

Kingsley Players meeting - Tuesday 13 June 2017

Present - Colin Smith (*chair*), Jayne Barlow (*treasurer*), Jake Powell (*youth theatre*),
Mary Lightfoot, Frances Hamer, Jo Oultram, Audrey Boyle, Malcolm
Barker
Sue Elliott (*minutes*)

Apologies - Lesley Silcock, Lynn Pegler (*secretary*)

Colin opened the meeting at 19.06hrs. Apologies were accepted for absentees. It was acknowledged that S.E. would be taking the minutes in the absence of L.P.

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and accepted as a true record – except for the fact that the date on the minutes stated 23 May, instead of the correct date of 23 April 2017.

Treasurer's Report

J.B. reported bank account balances as follows –

£2,475.92

£500, which is 'ring-fenced' for the Kingsley Players' Youth Theatre.

£12,314.00 (*business account*)

Some large bills lately have been paid, for example - £2,670.00 to P.G. Electrical in April. The May play – The Grand Gesture – made £2,279.60, with an outlay of £2,420.00. There are no outstanding invoices.

May play - The Grand Gesture

This play was directed by Ed Green, with Vony Gwillim as the Producer. It was felt to be a success, although it was not to everyone's tastes. There were excellent performances by the cast and the committee was pleased with the Cheshire Theatre Guild adjudication report, feeling that it was constructive and positive and showed Kingsley players in a good light – especially the comments at the end – *'there were lots of laughs right through the play. Let's see more, please....'*

The play filled an average of 64% of the available seating (figures courtesy of J.B.), but it was felt that this was 'typical' for the time of year and lower attendance at this time was one of the reasons, in the past, that 'Dinner & Play' has previously been offered, for the May play.

Matters to be taken forward –

- It was decided that publicity for the play could have been 'tweaked' – for example, the Facebook page that had been created, was missing some 'hyperlinks' because it had not been set up through Sue Clough, who

manages social media for Kingsley Players. **Sue Clough should be consulted over social media advertising.**

- The full script of the CTG adjudication decision was shared with the committee, but only selected parts of it reached some (but not all) members of the cast and crew.

It was felt that in future **the policy should be to automatically share the full C.T.G / Noda report with the committee AND cast and crew involved in a play**

.....UNLESS it may cause unnecessary distress to do so i.e. in the case of productions involving children, where some constructive comments may possibly be misconstrued. In such cases, the Producer / Director of the play should consult with the committee as to the best course of action.

- **Tea and coffee should be served on ALL performance nights....including Friday and Saturday.**
- **Rehearsal nights should not be held on K.P. committee meeting nights,** to enable the Producer / Director to attend the committee meeting.
- **Director** (or his/her representative) **should attend all K.P. committee meetings during the run up to a performance** to report on ongoing progress and any extra costings.

Future Productions -

18 – 21 October 2017 – Goodnight Mr Tom

Director for this play is Laura Williams, ably assisted by Malcolm Barker. Jo Oultram will be the Producer. Auditions will be held on Sunday 18 June 2017 at Kingsley Community Centre and have been suitably advertised through all outlets. J.P. confirmed auditions have been advertised to members of K.P. Youth Theatre. M.L. and J.P. have offered help with the audition process. There will not be a matinee performance. M.B. will report on progress with the audition at the next K.P. Committee meeting.

13 – 16 December 2017 – Cinderella

Colin Smith has written this play and will be the Director, with input from the musical Director – Arnold Ashbrook, who has written the music/songs. Jo Oultram will be the Producer. C.S. stated he will state the audition process and rehearsals before the October play has finished, due to the tight timescale. C.S. will hold meeting with all the appropriate people in approximately three weeks, to finalise the script and start things off.

May 2018 – How The Other Half Loves

Malcolm Barker will be directing this play. He is awaiting permission from French; the play is currently being performed by a professional group, so there is a delay.

