

Minutes of Committee Meeting - 22 March 2023

Present: Hannah Bradley Croall

Wendy Brindle

Martin Foreman

James Scott

Kate Stephenson

Robert Wylie

Late arrivals: Siobhan McGovern

Claire Morand

Alastair Smith

Non-Committee minute taker: Alma Forsyth

1. Apologies: Claire Wood
2. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by Robert and seconded by Kate.
3. The Committee gave a warm welcome to Claire Morand.
4. **Confirmation of proposals and procedure for AGM:** A brief discussion took place to confirm how best to run the AGM which was scheduled to follow the Committee meeting at 19h30.
5. **SCDA one-act play festival report:** Martin (production manager) and Claire M (director) of EGTG entry *Tunnel Vision* were happy with how the event unfolded. The production having received highest marks for acting, the Committee congratulated all concerned on such a favourable outcome. First time adjudicator, Kate, (who had played no part in EGTG's entry) was commended by Hannah for her concise nightly feedback during the festival and noted that it was encouraging that SCDA had recruited a young woman to its pool of adjudicators.
6. **Copenhagen update:** In the absence of Claire W, Alma (co-production manager) brought the Committee up to date as best she could. She also asked when a call for Front of House volunteers could be made. Hannah replied that, as soon as tickets go on sale, she would include a call out in a Newsletter. Alma proposes the system used by Claire W for ACC, i.e. one person and a back-up for each performance. Martin emphasised that any volunteer will have to purchase a ticket if they wish to see the show. Kate for costumes and Hannah for publicity reported that work was underway.
7. **Fringe 2023 update:** The recent EGTG Newsletter announced a read through of both plays (*crackers* directed by Claire W and *Shakers* directed by Hilary Spiers) would take place on 18 April, with auditions on 23 and 24 April. It was realised that the latter date coincides with Arkle Fringe auditions and that Claire and Hilary should be made aware of this lest it impact negatively on attendance. Fringe production manager, Claire M, confirmed that EGTG registration was complete and that programme proofs had been read and approved. Martin asked if the Fringe Box Office would be able to apply EGTG member discounts. Hannah was of the opinion that, since the Fringe uses the same system as the Roxy, it should be possible. She also proposed that we attribute different discount codes to each production, both on and off the Fringe. Claire M will contact the Fringe to ascertain if a discount can be applied. Kate, who has organised discounts with the Fringe in the past, has offered to help should there be a problem. Claire M also informed us that Claire W has invited her to be assistant director for *crackers*. Kate mentioned a fund for groups registered to perform on the Fringe but was not sure for whom it was intended. Claire M will investigate if EGTG is eligible.

8. **Membership update:** Martin reported a total of 27 members. Pending approval at the AGM, the automated system for renewing Membership on a rolling twelve-month basis is ready to go. Since part of the advantage of EGTG Membership is participation in social events, a cinema visit with drinks afterwards was proposed for June. James will keep up to date on future releases, particularly in regard to NT screenings. Kate offered to hold a garden party, probably in September, after the Fringe and before our autumn production. Kate also proposed after-show drinks following a performance of *Copenhagen*.
9. **Treasurer update:** While efforts to find a replacement for Wendy will be concentrated on the Membership and EGTG contacts, Kate has drawn up a job description (looked over by Hannah and Robert) to be sent to a volunteer recruitment centre should this be necessary. Hannah and Martin will take on treasurer duties in the meantime and will meet Wendy in two weeks for the handover of documents. It was agreed that Hannah Bradley Croall and Michael (aka Martin) Foreman should be added as signatories to the EGTG bank account. Wendy confirmed that Home Street insurance was paid in February but that a check of its electrics is required this year.
10. **StagEHd update:** Pre-meeting report from Hannah – “Our application for additional funding from the Nancy Massie Foundation was unsuccessful. This means we do not have the budget to support an extended marketing campaign; however, preparations are well underway for the event in June. Performance agreements have been sent to performers with a return date of 31/03/2023. At this point we should be almost ready to announce the programme. Applications and licenses for use of Princes Street Gardens and a Public Entertainment License have been submitted.”
Hannah, answering a question from Siobhan, confirmed that EGTG had not submitted an application to perform.
11. **Publicity Budget:** Proposal from Martin and Robert aiming to attract more Members. Before a full discussion could get underway the meeting had to be closed in order to welcome Members gathering for the AGM. This item will go forward to the next Committee meeting.
12. **AOB:** Hannah just had time to remind us that 2024 will mark EGTG’s 70th birthday, an occasion calling for celebration.

There was no time to arrange a date for the next meeting. This will be done via email exchanges among Committee members.