

# South London Theatre Centre Ltd

## Minutes of the 54th AGM

20:00 06 September 2021

In person at the Theatre, The Old Fire Station and via Zoom

**Present (in person):** Caroline Beckett; Charlotte Benstead; Jo Boniface; Chris Brown; Siobhan Campbell; Graham Clements; Lily Ann Coleman; Carole Coyne; Adam Crook; Fiona Daffern (minutes); Roisin Deady; Celia Delaney; Jane Dodd; Teresa Donoghue; Brian Fretwell; Kay George; Liz Glazzard; Simon Gleisner (Chair); Angus Hepburn; Barry Heselden; Jeanette Hoile; Will Howells; Guy Jones; Jack King; Bex Law; Geoff Lill; John Lyne; Matthew Lyne; Pam Lyne; Gareth Milton; Marissa Papas; Lee Ridgeway; Phil Ross; Jason Salmon (and Archie); Chris Theophilus; Mereanna Tomlinson; Sean Thomas; Greg Williams; Malcolm Woodman

**On Zoom:** Chris Bennett; Jason Canham; Matthew Davies; Caroline Durant; Sarah Farage; Kim Goldsmith; Mark Ireson; Helen Jones; Jo Matthews; Kathryn Ramsay; Frankie Saunders; Chris Stooke; Hayley Thomas; Janine Wunsche

Apologies: Ben Rathe; Lisa Thomas

	Item
1	<p><b>Chair's Opening Remarks</b></p> <p>The Chair, Simon Gleisner, thanked everyone who has contributed over the last year and managed some magnificent achievements under extraordinary circumstances. In particular, thanks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Members who've stuck with us</li><li>• Volunteers who've kept things going</li><li>• Charlotte and the BPT for their heroic fundraising efforts over the year</li><li>• General Council for putting in the hours</li></ul> <p>In special recognition, Malcolm Woodman was announced as an honorary member of South London Theatre. Malcolm has contributed in many different ways over more than 50 years, as an actor, director, volunteer and committee member. Huge congratulations to Malcolm.</p>
2	<p><b>Minutes of SLTC's 53rd AGM</b></p> <p>Proposed: Matthew Lyne Seconded: Kay George Agreed.</p>
3	<p><b>Financial Report and Auditors Report</b></p> <p>Members were invited to receive the report and financial statement and accept the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020, along with the report of the auditors</p>

	<p>Proposed: Geoff Lill  Seconded: Graham Clements  Agreed.</p> <p>No further questions were raised.</p>
4	<p><b>Auditors</b></p> <p>Begbies were proposed to be retained as our Auditors</p> <p>Proposed: Lee Ridgeway  Seconded: Matthew Lyne  Agreed.</p>
5.	<p><b>Financial Update</b></p> <p>Chris Stooke, Finance Director joined us from Heidelberg, via Zoom.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The accounts have been posted on the website.</li> <li>• Profits have actually gone up since 2019, due to fundraising!</li> <li>• Cash flow is up to c£70k</li> <li>• Cash flow forecasts have been agreed with the auditors for 2021/22.</li> <li>• We are in a satisfactory position, but we need to ensure we keep a close eye on the accounts moving forward.</li> </ul> <p>There were no questions on the accounts.</p>
6.	<p><b>Resolutions</b></p> <p>None received.</p>
7	<p><b>Updates from the Last Year</b></p> <p><b><i>BPT update</i></b>  Charlotte Benstead, Chair of SLT BPT, was invited to give an update from the Building Preservation Trust</p> <p><b>Funding:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Heritage Lottery Emergency Fund £40,000</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Paid for Summer 2019 activities mainly around FEST including Prom and Short films and AIR HANDLING units</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Cultural Recovery Fund</b> – Managed by 2 agencies HLF and Architectural Heritage Fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>HLF - £87,000</b> covered some core costs, staffing and building management, training officer post and rent/utilities for the year for SLT. Also some community projects and outreach: food bank work at Christmas, MAC and Great</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

estates programme also all costs associated with adult learning and youth programme until June.

- **AHF - £14,000** – Website, business planning and development

### **Building Issues:**

- **Bar beam** – Structural engineer has been authorised to provide a report and quotes for rectifying
- **Main Doors** – Security issues, shutters to be purchased and fitted
- **Tower** – Pointing and repairs to floors
- **Damp** in basement
- Ongoing **repairs/repainting**

### **Welcomes and Goodbyes:**

Geoff Lill and Carole Coyne stepped down from BPT during 2020. Both were thanked for the enormous work they have contributed to keeping the building upright and SLT going and were presented with framed pictures of SLT.

Chaz Doyle will be leaving at Christmas 2021 and will be sorely missed.

A warm welcome was given to Marianne Jacobsen and Noah Wright who joined BPT in 2020 and already bringing great new strengths. If anyone is interested in joining the BPT to replace Chaz, please get in touch with Charlotte.

