



AGM 2021

Chairman's Report April 2020 to March 2021 and beyond

This report is for the year up to March 2021, during the COVID-19 pandemic - more of this later.

- **Highlights**

STC was set up to put theatre back in Streatham, and we continue to meet that aim as best as we can given the COVID-19 pandemic. We haven't been able to provide an opportunity to physically get involved in productions, but our regular events have continued online, to help interest, inform and develop our members and guests alike.

I would like to give a big thank you to all those who contributed so positively to those activities we were able to operate during the year, which I'll now summarise.

- **Events**

We have continued our regular events on the second Tuesday of the month, supported by presenters and facilitators who have willingly given their time and expertise. These have covered a wide range of workshops, seminars, talks, visits and readings - we have more details from Helen our events secretary later.

- **Productions**

Our production of the UK premiere of *Sisters in the Snow* was approaching opening night when COVID-19 hit. Instead, the production team adapted the play and recorded an audio version over the internet whilst in self-isolation. The completed audio-play, with a visual slide show, is available to view on our website.

Since then, we have not been able to stage anything further, but plans are underway for a resumption. More about that later.

- **Members and Friends**

We welcome members from a diverse range of ages and backgrounds - some are completely new to theatre and several have made their stage debut with STC. Others have amateur and professional experience which they share with others through our activities.

During COVID we have suspended membership subscriptions and opened our events to all. This has attracted new attendees from London, the wider UK and globally!

Our online community continues to grow, through our email list, Facebook friends and Twitter followers.

Terry, our Membership Secretary, will say more shortly.

- **Finances**

We will have a full report from Liz our Treasurer shortly but I wanted to give a quick overview.

During COVID-19 we have no income from shows, and we decided to freeze subscriptions by extending expiry dates by the length of the lockdown period. Some members have continued to pay, which we welcome. We still have some fixed outgoings to cover, but we have not needed to spend much on our activities this year.

Our turnover outside COVID would normally be around £3000-£4000 a year, with income and expenditure roughly equal. As a non-profit organisation we don't plan to make a profit! Any extra cash goes into our reserves to support us over any future bad patches - like now!

- **Moving on**

We are constantly looking ahead to our future programme of productions, and welcome proposals. While open to any kind of production, we need shows which we can realistically deliver given our constraints in venues, budgets and availability of participants! We also need directors/producers to drive forward these ideas and turn them into reality.

We would usually aim to stage 3 or 4 productions a year and like to maintain a rolling programme for the next few shows. At the moment though, we have nothing in production or rehearsal, but we have been looking at what might be done as COVID-19 restrictions change. For example, something virtual for the Streatham Festival in October, outside performances at Palace Road Nature Gardens (though these have been restricted by Lambeth who control the space), another show at St. Leonards Church, and maybe even a musical.

We are continuing the regular second Tuesday events, currently online like this one, which are important to maintain an ongoing community. In lockdown, these online events are particularly popular!

- **Conclusion**

In conclusion, I'd like to express great thanks to everyone who provided support and encouragement from all around Streatham, and all those who have provided their time and expertise to stage our shows and run our events programme. Plus of course our committee, members, patrons, followers, and audiences and anyone I've left out.

You have all continued to help put theatre into Streatham. Thank you

David Harvey

Chairman, AGM 2021