

ILMINSTER ENTERTAINMENTS SOCIETY – Programme Committee
Minutes from meeting on Monday 7th December 2020 @ 7pm via Zoom

1. Present:

Malcolm Young, Brian Perkins, Chris Williamson, Sally Carrington, Jo Neagle, Julie Fowler and Paula Joslyn.

Apologies:

Dave Goodall.

2. 2021 Autumn Productions:

- We are hoping that by Autumn next year, we may be (almost) back to normal.
- It was suggested that productions from before lockdown be put back into production. Agreed by all.
- There will be three slots: Sep, Oct & Dec. (We need to be cautious of large casts because of the restrictions which may be in place.)
- We will firstly go back to the Directors of these productions – do they still want to go ahead? Would the Autumn dates suit them? CW to contact.

3. 2021 Spring & Summer productions and

4. SFD Drama festival 1/5/21 and 2/5/21:

- More up in the air. We feel we should strongly consider and aim for a June production if possible. (We acknowledge 2m distancing could be a logistical nightmare.)
- Options: a small cast or an outdoor production?
- We want to stage a light and frothy play!
- It is easier to plan and cancel a production than have nothing in place ready to go.
- One Acts in Feb are unlikely; it will be hard to rehearse before March/April.
- SFD Drama Festival potentially the first event we reopen with, (booked 1st May.) This must comply with our Covid protocols.
- CW suggested focusing on one One Act to begin with – small steps. (Perhaps new writing?) Sally suggested Valda's play from this year, as only four people involved, with actors being from the same household.

5. Incoming shows for 2021:

- Thursday Club and Film Club not running and bookings cancelled. This is wholly understandable; it does result in a loss of income for the theatre.

- 30/4/21: One Woman show booked in. This is a theatre hire, so FOH staff will be needed. It was noted that this is the night before the SFD Drama Festival; this could potentially be a problem.
- We are not going to chase incoming shows until we know more.
- We would like to do a comedy night; we are reliant on a full house to break even, which is unlikely to be possible for some time. Bar profits are always high on these nights so could top up if we do go ahead; this would not be until Autumn at the earliest.
- JF suggested contacting Take Art to ask for more details about their current policies.

5a. Play-reading Group:

- CW added the concept of a Zoom play-reading group to the newsletter, but has received zero response. If anyone else is interested in taking it on and running with it, let him know.

6. Update to Terms of Reference:

- Charlie is working on getting theatre documentation together and up-to-date.
- CW suggested a joint adult/YT production at least once every two years. BP agreed that it is important to bring both together, as sometimes it can seem like we are two different organisations.
- Terms for length of service on Programme Committee: three years maximum; a range of representatives, (trustee, audience, technical director, producer etc,); limit of 5-8 people.
CW to make some adaptations and forward them out for consideration for the next meeting.

7. Any Other Business:

- There will be a separate notice issued for Director proposals.
- There will also be a poster advertising for potential Directors to come forward - PJ.
- The proposal of a Variety Night; this could be a one-night fundraising event.

8. Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 12th January 2021 at 7.30pm.