



AGM 2022

Chairman's Report April 2021 to March 2022 and beyond

This report is for the year up to March 2022 when we remained impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic - more of this later.

- **Highlights**

STC was set up in 2013 to put theatre back in Streatham, and we continued to meet that aim as best as we can, given the constraints of the COVID-19 pandemic which applied for part of the year.

Where we couldn't provide an opportunity to physically get involved in productions, our regular events continued online, to help interest, inform and develop our members and guests alike.

Then as the pandemic restrictions were eased and finally removed, we were able to return to physical monthly events, and start work on productions.

I would like to give a big thank you to all those who contributed so positively to those activities we ran 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 so I'll leave the details to her. Helen is stepping down this year so we thank her for all her work in the past.

We see these regular events as a way of maintaining the STC community through out the year, and providing an entry point for new members too.

- **Productions**

As the pandemic progressed, we looked at how we might stage shows - for example outdoors as restrictions on those were lifted - but we found little enthusiasm or availability of potential production teams and casts during that time.

As further restrictions lifted, we were able to stage the successful comedy 'Sketchy Cabaret' in October for the Streatham Festival.

The audio version of 'Sisters in the Snow', for which performances had to be cancelled due to COVID remains available on our website to listen to.

- **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 attracted new attendees from London, the wider UK and globally! Our subscriptions have now been restarted, carrying forward any suspended periods.

Our online community is kept in touch through our website, email list, Facebook friends and Twitter followers, and a considerable amount of “Zoom” time.

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 had no income from shows, and we froze subscriptions by extending expiry dates by the length of the lockdown period. Some members continued to pay, which was welcome. We always have some fixed outgoings to cover, but we did not need to spend much on our activities during COVID.

Things have begun to return to (the new) normal.

As mentioned earlier, subscriptions have restarted and members subs are coming in again but slowly. And we were even able to start to bring back ticket sales late in 2021.

As a non-profit organisation we don't plan to make a profit! Any income goes into running our activities, with surplus going into our reserves to support us over any future bad patches - like COVID-19.

- **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, but getting back into rhythm post-COVID is slow.

We have recently formed a production team to plan for our next pantomime, to be staged in Jan 2023, and are working on ideas for this year's Streatham Festival. Volunteers are still needed to help put these productions on.

We will continue the regular second Tuesday events, which are important to maintain an ongoing community.

- **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 - with a special mention to Liz Williams who has left the committee this year -, 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 2022