

Minutes of the 76th Annual General Meeting of the Bancroft Players held on
Thursday, 21st July 2022 at 7.30 pm.

Present were approximately 40 members.

The acting Chair, Chris Lane welcomed members to the meeting.

- (1) Apologies had been received from nine members.
- (2) Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed and accepted with the amendments that Nicki Pope was not elected as Production Manager in 2021/2022. The minutes were then duly signed.
- (3) Finance/CIO: Mark presented the accounts to the meeting and presented the process for the society to become a Chartered Incorporated Organisation. It was hoped that the process would be completed by Christmas and be put before the members at the next AGM. Financially, he reported that it had been a tough year; income had dropped slightly with less funding supporting revenue. Our largest outgoings remained the theatre overheads, utilities and insurance; we have registered a trading loss of direct income versus overhead for the season. Income for 2021-2022 which includes membership, bar, tickets, external hirers and other totalled £105,560.23. Total expenditure over the year was £116,418.46. However this compares with a total income of £103,905.40 and an expenditure of £69,841.79 in the previous financial year. Mark was thanked for his work.

It was suggested that the three groups set up to look at the Vision, management/structure and membership of the theatre prior to the pandemic be reviewed with the aim of meeting with and updating the Executive Committee.

- (4) Membership proposal – Elliott Bunker presented the following: Membership Structure and Pricing; we move to two membership types: • Full Membership @ £40 (with a concession rate of £15 for students or the unwaged) • Club Membership @ £15 (no concession rate) But these are now annual subscriptions rather than seasonal renewals. This means regardless of when a member joins, they pay the same for a full 12-month period and the membership needs renewing 12 months later. E.g. I join on the 1st of Sept 2022 – I renew the following 1st Sept 2023 or I join on the 1st of April 2022, I renew the following 1st April 2023 etc... The change to annual subscription means we don't need the half yearly membership and instantly benefit from a full membership subscription regardless of when a new member joins the society. 2. Membership Incentive: I would also like to propose the introduction of a ticket discount for members as a way of • incentivising membership acquisition • more regular renewal of membership and • more frequent ticket purchases I would like to propose a discount of: • £2 for ALL Bancroft Player productions This would mean the potential of £16 worth of discount per member/per year with the next production schedule of 4 Main House and 4 Studio productions. This incentive is in addition to other benefits, such as the ability to take part in shows, insurances that protect you while in the theatre, the members evenings and workshops, the monthly

newsletter and the free ticket for any member doing a front of house duty. Chris Lane proposed and Mark Weatherbed seconded and the proposal was approved.

A presentation was made to Elliott in recognition of his impact and work on membership and the website.

(5) Reports: Chris Lane who had held the chair and theatre manager for the year congratulated the society on a successful year growing both the adult and junior membership. It will be the Queen Mother Theatre's 40th anniversary in 2023 and it was hoped to celebrate this. Chris also reported on the sad death of Keith Warren in May; Keith would have taken over the role of theatre manager. There are therefore a number of positions which need to be filled including Front of House, Props, Technical, Diary booking. In addition our cleaner Liz Colfer is now giving up after 32 years and many thanks are due to her for all her help over the years. Chris also thanked the committee for all their work over the year.

Zoe Bednarz on behalf of Big Spirit reported that it had been a good year with productions will be Junk in November, 'Room to Be' with fundraising for Edinburgh, I don't like Mondays and finished with Romeo and Juliet. It had been a really successful year.

(6). Election of Officers – President, Vice-President, Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Artistic Director, Theatre Manager, Main Theatre Production Manager, Studio Production Manager, Business Manager. There would be no appointment to the position of President for the coming year. Elliott Bunker was elected Chairman, Rory Reynolds was appointed as Artistic Director; Matt Gray was elected ad Studio Production Manager, Vivien Kerr was elected as Secretary and Mark Weatherbed as Treasurer.

(7) Election of five Committee members, each to serve for two years. The following were elected Amy Walker, Emma O'Connell, Emma Northcott, Andrew Piggott, Shonali Devereaux.

(8) Questions from members included the problems with the Triangle. Chris Lane reported that there were technological issues which it hoped would be resolved when the appropriate media templates were available.

(9) Any other business. Sugarzoo presented proposals for the redesign of the website and a new logo for the QMT. This would be venue branding particularly as the society moved into becoming a CIO. The website would be able to hold the archive of past productions and be a makeover of the physical and digital space.

There being no further business the Chair thanked the members for attending the AGM and the meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

