

EGTG BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS MEETING 16th NOVEMBER 2021

Present:

Hannah Bradley Croall, Martin Foreman, Angela Harkness Robertson, Alastair Smith, Claire Wood

RECOMMENDATIONS

In the interests of clarity, consistency and transparency

1. EGTG committee become responsible for approving fundamental production costs (Fringe/rights/venue) separately from the other production costs; i.e., these are not the responsibility of the director, but for the committee to decide when choosing the slate for the given year.
2. Productions are given a “lump” budget with recommended breakdown categories. Budget is decided for each production by the committee based on commercial potential, cast size etc. bearing in mind the rest of the slate for that year.

To facilitate this, EGTG operates a “show card” – each director is given the budget sum on a bank card, which they use for the duration of the production. When not in use the Treasurer keeps the card (cards – we’d need two for simultaneous productions such as in The Fringe). Hopefully this will have the added advantage of reducing workload for The Treasurer in that they only have to deal with receipts, and not have to sort reimbursements.

3. Any overspend by a director must be signed off by the whole EGTG Committee before the spend is made; otherwise funds will not be released or reimbursed.
4. Before the slate for 2023 is decided, the committee come up with numbers on what EGTG will comfortably be able to spend on productions so that we can be better informed when consider proposals. A date of 1st September 2022 was suggested by which we should have decided these figures.

REVENUE IDEAS RE MEMBERSHIP

It was suggested that we implement a new membership system in an attempt to find alternative revenue rather than just show tickets. The system would have two tiers:

“EGTG SUPPORTERS”

For an annual fee of £10, Supporters would get £2 discount on all show tickets (one per show per supporter; additional tickets would be full price), and access to some events e.g., table readings. Participation in a show would mean supporters should become full members and pay an additional £15 (for the first show).

“EGTG FULL MEMBERS”

As before, there would be a £25 annual fee, which would cover participation in one show (any further participation in further productions would incur an additional £25 for each show). Full members would get £2 off all show tickets (it has been suggested to a maximum of 4 discounted tickets per member per show), and access to more events (table reads, outings, other social gatherings etc.)

The current system of early bird tickets would be scrapped; only supporters and members get discounts.

To facilitate the new system and the resultant increase in workload, we'd need a separate Membership Secretary (Martin valiantly volunteered), and a new committee role to organise Member events/outings. We liked the title “Morale Officer,” but this is open to further discussion.

Since the meeting, there has been some discussion on how we can make all this work; details can be discussed further at the next full committee meeting.

It is likely that we would need some investment in the website, or to hire a programmer, to implement these changes.

Finally, it was agreed that committee members should be looking for new (cheaper) venues. Venue costs are rocketing, and our ticket sales are not. Perhaps we need to look more at how we can boost sales, but we do need to find some more affordable spaces in Edinburgh.