M.B. stated that should permission NOT be forthcoming, then he has an alternative play – ‘*Lend me a Tenor*’, which had roughly the same size cast, but features music. M.B. will report on progress to a future meeting.

October 2018 – *Pride & Prejudice*

This will be directed by Kelly White. Anything further will be reported to a future meeting, when Kelly will be invited to attend.

‘Allo ‘Allo Performances

M.B. reported bookings until November 2018, with enquiries already coming in from outside for March 2019 slots.

Kingsley Players’ Youth Theatre

J.P. gave an update on the K.P. Youth Theatre. The team running the Youth Theatre now consists of Jake Powell and Alex Dedman with Zoe Sherlock and Emily as the ‘young leaders’. Alex has a background in teaching drama.

The Youth Theatre held a workshop on Sunday 4 June 2017, paid for by a grant awarded by Kingsley Parish Council, when a group called Rhubarb Theatre came in and delivered two hours on ‘theatre skills’. It was well attended by existing and three new members. There are plans for more workshops and a performance of *Arabian Nights* on 24 March 2018.

The new term starts September 2017....with meetings planned for September / October / November / December. With the Pantomime production being in December 2017, rehearsals for *Arabian Nights* will be starting early in 2018.

J.P. has requested a separate page on K.P. website dedicated to the Youth Theatre, plus he requested a regular advertising space in all programmes for future productions, to advertise the Youth Theatre. Both requests were agreed by the Committee.

*See full report for K.P. Youth Theatre attached to these minutes marked **Appendix 1**.*

Capital Expenditure

M.B. reported new dimmer rack has been installed at the Community Centre and ‘old’ ones re-positioned. Everything is very neat, with all wiring concealed and not affecting the decor of the Centre. The ‘hearing loop’ is working well with the new amplifier, with the ‘old’ amplifier being donated to the Community Centre for use in the Club Room too.

C.S. as chair formally thanked M.B. for all of his efforts in securing an excellent result in the upgrades. Thanks were also officially extended to Kenton Barker and Mike Vickers and the team for lending their expertise in these matters.

Data Protection Issues

Sue Clough has approached C.S. with concerns over circulating emails advertising productions on behalf of other Societies, that the practice may be contravening the Data Protection Act. C.S. will invite Sue Clough to a future meeting to explain the issues. Meantime it is recommended (and good practice) that care is taken when re-circulating emails to ensure email addresses contained within the original message, are not shared without the owner's permission.

Cheshire Rural Touring Arts

It was agreed that the activities of C.R.T.A. do not really apply to Kingsley Players. Plus one of the 'centres' for the body resides in Norley, which is close enough for Kingsley residents to participate if they so wish.

Any Other Business

M.L. asked should drinks be allowed into our auditorium. No one thought this to be an issue.

Date of next Kingsley Players' Committee Meeting

Tuesday 11 July 2017 @ 7pm @ The Red Bull pub in Kingsley.

Appendix 1



JUNE UPDATE

On Sunday 4th June, we held our first workshop using some of the Parish Council grant money. We invited Rhubarb Theatre to deliver a two hour workshop with a focus on theatre skills. The session was led by Kirsty Mead, who is the artistic director of Rhubarb Theatre, and led the members in lots of different activities focusing on voice, movement and physical theatre to develop characters. The members were engaged throughout and enjoyed this part of the workshop. We had 17 children and young people attend, with 13 of them being paid members. 3 of them were new to the group, who showed interest after our production in March. The final participant wasn't a paid member, but had been to our initial Easter workshops in 2016. After the workshop, I sent a questionnaire to those who came via SurveyMonkey. 14 were sent out, with 4 responses to the survey. 100% rated the Rhubarb workshop 'Very Good' or 'Excellent'. 100% are 'Very Likely' or 'Extremely Likely' to attend a similar workshop in the future. Responses included: 'My daughter loved it' and 'It was fun and even though I'm much older I found it worthwhile and I enjoyed it.' I would have like more responses from the participants, but this was the first time using this approach to garner feedback. Kirsty was very complimentary of the group saying that we 'have a great group'. The cost of this workshop was £225.60 (invoice attached), meaning we have £273.40 left of the grant. We also have the £280 membership fees that can contribute to further workshops. I have been in contact with Storyhouse about the possibility of doing a workshop there. The plan is to do a workshop based on 'Alice in Wonderland' and then go and see Storyhouse's production of it. I have suggested two dates (2nd July and 16th July) to my contact, so I am just awaiting confirmation of the workshop before booking tickets for the production. I envisage that the cost will be more than the remaining grant money and membership fees. From what I have been told the price of the workshop will be (around £200) and tickets, we will be short by £53.60 or £90.60, depending on what day we go. To make up this money, we could ask those coming to pay a contribution (maximum £5). I have decided we will limit places to 20 for members and will require one more adult. I will be chasing this up during the week and will let you know of an outcome.

