



Cambridge University Amateur Dramatic Club

Agenda, 09.10.22, 18.00, Larkum Studio

1. Apologies for Absence

Present: Jonathan Black, Thomas Shortland, Izzie Sayer, Lucas Holt, Rishi Sharma, Amy Meyer, Mercy Brewer, Stephanie Cho, Tom Chandler, Lily Blundell

Absent with apologies: Tungsten Tang, Zachary Green

Absent without apologies: Rosie McLeish, Kate South, Christian Longstaff

2. Minutes and Matters Arising.

JB has ordered pizza and reports he loves chicken kickers.

LB suggests we get [REDACTED] when the pizza arrives.

JB looks forward to the day that future committee members read these minutes and feel jealous they do not have chicken kickers.

3. Event Reports

JB thanks the committee for all their support on all events.

a. Writing Workshop

JB asks if TC has any updates.

TC reports that the workshop is happening. The first workshop will be about writing and the following about editing and developing, with time in between for people to write. It is aimed at freshers but not exclusively for them. They will also be opening the floor at the end for questions about writing and pitching but will keep the focus on writing. They've had some interest which is cool, and are expecting maybe 10-15 attendees. They confirm it is 4-6pm on Tuesday.

JB confirms with LB that she'll be able to publicise.

Action: LB to publicise the Writing Workshop

b. Wuthering Heights Social

Action: LB to publicise the Wuthering Heights social also.

AM asks who will be overseeing; TT volunteered last meeting.

c. BME Social

JB confirms this is on Wednesday and is being co-hosted with BREAD. JB doesn't have much information but hopefully KS will have more deets.

Action: LB to publicise BME social

d. Publicity Workshop

Postponed until MB returns

JB suggests the committee email the Producer's email list to strongly recommend attendance.

Action: MB to email producers/directors mailing list with information about the workshop.

JB adds that the workshop is targeted about people already affiliated with shows.

MB thinks having a brainstorm of alternative publicity methods would be fun; JB suggests this happens at the workshop.

MB and LB will meet to plan further.

e. Intro to Tech Workshop

LH reports he is planning on running sound and set at the same time then lighting and SM at same time.

The plans changed slightly from the original freshers leaflet; each department will have a 30min intro and then there will be time for questions. He aims for it to be a useful intro for people to know who to go to for help with training. It will be between 3-5pm. LH is running the set workshop with Cody Knight. LB is running the sound workshop with Tim McGilly. SC and IS are running the SM workshop. TT is running the lighting workshop but needs someone else to help. TC may be able to.

Action: LB to publicise the Intro to Tech workshop

JB suggests that it is strongly encouraged that freshers tech teams attend as at that point the teams will be confirmed.

JB confirms the pizza is now out for delivery. It's being delivered by 'the reliable'. JB is sceptical that this person will live up to their nickname.

4. Show Reports

a. Wuthering Heights

LH does not have a SPAT alas. He is aware of how tech is going and is planning on checking in on the cast.

JB has spoken to the cast and overall it seems okay.

LH thinks it has taken some time to come together but should all be fine. He adds publicity has also been ramped up.

JB thinks the publicity is strong but ticket sales haven't reflected this. JB acknowledges that this isn't a show specific thing; other shows this term have also struggled with ticket sales.

LH asks if Facebook ads could be used. RS has done this before; it's very dependent on how much money is invested in it. He's not certain how much it contributes as it's hard to tell but it is very possible to do on a logistical level.

RS suggests the low ticket sales may also be a result of ticket prices. TC agrees this may be a contributor.

JB adds that a ticket price increase was inevitable; the discussion at exec level was 'how much' not 'should we'. He reports that they've tried to keep cheaper tickets each week on Tuesday-Thursday and increased prices at the weekend. Late show prices have also decreased with an aim to encourage bar spending. JB adds that there's also been a late show higher price band added for shows expected to be lucrative e.g. *Tick Tick Boom*.

