

Minutes of meeting of EGTG Committee
10 February 2019
5pm, 18 Buccleuch Place

Present: David Grimes (Treasurer), Alastair Smith (Secretary), Hannah Bradley, Alma Forsyth, Claire Wood.

Apologies: Angela Harkness-Robertson, Siobhan McGovern, Dan Sutton

1. The minutes of the meeting held on 7 January 2019 were approved without amendment.

2. **One Acts**

Rehearsals were progressing for the performance of “The Actor’s Nightmare” at the SCDA One-Act Play Festival on Saturday 23 February. CW had sat in on a rehearsal and found the show to be in good shape, though she encouraged the director to ensure that the cast attended all rehearsals on time and as required. AS said that rehearsals were going well. Asked about transport and other arrangements for the get-in and tech on 23 February, AS confirmed that there was no set to transport.

Action: AS to check with Jenny, the director, whether any other assistance was required.

3. **Hand to God**

DG reported excellent progress: the show was completely blocked and the majority of the cast off book. DG had provided Chris with set design and Chris was happy that this was feasible. There would be one pyro effect (a hanging industrial light with a flash pot on top) which DG was arranging to hire.

DG noted that there was need for extra backstage crew to manage the practical effects at the end of Part 1, and that help would be required for the set build and get-in on 7 April.

The show was reported to be running a little short at present, and the Committee briefly discussed whether a later start time of 2000 would be appropriate. DG said that he aimed for 1:30 plus an interval and that, assuming it did not run shorter than this, there would be no need for a late start; for the moment, we should wait and see.

Regarding publicity, the photographer was coming on Tuesday 12 February to take pictures for the programme and press release. HB to deal with press (and stressed the importance of including a human in the press photo as well as a puppet). DG to deal with social media. Social media blackout, during which EGTG media to discuss only Hand to God, scheduled to start on 25 March.

DG noted that the set would feature pyramids of dolls’ heads. The heads would need to be sourced from charity shops as online suppliers had been unable to guarantee delivery in time.

Action: HB to issue call for backstage help in newsletter.
All to keep a look out for dolls’ heads in charity shops.

4. **The Lark**

CW reported that the show had been cast successfully, though the withdrawal of one cast member had required a re-allocation of roles, with the happy side-effect of reducing the cast size by one. Liz had agreed to be assistant director and Gordon Hughes to light. Music and choir directors had also been arranged and costume and set were in hand. A rehearsal schedule had also been sent out.

Publicity: after discussion, and taking into account the need to avoid competing with Hand to God, it was agreed that online ticket sales should commence from 14 March with the full PR campaign launching on 14 April following the end of the Hand to God run.

5. **Fringe Shows**

There would be a script read on 17 March and auditions held on 24 and 28 April.

HB showed the Committee the artwork which had been produced for Pool (No Water) and The Merry Wives of Windsor, incorporating the new EGTG logo. DG suggested that the banner with logo and production dates should appear at the bottom rather than the top, in line with the style of established venues.

The Committee agreed that the start times of the shows should be:

18.30 Merry Wives of Windsor
20.30 Pool (No Water)
21.45 Improv (lasting 45 minutes)

DG noted that the deadline for fringe programme entry at early-bird rates was the end of the month, and that all shows would need appropriate text for the programme ASAP. He particularly noted the need for an appealing hook for the improv show. CW agreed to contact Dan Sutton for confirmation of the necessary details.

With regard to pricing, the Committee agreed that tickets for the two main shows should be priced at £12, with the improv show at £5.

HB informed the committee that the Fringe social media blackout would start on 22 July.

Action: CW to confirm necessary details of improv show with Dan.

6. **Joe Butt Commemoration**

The Committee noted that the SCDA were not willing to establish an award for individual acting performances, insisting rather that any award should be given on a group basis. The Committee were not content with the SCDA suggestion of an award for "Best Moment in Theatre", feeling it appropriate that any award in the name of Joe Butt should be for acting. It was agreed that an award for "Best Ensemble" might be appropriate, and that CW should approach the SCDA to see if this would be acceptable to them.

Action: CW to contact SCDA.

7. **Home Street**

A work party had attended Home Street immediately prior to the meeting and done some tidying of the costume and workshop areas. It was noted that four lights were out: one upstairs and three in the entrance way. DG suggested, and the committee agreed, that it would be worth approaching an electrician to replace the existing light-fittings with low-maintenance LED units, perhaps wall-mounted for easier access. It was noted that Dan Sutton had previously been in contract with the electrician and agreed (in Dan's absence) that it should be Dan who takes this forward.

AS noted his intention to attempt some tidying of the workshop area following the end of the Hand to God set construction period.

HB noted that there would be need for some further culling of the wood pile at a future date.

Further shelving would be tabled for a future meeting.

8. **Any Other Competent Business**

DG noted that the projector was nowhere to be found. This had come to light because DG had arranged free publicity for Hand to God in the programme of Thruppeny Theatricals' "Dear Brutus" in exchange for the loan of the projector. CW said that it had been used for Beauty in Summer 2017, but returned.

HB noted that the person who had enquired about work experience had been informed that while there were a number of things going on within the Group, there was nothing that would amount to full-time work experience. Another person had enquired about assisting with set design. HB would ask Abi whether any assistance was required with the set of Pool (No Water); in any case, HB would welcome assistance with the set of Catch-22.

9. **Date of next meeting**

The Committee agreed that the next meeting would be held on **Sunday 10 March at 17.30.**