The members thanked Lottie and the BPT for their great fundraising efforts over the last year.

### ***Membership update***

Guy Jones, Membership Director was invited to give an update on Membership.

Unsurprisingly membership numbers went down in 2020, but the good news is that we are showing good recovery in 2021, since we have been able to open up. We are in a good position regarding revenue.

A new version of the membership system is about to be introduced. This will:

- be mobile accessible
- make card payments easier
- enable you to buy gift subscriptions for family and friends

Members are encouraged to switch to bank transfer to renew membership (fewer charges).

There will be a dedicated membership area on the new website (more

to follow)

Q Brian Fretwell asked if it was mainly lapsed members rejoining?

A Some, but also some new people

Q Cal Beckett asked if there was any update on the 200 Club?

A Guy explained the concept of the 200 Club. A share can be purchased for £24 pa; there are 42 shares still available. The August draw will take place later in the bar.

Pam Lyne reminded members that the 200 Club had been run as a paper based fundraiser for many, many years by John Lyne. This version of the 200 Club is more technologically advanced, but the same great thing!

### ***Website Update***

Roisin Deady, Cal Beckett and Guy Jones, the 'Website sub-committee' were invited to present an update on the new Website. SLT have been working with an agency called Chaptr this year. The aim is to:

- Improve security
- Improve accessibility, and
- Be a more user-friendly tool to attract volunteers,
- Combine the needs of SLT and BPT
- Showcase the different functions and opportunities

There have been challenges, especially as it has all had to be done remotely, but Chaptr are responding well to our needs.

A presentation was given of some of the new wireframes, which were well received.

Q Brian Fretwell asked if the Members' Club was included.

A Yes, absolutely

Q Carole Coyne asked if it had to be white lettering on a black background?

A This is our current branding, but we will be ensuring it is fully accessible.

Q Jeanette Hoile asked if the Wiki would be included?

A Yes, Phil Gammon is working on this.

Q Will Howells asked what platform is being used?

A The latest version of Wordpress

Q Will Howells asked if the top menu structure can be changed easily in the future, if needed?

A We have aimed to future proof it as much as possible, but yes.

Q Charlotte asked about timing? Initially it was scheduled to be

completed in July and was concerned if any delay impacted on funding?  
 A There were some unforeseen issues, which have contributed to the delay. It is now anticipated to be completed for the New Year. It should not impact funding.

**Youth and Learning Update**

- New drama staff recruited
- Induction and Training for drama staff
- 120+ young people enrolled on Youth Drama classes
- 12 Adult Learning courses and workshops with 40+ participants
- Q and A session with Jamael Westerman - lead in Hamilton
- First ever SLT Creative Writing Salon
- 4 students from Creative Writing course had their plays performed as part of SLT's Summer Shorts

**Holiday activities for Youth:**

Monsters and Masks, Mini Theatres, Play in a Week, Storytelling, Alice in Wonderland, How to be a Heroine.

**Video interlude**

Roisin Deady presented a video compilation of our achievements over the last year and a half to rousing applause.

**8. Nominations and Elections**

This year there were no contested seats. Nominations were received, and therefore people appointed to, the following posts:

Chair	Simon Gleisner
Deputy Chair	Marissa Papas
General Secretary	Fiona Daffern
General Technical Manager	Barry Heselden
Membership Director	Guy Jones
Publicity Director	no nominations received
Marketing Director	no nominations received
Theatre Director (3)	Cal Beckett
	Will Howells
	Jo Boniface
Rights and Payments Director	Lisa Thomas
House Manager	Gareth Milton

Ben Rathe and Roisin Deady stepped down this year and warmest thanks were given to both for their unwavering commitment over the last difficult year.

We are still looking for people to be part of a team that can deliver marketing and publicity. If you are interested please contact Simon Gleisner.

9	<p><b>Looking Forward</b> <b>General Technical Manager</b></p> <p>Barry Heselden was invited to talk about his plans for the General Technical Team.</p> <p>Barry has started pulling together an amazing team of competent technical people to oversee a variety of technical backstage issues. Please do get in touch if you want to join.</p> <p>There's lots of work, including a strong oversight on health and safety. Over the next 4four Sundays there will be tasks to be done between 10 - 4, including clearing wardrobe so shelves can be put up. Many hands make light work.</p> <p><b>Theatre Committee</b></p> <p>Cal Beckett was invited to talk about Theatre Committee plans.</p> <p>Ben and Barry were thanked for their work on TC and Jo and Will welcomed to the fold.</p> <p>The new TC were already working on submissions for 2022, with plans to announce the next season at the end of October.</p> <p>The Christmas Show will be an SLT version of Snow White. Look out for imminent audition notices!</p>
10.	<p><b>Closing remarks</b></p> <p>The Chair closed the meeting with warm thanks to all for their continued engagement and hopes for a safe future. All were encouraged to stay for the Members' Club AGM after a short break.</p>