



## 2019 AGM Minutes

**Monday 4th March 2019**  
**Door 84 Lowther Street York @ 7.30 pm**  
**email: [info@rowntreeplayers.co.uk](mailto:info@rowntreeplayers.co.uk)**

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

**Apologies:** Paul Mantle, Chris Higgins, Lee Smith, Howard Ella, Leni Ella, Tammy Banks and Sam Woodall.

**Committee Member Attendees:** - Gemma McDonald, Alison Ashton, Marie-Louise Surgenor, Lisa Green and Helen Woodall.

**Attendees:** Carol and David Metcalf.

Gemma 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 2018 AGM minutes**

Gemma talked us through last year's minutes, which we all agreed were correct.

### **Summary of 2018 Season**

#### Bedroom Farce by Alan Ayckbourn - 12, 13 and 14 April

Directed by - James Phillips who is a new to the Society and did a great job with this production. The Theatre advertised it well, which helped to make it the success it was, and it made a profit of £838.93.

#### Talking Heads 2 by Alan Bennett - 27, 28 and 29 September

A Lady of Letters - Director: Angela Stone, Actor: Helen Sally Wilson  
A Cream Cracker Under the Settee - Director: Nik Briggs, Actor: Jeanette Hunter  
Bed Among the Lentils - Director: Imogen Wood, Actor: Kathryn Addison

Following on from the format we used last year, we gave the Directors a monologue each to work with. This attracted 2 new Directors and 2 new actress to Rowntree

Players. Despite having good audiences, we lost £403.75, which is not so bad when compared to the losses we had on previous plays. Marie co-ordinated the production but there were some communication problems.

### Sleeping Beauty Written by Howard Ella and Any Welch 8 - 15 December

Financially this was the best ever (£23,119 profit) with fantastic audience feedback. Howard stepped back a little with year allowing Gemma McDonald the task of Director. Our Back Stage help has increased significantly over this last year, giving us some amazing talented people who are producing incredibly brilliant things in terms of props, costumes and sets. They are all enthusiastic, which helps to lighten the load and stress at show time. The excellent lighting deserves a special mention with thanks to Nick Lay his work on this.

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

Our charity collection raised £1,344, which will be divided between Wet Wheels Yorkshire and St Leonard's Hospice. Wet Wheels is a charity that gives disabled people access to the sea using specially modified fully accessible powerboats.

We welcome suggestions for this year's charity collection.

### **Financial Accounts**

Marie talked us through the finances, details of which are available on a separate sheet and available to us all. This is a 13-month review because we brought our accounts in line with the calendar year. However, going forward our financial year will run from 1st February until 31 January to allow time for panto accounts to be reconciled.

Our bank balance is looking healthy at £40,000 so we are going to make some investments at the store during the coming year. We plan to buy a tower racking system for the back wall, which will cost around £600.00.

We have also bought some stage decking, a good half price deal at £1200 for Neville's Island and other productions. We plan to make this available for hire should any other companies want to use it.

Other investments we have made include some tools for the store and a PA system for rehearsals.

The rent for the workshop at Murton remains similar to last year, but The Groves has increased which combines to a total of £7,089.57.

Everyone was happy with the accounts, proposed by Alison Ashton, 2nd by Helen Woodall.

## **Pricing**

Currently, Panto tickets are £16.00 for Adults, £14.00 for concessions and £8.00 for Groups of 10 or more. Plays are flat rate of £10.00 per person with no discounts. These have not changed for 2 years. A discussion took place about reviewing these prices and all agreed that the only change would be to Groups at panto and this would increase from £8.00 to £10.00.

## **2019 Productions**

Howard Ella will direct Neville's Island by Tim Firth. 12 - 19 May.

This play has a cast of 4 - Graham Smith, Jamie McKeller, Martin Hunter and Mark McDonald. Set building is well underway.

Di, Viv and Rose by Amelia Bullman. 11 - 13 July. Sue Hawes will direct this play and the cast are Leni Ella, Lisa Green and Gemma McDonald. Rehearsals are already underway. This play contains strong language so we would advise parental guidance if young people are attending.

Sinbad by Howard Ella and Andy Welch. 1 - 14 December. Howard will direct but other roles within this production will be confirmed soon. The Back Stage Crew are all eager to start the set build for this.

## **Committee elections**

The only resignation is Simon Alhaimi who we thank for all the work he has done to market our productions. We recently welcomed Lisa Green to the committee.

The rest of the committee remains the same.

- Secretary – Alison Ashton was re-elected to the role. Proposed by Gemma McDonald, 2nd by Marie –Louise Surgenor.
- Treasurer – Marie –Louise Surgenor was re-elected. Proposed by Helen Woodall, 2nd by Gemma McDonald.

Howard continues as Chair

Marie - Finance

Alison - Secretary

Paul - Technical/Stage Manager

Vacancy - Marketing

Tammy - Safeguarding

Lee and Sam - Technical, Stage and Production Assistant

Helen - Panto Company Manager

Gemma - Social Secretary

Leni and Lisa - General Assistance

## **Awards**

### **William Wallace presentation**

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

Graham Smith is awarded The William Wallace trophy for his role of Ernest in Bedroom Farce. His ability to step out of a traditional character role, exchanging his dress for a smart suit and immersing himself into a very different role to the one we are accustomed to seeing him in impressed the panel.

**The Joan Sadler Shield** is awarded to Nick Lay for his continued support and dedication to panto. The lighting plan he designed for panto was excellent and we appreciate the time and effort it takes to get this right, so thank you Nick.

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 Aladdin 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 in March 2020.**