



# Cambridge University Amateur Dramatic Club

## Minutes, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2014, 9pm Larkum Studio

Meeting Commences: 9.06pm.

The meeting was at the later time of 9pm because it was Harriet Webb's Grandmother's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday today, so the Committee wished a big Happy Birthday to Barbara.

Choice of Snack Includes: Milk Chocolate Easter Egg.

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Received from: Emma Hollows and Rose Reade.

Present: Alex Cartlidge, Bethany Craik, David Stansby, Hannah Edwards, Harriet Webb, Harry Stockwell, Jamie Balcombe, Jen Hutchings, Johann Hendrik Kamper, Maddie Heyes and Rhianna Frost.

Brief Cameo: Sam Rayner. (N.B. Sam sent his apologies, and popped along to the bit of the meeting he could make).

### 2. Minutes and Matters Arising

Minutes received, no objections raised.

Maddie Heyes reminded the Committee about organising a Committee 'Bonding' Trip (paid for by the individual Committee members themselves) after exams:

- Ideas were discussed about what to do (see a show potentially? Thorpe Park? See our Aardvarks in Chester Zoo?), and any Committee member with ideas can email Maddie Heyes during the week, and a decision will be made in next week's meeting.

- Will also send round a 'doodle-poll' to decide upon a date.

### 3. Show Reports

(a) *Hedda Gabler* (Week 1)

**S** – Sold 51% overall; Harriet Webb, when drawing up the budget predicted it would sell 50-60%, so on the lower end of where it was assumed they'd be.

**P** – Got good reviews, and everyone seemed to enjoy doing it.

**A** – Really well acted show.

**T** – Great, everything worked well.

(b) *The Tempest* (Week 2)

**S** – Currently at 48%, but selling better than any comparable Shakespeare or *A Streetcar Named Desire* was at this point, so should make its targets. Producer discussed with Harriet Webb the idea of contacting schools with money off ticket

codes - with every adult ticket purchased, you can get up to two half price child tickets (for the Matinee). It was noted that ticket codes would not be a regular feature for our shows; they can be used if targeted properly and checked with David Stansby and Harriet Webb.

**P** – Harry Stockwell spoke to Hannah Taylor (their Publicity Designer) at Craig Slade’s design workshop, and they seem to have been spreading publicity like wild-fire, including flyering in residential areas.

**A** – Had a full run through yesterday, and Emma Wilkinson (Director) seems happy.

**T** – Boat built on stage looks incredible (somewhat akin to Noah’s ark, although not flood-worthy) and having begun on time, they are focussing as we speak.

(c) *And The Horse You Rode In On* (Edinburgh)

**S** – Tickets not yet on sale, but David Stansby will check when tickets for Edinburgh shows go on sale.

**P** – All going well.

**A** – Has a full cast.

**T** – Tom Stuchfield will begin planning technical stuff once his exams have finished.

(d) *God on Trial* (Edinburgh)

**S** – Tickets not yet on sale.

**P** – The team are still not overly clear on the process of taking a show to Edinburgh. David emailed all of the Edinburgh shows introducing them to each other. The idea was floated for a more structured meeting; perhaps Edinburgh drinks.

**A** – Held more auditions this week, still looking for 2 main parts; concerns were raised that one of their producers is acting in the show.

**T** – Going fine.

(e) *Bazaar and Rummage* (Edinburgh)

**S** – Tickets not yet on sale.

**P** – Found somewhere to stay for half of their cast; and seem to be doing well finding accommodation for the rest. Will rehearse in Cambridge.

**A** – All ticking along nicely.

**T** – All ticking along nicely as well.

#### 4. Freshers’ Shows

The Committee discussed what this year’s Freshers’ Shows would be and when they would take place.

*There are three Freshers’ Shows in Michaelmas; a Corpus Playroom Mainshow in Week 5, and an ADC Mainshow and Lateshow in Week 6.*

- Questions were raised as to whether the slots could all be on the same week, but it was decided that they work best across two weeks because this will not split audiences and will allow people to help all of the shows.

9.24pm - Sam Rayner sneaks in to the meeting, stays for some of the discussion; then, like a phantom, leaves again.

