



Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 15 April 2020 (via Zoom)

Present

Cheryl Milne (Chair), Gareth Jones, Angela Jones, Hilary Tucker, Rebecca Strong, Liz James, Neill Wilkinson, Simon Classey, Ellie Classey, Pam Hudgell, Henry Loud

Apologies

There were no apologies and the above constituted full committee attendance.

1. Matters arising from the AGM

Cheryl introduced and welcomed the new committee. She confirmed that the formal amendments to the constitution, agreed by the AGM, had now been made.

All felt that the “virtual” AGM format had appeared to work.

2. Changes to the Shaddo website

Cheryl explained that she wanted to make this into more of a central “hub” for important Shaddo information as Dropbox had limitations and it was also easier for all members to see the information if on the website.

The constitution has been added along with other information. Gareth has added links to live theatre shows and entertainment which members might find it interesting to watch while the lockdown continues.

Cheryl enquired whether Gareth could see how many people were accessing this entertainment information to give us an idea, and Gareth said he would consider whether he could do this.

ACTION - GARETH

Gareth reported that he had not received much feedback about the Pantomime videos which had been put onto the website and that he would be interested to hear from everyone as to their views on format etc so that he could consider these further.

ACTION – GARETH AND ALL

3. Review of Pantomime/lessons learned (Aladdin)

Cheryl reported that she had received specific Pantomime feedback from 10 or 11 members. She has copies of this feedback and there is a summary in the AGM report.

There was a detailed discussion about the Pantomime and the following points in particular emerged:

There was much positive feedback about the music, singing, props, staging and the general “feel” and “look” of the production.

There was however some anxiety about late line learning and whether the production would all “come together” in time (but it was recognised that it did and that it was a successful show).

It was agreed that the points about line learning should be taken on board for future productions, with the emphasis on earlier line learning before Christmas so the actors could focus on their acting and their props requirements (the latter to avoid changes to props already made or late requests for additional ones).

It was felt that it would perhaps be preferable to set out a detailed scene by scene rehearsal schedule at the outset so as to focus on the lines and actions for one scene at a time, which could be repeated at rehearsals and consolidated at an earlier stage. This had been difficult to do this year as most of the scenes had involved most of the actors, a point to perhaps bear in mind for future script selection.

It was also felt that the large “slapstick” element to the Aladdin script (which had to be slick to work properly) made it harder to rehearse.

It was also felt that there was a need for an identified person backstage (in addition to chaperones) to keep track of the production and to make sure everyone went on stage at the right time. Liz James said that she would be prepared to take on this role at the next Pantomime.

It was recognised that it was difficult for the chaperones to do the above as well as to supervise the children as the role of chaperone was really a safeguarding role.

Pip was praised for her work with the musical side of Aladdin (with Bohemian Rhapsody being singled out) and for taking the role of Princess Jasmine at short notice.

4 Proposed events for this year

It was felt, for obvious reasons, that the committee could not make firm plans for productions/events at the moment but it was thought important to identify what we “were” able to do to keep Shaddo as active as possible during lockdown and to provide a future idea of a possible programme for members.

(a) Barn dance

The committee expressed sadness that the proposed VE Day celebrations/barn dance had to be shelved but it was felt that a barn dance would be a very good idea to keep in mind for later in 2020, perhaps Autumn to tie in with a harvest type theme. If 2020 did not work, this would be a good idea for 2021.

(b) Online play readings

The committee discussed online play readings and Gareth said that he would like to take this idea forward, identifying a suitable play and inviting a small group to participate via Zoom. He would talk to Peter Crowther about this idea.

These would have to be organised by individuals as it wouldn't be possible to have an "open invitation" due to the number of parts in any given play. Pam said that she would be interested in organising a Zoom play reading, as did Ellie and Simon. Gareth agreed to get some potential scripts to them either by email or through the door. Gareth asked anyone doing such a play reading to report back on how it went.

ACTION – GARETH, PAM, ELLIE AND SIMON (AND POTENTIALLY OTHERS)

(c) Netflix entertainment

Neill Wilkinson agreed to put together an information sheet and some ideas for the committee about possible interactive entertainment via Netflix.

ACTION – NEILL

(d) Proposed events for 2020

There was much discussion about the best line to take following the feedback from the AGM about whether to choose short plays, themed evenings, a traditional Pantomime etc and when to put on any particular production (e.g. pre or post Christmas).

Pantomime – January 2021

It was decided that we would look to aim for a Pantomime in January 2021 subject to the ability to start rehearsals in time, finding a suitable script and a Director etc. In any event we would start the preparatory work.

The first stage would be to address script selection and it was agreed that all committee members would look for ideas and report back with recommendations at the next meeting. We would all bear in mind the ability to divide scenes and the level of slapstick and difficult lines (arising from the Panto review points).

ACTION – ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Other events in 2021

Angela reminded the committee that it would be the 20th anniversary of Shaddo (and its predecessor) in 2021 and suggested a series of events (maybe 2 or 3) in 2021 to mark and celebrate this.

5. Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the above ideas and discussions would be taken forward at the next meeting by which time the extent of any lockdown could possibly be a little clearer.

It was agreed that the next meeting will be via Zoom and will take place on **Wednesday 6 May at 7.30pm**. Gareth will invite committee members as per this meeting.

Hilary will circulate the minutes of this current meeting.

ACTION – HILARY AND GARETH