TS suggests that standing seat tickets are sold. JB suggests spots in the bridges could be monetised. RS suggests we sell 'VIP' tickets for an 'Assistant Stage Management Hands On Backstage Experience'

b. An Uncomfortable Silence

CL is not present. TC needs to send the poster to Gabrielle James (GJ, ADC Production Manager). Not much has changed but they are not concerned about anything.

c. Adrift!

MB is in touch with the team; it doesn't sound like they have a producer yet.

JB adds that they're holding auditions this week. MB asks how this has happened without producers.

MB suggests doing an advert on the producers mailing list.

Action: MB to send an advert for Adrift! producers on the producers mailing list

LH asks if there's anything the committee can do to support. TS suggests that all committee members apply to take part in the show.

JB suggests *Adrift!* will drift along and will not lose CUADC that much money so it's fine. Also he really likes the script. Overall it should be fine.

d. Panto

JB suggests Panto discussions are skipped for now. He adds that Group O are working on it.

LH reports a TLDR: Panto is fine, it's all fixed, everything is good. Unfortunately he is joking. Lol.

JB will report in a week or two but he doesn't think it's productive to include the whole committee at this stage.

5. Freshers' Plays

TS asks when he can contact the show he is the show contact for. JB confirms the end of this week.

Action: Mercy and Rishi to send contact details for fresher core prod teams to show contacts on Tuesday

JB thanks those involved in auditions, tech chats etc. He would now like to think about long term support as the shows have kicked off. His plan for the show contacts is for them to meet with the prod team once in the next week or so, and then once in the week before the show, and send twice weekly SPAT reports.

IS reports on behalf of ZG that freshers' auditions are going well well well. 70 auditions have been seen in 2 days! The general standard has been very good, and there may be a lot of recalls but MB is confident the fresher directors can handle it.

TC asks about a script editor for *The Government Inspector*. IS has sent TC a draft advert.

Action: TC to confirm with IS, IS to send script editor advert to LB to publicise.

RS and MB are planning on sending out responses to freshers on Tuesday.

6. Freshers Events

JB is very proud of everything the committee has done over the last week. The freshers seem keen which is lovely. Freshers fair and Freshers friday were both A Lot but both went well. The Get Involved Carousel was also very

successful. JB thanks everyone for all the time they've devoted to this stressful, draining but very much worth it task.

RS says you're welcome.

JB asks for any comments on What Went Well or Even Better Ifs for fresher's events.

TC suggests that the carousel felt like they were a looping video giving out the same information again and again which was quite tiring. They suggest maybe next year that attendees are encouraged to turn up at a particular time e.g. 10am or 11am so that there are two main talks and then time for questions.

MB suggests having role guides at the carousel also.

JB adds the carousel is new to the freshers campaign this year. He agrees TC's suggestions would be helpful

MB adds it was a nice and relaxed event.

JB adds it was nice that different people came to the carousel compared to freshers friday and that they were very different energies with the carousel being very chilled compared to freshers friday.

The committee agrees that it was successful overall.

JB thinks that having a dedicated 'theatre zone' at next year's freshers fair would help freshers to navigate as it was not easy to find interested freshers to, for instance, the Footlight's stall as it was quite far away. LH suggests that this suggestion is brought to the SU by a group of theatre societies.

AM adds CUADC was also placed within 'sports and activities' which she does not think is that cool. RS argues that thespians are the athletes of the hearts. JB reminds everyone that the central uni hates theatre.:(

Pizza update: 'Mr Reliable' is not yet pulling through.

7. SM Rep Co-option

JB notes that SC has volunteered to take on the responsibilities of the role. In the interim LH will assist with her webmaster duties. LH expresses some apprehension about the editing method of the website but even Charlie Jonas doesn't know how to edit some of it so it is an ongoing challenge. JB suggests the website is transferred over to Wix. SC thinks that there are a few functions in the current website that would be difficult to replicate on Wix but other than that it would work.

SC asks for support with the props store during panto week. TC volunteers

8. Vice President

TC suggests the details of fringe pitching need to be ironed out but perhaps today is not the day.

