



2017 AGM Minutes

Monday 24th July 2017
Door 84 Lowther Street York @ 8 pm
email: info@rowntreeplayers.co.uk

Welcome to everyone from all members of the Committee

Apologies: Paul Mantle, Chris Higgins, Sian Davies, Gemma McDonald, Pam Davies and Lee Smith.

Committee Member Attendees: - Alison Ashton, Leni Ella, Howard Ella, Marie-Louise Surgenor, Simon Alhaimi, Tammy Banks, Helen Woodall and Sam Woodall.

Attendees: Carol and David Metcalf.

Howard led the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

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

Review of the 2016 AGM minutes

Howard talked us through last year's minutes. Apart from David changing to Peter Metcalfe at the end of the minutes, we agreed that they were correct. A correction has been made - apologies to David. Leni Proposed and Helen Woodall 2nd the minutes.

Summary of 2016/17 season

As in the last few years, we have worked together without a Chairman. We continued this year with a pantomime and a play.

The Hunchback of Notre Dame - The Panto (3-10 December 2016)

Written by Andy Welch and Howard Ella, Directed by Gemma McDonald and Produced by Howard Ella. We were able to secure a live band, which added to the overall additional cost of £2,000.00 more than the previous year. Despite advertising it as The Hunchback of Notre Dame - The Panto, many did not realise that it was a panto and ticket sales were not as good as in previous years. It was harder to sell but those who saw it said they loved it.

Talking Heads (9 & 10 June 2017)

This was an opportunity for three people to take up the challenge of directing three of the monologues from the Talking Heads series written by Alan Bennett. Her Big Chance - Directed by Tamsin Winstanley, A Chip in the Sugar - Directed by Finn Ella and Soldiering On - Directed by Simon Alhaimi, were all beautifully portrayed and we were able to welcome some new faces to Rowntree Players.

This production sold better than expected but was still a financial loss. We agreed that it was a good idea to block off seats at the back of the theatre so that everyone sat at the front rather than being scattered about. It was interesting to note that some audience members had never been to Joseph Rowntree Theatre before.

Financial Accounts

Marie talked us through the finances and we are reminded that the profit from our yearly panto continues keep the society afloat throughout the year. Overall, our profit for the year is £10,458.67. We are in a good position and hope for a bigger panto profit this year with Aladdin.

Box Office at Joseph Rowntree Theatre is working well. The only issue we have is the number of single seats left on some panto performances. We have spoken to the Theatre about this and hope they will manage this better in future. The reports we get about Ticket Sales are very good and they are market our shows very well.

The only real cost for Talking Heads was the theatre hire and license to perform. The set cost £85.00 and van hire was the only other cost. All in all, a very cheap play to show.

The rent for The Groves remains similar to last year, as does the rental of our workshop at Murton, which combines, to a total of £6,762.03. A full breakdown of the accounts was available to us all.

Everyone was happy with the accounts, proposed by Leni Ella, 2nd by David Metcalfe.

Panto charity collection The Hunchback of Notre Dame - The Panto 2016

Our charity collection raised £1,062.82, which was donated to York Against Cancer. We welcome suggestions for this year's charity collection.

2017/2018 productions

We need to make sure that we do not loose too much money on the next few productions.

Aladdin will be our next production. Auditions have already taken place and we are delighted to see some new faces. It's going to be a big technical challenge.

Talking Heads was a simple production and we plan to perform the other three monologues next year (March). There are only six available at this time.

We have talked about doing two plays on one set - Bouncers and Shakers are favourites but having re read them we found them very dated.

The plan now is to do Bedroom Farce by Alan Ayckbourn in June.

Committee elections

Daisy Ella resigned from the Committee earlier in the year and we thank her for the help she gave us. We welcome Simon Alhaimi and Sam Woodall to the Committee. Simon is taking over Marketing for us and is putting together a strategy for us. Helen Woodall will continue as Ticket Sales Liaison and Paul continues to be our Stage/Technical Manager. Sam will continue to assist Paul with set building and back stage during shows.

- Secretary – Alison Ashton was re-elected to the role. Proposed by Helen Woodall, 2nd by Tammy Banks
- Treasurer – Marie –Louise Surgenor remains in post. Proposed by Tammy Banks, 2nd by Simon Alhaimi.

Gemma McDonald as asked to join the Committee, as Social Secretary and we shall be co-opting her on at our next meeting.

Awards

William Wallace presentation

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

The William Wallace award was presented to 'The Talking Heads Collective'. It was innovative; a well presented evening with three different Actors and three new Directors working together with a very skilfully designed set. Congratulations and well done to Sarah Howlett, Tamsin Winstanley, Andy Welch, Finn Ella, Beryl Nairn and Simon Alhaimi.

The Joan Sadler Award was presented to Alison Ashton for her continued all round support.

Very Well done to all of you.

Thank you's

The Committee have worked very hard throughout the season and thanks must go to all involved.

Thanks go to non - committee members who have helped set build, paint, tidy up, sourced props and costumes and spent many many hours doing a variety of unseen tasks to make our productions such a success.

Thanks also to all those actors and actresses who have taken part in all our productions.

Thanks to the staff at Joseph Rowntree Theatre, all volunteers and back stage crews.

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.