

Minutes of EGTG Committee Meeting – 9 November 2022

Present: Alma Forsyth
Wendy Brindle
Hannah Bradley Croall
Martin Foreman
Siobhan McGovern
Claire Wood

1. Apologies: James Scott, Alastair Smith, Kate Stephenson.
2. The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved – proposed by Siobhan and seconded by Claire.
3. The Committee gave a warm welcome to Kate Stephenson, new Committee member and Head of Wardrobe. It noted that Kate has a regular engagement on Wednesday evenings and resolved to avoid that day for future meetings.
4. **A Christmas Carol update:** Alma reported that seven dancers aged 10 to 17 had joined the cast. Anji, having obtained parental consent, was making sure that the necessary protective measures were in place during rehearsals – e.g. rehearsal room door left open with an appropriate adult sitting by the door. Singers, musicians, costumes and set advancing well. On 13 November an extended rehearsal is planned at St Serf's church hall which has space equivalent to that of the Roxy. This will be a valuable preparation for both cast and crew. Hannah reported that ticket sales were picking up and that ACC had been included in the publicity for the Edinburgh Winter Festival. Concern was expressed that, according to the wishes of director Angela Harkness Robertson, Press invitations were not to be sent out. Claire felt it was better for the reputation of EGTG to be mentioned in the Press but Hannah was of the opinion that it was up to the individual director to issue Press tickets and accept interviews.
 5. **Tunnel Vision update:** Production manager, Martin, has designed a form denoting guidelines for this and future productions. The play has been entered into the SCDA one-act festival in February 2023. Claire confirmed that Lois Adams will be stage manager and Siobhan confirmed she will sit in at auditions as a second opinion.
 6. **Copenhagen:** a) *Production manager* – Claire said she would be willing to help out but not take it all on. Alma offered to help Claire. Apparently Emma C and Abbye E will be assisting Ross. Claire suggested asking for a volunteer in the next EGTG newsletter. Martin reminded us that the priority is to negotiate dates with the venue and then ask Wendy to apply for the performing rights (if Ross has not already done so). b) *Budget* – Typically a budget might be about £2,400. If Ross were to go with the Roxy (see below), that would cost about £1,400, leaving £1,000 to cover rights, van hire, petrol, marketing and costumes. With EGTG providing lighting and sound technicians, a budget of £350 was proposed for creative purposes. Claire would advise Ross. c) *Venue* - Finding a suitable venue at reasonable cost is a headache but director Ross Hope seems to be edging towards Roxy upstairs. Martin warned that he should avoid dates on which a noisy event might be taking place in the main hall downstairs.
7. **Programme 2023:** a) *2nd Fringe play* – Having made enquiries among possible directors, Alma reported that Wendy M was tempted to accept our offer. However, being in the final weeks of rehearsal for a production, she preferred to give her answer after it was over (19 Nov). Wendy expressed concern that she was not equipped to cut a play to the appropriate length for a Fringe production. Alma had offered to do so if necessary and had also reassured Wendy that the Committee would be ready to help in other practical matters. Hannah proposed that we await Wendy's decision before putting out more feelers at the EGTG Christmas party on 7 December. By way of a back-up offer, Martin said he had a one-man play based on *Death in Venice* which might be suitable for our 2nd Fringe slot. b) *Whole slate* – At the beginning of our meeting Siobhan reiterated her apprehension that

Chalk, being only a two-hander, might have a negative effect on audience size. Hannah reported that an enquiry as to the availability of the Traverse for *Chalk* had come to no avail. Claire suggested she try Summerhall. As a priority, Hannah will ask the writer for the performance rights. She will not require a production manager for *Chalk*. Although not strictly part of our 2023 slate, Martin enquired as to the progress of funding for StagEHd. Hannah informed the Committee that three applications for funding had been made and that one had failed because the closing date had already passed. Moreover, the proposed dates had had to be moved to 10 and 11 June because the original dates would have coincided with the Coronation. Applications are open for potential performers but if funding is not secured by 20 January, the event will not take place in 2023.

8. **Home Street:** Another successful clear out took place on 23 October with Alma, Claire, Hannah, Kate, Martin, Siobhan and Wendy in attendance. The Committee is grateful to Kate for picking out genuine vintage costumes which might be sold to swell EGTG coffers. The next clear out is scheduled for 11 December, 11h00 to 13h00.
9. **Keys:** a) *Home Street* – keys at present held by Hannah, Alastair, Michael M, Anji, Martin and Chris A. b) *BP* – keys at present held by Anji, Alma and Martin. c) *Emergency key holders* – it was agreed that Hannah and Alastair should each retain a key for Home Street as they live nearby, as should Michael M. d) *Registrar* – Hannah proposed that Siobhan, also residing relatively nearby, retain a key to BP and keep a register of who had which keys at any one time. The conclusion was that there should be two sets of director's keys (for both HS and BP). Martin would pass his on to Claire M (for *Tunnel Vision*) and, after ACC, Anji's would be returned to the registrar to be given to the director of our next production. Alma's BP key would be handed back after ACC, as would Chris A's key for HS. It was noted that EGTG Treasurer, Wendy, required a key for HS in order to pick up mail, as did Kate in her role as Head of Wardrobe. **Summing up**, we need two full sets of keys, one BP key for registrar, Siobhan, and five keys for HS (Hannah, Alastair, Michael, Wendy and Kate). An extra key should, therefore, be cut for HS. In the meantime, Alastair has offered his HS key to Kate who requires access to the costumes. Each set of keys will be labelled and, following a proposal from Martin, we will all bring our keys to the Christmas party for redistribution.
10. **Membership:** a) *update* - Martin reported no change in numbers. Hannah reminded us that all the cast of ACC must be members of EGTG for insurance purposes and that members who have already been in a production this year must pay a further show fee. Martin will check the membership list and advise Anji and Alma who has not yet paid. b) *discount for walk-ups* – it was confirmed that the members' discount still applies for tickets sold on the door.
11. **SCDA membership:** Martin gave a report of the SCDA AGM held on 5 November. The format of the one-act play festival was a main topic of discussion – is it a festival or a competition? The Committee was of the opinion that the present format should be maintained and it hopes to see a continuing diversity of the judging panel.
12. **Constitution:** Art 5, para 3 – liability of Executive Committee: Alastair, our legal expert being absent, it was agreed that this item should roll over to our next meeting.
13. **AOB:** None.

The next meeting will be held in person on Sunday 11 December 2022 at 13h00 after the Home Street clear out scheduled for 11h00 to 13h00.