

## **Minutes of the 7th Annual General Meeting of Streatham Theatre Company Held virtually via Zoom on 9 June 2020**

**Present:** David Harvey (Chair); Liz Burton (LB); Melanie Newman (MN); Liz Williams (LW); Helen Mason (HM), Terry Wynne (TW), Mike Jennett (MJ), Sheila Freeman (SF), Louise Ryan (LR), John Tooze (JT), Ian Freeman (IF), Rob Keeling (RK), Bobbie Allen (BA), Barbara Lee (BL), Andrew Simpson (AS), Eshani Weeresinghe (EW), Fred Johnson (FJ), Joel Mulimba (JM)

### **Apologies:**

Peter King (PK), Jo Ostrowska (JO), Jill Thumwood (JT)

*Committee reports are available on the website at  
<http://resources.streathamtheatre.org.uk/meetings/>.*

### **Agenda for Meeting:**

- Welcome and apologies
- Receive and approve minutes of the last AGM
- Receive reports from Committee members
- Receive and approve the financial statements for year ending 31 March 2019
- Election of committee chairman, secretary, treasurer and other committee members (at least 3)
- Other business of the company

### **1. Welcome & Apologies**

#### **2. Minutes of the last AGM:**

- 2.1 The minutes were circulated by the Chair.
- 2.2 The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

#### **3. Chairman's report**

- 3.1 The Chairman's report covers the year up to the end of March 2020.
- 3.2 In October 2019 we went to City Hall to receive an award as the best team in London run by volunteers and encouraging volunteers.
- 3.3 STC now has a new website to showcase our past and current productions. In the past year we put on a variety of shows including our panto *Alice in Wonderland* in April, and a rehearsed reading of *Sunday Morning at the Centre of the World*. One of the Streatham Short plays was showcased at *Streatham's Got Talent* at Christmas. Before COVID-19 hit STC was just about to show *Sisters in the Snow*. Instead, we recorded an audio version and are hoping to be able to release it soon.
- 3.4 We have been asked to do an outdoor performance at the Palace Nature Gardens. St Leonards Church is also keen that we put on another event there, and everybody is saying they want us to do a musical as well.

- 3.5 We continue our regular second Tuesday events supported by local people, including the Streatham Shorts programme for new writers. This year we had too many submissions in September so had to hold a second event in February. We are finding more people are joining online events.
- 3.6 STC normally has a stall at the Kite Day but this year were unfortunately hit by COVID-19.
- 3.7 Finances - with COVID-19 we have not had income from shows since the end of the last financial year. We have also frozen our subscriptions.
- 3.8 The Chair thanked all contributors to STC productions and the company's supporters for helping to put the theatre back into Streatham.
- 3.9 The report was accepted.
- 4.0 A vote of thanks was passed for David.

#### **4. Membership update**

- 4.1 TW presented an update. As of 9 June 2020, there were 56 paid up members.
- 4.2 There were 946 people on STC's MailChimp list.
- 4.3 We have not been asking people to renew membership that has expired during lockdown - membership fees have been frozen until we return to normal.

#### **5. Events update**

- 5.1 HM presented the events report. She explained STC was very clear when it was set up that it wasn't going to be the usual am dram group, it would be open access. HM explained the second Tuesday has fulfilled that niche, attracting regulars and one-off visitors and occasional participants.
- 5.2 The events programme has featured regular favourites such as Streatham Shorts, which was so popular it was run twice. The quiz night is tonight. Last month's Singalong Musical took a lot of time to organise. We hope to be back in a Streatham location for our 6th *Streatham's Got Talent* spectacular. Our most popular event was LB's theatre heritage talk of August last year.
- 5.3 At the end of the financial year STC will have been running events for 7 years. HM has been Events Secretary for 5 years.
- 5.3 The last 3 workshops have been online and have had record attendance.
- 5.4 192 people attended some kind of event in the last year.
- 5.5 HM thanked everyone who has helped with events, suggested ideas and provided support. She asked everyone to raise a glass to Hild Liptrott whose open mike charity memorial night was held last July.

#### **6. Financial statements and Treasurer's report**

- 6.1 LB circulated the Financial Statement and Treasurer's report.
- 6.2 LB explained there is a big difference between last year and this year. Last year STC ended in a very good financial position, having been helped by the *Agatha Crusty* production. STC has ended this year down from that, with income and expenditure showing a loss of £1063, which included a donation of £500 to the Stroke Association in memory of Hild Liptrott.
- 6.3 Our pantomime only made £9.00 due to fewer walk in audience members, the British Home being an expensive venue and needing more rehearsal time. We got great feedback on *Sunday Morning* and really enjoyed it but audience figures were low possibly due to competition from other events and although we didn't have very high expenditure, we did have to pay £400 for hire of the chapel - we made a loss of £231 on

that. In May we put on the *Finding Human Project* that made a loss of £66. *Sisters in the Snow* had to be abandoned as a performed show and performed as an audio play instead. We claimed £520 on insurance for costs insured. That amount was settled in full for April. LB did not include this in this year's accounts as it was received in FY 2020-21.

6.4 On a more positive note events were very popular and only cost a nett £6 compared with £220 the previous year. Income from membership went down by around £40, as we had a lot of members who took part in *Agatha Crusty*. In July we ran a charity memorial comedy event and it was a great night; we did Hild proud. We made a donation of £500 to the Stroke Association.

6.5 We are still in a healthy financial position. LB said she was happy to be Treasurer next year.

6.6 The report was accepted.

## 7. Elections

The following were elected:

David Harvey – Chairman

LB – Treasurer

MN – Secretary

HM – committee member (Events)

TW – committee member (Membership)

IF – committee member

LW – committee member

MJ – committee member

BL – committee member.

RK – committee member

Note JO is standing down due to Streatham Festival commitments.

## 9. AOB

9.1 MJ - Suggests we put on *Comedy of Errors* which has 23 characters with 9 on stage at any one time.

9.2 BL - Talked about her play based on her experiences working at Brixton prison. Its running time is currently 1 hour. BL would like to read it with different people taking roles and providing feedback.

**The meeting closed at 20.45**