The Committee then discussed ideas for the Freshers' Plays:

*Road* (Jim Cartwright)

- All set on a single street, which could be fun for a designer.
- Thirty-eight characters; potential to be doubled.
- Narrator (Scullery) guides you through the street.
- Funny; it has a comic lightness but also a sense of tragedy.
- Fairly even male/ female balance.
- Could be an ADC Mainshow (due to set demands) but also potential to cut down to an ADC Lateshow

*The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* (Bertolt Brecht)

- Story of the rise of a Chicago mobster that directly mirrors the rise of Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany.
- Potential for an ADC Mainshow, and could sell from the name.

*Attempts on Her Life* (Martin Crimp)

- Known that someone will be applying with this next term.
- Raised the question of how the choosing of Freshers' shows relates to the ordinary ADC applications process. ADC applications will be received by the end of the week, and then we can ensure no overlap.

*One Minute* (Simon Stephens)

- Potential for a Corpus Mainshow; has a cast of 5 (2f, 3m).
- About the aftermath of 7/7 bus bombings and the disappearance of an 11 year old.

*In Camera, French: Huis Clos* (Jean-Paul Sartre)

- 2m, 2f; sitting in a waiting room for Hell, taunting and spurring each other on.
- Spoiler Alert: turns out the waiting room is hell.

*Black Comedy* (Peter Shaffer)

- A farce played out with lighting levels reversed.
- Group of people in a house, power cut, trouble ensues...
- Would there actually be the potential for a Lighting Designer to work on the show?

*Earthquakes in London* (Mike Bartlett)

- Recently performed at the National Theatre.

- Ranges from the past to the future telling the story of two daughters.
- Quite fresh and new; maybe not strong enough name to sell it.

*How to Disappear Completely and Never be Found* (Fin Kennedy)

- A young executive reaches breaking point and decides to disappear.
- He is eventually stripped of everything that made him who he was.

There were a lot of good plays discussed, questions were raised as to why we don't choose some 'big names' such as William Shakespeare, Tennessee Williams or Arthur Miller. Choosing GCSE, or A-Levels texts could be a good idea.

- Various Ancient Greek plays were discussed, including *Antigone*, *Oedipus*, *The Frogs*, *The Wasps* and *Iphigenia in Aulis*; potentially hard to direct and make interesting, and many have been done recently.
- Other plays mentioned include: *An Inspector Calls* (J.B. Priestley), *The Birthday Party* (Harold Pinter), *Absent Friends* (Alan Ayckbourn) and *Noises Off* (Michael Frayn).

David Stansby will email round the list of plays discussed which the Committee can investigate further if they so choose, and we will discuss the decision next week.

***ACTION – David Stansby to email list of potential plays for the Freshers' Shows.***

## 5. General Member Vote

*Applications were opened for a new General Member (due to Johann Hendrik Kamper stepping down at the end of this term), and the Committee then had a secret ballot using the First Past the Post voting system. In the event of a tie, David Stansby would have the deciding vote. The Committee members who were not present (Emma Hollows, Rose Reade and Sam Rayner) emailed their votes to David Stansby before-hand.*

- The Committee voted; David Stansby counted the votes and Harriet Webb verified.
- Nicholas Hulbert emerged as the winner.

Nicholas Hulbert will be invited to next week's meeting as an ordinary general member to observe, then Johann Hendrik Kamper would have a hand-over meeting. Johann Hendrik Kamper would go through the membership procedures with Nicholas Hulbert and Jen Hutchings. David Stansby will email Nicholas Hulbert to notify him, and Maddie Heyes will put a notice on the Club Noticeboard.

***ACTION – David Stansby will notify Nicholas Hulbert and Maddie Heyes publicise it via Club Noticeboard.***

## 6. Info List

- Edinburgh Drinks.
- The Tempest.
- ADC / Footlights Pantomime Applications (close 7<sup>th</sup> May).

- ADC Applications (close 9<sup>th</sup> May). It is noted that people can apply for both the Pantomime and another show, as Pantomime will be decided first; applying for both would not affect an applicant.

7. **A.O.B**

Jamie Balcombe – Updated the Committee on the Garden Party. Limited by College rules to 100 people and limitations on alcohol; David Stansby will get a copy of what was agreed last year from Adam Smith and Emily Newton.

Johann Hendrik Kamper – Typed up a Membership document, with notes on becoming a member and how to chase up membership; there is currently a copy in the Club Office for everyone to look at if they choose.

Meeting Ends: 10.01pm.

**The next meeting will take place on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm  
in the Larkum Studio.**