



# Cambridge University Amateur Dramatic Club

## Meeting Minutes, 6<sup>th</sup> March 2016, 7.30pm, Larkum Studio

Meeting Commences: 19:35

### 1. **Apologies for Absence**

Received from: Rebecca Vaa

Outgoing Committee Present: Romilly Beddow, Lewis Scott, Sheanna Patel, Agnes Cameron, Emma Blacklay-Piech, George Kan, Jack Rowan, Cat Watts, Jack Swanborough, Lydia Clark, Josie Wastell, Harry Stockwell, Sam Payne.

Incoming Committee Present: Saskia Baylis, Catja Hamilton, Alex Barnett, Oscar Yang, Will Bishop, Amy Malone, Toby Molyneux, Sheanna Patel, Lewis Scott, Ellie Mitchell, Jack Rowan, Emma Blacklay-Piech.

### 2. **Minutes and Matters Arising**

Harry Stockwell raises the revoking of rights for *The Flick*. We have run into issues attempting to resolve the resulting financial issues from this; the University legal department has been unhelpful. Writing a letter directly to Samuel French may be a better course of action: this to be discussed more thoroughly by the incoming committee at their next meeting.

### 3. **Action Points**

Nothing raised.

### 4. **Show Reports**

a) *The Night Heron* (Week 7 Corpus Playroom Mainshow, Show Contact: Sam Payne)

**S** - 39%, everyone quite happy with this.

**P** – all seemed to go well.

**A** - all seemed to go well, everyone involved was happy.

**T** – again, went well!

Although everything seemed to go smoothly, Harry Stockwell recommends that the Club avoids funding a Week 7 show in future, due to its proximity to the Lent Term

Musical and Annual General Meeting. Had *The Night Heron* needed more support, Committee may have struggled to provide it.

b) *West Side Story* (Week 8 and 9 ADC Mainshow, Show Contact: Josie Wastell)

**S** – Sales are very good, close to selling out but not quite.

**P** – Producer has flagged up a spending issue by the Musical Director. See below for further summary of this issue.

**A** – Generally happy.

**T** – Generally good, set-in is a little behind the ideal, but no huge issues. Stage Management is prepared for various eventualities.

Issues have been raised regarding the Musical Director's lack of communication and the Producer is concerned by a significant overspend on instrument hire. It is agreed that we need more information on exactly how much has been spent and on what before decisions on action can be taken.

**Action Point:** Jack Rowan to find out from the Producer the specifics of the overspend.

20.10 – Outgoing committee departs, minus Sheanna Patel, Lewis Scott, Emma Blacklay-Piech and Jack Rowan.

20.14 – Toby Molyneux departs to see how the *West Side Story* Get-In is going.

20.16 – Toby Molyneux returns to grab his hard hat. Can he fix it? Yes he can.

## 5. **Assignment of Show Contacts**

*The Winter's Tale* (Week 2 ADC Mainshow) – Amy Malone

*The Eradication of Schizophrenia in Western Lapland* (Week 3 Corpus Playroom Mainshow) – Oscar Yang

*Mnemonic* (Week 4 ADC Mainshow) – Alex Barnett

*Wasted!* (Edinburgh Fringe) – Saskia Baylis

*The Wives of Others* (Edinburgh Fringe) – Ellie Mitchell

*Alice* (Edinburgh Fringe) – Jack Rowan

## 6. **Proposals for Co-option of Webmaster**

Both Alan Egan and Ben Martineau are proposed, each with strong arguments for. Lewis Scott proposes we ask both for a manifesto of sorts, and then decide once we have more information. This is agreed upon.

**Action Point:** Ellie Mitchell to email both asking for a manifesto if they are interested in the role. Committee to vote at next week's meeting.

## 7. **Proposals for Co-option of Designers' Rep**

Alice Brightman is brought up following the recommendation of the outgoing Designers' Rep, Agnes Cameron, and also members of the incoming committee. We unanimously agree to offer Alice the role.

