

ILMINSTER ENTERTAINMENTS SOCIETY – Programme Committee

Minutes from meeting on Thursday 28th November 2019 @ 7pm

1. **Present:**

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

Apologies:

Jo Neagle and Dave Goodall.

2. **Approval of Minutes of Meeting 30th Sep & Matters Arising:**

NB: CW appointed Chairman by unanimous vote.

Minutes approved by all members and no matters arising.

3. **Review of Under Milk Wood:**

Director Phil Wells was invited to attend the meeting but politely declined. He emailed some feedback to CW:

- Not overly happy with adjudication as he felt it could have been more positive.
- Happy with the support received from the IES, especially DG.
- Good to meet the set crew.
- Very happy with how the production went, although he is aware it split opinions.
- Less than 10 actors to choose from when casting, so he was very happy that he directed it the way he did.

BP: It felt as though the society was not as involved as they could have been. Working on the production, at times it felt more like an incoming show than an IES one.

CW was in regular contact with PW. However, there was no official liaison person from the programme committee assigned to the production. We all acknowledged that this needs to be rectified for the 2020 programme.

No final figures from JW as yet, but the production raised over £3000 at the Box Office. Our thanks and congratulations go to Phil Wells for his work.

4. **Review of Opera Sulis & Comedy Night**

Opera Sulis:

- A well-dressed audience who related that they really enjoyed dressing up for a night out.
- General consensus is that tickets were over-priced at £20. If the evening had been priced at £15, there would very likely have been a larger audience. MY sent out over 100 emails, but still very little take-up.

- Kept costs down as much as possible – Angie (from Cottage Flowers) did the beautiful flower displays for free.
- Mixed reviews: a general consensus that ‘Opera Sulis’ themselves could have been better; costumes, performance etc.
- It was very challenging for MY to take on the running of the evening at such a late stage but had no other option if the evening was to go ahead.

Comedy night:

- No Stage Manager in place (legally we must have one.) MY had to take the role but was also running the eve once again. Heidi will put an extra column on her FOH volunteers sheet for a SM for theatre hire and incoming shows.
- No final figures yet but over £500 taken on the bar.
- (As a committee, we need to assign commitments for incoming shows/theatre hire as well as decide upon the programme, in order to help avoid the same few people doing everything.)
- Going forward, we want to return to a Friday eve rather than a Saturday as this is where the evening has had its greatest success and also where it feels best placed.
- MY spoke to the organiser following the previous comedy evening about less confrontation towards the audience and less bad language. This was adhered to on the November comedy night and was successful – a lovely vibe throughout, three varied acts and an excellent compere.
- Another date will be booked for May 2020.

Literary Festival booking in between 28th May and 11th June.

BP: Should we review regular incoming bookings, such as Film Club, Flower Club etc?

5. **Dec. Prod: Beauty & The Beast:**

CW: All coming along okay. Rehearsals are great, still trying to sort a few technical challenges. Some prop-making rather than prop-sourcing having to occur. Hair and make-up a little more demanding than average. The production has been recommended for ages 7+. (This will be put on the website.) The production has also been entered into the Phoebe Rees Awards. Enjoying directing very much; additional demands are very tiring!

6. **FEB: One Act Plays:**

MY: Has offered to co-ordinate. Some ringing around for casting due to not enough numbers from auditions; now all nearly cast. YT working well for their slot.

CW: Which plays will be entered into the County Drama Festival? Directors need to talk to casts to check availability. Deadline for decision is end of Dec 2019.

MY is producing for Lucy Young.

Valda and Sally need Producers.

The committee also needs to assign a liaison person. (For 2021 One Acts, this liaison role needs to be set from Aug 2020.)

Ken Cooper has agreed to stage manage all three plays.

7. March: YT production of Fantastic Mr Fox:

CW: Licence is set up. Needed to finalise ticket prices; Committee decided upon £6 adults, £4 children. Performances are the evening of Fri 27th March and the afternoon of Sat 28th March.

8. April - Living Together:

Leanne has set the first week of Jan for the read-throughs and the second week of Jan for auditions. The rehearsal schedule is already set, however One Act rehearsals will be prioritised. The question was raised about the rehearsal period being too long? (Cost for potentially hiring Sweet Surprise during One Acts rehearsal period, possibly putting off potential cast/crew etc.)

9 & 10. Rest of 2020 programme:

Ile Valley Flower Club; dates need checking and confirming, then MY will sort the contract.

Agreed to add another Comedy Eve in November.

Agreed to enquire about a Yeovilton Band date in the Autumn, (always a popular eve, reasonable and popular band etc.)

Take Art; We'd like to take a look at their programme for next year. MY to see if their new programme comes out in May. CW raised the point that the Autumn would be best for any Take Art shows to try and avoid over-stretching our volunteers.

MY to email scripts of Jane Eyre for all committee members to consider for Dec 2020 production. It will be in collaboration with the YT as children will be involved.

11. AOB:

SC: Put forward a few play suggestions for 2020 programme; as they weren't chosen this year, is it worth putting them forward again another time? Or were there particular reasons why they weren't and therefore may never be chosen?

Consensus of committee: No particular reasons, only trying to put together a varied programme from what has been put forward, as well as considering past productions. Absolutely put them forward again! Also, very much looking forward to Agatha Christie's 'The Hollow' in 2020.

MY: Several members would like a play reading group. Could we try it for the first half of next year? Could people take it in turns to choose plays and

arrange/run evenings? (CW: Some uncertainty over borrowing sets of books from the Library needs checking, due to experiences of needing one designated member per society.) Will put a plea on next newsletter – who would be interested? Then fix some dates between Jan and June.

SC: Advertising – do we use any parish mags? (We used Seavington before it discontinued.) SC brought a copy of The Web to consider – a copy goes to every household in the parishes. CW will email to find out more info or pass on to Heidi.

CW: Is updating Directors' Notes and will send out once done, (mainly due to some contact details being out of date.)

12. Date of next meeting:

Monday 20th January @ 7.30pm.