With each workshop now, we will be using Eventbrite to invite members to it. This allows us to put a limit on how many people can attend, meaning that I can plan how many adults are needed for each workshop in line with the correct ratio.

I am very pleased with the core team that we have got. Alex is a great addition to the team and her experience will really benefit the group. I am also pleased that we are continuing to support our older members of the group by offering Youth Leader roles. Both Emily and Zoe have started well and will certainly grow into the roles, supporting the running and organising of the workshops. I am very much looking forward to working with them and planning our Autumn workshops. We will be starting to plan workshops very soon, so if possible could I have draft rehearsal



schedules for 'Goodnight Mister Tom' and 'Cinderella' to ensure we are not clashing? We will be doing workshops once a month, so one in September, October, November and December.

I have emailed Mike asking if there is a possibility of having a page on the website, with some information about the group and contact details. He has said there is no problem in setting up a page on the website for us. I am also doing a monthly newsletter for the members, which could also go on our page on the website. In terms of further advertising, is there a possibility of a small advert for the Youth Theatre being included in future programmes?

I am currently in the process of looking at getting polo shirts, initially for the core team of 5, before being offered to our members. Of course, this will be of no cost to the committee, as members will buy their own through me if they are interested. Ali Wheeler has talked to me before about sponsorship, and has said that she could help towards the purchase of polo shirts. This is something for me to follow up on, if we do go ahead with the branded polo shirts.

You should have all received my proposal for the Youth Theatre's next production. I have gone for a similar format as 'Fox' of doing a matinee and evening performance on Saturday 24th March 2018. I have booked that weekend (23rd to 25th March) with Elizabeth. I am proposing that our 2018 production is Dominic Cooke's 'Arabian Nights'. It is a full-length play and tells six of the tales. It is full of drama and humour, and gives the group the opportunity to explore different techniques that we will be able to deliver workshops on. There are lots of named characters, allowing everyone to have a speaking part. There are two demanding roles, Shaharazad and Shahrayar, who will be required at the majority of the rehearsals. The stories can be treated as six mini plays, so can be easily rehearsed. Also, we will have a longer rehearsal period than the eight weeks we had for 'Fox', due to the pantomime being at the start of December. I am going to ask Aex to assist direct, and she has experience of directing a production of 'Arabian Nights' at one of her former schools. It's going to be a very simple set, with the audience on three sides. There will be two acting areas; some staging for the court and then the black carpet for the storytelling. There are no special requirements in terms of lighting. In terms of sound, I have an idea of using recordings of the cast in some parts of the play, but apart from that, sound effects will be straight-forward. I want costumes to be simple, especially for the storytellers. I envisage the storytellers to be in a coloured t-shirt and black harem pants. The court characters will have to be in costume of the time. Ashton Hayes have done 'Arabian Nights' in the past, so could get in contact with Yvette to see if we could borrow some costumes. Nantwich Players Youth Theatre have also done this adaptation before, so could be another avenue to source costumes as well.