

Minutes of EGTG Committee Meeting – 3 November 2021 via Zoom

Present: Angela Harkness Robertson
Alma Forsyth
Hannah Bradley Croall
Martin Foreman
Beverley Wright
James Scott

1. Apologies were received from Alastair Smith, David Grimes and Siobhan McGovern.
2. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.
3. **Bug:** The Committee noted the production's artistic success but lamented its financial loss. This was attributed to various reasons: a) content not to everyone's taste; b) continuing 'Covid' reluctance of potential audience members to mix socially; c) venue location not easy to reach by car or public transport, mostly because of road closures and deviations to accommodate tram works; d) lack of publicity – even extensive social media coverage was not enough.
The Committee discussed future publicity and how to extend its reach e.g. by including a section on upcoming shows in the publicity for the next production. Hannah will look into creating a 'what's coming up' section on our website. Hannah thanked Alma for learning new skills in order to run the *Bug* ticket office. In spite of *Bug's* financial loss, the Committee was delighted that the EGTG was back in the business of live theatre.
4. **Budgets:** Although we are involved in theatre because we enjoy it, we need to make money to ensure we can continue with future projects. The Committee, therefore, discussed the procedure for deciding on a budget for each show, resulting in the following proposal:
We would have an annual budget for venue hire and performance rights. Separately directors would be given a budget for their production, taking into account cast size, popularity of play etc. It would be up to the director to choose how they spend the allocated sum.
In brief, the Committee would allocate a budget for production costs rather than the director submitting a budget plan.
It was agreed that Anji should organise a special meeting of those Committee members with directing and financial skills in order to discuss this proposal. The Committee will also re-examine budgets for EGTG's 2022 productions.
5. **StagEHd:** Hannah still awaits final confirmation from Edinburgh Council and the Usher Hall on dates for the festival (last weekend in May 2022 proposed). Hannah has bought an internet domain for the project. Applications for prospective performers to be open from 12 November to 17 December 2021. The Committee agreed not to put forward a new EGTG production but a scene from *Hay Fever* (which will have ended its run) is possible. The festival has been reduced from three to two days because of costs involved in providing amplification for the open air Ross Bandstand.
The Committee thanked Hannah for her work on this project.

6. **SCDA one-act festival:** In a recent Newsletter we invited directors wishing to participate to come forward with proposals for one-act plays. No one responded. In future we should perhaps consider putting such a request also on Facebook. In any case, as EGTG has a full programme for 2022 (four productions plus StagEHd and *Satyricon*), it was agreed we would not participate in the one-act festival.
7. **2022 Slate:** The next Newsletter will confirm our productions for 2022, and include a call to anyone interested in putting forward a show for StagEHd. Martin is still waiting for the Roxy to send its contract for *Hay Fever*. Our Fringe productions are scheduled to begin the week of 8 August.
8. **AOB:**
 - a) Referring to the recent shooting incident on the film set of *Rust*, Hannah wondered if EGTG should impose a blanket ban on our using *firearms* capable of firing a projectile. After discussion, the Committee agreed that only fake arms combined with sound effects should be permitted.
 - b) Bev informed us that the *Graduate Association Scottish Dinner*, in which she was performing as representative of EGTG, had been postponed until 2023 because of Covid repercussions.
 - c) *Home Street*: The Committee learned with regret that Chris Allen had resigned from his role as EGTG Master of Works. Michael Mulligan and Richard Spiers agreed to continue their work in Home Street but neither was willing to become Master of Works. The Committee is sad to see Chris go and expresses its sincere thanks for all that he has done, particularly with regard to reorganising Home Street.

The Committee then discussed how important it is not to lose the fruits of Chris's labour (and that of Michael, Anji and others). When borrowing and returning items from Home Street we should adhere to previously agreed principles of *order* (put items back in their correct space); *fragility* (fragile items should be immediately wrapped in their protective cover and stored correctly); *access* (do not leave items blocking access routes). Martin then suggested we allow a 48-hour *period of grace* in order for productions to return non-fragile items (costumes, props etc.) to their designated space if that has not been possible after the get-out.

- d) Martin proposed recommencing our *table readings* via zoom and has offered to host one before Christmas. His preference is a comedy (18th or 19th century). The committee asked him to submit suggestions and a provisional date was set for Tuesday 7 December.

In line with our current practice of rotating the role of secretary among Committee members, Bev has agreed to do this at our next meeting which has been scheduled for **Wednesday 1 December via Zoom.**