

ILMINSTER ENTERTAINMENTS SOCIETY – Programme Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 3 July 2019 at 7.00pm

1. Present:

Lyn Lockyer, Paula Denning, Julie Fowler, Dave Goodall.

Also present Scott Waldie for the review of “Present Laughter”.

Apologies:

Chris Williamson

2. Minutes of meeting held on 20 May 2019

Approved and forwarded to Trustees

3. Matters Arising

Discussion of whether there should be additional charges for use of SEATY, the Theatre’s website and publicity machine. Decision taken to continue with the current arrangements.

4. Review of “Present Laughter”

Scott presented Leanne’s apologies but she had another engagement. Scott’s feedback is set out in the attached paper. He emphasised the following points:

- (a) The Programme Committee should make it clear to every Director that they should have a back-up play prepared in case the original play was cancelled for any reason.
- (b) He suggested that every Director should have a list of potential actors.
- (c) There still seemed to be an impression by a number of people contacted to see if they were interested in participating, that plays were pre-cast and that there was no point in auditioning. Scott suggested play readings could be held, particularly by Directors given the honour to direct, and that there should be acknowledgement of “readers in” at rehearsals, especially for larger casts. Scott also reported that he had given individual cast rehearsals.
- (d) The temperature of the auditorium was also commented on.
- (e) Finally, Scott said Leanne had great potential as a Director and should be encouraged. He expressed his thanks to Lynn and Chris for all their help when initial difficulties had been experienced.

In response, it was agreed:

(a) To carry forward to the next meeting of the Programme Committee consideration of a Director's relationship with the Programme Committee.

(b) Reassurance was given that air conditioning was currently being considered by the Trustees.

(c) Disappointment was expressed about the continued impression that plays were pre cast but that it was the responsibility of individuals to turn up to auditions.

(d) The observation was made that during the scene changes in both Act1 and Act2 there could have been some music and maybe dimmed house lights rather than the audience being left in the dark.

The Programme Committee expressed their thanks to Scott and Leanne for an enjoyable and successful production.

5. Opera Sulis

Julie presented the attached outline budget for the Gala Evening on 8 November. It was agreed that:

- a. The title of the evening should be more encompassing and would be along the lines of "Gala Evening – a Musical Extravaganza"
- b. The first half of the programme would comprise famous soprano and tenor arias and duets from the world of opera and the second half would be songs from Broadway and modern day classics.
- c. No canapes but a glass of prosecco on arrival – doors open at 6.30pm
- d. Dress code: Dinner Jacket/Lounge suit
- e. Ticket price: £20 with free programme; no raffle.
- f. Lyn to approach Ile Valley Flower Club about the provision of four pedestal flower arrangements (2 on the stage and 2 in the foyer and 2 bouquets). A bottle of wine to be provided for each of the male performers.
- g. Julie to provide information to Dave for publicity.

Comedy Night

Whilst concerns were expressed at the language used in the previous show, it was agreed to offer Saturday 9 November 2019 for another performance.

The observation was made that it will be interesting to see whether a Saturday night has more appeal than a Friday night.

6. Incoming Shows

21 September MIND Concert

27 September Murder Mystery. Fund raising evening. Limited to 80 people. Brian Hallett is providing the material but will require 6 actors who can improvise, which Lucy Driver has agreed to organise.

7. Forthcoming Productions

September Production

Dave reported that everything was under control.

October Production: Under Milk Wood

It was reported that 15 people turned up for the first audition. Concern was expressed that the Director, Phil Wells, was only using a cast of 6, four men and two women. Malcolm pointed out that both of the October and December shows would only involve a small cast, and he felt this was unfortunate in that it did not provide an opportunity for more people to be involved. In addition part of the play would be a 'rehearsed reading' so the publicity would need to be carefully worded in order not to disappoint the audience. Malcolm suggested that Phil be approached to see if he would consider using more actors. Lyn expressed grave concerns about this proposition. Malcolm agreed to contact Phil and to sound him out as to whether he would be prepared to include more actors.

December Production: Beauty and the Beast

Chris Williamson has obtained the licence for this production.

8. 2020 Productions and forthcoming Director's meeting

A Director's meeting will be held on 19 September. It was reported that Irene Glynn is considering directing "Hobson's Choice" and her preferred date would be October 2020. Lyn to ask Leanne and Rhona if they would be prepared to direct a one act play. Sally and Ken to be invited to attend the meeting.

Malcolm reported that he was looking to organise a fund raising evening in January, the overall theme of which would be The Four Seasons and could comprise musical, poetry and photographic contributions; various suggestions were made with regard to potential performers.

9. Succession Planning

Lyn expressed the view that more people were required to be involved with the work of the Committee. She reported that Jo Neagle and Jacq Wanstall had offered to read plays and comment. Thought had to be given to the composition of the next Committee before the AGM in October.

10. AOB

Nothing was raised.

11. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 25 September at 7.00pm