

Minutes of EGTG Committee Meeting – 6 July 2022 via Zoom

Present: Angela Harkness Robertson
Alma Forsyth
Wendy Brindle
Hannah Bradley Croall
Martin Foreman
Siobhan McGovern
James Scott
Claire Wood
(joined late because of work commitments)

1. Apologies – none; Absent (believed on holiday) – Alastair Smith.
2. The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved – proposed by Hannah and seconded by Martin.
3. **Fringe update:** *Bloody Wimmin* – Anji is in constant contact with director, Hilary Spiers, who reports no problems. A joint production meeting for *BW* and *The Merchant of Venice* was held on 26 June with Gordon Hughes (lighting) joining Hilary and her SM, Helen Bannatyne, for *BW* and Anji and her assistant director, Alma, for *MOV*. They discussed the Fringe get-in, sets, props, pros and cons of printed programmes and the Dunbar weekend. No obvious problems at present.
MOV – Anji reported that the hard-working and enthusiastic cast is almost off-book. Costumes are being found and created, music and SX well in hand and preliminary ticket sales are encouraging. The RSC contract for the Stratford weekend has been signed and a replacement Prince of Morocco for the Stratford performances only will be seen on Thursday, the original actor not being available for those dates.
Wendy will give Anji a weekly ticket report in July, increasing to daily in August.
The Committee discussed at length a problem faced by *MOV* when a member of cast had to be replaced because of unpunctual attendance, unannounced absences and disruptive behaviour in rehearsal. *Despite the constitution stating that all directors have complete autonomy over casting, the general consensus was that directors facing a similar situation should warn the Committee in advance “as a protective measure for the director”,* and that a proposed Director’s Pack should mention the procedure to follow under such circumstances. It was agreed that Anji would no longer engage with the person responsible for sending abusive emails on this subject.
4. **Satyricon update:** Martin reported that rehearsals were slowly taking off. Props are being made and costumes are being designed - additional garments might be found in Home Street. The cast is enthusiastic with a good community spirit and an SM and ASM have been recruited. Martin confessed to being in a mild panic because it was difficult to get the whole cast together at the same time (eg. annual holidays) and, therefore, from September rehearsals would be taking place six days a week.
5. **A Christmas Carol:** Anji reported having already received enquiries from interested participants. Dug Campbell has expressed an interest in composing music for the show. Her sons’ school has agreed to post audition notices. Finding a Tiny Tim might pose a problem, given the robust size of young folk these days. She will be meeting with a possible SM soon and confirmed that Gordon will in charge of lighting and

Richard Spiers is willing to discuss the set. Depending on response to the auditions, more dates might have to be ear-marked.

6. **Home Street:** A culling of costumes being necessary, Saturday 17 September was proposed for this activity. Kate Stephenson has kindly volunteered to wash and iron costumes used in *Hay Fever*. Wendy asked if Arkle could borrow costumes for its Fringe shows as did Martin for *Satyricon*. Agreement was given. Siobhan enquired about the protocol of lending costumes to others. Anji replied that photos are taken of chosen clothes/props and a note made of who is borrowing and why. A donation is requested, depending on the number of items borrowed. Anji reported she would be looking through possible clothes donations to the wardrobe within next few days. Martin also sought agreement, which was granted, for the *Satyricon* set builder to use Home Street facilities.

A number of keys to Home Street are circulating but it is not clear who has one. Siobhan said she had her own personal key. As key possession is important for insurance purposes, it was agreed to limit the number in circulation and note who has one at any given time.

7. **EGTG Bank Account:** Following the agreement at our last meeting to move to online banking, Wendy advised that online banking is not permitted under the current signing mandate. As such, we would require to amend the mandate from the current 'two to sign' to 'one to sign' in order to view and operate the account online. All signatories would have online banking access and the bank statements would be sent to the central EGTG email address for full transparency. Hannah proposed changing to the 'one to sign' system and was seconded by Anji. The Committee accepted this proposal.
8. **Membership update:** Martin reported 34 paid-up members. Anji and Hilary will once again remind their casts of the necessity of joining EGTG. Hannah, having connections to Assembly, volunteered to ask if EGTG members could have a discount for its venues. The question was raised of the membership status of some participants from *rock* who are also in our Fringe shows. It was agreed that, as *rock* was a one-off performance, they need not pay again for Fringe participation.
9. **SCDA Membership:** Once more the Committee discussed if it is worth being a member of SCDA. Hannah was of the opinion that it is if it costs less than £100. She cited the usefulness of its library, access to other groups and its general support for community groups in Scotland. Martin, Siobhan and Alma thought likewise. After a vote in which five out of eight agreed, it was decided to go ahead with membership as long as it costs less than £100.
Anji proposed looking at similar organisations which might be useful for community theatre groups. Each Committee member to research and report at a later date.
10. **AOB:**
 - a) Regarding the actor who will potentially take over the role of Morocco at Stratford, it seemed that Anji and Martin had been talking at cross purposes as there are two actors with the same name.
 - b) Anji requested that someone show her and Hilary how to use the EGTG card reader which will be necessary for Dunbar and Stratford and also how to acquire a QR code for bucket donations.

- c) Siobhan asked how many Fringe programmes would be printed and at what cost. Anji replied that she would be ordering 200 (coloured and stapled) at a cost of £89.34.
- d) Referring to the use of social media to publicise our Fringe productions, Anji informed the Committee that Hilary would give her *BW* items to post. Hannah would provide Anji, Hilary and Martin with a calendar schedule laying out what can be posted when. *MOV* cast member, Ailie Henderson, is already preparing excellent content. Hannah agreed that Anji give Ailie and Toria (for *BW*) sign-in details as long as she first checked and signed off the content.
- e) Claire enquired about Front of House arrangements for the Fringe. Anji confirmed that the cast of each production would provide the FoH team for the other.
- f) For EGTG 2023 programme, Hannah announced that one definite proposal and one expression of interest had so far been submitted.

Postscript: The day after the June Committee meeting, Beverly Wright tendered her resignation. As there had already been a series of emails at the time from Committee members expressing their regret at losing her, the resignation was not included as an item on the agenda for July.

A provisional date, Wednesday 17 August, was set for a brief meeting, if necessary, on our Fringe participation. This to be confirmed on Sunday 14 August.

The next meeting will be held **via zoom on Wednesday 14 September at 19h00.**