sure you caught some of the amazing posters designed by our own member Jim McCauley. The show was directed by another one of our committee members Scarlett Hayler-King. It has to be said that even though there was some recasting last minute due to unforeseen circumstances that was out of our control the cast and crew all worked together to create a very successful production with lots of mischief, magic and fun which audiences enjoyed immensely.

\*A lot is happening at Bath Drama this month & next month as we head into the winter of 2023…

-We are currently in the midst of our rehearsals for *Wind in the Willows,* which has been adapted and to be directed by our own Gill Morrell. We are looking forward to bringing this to stage to chase those January blues away in 2024, with music and laughter for all of those young and old.

-We also have auditions happening this week and next week for our Spring production of *Skylight by David Hare,* which is to be directed by Andy Cork and assistant directed by Stephanie Mitchell. This is a play that examines the fallout of an intense love affair and personal pain against the background of Thatcher’s background . It is a three hander, so quite a small cast and if you keen to sign up and audition then please speak to Steph who is here tonight.

-We also have a play reading and a director’s pitch night happening as well next month. So, if you have any ideas for a play that you would like to direct with Bath Drama for 24/25 season then please do get in touch.

-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 the year. We are really excited and remain committed to bringing creativity, togthererness and the joy of theatre to you all, both here at the Rec and onstage at The Rondo.”

-**Treasurer’s Report** (David Morrell - Treasurer)

Please see David’s latest accounts below, which give a very clear over view of our expenditure and profits for the year. Overall we are up on last year, and the current bank balance stands at £15,982.15.

Some things David wished to draw to our attention:

* The financial year begins tomorrow (31st Oct 2023) so we may well get an influx of subs coming in from members, in particular those in Wind in the Willows
* All 3 shows were in profit – well done everyone
* One of our biggest outlays is our insurance at £204
* We are very lucky to have a very decent rate of rental of rehearsal space at the Rec – we only pay £50 a month
* We had a couple of significant expenditures this year:
* The stage blocks, which although purchased for use for Julius Caesar, were an acquisition for Bath Drama to use for future shows.
* We bought x2 new seats for our theatrical ‘home’ of the Rondo. They are currently raising funds for a re-fit. When these are installed, there will be a plaque with our name on.



-**Election/re-election of committee positions**

* Chair – Lauren Arena-McCann

proposed by Stephanie Mitchell

seconded by David Morrell

* Secretary – Stephanie Mitchell

proposed by Lauren Arena-McCann

seconded by David Morrell

* Treasurer – David Morrell

proposed by Lauren Arena-McCann

seconded by Taruna Jamalamadaka

New committee members, on board since last AGM:

* Amy Goodspeed
* Steve Brookes

proposed by Taruna Jamalamadaka

seconded by Jim McCauley

**\* Opened floor to Qs / AOB:**

* Reminder that the new year starts tomorrow so all members need to pay £10 subs please. Gill provided bank details and some people were able to pay in cash.
* Stephanie brought up that we have been supporting Julian House in recent years. As we are in profit, could we make a small donation to this charity again? We are also open to supporting other local / relevant charities. To be discussed at Committee meeting soon,

We then had a Tea/Biscuit Break and went onto the Play Reading of ‘The Skriker’ led by Taruna.

Thank you everyone for coming!