

ILMINSTER ENTERTAINMENTS SOCIETY – Programme Committee

Minutes from meeting on Wednesday 20th May 2019 @ 7pm

1. Present:

Lyn Lockyer, Julie Fowler, Dave Goodall, Malcolm Young, Chris Williamson & Paula Denning.

Also, Irene and Mick Glynn present for Dangerous Corner review.

Apologies: None.

2. Minutes of meeting April 2019:

Approved and forwarded to Trustees.

3. Matters Arising (Plus item no.9 – One Act Play Festival):

The Trustees have approved the dates for our December production of Beauty & The Beast; 10th-14th December 2019.

Huge thank you and congratulations to the Resounding Tinkle team who got through to the semi finals – even though their journey ended there, it was a wonderful production which represented the IES superbly. The technical award was thoroughly deserved, too.

4. Review of Dangerous Corner:

Feedback from Irene: There were unfortunate casting issues at the beginning, but once the cast was finalised it was all good. It was an excellent run that was well-received by the public. It made a good amount of money, (although Irene would've liked it to have made some more.) The flooring was an investment as it can be used again.

Irene feels that costume support can be built upon, as there was some stress with regard to costumes. However, Irene really enjoyed directing the play, the cast were great and newer cast members mixed in really well. It was nice having some new people on the stage.

Feedback from Mick: As Producer, Mick felt unclear about publicity and what should be happening when. Mick sorted the radio coverage himself (which would be down to the Production team,) but he feels posters etc need further organisation.

Feedback was taken on-board by committee members. LL agreed that whilst it is the Director's job to decide on costume design etc, it isn't the Director's job to have to source them.

LL will also go through the Producer/Director contract again with CW.

Our thanks to Irene, cast and crew for a thoroughly enjoyable, successful production.

5. Incoming shows:

Social Evenings: 17th Oct – quiz, 21st Nov – Bingo.

We discussed some options with regard to incoming shows, however took the decision not to make any bookings at this time, (including the ‘Tumlyn Brass Quintet’).

There’s a small chance that the Somerset Youth Choir may be looking to book the theatre as a hire in early August. We would be very happy with this. However, we have no further leads on this at this time.

MY agreed to look into ‘Sing-a-longs’ and ‘Fishermen’s Friends’ for future bookings.

PD also suggested more children’s theatre shows that could perhaps have a Saturday morning/afternoon slot.

6. Hire Charges:

Following research of other local venues’ hire charges;

- We discussed Friday & Saturday nights having a surcharge, because they sell better and this is normal at other venues to hire.
- We are proposing smaller hikes to prices over time, rather than a big hike all in one go.
- We discussed and proposed adding 10% to prices for any bookings made for 2020, existing contracts withstanding.
- We also discussed adding a 5% or 10% cut of ticket sales.
- We all agreed we are great value for money as we have excellent facilities and are still cheaper than somewhere such as the David Hall in South Petherton.
- MY to work out the figures for our proposals, let us know, then we will take the proposals forward to the Trustees.

7. September production:

Lengthy discussions of all options.

Talking Heads a popular choice. Paul Toolan’s plays were enjoyed by most but worries over shorter length, in-depth set building at this stage, etc.

PD and JF to complete reading of ‘Last Tango...’ and feed-back via email.

If all else fails, DG would propose ‘Talking Heads’ as a D&M.

CW also raised the issue of our troubles with filling the September slot with an IES production; do we need to rethink the slot?

8. 2020 Productions:

- Considering 'The Hollow' by Agatha Christie, possibly for an autumn slot.
- We agreed a date for the next Directors' Meeting; Thurs 19th Sep at 7pm, to coincide with the social evening. (This would also be before the AGM on 3.10.19). CW to write details for the newsletter and make posters for display during 'Present Laughter'. He may present it under a name other than 'Directors' Meeting'.

9. AOB:

JF – with hire charges going up, should we consider putting up IES ticket prices, too? They were last raised for 'Bedroom Farce'.

(Some incoming shows have already been raised to £12.)

If we proposed a hike of 20%, this would take IES ticket prices to £12 also.

We decided to make the suggestion of looking at this further to the Trustees and then take it from there.

What's On – we don't have the information we'd need to do one at the moment. Maybe put one out in the autumn.

CW suggested that the possibility of putting 'Present Laughter' forward to the Phoebe Rees be presented to the cast and crew of 'Present Laughter' for consideration, and then a vote by them to decide if this happens or not.

10. Date of next meeting:

Weds 3rd July at 7pm.