



Minutes of Committee Meeting

Tuesday 29th July 2008, 8.00 pm
51 West End, Brampton

Present: Michael Black, Caroline Harbord, Ann Monk, Carol Wadey, John Morgan, Ronald Stevenson, Kelly Mason, Kat Sexton

Also attending: Valerie Gerrard, Jacquie Spencer

1. **Apologies:** None
2. **Minutes of last meeting:** Agreed
3. **Matters arising:** **KM** attended the meeting at All Saints church, but reported that it was not relevant to the drama club.
4. **Summer Production:** **VG** reported that she was very pleased with *Hay Fever*, which had good performances and was technically excellent. Peter Welsh was an excellent stage manager and **AM** an excellent producer, which undoubtedly contributed to the success of the show. There were problems with OCAG and one individual in particular and it was recommended that we don't work with them again. **VG** also said that as Director it would be easy to feel unacknowledged by the cast and company at the end of the run, particularly because it was a touring production. This was noted.

AM reported that the touring was once again problematic. Communications were difficult, with Brampton Park heavily involved in Shakespeare at the George and OCAG seeming to have no idea what was expected of them.

Ticket booking was painful. **JS** suggested that we acquire a mobile phone to act as a mobile box office. **JM** volunteered a phone that he already has (in a fetching shade of thespian pink!) and will get a SIM card for it. **Action: JM**

Action: CH to email Chris, Mike, Peter, Ann and Valerie with our thanks for their help.

5. **Future Summer Productions:** It was agreed that having a summer production is a good thing as we have so many actors now and this will enable more people to get the parts they want. The merits of touring / not touring were discussed and it was agreed that we should book the Commemoration Hall for a fixed three night run as this would be easier logistically. **Action: MB** to book hall (NB This has been done for 16th – 18th July.).
6. **Financial Report:** Costs for *Hay Fever* were £766.09. Exact income is to be confirmed as some cast members have yet to pay for tickets. It is estimated that the two nights at Brampton made a profit after costs of c. £250 which is to be split with Brampton. The night at the BRJ made a loss but as we agreed to this as a fund raiser to support their charity fireworks, the committee agreed to pay them £100 towards the event. This means that overall *Hay Fever* will probably be loss-making for Huntingdon Drama Club. **Action: CH** to chase late payers.

7. **Autumn Production:** **JS** reported that auditions for *Ghost Writer* are going well with twelve people already having auditioned for six parts and another audition scheduled this week. **JS** has identified a new rehearsal venue – Stukeley Meadows School where we can have a large room for £18 per night. **JS** proposed that we perform for one or two additional nights at Brampton Park Theatre. **Action: JS** to investigate availability of the theatre for production dates and for rehearsals and to put it to the Brampton committee for their approval. **MB** reported that we had received a request from the Mayor to donate an evening to the Mayor's Charities. **JS** felt this would be inappropriate and the possibility of offering a performance of the spring production instead was discussed.
8. **Spring Production:** Will be the 26th – 28th March (Ooh – someone's birthday but out of modesty, I won't say more!). Submissions to be invited with the criteria that it should have a largish cast and be fairly balanced male to female. **Action: MB** to invite submissions.
9. **Past Activities:** We attended Unity in the Community but it was not considered to be a good use of our time as it didn't generate much interest in the club.
10. **Future Activities:**
 - 10.1 Lunch and play reading at Ronald's. 6th September at 2pm.
 - 10.2 Costume workshop – carry over to next meeting
 - 10.3 RSC visit to see *The Tempest* on 21st February 2009
 - 10.4 Burns Night Supper – at Ronald's 24th January 2009
 - 10.5 Michael Burrell appearing in a comedy in Bury St Edmunds 11th, 12th, 19th and 20th Sept.
11. **Club assets:** It was agreed to spend up to £50 on new make up for the club. **Action: KM and CW.** It was also agreed that we would agree terms for the storage of props and costumes in the Spotlight Productions barn at Abbots Ripton. **Action: MB and JM** to agree terms.
12. **Newsletter / Website:** Next newsletter is due. Articles to be submitted by **CW** (*Hay Fever*) and **RS** by 15th August. **Action: CW and RS**
13. **Correspondence:** We were invited to a meeting of the Commemoration Hall User's Group. We didn't attend.
14. **AOB:** None
15. **Date and place of next meeting.** Tuesday 9th September (to be confirmed when rehearsal dates known).

CH
30th July 2008