

ILMINSTER ENTERTAINMENTS SOCIETY – Programme Committee

Minutes from meeting on Wednesday 27th October 2021, 7pm at the theatre

1. Present:

Malcolm Young, Brian Perkins, Dave Goodall, Chris Williamson, Sally Carrington, Leanne Taylor and Lucy Driver.

Apologies: Paula Joslyn and Maddie Lowe.

Minutes of last meeting 20.09.2021 already agreed via email.

Welcome to Leann, Lucy and Maddie who have joined the committee.

2. The Titfield Thunderbolt (Irene & Mick Glynn joined the meeting for this section)

Generally, all very pleased with the production – it was very pleasing to see the theatre full of life again, many good comments from the audiences and the right show to reopen the theatre.

Ticket sales were good at over 50% if slightly disappointing on historical comparison, however understandable in the circumstances.

IG made a number of comments:

- Technical: sound and lighting were difficult but happy with the end result
- The staging was impressive and complicated but would have been helpful to have had more time the finished set – time constrained due to the particular nature of this set being built from the front back which meant it could not be completed until after the last Cinema Club evening.
- Publicity was lacking and late. It was discussed that this is an ongoing issue and IES are trying to get more people involved to improve this.
- Good job by Nicola with the costumes and many thanks to the back stage crew.
- Really happy with the cast that came out of the auditions.
- Some issues with the noise of rain on one night – can there be increased sound insulation for the roof? To be added to long term IES plans.
- Also asked if a small petty cash allowance might be issued for each production. Treasury to report back on this along with report on income and expenses once all in.
- Waiting on Phoebe Rees adjudication.

The committee thanked Irene and Mick for all their hard work and a very successful production.

3. One Act Plays 2022

At the last minute 5 proposals were received: Curtain Call from Michael Wills, Murderous Intent from Lyn Lockyer, Speaking German from Ken Cooper, and Just Passing and Act of Living from Vern Dunkley.

Following some discussion around matters including casting, distance directing, available support, and encouragement of new directors it was decided that Just Passing by M&C Crowther, directed by Vern Dunkley is our preference as the final one act. CW to contact all directors and organise date for Vern's reading and auditions.

Spy Fry, the youth theatre entry, is cast and The Chairs is having its reading and auditions on Wed 03 and 10 November.

4. Tom's Midnight Garden

Rehearsals are going well and they have just had their first full run and having a full technical meeting in the next week.. Tickets are now on sale and need to get publicity moving.

A prompt is still needed and ideas welcome.

5. Incoming shows for 2021/22:

Theatre for All are to come back for an Easter Panto on Friday & Saturday 08 & 09 April 2022.

Somerset Opera are returning with their delayed Iolenthe on Thursday 17 March.

Bethany Goodman wishes to return on the 16 & 17 September with another one woman show about Eva Cassidy.

6. 2022 Productions

Play On, directed by LD confirmed as all evening performances on Wed – Sat 30 March -02 April 2022. Youth cast is set and looking to hold auditions for the adult roles at the end of November following the one act auditions.

Yellow Sands, directed by Scott Waldie looking for a producer to assist him, would like one in place in the New year.

Some interest is being expressed in proposals for autumn 2022. Suggested that we hold another Directors' meeting in the New year to give prospective directors a date to work to, date to be confirmed.

A pair of plays have been put forward by Valda Dagnell and distributed among the PC members.

7. Any Other Business:

- DG to put out a newsletter at the start of November, details of readings/auditions sought along with details of incoming shows.
- A few enquiries about whether a play reading group could be created (was going to happen pre-Covid). A plea for interest to be put in the newsletter.
- It was noted that some TT rehearsals had gone on much later than 10pm. A note to be added to the Director/Producer guide to limit rehearsal time to 10pm both for the cast and crew (especially those who travel) and for the theatre's neighbours.
- PJ to stay on the committee as audience rep as she will be unable to take part in any productions for the foreseeable future.
- CW is standing down from the PC after several years. As treasurer he will continue to work closely with the committee especially on licences, competition entries, script ordering and other expenses. A new chair to be chosen at the next meeting.

8. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 15th December 2021 at 7.00pm.