



Cambridge University
Amateur Dramatic Club

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Minutes, 6th October 2019, 17:00, Larkum

17:07 The meeting begins.

1. Apologies for Absence

Received from: Daisy Everingham, Isabella Woods (who will be late)

Present: Alistair Henfrey, Isobel Griffiths, Mariam Abdel-Razek, Emily Senior, Meg Coslett, Nick Harris, Sam Frakes, Tom Nunan, Fernando Georgiou, Lucy Tiller, Lucia Revel-Chion, Ollie Jones

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

None.

3. Action Points

- A. Publish questionnaires/polls for Directors guide and then work on writing up the guide hopefully in time for freshers!

AH informs the committee that Ellie wants to have an input on the directors' guide - as a result, we are now aiming to have it out around show selection.

- B. Committee headshots. *Deferred.*
- C. Update/share Connor's audition questionnaires from last year with committee. *Deferred.*
- D. Costume store online catalogue.

ES has started work on this!

4. Show Reports

a. The Convert, IW

(none received)

MAR states that according to the show's production team, IW has not been in contact with the show for several weeks. She suggests that this should be brought up as soon as IW arrives.

LRC remarks that a non-student has had to be added to the cast to play the role of 'Uncle'. She suggests that the committee discuss whether or not the constitution should be changed to permanently allow this measure to be taken in critical circumstances.

b. Antigone, TN

S – None as of yet. A marketing timetable has been assembled.

P – Advertising for roles will start at the end of this week (to coincide with the freshers arriving), including publicity designer. Applications to open Tues 8th / Weds 9th.

A – Casting call at the end of this week (as above). Auditions will be held at 1-3pm on 16th-18th in Corpus auditorium.

T – None as of yet, this will be looked at later in term. Lucia Revel-Chion as Assoc. Producer and tech wizard will be supervising this area.

5. Event Reports

a. Club Dinner

MC made a powerpoint. The committee expresses general excitement and approval of this fact.

Venue – Cambridge Arms Hotel: good menu options, 120 capacity, circular tables, projector facility

Pricing – 42 pounds a head, LRC and MC to talk prices with the venue on Tuesday

Venue – Trinity college has offered their great hall, capacity over 120,

Pricing – 40 pounds a head

MC also presents the possibility of not publishing who has made CUADC committee on the same night as club dinner as this has been known to ruin the vibe of the evening in the past. This proposal is met with agreement across the board.

LRC adds that it would also be preferable for the incoming President not to count committee votes, as it puts them in an uncomfortable position to know the results of the election before they are shared with everyone else.

b. Christmas Party

LRC just wants to keep it on the radar.

Action point: chat to management about how the Christmas Party works.

6. Fringe Recap

LT believes that opening applications for fringe funding needs to happen way sooner this year, as it is more difficult to get venues and accommodation the closer it gets to the dates of the festival. This also helps to avoid student producers having to pay for things

out of their own pockets. She also asks the room whether they know of any particular reasons why Cambridge student shows rarely, if ever, attend the National Student Drama Festival.

AH, who has attended the festival before, suggests this may be because Cambridge already has such a large and active theatre scene of its own, that it would be unnecessary to offer up valuable slots in the program to a Cambridge group over other drama societies from other universities who have fewer opportunities. It could be an idea to send a few people to the NSDF this year to test the waters and to see whether it is worth thinking about participation for future years. LRC also suggests it might be worth liaising with the festival directly in order to gauge whether they would welcome or discourage CUADC's participation.

Returning to the subject of fringe, LRC asks LT how the responses were about the money given to subsidise accommodation. LT responds that people found it to be a really good help. She wonders whether this is something that will be provided every year.

NH thinks it is worth offering financial support of this kind again if it is properly publicised so that people who wouldn't get involved in a fringe show otherwise feel that they can participate. LRC reminds the committee that it is nonetheless important to remain realistic about financial losses.

AH notes that the number of Cambridge shows at fringe seemed very small this year in comparison to previous years, which led to a smaller sense of community. MAR agrees and notes that social events often seemed divided between comedy, musical theatre and straight plays. It might be worth thinking of ways to avoid this division in the future.

7. CUMTS Gala

LRC has spoken to Laurence T-Stannard (President of CUMTS) about appointing an external casting consultant from CUADC for CUMTS gala casting in order to ensure impartiality. The committee agrees that this sounds like a good idea.

8. Lent Term Show Selection

The decision as to who is to sit on show selection with LRC is postponed until the next meeting, when the entire committee will hopefully be present.

9. Funding: Slush

LRC 'Slush' have gotten in touch again because their funding fell through.

It is decided that LRC will ask the show for exact records of their spending which she will then forward to NH, who will make a decision by next week.

10. Presentation of Accounts (NH)

NH “basically. It’s alright.”

A summary of CUADC’s accounts is passed around the room. There are no further questions.

18:20 IW arrives

11. Freshers Fair

SM goes over the freshers’ fair rota and ensures that everyone knows when they are expected to man the stall. She also reminds the committee to read through their guide to freshers events before their shifts.

FG teaches the committee how to use tablets for mailing list sign ups.

12. AOB

LRC asks IW how well she feels she has been communicating with the production team of ‘The Convert’. IW assures the room that she has tried to reach out several times but hasn’t received many responses. While communication with the director has been pretty good, the producers have been particularly difficult to get a hold of. She hopes their upcoming production meeting will resolve any potential issues.

MAR believes that the committee could have done a better job of explaining how the process of putting on a show at the ADC works to the director of ‘The Convert’. It is important that the committee does not assume any foreknowledge in the future and always helps people who are new to theatre in Cambridge or at the ADC to understand what is expected of them and the other members of their cast and production team.

AH notes that this will be helped by a new project he is working on with the production manager, Ellie, that will potentially involve hosting a compulsory meeting at the start of each term with everyone who will be directing a show. This will ensure that everyone feels supported and knows what they are doing.

18:48 the meeting ends.