

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday 8th February 2018

All Saints Church, Huntingdon

**Present**

**Committee Members:** Josephine Hussey, Chair (JH), Graham Crouch, Treasurer (GC), Marion Stribling, Secretary (MS), Dean Laccohee, Artistic Director (DL), Rae Goodwin (RG), Michelle Gibson (MG), Sarah Cornforth (SC), Lola Harding (LH)

**Members:** Ann Monk, Annie Welsh, Craig Phelan, Sandra Birnie, Matthew Callen, Caroline Molony, James Rowe, Melissa Gibson, Bronte Beckett, Louise West, Les Roberts

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Maggie Redgrave.

**2. Chair’s Introduction**

JH welcomed members to the Annual General Meeting. JH reported that the club had a really successful three productions including its first sell out. The club had grown with new members, actors and technical support crew.

JH thanked Andrew and Sue from All Saints Church for providing the venue for the next production.

JH reported that scenes from the 2017 spring production, Alfie, had been entered in the Cambridge Drama Festival and had been nominated for best costumes, best actor and best actress. The autumn production, The Crucible, had been nominated for best drama by NODA.

Caroline Molony and Edward Welsh had both stepped down from the committee during 2017 and JH thanked them for their contributions. JH also thanked all those who have volunteered to help with backstage and front of house.

**3. Minutes of the 2017 AGM (21st February)**

The minutes were ***agreed*** as correct. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**4. Artistic Director’s Report**

DL looked back at 2017 and said there had been a number of landmarks for the club;

* The website had been updated and the club had a good social media presence.
* Alfie had broken records for early ticket sales, had lots of actors involved and had received excellent feedback from the audience.
* Shakers took place in the Assembly rooms at the Town Hall. Directed by Vicky Spurway, Shakers had a cast of four actresses who never left the stage and played multiple roles. It had been a risky choice but had worked really well and received great feedback from the NODA rep.
* The Crucible, Directed by Rae Goodwin, took place in the Courtroom at the Town Hall. It was a long and difficult play with a large cast in a very intimate setting. The play had been a sell out and a huge success and had been nominated for best play at the NODA awards.

Looking forward to 2018;

* The Thrill of Love, Directed by Sandra Birnie would be taking place in the church 21st – 24th March. Based on the book by Amanda Whittington, it tells the true story of Ruth Ellis. It is an intense production in the semi round with a small cast. Tickets were already selling fast.
* The summer production, Ladies in Lavender, would also be performed in the church and would be directed by Josephine Hussey.
* The autumn production would be directed by Dean Laccohee. A Bunch of Amateurs was a comedy that had been made into a film starring Burt Reynolds. Casting would be for four women and three men.

**5. Treasurer’s Report**

GC reported that the 2017 productions had still produced a profit despite the increased hire costs and lower ticket sales (due to capacity) for the two productions at the Town Hall. The total contribution from the three productions had been £1697.79. The club had received a grant from the Freemans Charity which had paid for mobile lighting and sound equipment. The committee had agreed to stop the Primesight billboard advertising for the foreseeable future as ticket sales were doing well and smaller venues with less ticket capacity was being used.

The club’s bank balance was currently just over £7,000.

**6. Election of Committee**

JH reported that all members of the current committee had agreed to stand again. There was one vacancy on the committee which had been advertised on the website but no one had been nominated. Members ***agreed*** to re-elect the current committee.

**7. Subscriptions for 2018**

JH reported that subscriptions for 2018 would remain at £15 as the club was in a good financial position. JH reminded members that subscription payments could be made by cash or cheque to GC, or any committee member. Payments could also be made via bank transfer.

**9. Any Other Business**

Annie Welsh asked if there were plans for matinee performances. JH responded that the club would put on a matinee where possible but it depends on the venue and its availability. JH would speak to Sue at All Saints church.

JH reported that the club’s contract for the storage facility at Alconbury had been renewed for a further six months. There had been an issue with business rates but this had been resolved and the paperwork had been completed for business rates exemption.

JH reminded members to get in touch with any committee member with any questions, ideas or requests to direct a future production.