



## 2020 AGM Minutes

**Monday 16th March 2020**  
**Door 84 Lowther Street York @ 7.45 pm**  
**email: info@rowntreeplayers.co.uk**

### **Welcome to everyone from all members of the Committee**

**Apologies:** Lisa Green, Chris Higgins, Lee Smith, , Sian and Sam Woodall.

**Committee Member Attendees:** - Gemma McDonald, Alison Ashton, Marie-Louise Surgenor, Helen Woodall, Paul Mantle, Howard Ella, Leni Ella and Tammy Banks.

**Attendees:** Carole and David Metcalfe, Nigel Metheringham, Graham Smith.

Howard led the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. It is worth noting that currently the Covid-19 virus is having an effect on day-to-day living. This evening the Prime Minister announced that people should stay away from pubs, clubs and theatres. On the back of that announcement, many theatres around the country closed their doors tonight until further notice.

**A few housekeeping notes** - Emergency exits are the way you came in or through the fire exit in the opposite corner.

### **Review of the 2019 AGM minutes**

Howard talked us through last year's minutes, which we all agreed were correct. Helen Woodall proposed and Alison Ashton seconded.

### **Summary of 2019 Season**

Neville's Island - by Tim Firth 16 - 18 May

Directed by - Howard Ella who has wanted to do this play for many years. The set was amazing and received much praise. The talented cast were Martyn Hunter, Graham Smith, Jamie McKeller and Mark McDonald. Despite the rave reviews, this production sadly made a loss of £3,366.72.

Di and Viv and Rose - by Amelia Bullmore 11 - 13 July

Directed by - Sue Hawes who is new to the Society. All who saw it enjoyed this not so well known play which received good reviews. There were great performances from Leni Ella, Gemma McDonald and Lisa Green. As is the norm, this play made a

loss of £2,474.62. Thankfully panto remains the backbone of Rowntree Players and makes enough profit for us to be able to put on plays - something that not many groups in York do.

### Sinbad Written by Howard Ella and Andy Welch 7 - 14 December

Directed by - Howard Ella. Once again, we had some full houses and some fabulous reviews and feedback. It made a profit of £19,915.56, which although a little less than Sleeping Beauty, is still enough to allow us to reinvest and do other productions during the year.

Our Back Stage help has been amazing with teams of people making valuable contributions to the productions in terms of props, costumes and sets. They are all enthusiastic, which helps to lighten the load and stress at show time. Thanks also to the teams of volunteers at Joseph Rowntree Theatre for all the hard work and time they contribute to our productions.

### **Panto charity collection Sleeping Beauty**

Our charity collection raised £1,156.75, which had gone to Door 84 on Lowther Street - a charity that provides activities for young people between the ages of 8 and 25.

We welcome suggestions for this year's charity collection.

Our year ended badly when there was a fire at our workshop in Murton at the end of January, which has melted about a third of our store. We have lost a lot of tools and the kitchen end of the workshop. The fire started in an adjoining unit and spread to another unit and ours. We have found that we are a little under insured which means that the Insurers will pay a percentage of our claim, but this should not be a financial problem for us. Clearly, we will need to review our assessment of the value of items we hold at the workshop. We are currently waiting for the results of an asbestos survey. We are not sure that we cover the costs involved in clearing the workshop if all is condemned. The Agent said he was going to make it clear that the buildings insurance should pay for any cleaning and not our contents insurance.

Whilst dealing with the Insurance claim the issue of our Constitution was raised. We realised that we have not updated this for a few years so Howard talked us through the details. The main issue is membership, which we must have. The Committee have all signed up to the new membership scheme, which has been set up via membership mojo - a website we use for panto. The cost is £10 for the year from when you sign up and you must be a member to take part in any of our shows. Show fees can be added once you become a member.

We all unanimously agreed the changes to the Constitution - Alison Ashton Proposed and Leni Ella Seconded.

## **Financial Accounts**

Marie talked us through the finances, details of which are available on a separate sheet and available to us all. Our bank balance is looking healthy at £38,194.92 even though our income is a little less than last year.

The rent for the workshop at Murton remains similar to last year, but The Groves has increased which combines to a total of £8733.86.

We invested in a Gobo Slide projector, which is kept that the theatre and the other items we got have been smoke damaged in the fire.

Everyone was happy with the accounts, proposed by Leni Ella, 2nd by Gemma McDonald.

## **2020 Productions**

17-18 April - The Missing Peace - By Ian Donaghy and has been adapted into a one act play by Gemma McDonald and Ian Donaghy

There is a question about whether we should go ahead with this play given the Covid-19 virus and many theatre closures. Rehearsals are going well. Tickets are £10. it is a minimalistic set so we should be able to do this despite the fire.

However, we have decided to cancel the summer play due to the fire.

5 - 12 December - Dick Whittington

This year our writers Howard Ella and Andy Welch are working on Dick Whittington. Panto writing is underway but a little behind schedule, due to the fire.

## **Pricing**

Panto

- Adults - £17 Concessions - £15 Groups £10 available Mon - Thursday

Plays £10

## **2021 Season**

To be arranged.

## **Committee Elections**

There are no resignations.

- Secretary – Alison Ashton was re-elected to the role.
- Treasurer – Marie –Louise Surgenor was re-elected.

Chair person will be elected at the next Committee meeting and other committee members will be co-opted on.

The rest of the committee remains the same and they will continue in their current roles as follows:-

Marie - Finance  
Alison - Secretary  
Paul - Technical/Stage Manager  
Leni, Gemma and Helen - Marketing  
Tammy - Safeguarding  
Lee and Sam - Technical, Stage and Production Assistant  
Helen - Panto Company Manager  
Gemma - Social Secretary  
Leni and Lisa - General Assistance

## **A O B**

We have been without a President for a few years now since the sad passing of Joan Sadler. We would like to offer this position jointly to Carole and David Metcalfe who have continually supported us for many years. They will also receive life long membership to Rowntree Players - Thank you to both of you.

## **Awards**

### **William Wallace presentation**

We would like to thank David and Carole Metcalfe for heading up this year's panel once again.

Jamie McKeller shares the William Wallace trophy with Howard Ella for Neville's Island. Jamie receives this award for his portrayal of Gordon, and Howard for creating an excellent piece of theatre (both set and directing).

**The Joan Sadler Shield** is awarded to Alison Ashton for her continued support.

Very Well done to both of you.

## **Thank you's**

Thanks to everyone who helped set build, paint, tidy up, sourced props and costumes and spent many many hours doing a variety of unseen tasks to make all of these productions such a success.

Thanks also to all actors and actresses who took part, the staff, volunteers and back stage crews at Joseph Rowntree Theatre.

Thank you also to all those who have supported us throughout the season in any way and also to the audiences who have come to see our productions.

**The next AGM will take place on Monday 15 March 2020 @ 7.45pm**