

ILMINSTER ENTERTAINMENTS SOCIETY – Programme Committee
Minutes from meeting on Monday 18th January 2021 @ 7.30pm via Zoom

1. Present:

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

Apologies:

Dave Goodall and Jo Neagle.

2. SFD Drama Festival 01/02 May 2021 – One Acts:

- CW has contacted Valda, Mick & Irene, and they are very happy to revive their one-act play from 2020 for this year's festival.
- Additionally, Lyn Lockyer proposed the one-act play 'Murderous Intent', written by Tarquin Shaw-Young. The committee have read and enjoyed the script; also, it is not too technically challenging and has a small cast as well as a simple set. We would like this to go ahead.
- The question was raised as to whether we could stage the One Acts independently to the festival, in order to start raising some funds etc. We are wary to try to do this at the moment because we don't know when restrictions will be lifted. As far as we are aware, other societies aren't planning their own productions until July at the earliest.
- There is also quite a lot of work still to be done at the theatre in order to get it ready for opening.

3. 2021 – Possible Summer production:

- At the Trustees meeting, Sally and Charlie generously offered their garden at Moolham Lane as a possible venue for an outdoor production. Our sincere thanks.
Some practical issues to consider include parking, insurance and signage. Sally suggested the units across the road for parking, as well as on the street; there should be capacity for about 20 vehicles and an audience of around 50. One or two portaloos would be needed for the audience; cast could use the house facilities.
- There have been no directorial proposals submitted to CW as yet. The call will be going out again as an email bulletin, as well as on FaceBook. There are also posters outside the theatre as well as in the town centre.
- We discussed the possibility of a Revue show; we could stage this as more of a social event, with donations rather than tickets, possibly over two evenings. This would be less formal. The rehearsals could be independent and then linked together nearer the performance.
An MC and organiser would be needed. Sally also suggested a theme to help make the evening more cohesive. It was suggested that Lyn's play could be included in the evening too.

As there are currently no other proposals, CW suggested to start work for a Revue show in a few weeks' time, to allow a longer window for other proposals to come in. SC and CW will liaise and devise a notice to go out in Feb/March. The Revue show could be held at the theatre if restrictions were lifted.

4. 2021 – Autumn Productions:

- No autumn proposals as yet. We would like a balanced programme starting with a comedy, perhaps a murder mystery and then a Christmas production.
- Sally and Charlie Carrington would be happy to direct Tom's Midnight Garden in the Christmas slot. Sally will aim to email scripts to the Programme Committee if possible.
- With regards to productions from 2020, Leanne has confirmed that she is unable to direct this year due to personal reasons, so Living Together is not an option for 2021. No other news, so we will pick this up again at the next meeting.

5. Incoming shows for 2021:

- Bethany Goodman has hired the theatre (30.4.21) for her one-woman show about Emily Bronte. No contract has been signed as yet, as we need to wait to see what the restrictions are nearer the time. If it is able to go ahead, it's unlikely to draw a large audience at this point in the year, so we may need to suggest a move to a date in the autumn.
- The Literary Festival may move to November. We are awaiting a decision.
- Tuesday 9th November the Ile Valley Flower Club are booked in for a demonstration.
- We are going to work on the basis that normality in theatres may resume from September.

6. Update to Terms of Reference:

- JG suggested two edits which CW will add; he will then email the amended version.

7. Any Other Business:

- None.

8. Date of next meeting:

- CW to email possible dates for next meeting, which will take place in March.