9. Show Feedback Form

The general consensus is that the form is good.

LH suggests clarification on what 'conflict of interest' means would be good.

10. Code of Conduct

Delayed until the next meeting.

11. Management Support of Shows

[LH leaves]

LB asks if H&S is covered by the management training which has been reduced due to the lower capacity of the new management team as they become accustomed to their new roles.

IS confirms that H&S is within the remit of their jobs but nothing else.

TC adds that CUADC are not responsible for all shows and so cannot be expected to act as technical support for all shows.

JB suggests that the expectation of management is that experienced techies will be around to help but this is perhaps unreasonable.

TC adds that there are very few experienced technicians left as a result of Covid.

JB adds that he understands that management are getting used to their new jobs but they may not have appreciated that there is a large gap in experienced student techies due to covid.

RS adds the open intimacy workshop has not happened

JB is concerned about this also, especially as CUADC have contributed money for intimacy training. He would be keen for management to reinstate the termly intimacy workshop.

JB suggests another meeting between Group O and management would be beneficial.

TS believes that management planned to have a different workshop with a different theme each term.

[CL joins meeting]

JB is also keen for this to be a constructive discussion.

12. Intimacy Workshops

This will be brought up in the meeting between management and Group O.

13. AOB

a. Reviewing [RS]

GJ responded with some suggestions regarding phrasing e.g. using 'this is what we would like you to do' rather than 'this is what you should do'. She also mentioned that there is no real way for the guidelines to be policed. RS knows that there is no way to police this and is aware that these are guidelines and he can't send people to theatre jail.

CL suggests a constitutional amendment to add a theatre jail.

RS adds that these guidelines are intended to make management's lives easier as well for instance with respect to how to organise reviews. He thinks the next step should be to have a meeting with the editors of student publications to establish a best practice, which can be put in place before next term.

JB mentions that he is talking to GJ tomorrow and intends to mention the reviewing guide and also hopefully encourage her to engage with it a bit more.

MB and JB add that it is unclear who's responsibility it is to organise reviews. MB has been in contact with Varsity and has been getting few responses. She thinks potentially it is the responsibility of management to liaise with reviewers but is uncertain. Also she has found that recently Varsity have behaved in a slightly strange, gossipy way.

JB suggests that CUADC doesn't invite Varsity to ADC shows if necessary.

CL thinks that the way CUADC approaches interviews needs to be emblematic of our culture and our attitude to reviews. He thinks that if Varsity wanted to make an insightful point about culture within student theatre they wouldn't be acting in the way they have recently. He thinks CUADC needs to present the community in a positive light and Varsity's attitude does not really reflect this.

CL would like to clarify that he hates Varsity.

TC adds that this attitude was also present in Varsity's 'investigations' of reimbursements. They add that the reviewing guide is intended to be informative for reviewers, to tell them the things that they would have liked to know before starting reviewing.

MB asks if Group O can clarify with management whose responsibility it is to organise reviews.

CL suggests that interviews with groups should be prioritised over individual interviews with students.

MB agrees with the idea; she thinks it would be more interesting for the student papers to, for instance, interview presidents of societies about their vision of the community etc.

CL thinks it is not representative of the culture CUADC wish to exhibit to act in the way that Varsity are currently.

MB thinks this may be out of the control of CUADC. CL believes CUADC could make these expectations clear.

TC adds GJ's response has been very unsupportive, for instance suggesting that reviewers that are getting harassed contact CUADC/management.

JB has found that Jamie Rycroft (previous ADC Theatre Manager) is here. There is general excitement.

TS adds that it is reasonable for CUADC to make demands on student newspaper editors as they are getting comp tickets.

b. Fresher play timelines

JB postpones this for Slack. The main points are that the following communications should occur by the following days:

Core prod team - Tuesday

Recalls - Wednesday

Extended prod - Thursday

Each with a deadline to reply of 24 hours.

TT asks how tech should be structured. AM and LH have discussed this at length and have things under control.

Meeting adjourned at 19:52