

ILMINSTER ENTERTAINMENTS SOCIETY – Programme Committee

Minutes from meeting on Monday 20th January 2020 @ 7.30pm

1. Present:

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

Apologies:

None.

2. Approval of Minutes of Meeting 28/11/19 & Matters Arising:

Minutes approved by all members and no matters arising.

3. Review of Beauty & The Beast:

Director CW: Thoroughly enjoyed directing the production. Very proud of cast and crew. Special mention to the crew who went above and beyond to realise CW's vision. The most child tickets sold since The Railway Children.

Appreciated the adjudication but felt that the overall tone was rather negative. This was agreed by JF who said that she felt it was a tough assessment of an amateur production. JN felt that the positive elements were not emphasised enough. Upon further discussion, it was decided that CW would email thoughts on behalf of the Programme Committee in order to put action to words, and also to ensure that a trend is not developing following the general similar consensus of the 'Under Milk Wood' adjudication.

MY asked for thoughts on condensing the production to one week. CW felt that it worked very well, JN agreed that she would not have wanted to commit to a two-week production leading up to Christmas due to family commitments. PJ agreed and felt this could be the case for many potential cast and crew. CW commented that in the future, it may be best to keep the Tuesday evening in mind for if tickets are selling well, but not to advertise a Tues eve in the first instance. (Tues eve tickets for BATB were poor and the performance was cancelled with tickets sold redistributed to other performances.) BP commented that two weeks might work well for a panto, and DG added that two matinees for a panto would sell well. CW concluded that these were all things to remember and consider for the future.

4. Current productions:

a.) One Act Plays:

Sally commented that all was going well. Cast working hard. Set decided. Ken Cooper and Sally doing props, prompt etc.

MY suggested a plea for new Producers to go into the next newsletter.

CW confirmed that all three One Act plays are going forward to the SFD County Drama Festival.

BP asked if there was a date for dress & tech rehearsals. MY suggested Sunday for tech (as usual practice,) with the Tuesday for dress, and keep Monday free and open as needed.

Proposed running order is Lucy first (as children in cast,) Sally next and Valda after interval. Preferable to only have one interval, but DG stated that an interval can be changed or added nearer the time if needed, (concerns about the first half being too long.) SC suggested two 15 min intervals if necessary.

SC discussed feeling a bit of a 'fish out of water' with regard of where to find things/people needed for production. An area for development for the theatre.

Next round for All England Drama Festival is in Frome, 9th May.

b.) Youth Theatre 'Fantastic Mr Fox' production:

MY attended a rehearsal prior to meeting, all is going well. Musical rehearsals starting 25/1/20, and some nice little moments happening so far.

c.) Living Together (April):

All cast and rehearsal schedule in place.

5 & 6: Future Productions 2020 & Incoming shows:

MY handed out 2020 Programme Itinerary – one new addition on 18/9/20 – Ilminster Ukelele concert, being done as a fundraiser for the Old Bakery.

Yeovil Band had disbanded but now coming back and looking for dates.

IES 2021 Production Dates decided as follows:

24th – 27th Feb: One Acts

21st – 24th April: IES

23rd – 26th June: IES

8th – 11th Sep: IES

20th – 23rd Oct: IES (may move because of Oct half-term/Dec production)

7th/8th – 11th Dec: IES

Anna Bowerman emailed about 'Teasing the Cat'. CW confirmed they are open to a Box Office split or a Venue Hire. Have sold well historically.

'Quartets' – group from Dorchester. Poetry and music. Initially wanted a Sunday afternoon but committee agreed it's unlikely that this would be a popular time.

MY will contact both and bring details to next meeting.

MY also spoke about the Murder Mystery night and how much of a successful evening it was. We'd like to book in another evening.

BP – Cottage Flowers may book another evening.

JF – Are we still in contact with Take Art? CW said that once we know the date/s of their next showcase meeting, we will try to send representatives from the Prog Comm to see what's available.

MY: Jane Eyre – There will be a read-through at the end of January to gauge interest and ensure it can be cast. There is a main cast of six with a few cameos and children's roles in the first few scenes. DG raised the point that a read-through at this early stage may not be a true picture of interest at the moment due to people's involvement with the One Acts and Living Together. MY stated that as long as he feels confident that he will be able to cast the main six, he will be happy.

CW – the December gap: send out appeals now for plays and Directors. We will write and send a separate bulletin.

7. Producers & other backstage roles:

CW suggested organising a social evening with previous producers to inform potential new producers, as the role can initially seem odious/overbearing when unknown. JN suggested adding distinguished roles of Props, Backstage Crew, so that everyone involved in a production knows exactly what they're doing. SC stated how important it is to 'spread the load', as if the Director is doing it all, it's extremely time-consuming and can put off potential Directors. CW will contact previous producers to see if he can secure a date for Feb, if not he will try for March.

8. Play reading:

MY will put a notice in the newsletter and see how many people are interested. There will be a note to contact MY if people are interested, if there's not enough interest we won't do it. It will either evolve or it won't.

JN added that a lot of other societies do it. It's a good opportunity for people to read who just enjoy reading, and it doesn't have to be a play that the society is going to be doing. CW will also put a notice on Facebook.

9. AOB:

None.

10. Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 3rd March at 7pm.