



Cambridge University Amateur Dramatic Club

Minutes, 26th April 2015, 7.30pm Larkum Studio

Meeting Commences: 19.37

This evening's dinner: Hong Kong Fusion

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Received from: None

Present: Harry Stockwell, Lewis Scott, Sam Payne, Josie Wastell, Jack Swanborough, Lydia Clark, Cat Watts, Jack Rowan, Romilly Beddow, and Emma Blacklay-Piech, Mitchell Clarke. From 19:41: George Kan and Agnes Cameron.

2. **Get-involved campaign**

We all tell stories of how we get involved in theatre: Cat Watts thought freshers drinks were potentially produced a competitive, atmosphere. Quite a lot of people saw CUADC at the freshers fair, some did freshers plays, but quite a lot did get involved other ways.

Last year we had freshers stall for two days. We gave out information etc. Then had drinks and tours of the theatre. Freshers Friday etc. Sent out emails just to the freshers for special information. Aim was to get loads of people on the lists to provide maximum coverage.

Shadowing schemes: first four weeks of term the people running shows to take on some shadows. Shadows not expected to do anything but have the opportunity to observe and ask questions. Especially important for major roles. Stage management all to shadow week 5 stage management teams. Would numbers be a problem? Could do it on rota. This would be something to worry more about it at the time. Weekly rep meet up? Freshers shows meet up to help out. Would give a more structured support group for incoming producers etc.

Dedicated freshers mailing list with lots of emails targeted specifically for them so it is more approachable. Actors are largest groups – is there anything else we could do? We could signpost shows that would be likely to take casts.

Quite often freshers are drawn into shows that are possibly in trouble. Be aware this is happening and support them?

Bit more of an open day? Play with nice lighting stuff and nice set design etc.

Basic set skills workshops will happen. (Jack Swanborough, Agnes Cameron) Could there be a day when the theatre was closed or should something be happening every week. Advertise stewarding slots?

PDF newsletter explaining various things or a video? ADC buzzfeed? Make it interesting.

21:07 -21: 18: Break

3. **Freshers plays**

Report from last year: 70 people involved last year. 72% did shows in Lent. Good feedback. ADC mainshow was the most successful.

Criticism: Turnaround for publicity too quick especially for the first corpus show. Not enough technical support for adc shows. Only 2 out of 6 stage managers stayed involved. 'You can't take it with you' was felt by some to be too difficult a play.

Corpus show could be dropped. We are only obliged to do 2 shows per year. Joe Spence suggests a guide to Cambridge theatre – there is a booklet currently that did lay these things out but could maybe do with a rewrite. Could provide links in the first fresher emails to guides to the theatre. On rejections we could include other shows to audition for to highlight the other opportunities. Overall, the extra corpus show allows for a different show and more involvement. Why aren't they on the same week? But that would mean a potential drop in sales, actors wouldn't be able to see any other shows. But on the same week they would all be doing it together, joint party etc. Would it drop ticket sales? What about corpus shows in lent? Should each show have two show contacts?

Decision: we want a corpus show but in the same week as it would be easier for the technical team to support.

Publicity: only one person applied. The publicity designers don't tend to do freshers shows. People get pressured into doing shows. Should we have designers on standby?

Decision: allow people to apply but have backups ready if necessary.

(This particular discussion carried on so long because Harry is still scarred by this and still holds a grudge against Jack for making him clean the kitchen)

Action: people email suggestions to Lydia by Wednesday who will then hopefully send it out on Thursday for people to see.

4. **Minutes and Matters Arising**

Some points need changing.

5. **Action Points**

Edinburgh drinks: (Cat Watts) probably are going to do them but we need to pick a day people can do. Probably push it back a week given the shows are still getting together. Week 4.

Action: (Lewis Scott and Sam Payne) organise Edinburgh coffee this week.

Photosoc: done

Cat has done committee cards.

Football match: to be discussed next week.

6. Show Reports

(a) *Accidental death of an anarchist* (Week 1 Corpus Mainshow, Show Contact: Agnes Cameron)

S – Sales ok. Publicity is up.

P – All going fine however the licence possibly not valid. Needs to be paid immediately. May need to cancel but it ought to be fine.

A – Doing fine.

T – Had in. Done a full run of the show.

Action: Could Lewis share the poster and could everyone share the publicity for it to spread it around.

(b) *Turn of the Screw* (Week 3 ADC lateshow, Show Contact: Jack Rowan)

S – 8% at corpus. Not bad.

P – They have got a stage managing team. They also have a publicity shoot planned but poster not through yet.

A – Rehearsals are underway

T – Still need light and sound crew.

Action: Sheanna and Jack try to find more crew members for them.

Action: Sam Payne helps out with lighting.

(c) *Othello* (Week 4 Mainshow, Show Contact: Emma Blacklay-Piech)

S – Sales not very far up. Could sell better.

P – They have done a photoshoot.

A – All fine.

T – Hopefully Jamie Balcombe will be able to TD it. He can't confirm but it is fairly likely. Need costume designer – contact early prelim freshers.

Sheanna and Jack can assist.

Action: try and get schools on board with it. Talk with producer about it (Harry Stockwell and Lewis Scott)

(d) *Midsummer Night's Dream* (Edinburgh, Show Contact: Sam Payne)

S – doesn't apply

P – Have a really good general team.

A – auditions went really well. Finalising cast today.

T – Missing technical team members but appear to be on it. Need LD though.

(e) *Midnight Cafe* (Edinburgh, Show Contact: Lewis Scott)

S – Doesn't apply

P – Have venue and a poster.

A – More auditions and quite probably have confirmed the role

T – Still needs to re-open for tech roles. Need stage manager and TD. Or general technician.

(f) *Picasso Stole the Mona Lisa* (Edinburgh, Show Contact: Sheanna Patel)

S – Doesn't apply

P – 1st company meeting tonight. Production generally not changed. Pretty full team. Waiting for C venues for the banner.

A – Seems fine.

T – Not much.

7. **Management appointments**

8. **Funding application**

Nepal theatre rickshaw project applied for funding. All of the budget is mainly personal expenditure. Would set a precedent. It would be better to formalise procedures to help people go and do something like this. Supporting applications for special funding would be good. Should we support philanthropic theatre events?
Action: for the moment no as there is no opportunity for the fund, but will be discussed as part of our financial policy.

9. **Info List**

Accidental death of an anarchist.

ADC applications and drinks.

Panto applications.

Directors shadowing scheme.

10. **A.O.B**

Membership (Romilly): membership has a massive backlog. Harry and Josie have checked and have a list.

Banks: should happen very soon.

1st care package very well recieved

Stash has been designed.

Is there a way that directors need to email everyone to let them know people haven't been cast?

Action: maybe reiterate it. It is sadly just a general fact of theatre.

Vote taken by secret ballot and show of hands for the show selection panels:
show selection – Josie Wastell
Panto - Lewis Scott.

Meeting Ends: 22: 39