

Kingsley Players Committee Meeting 30th October 2018

Present: Colin, Sue C, Lynn, Jo, Malcolm, Jake, Audrey, Sue E
Apologies: Arnold, Mary

Minutes of last meeting

Approved as accurate.

Treasurers Report

The balances at the end of September were: Current account £1,749.11 (£386.70 adult account, £1,362.41 youth account); £12,319.55 saver account. Pride & Prejudice made overall profit of £1,320.

Pride & Prejudice

(Separate meeting on 28th October: Colin, Sue C, Jo, Kelly). All the feedback is that the production was wonderful. Colin gave thanks for all the work put in.

Income £3427.14 Expenditure £2106.95 Profit £1320.19

It was a box office record for a 4 night show with £2949.01 in ticket sales.

There were 120 programmes sold, we ran out of them.

The raffle on Wednesday made £98, which was rounded up to £100 for Halton Haven. £250 was donated to Harlequins for the use of their costumes.

There were some issues with commitment from the cast attending rehearsals which was challenging at times, especially with 16 people. Several compromises had to be made.

It's hard to know how many of the ticket sales were as a result of the emails we sent. Kelly emailed lots of her own contacts about the auditions, as well as putting posts on numerous social media sites.

Communication plans need to be included in the proposals from all directors in the future. These must be agreed by the committee.

(From committee meeting 30th October): Kelly wants to put on 3 performances at Chester Storyhouse on 3, 4, 5 January. They provide the theatre, front of house, sound & lighting technician, marketing and ticket sales. They take 10% of ticket sales. Capacity is 147. It gives us the opportunity to reach a wider audience.

The price is £12 per ticket, Storyhouse would take £1.20 of that. We have to pay for royalties and rehearsals. £1656 is the total hire cost. Malcolm said we should pay Harlequins more money towards the costumes as we're using them again. £2656 is the maximum potential profit. That is 200 tickets over the 3 nights. The profit we've made on this production could offset any potential weak sales.

It's a good opportunity for our members to play at a different theatre, as well as it being good publicity for us to wider catchment area. Most of the original cast are available, apart from a couple who have already been replaced. There will need to be a couple of additional rehearsals. A 50% deposit would be required to make a formal booking if we go ahead.

Colin proposed for us to go ahead, all in favour.

Box Office

Hazel Betteridge has agreed to do it. She wants to do 2 or 3 productions to see how it goes. Neil will give Hazel advice and support for the next production.

Marketing and Communications

Colin summarised the work we've done so far on building our database. Facebook and Twitter worked well for P&P publicity. For emails, there were too many to send in a short space of time. Sue received the content from Kelly on 21st September, less than a month before the production. There was too much content for the time remaining. Malcolm thought we are making an assumption that the people who are on our database are already likely to come.

Lynn pointed out that the secretary is the messenger and not the content writer. Anything presented should be provided in the format it is to be shared.

Colin re-iterated that the director needs to come to a committee a few months before the production, to advise all the marketing proposals they want to do and get agreement. No separate social media accounts are to be set up without the approval of the committee. If necessary, a separate meeting can be set up.

The schedules should respect other productions, which may still be in progress and not encroach on it.

We need to ensure that there's a tick box when people buy tickets so that if they tick to receive info, we can put them on an additional database to receive occasional info.

Dr Doolittle

Auditions have taken place, although it was a disappointing turnout. Lynn has had to do some arm-twisting to cast all the parts. Jake sent the details to the Youth Theatre, there were not so many of those members – possibly because they now have so many of their own opportunities. Lynn will plan the marketing schedule for between now and then.

Peterloo Massacre

There's a one act play festival at the end of March, which would give 2 months to rehearse. The committee wondered whether it was too much on top of everything else, it was agreed not to pursue this.

The People's history museum in Manchester is inviting community expressions of interest of things to do. Lynn has approached them and they were interested. The committee agreed that we should submit an entry.

The Mike Lee film has just come out which is very topical.

Reminder to submit to the Cheshire Theatre Guild new writing award for consideration.

Youth Theatre

Last workshop took place on Sunday, a zombie workshop. There were 12 attendees.

October 2019, How the Other Half Loves

Nothing new to report.

Front of House

There was a last minute cry for volunteers for P&P, it wasn't organised in time. We need a list of potential / regular volunteers for the producer. Jo volunteered to compile this list.

'Allo 'Allo

We have 2 bookings for next month, 1 has had to drop out as they didn't have helpers. One of the performances is for the Zodiacs and they are keeping all the profit for that one. There are 2 bookings for March 2019. Malcolm hasn't been pushing for more dates, as KCA is not desperate for money at the moment. Malcolm would ideally like a booking secretary.

Jo mentioned that we need a couple more cast members so we need to recast them before we commit to any more dates.

Capital Expenditure

The projector which had been previously been discussed is not suitable for what we want. Alternatives are being investigated.

Remembrance Event

Any Other Business

Malcolm reported that Joan has commented on the number of costume productions we are selecting to do, it's too much for our costume team. Even though we borrowed from Harlequins, there was still a lot of work to do for

P&P. There will be lots of costumes required for Dr Doolittle then also James & Giant Peach. Each will need lots of costumes. In addition we don't have enough storage space for them all. The request is for the committee to consider the costume implications when selecting productions.

Lynn proposed a card / gift for Neil as he finishes his box office & 'Allo 'Allo roles. This was agreed.

Location of players banner - all agreed that opposite the Coop door was a great place for all future banners in addition to the school and the Red Bull.

Raffles for productions - Jo proposed getting better prizes as we do not need to use raffles as a fund raising exercise. The committee agreed. Also briefly discussed the idea of using raffles for charity. It was agreed that we would be better to make donations as we think fit.

Malcolm also suggested that we should offer KCA more money for production week as we make good profits on all or most of our productions now. It was agreed that Colin would re-negotiate the special rate for the week, bearing in mind that we pay the going rate for all rehearsal time.

The Players Christmas Lunch was confirmed as Sunday 16th December at 12.30pm. This has been confirmed with Cieran. Sue to put onto the website and also do an e-mail to members.

Colin read out some comments from Mary, reiterating the previous comments about treatment of directors, communicating with all members, raffles and teas. Also asked if Hazel had been approached about becoming a committee member, as she has agreed to do the box office this is no longer necessary but we could ask again at next year's AGM. We welcomed Audrey back.

Colin had received an e-mail from Arnold informing us that he has produced some song sheets for the Remembrance Day sing-a-long on Sunday 11th November at 7.30 pm. at the Red Bull. He is willing to have a rehearsal for all interested at his house on Saturday 10th November. Sue to ensure that info is on the website and to send an e-mail letting everyone know.

Jo raised the issue of help for set build and strike. Agreed that we would circulate the request for help as early as possible to a wider audience and compile a list of volunteers. Also need to emphasise to the cast that this is part of their involvement.

Date of next meeting

27th November 2018, 7.15pm. This to be confirmed nearer the date as a number of people may not be able to do that date.