**Action Point:** Ellie Mitchell to email Alice Brightman.

## 8. **Ongoing Projects**

- a) *The Flick* - possibility of sending a letter directly to Samuel French to be discussed.
- b) The Costume Store – The relocation of this from Queens' needs to be further investigated, before any major upheaval of the Fitzpatrick occurs, but it's difficult as nobody is entirely sure how the existing arrangement with Queens' came about.
- c) Manifesto Proposals – everybody runs through aims they would like to pursue, as follows:
  - Ellie Mitchell* – Transfer the [info@cuadc.org](mailto:info@cuadc.org) email from the Publicist to the Secretary. Reformat the Constitution.
  - Lewis Scott* – Move publicity deadlines to within holidays to coordinate all shows' publicity. Spend more money on Facebook advertising
  - Amy Malone* – Workshops. Contact JCRs.
  - Emma Blacklay-Piech* – Welfare Training. An annual outreach budget for lovely things such as Easter Egg hunts. This is agreed to be adorable and lovely.
  - Will Bishop* – Fight choreography workshops run by professionals. Handover evening for Directors, implemented at the time of show offers being made.
  - Oscar Yang* – Rewrite the production handbook to be more personal and student-specific. Increase collaboration between Clubshows, especially regarding publicity.
  - Alex Barnett* – Automated emailing system. Stash for members. Christmas party.
- d)

*Catja Hamilton* – Workshops. Brings up the fact that LDs and TDs have to pay a lot of money to provide food for overnights and get-ins – financial burden and etiquette of this to be discussed.

*Saskia Baylis* – Workshops. Surgery hours for the Props Store on Sundays and Mondays.

*Jack Rowan* – Find a patron! Sam Mendes? Alumni outreach. Ellie Mitchell gets excited about Tom Hiddleston. Sheanna Patel agrees that he is 'just so hot'. Revising settlement times, fines and skip charges with ADC Management.

*Sheanna Patel* – BME drinks and address the issue of racial diversity in Cambridge Theatre more generally.

Everyone agrees to discuss all our aims in more detail at the next meeting, and to agree on a rough timetable for the year regarding what is to be pursued when, to avoid too many projects ongoing at once.

## **9. A. O. B.**

From the outgoing committee:

- a. Harry Stockwell enquires as to whether committee handovers have taken place; Will Bishop still needs to receive a handover from George Kan.
- b. Sam Payne produces a can of whipped cream and hands to Ellie Mitchell. Sheanna Patel: 'I know what that's from!'. Sam Payne: 'Oh yeah, you were there too!'. Much hilarity and laughter ensues. Nobody explains.
- c. Sam Payne reverts to serious mode. He has heard rumours of management proposing that the Props' Store be moved to the museum, and expresses concern that this would cause issues for disabled access, which has an impact upon open opportunities for Stage Managers and any future SM Rep. Jack Swanborough says there are no concrete plans as of yet, it is just an idea. Saskia Baylis to follow up.
- d. Upcoming meeting with the Executive Committee regarding the show selection process. George Kan suggests that show selection could be more accommodating to applications for devised pieces, and it is agreed that this needs to happen. Lewis Scott brings up the issue of gender quotas due to the all male panel in Michaelmas; Harry Stockwell has looked into figures and found that the gender balance on shows has generally been equal for the past year, with the worst disparity being 10%. Harry Stockwell raises the issue of

Tour Shows taking up Shakespeare slots, minimising opportunities for and discouraging Directors who would like to Direct Shakespeare but can't afford international tours; however, Josie Wastell points out that there is also the issue of tour shows needing to know if they are able to have Cambridge runs in advance for financial planning reasons. This to be discussed further by the incoming committee.

- e. Romilly Beddow raises the issue of racial diversity in Cambridge Theatre, particularly the issue of people being put off the show selection process. Sheanna Patel has also received messages about this, and we discuss the issue of low attendance at Applications Drinks. Cat Watts suggests we hold a talk to make the show selection process more transparent, and to minimise the potentially intimidating aspect of Applications' Drinks; this is generally agreed to be a good idea. Agnes Cameron adds that this won't be enough; we should also look into releasing some kind of statement about racial diversity in Cambridge Theatre. Sheanna Patel says she has received a request for BME Drinks from FLY and we agree to look into holding these.

From the incoming committee:

- a. Lewis Scott would like the [info@cuadc.org](mailto:info@cuadc.org) email address transferred to Ellie Mitchell as soon as possible.
- b. Emma Blacklay-Piech asks if the [social@cuadc.org](mailto:social@cuadc.org) and [outreach@cuadc.org](mailto:outreach@cuadc.org) emails can be combined. This to be looked into once a webmaster is co-opted.
- c. Jack Rowan asks when the Club Office will be emptied of the outgoing committee's belongings. Sheanna Patel says she has given everyone until after West Side Story goes up (Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>).
- d. Sheanna Patel raises committee stash. We discuss ideas.

Meeting ends: 20:50