General Council Minutes Open Meeting

20:00 14 June 2021, by Zoom

Present: Simon Gleisner (SG); Chair

Marissa Papas (MP)

Fiona Daffern (FD); Minutes

Gareth Milton (GM)
Chris Stooke (CS)
Guy Jones (GJ)
Roisin Deady (RD)
Barry Heselden (BH)
Ben Rathe (BR)

	Item	Action
1.	Apologies	
	Cal Beckett (CB) Lisa Thomas (LT)	
2.	Welcome	
	SG welcomed members and guests to open GC. Delighted so many	
	interested. The purpose is to observe how GC works. Guests were	
	asked not to comment (verbally or in the chat function) during the	
	meeting but there will be an opportunity for questions at the end.	
3.	Minutes of GC 10 May 2021	
0.	Approved	
4.	Matters Arising GC (not on agenda)	
	Completed	
	Members Update issued, including piece encouraging volunteers.	
	Short plays incorporated into the season.	
	Wiki – Matthew Lyne agreed to write a crib sheet re wiki updates.	
	CB liaising.	
	Save the Date for the AGM article issued. Add a standard of the same	
	Lambeth Country Shoe – Lottie applied, doing a video tour of the building with Chris Report	
	building with Chris Bennett	
	 Online programmes produced for Double bill and Super Happy. Audiences can scan a QR code and upload to their phone. Will 	
	review number of downloads in September. A few laminated	
	versions to be available for audience without smart phones.	
	Outstanding – for future review on timeframes	
	Hearing Loop to be tested	GTM
	Volunteer training weeks	MP
	Mission and vision to membership – to align with AGM	SG
	Membership Survey (review in Sept 2021) (volunteer survey)	GJ
	completed)	

5. **Opening up the building/ new season**

The Government announcement today meant that lockdown was now due to end 19 July and not 21 June.

The impact on shows means Super Happy will also have a limited audience as well as the Double Bill. Water Harvest due up 27 July so should able to have a larger audience, but TC will keep an eye on government guidance. This has a small cast so rehearsals shouldn't be impacted. Rehearsals for Memory of Water may be impacted for the first 4 weeks, as larger cast and crew. Auditions for Silence/Lost Auditions; Switzerland and Godot will be affected. Thereafter any impact should be minimal.

Tickets for Harvest Water still on restricted seating pattern – can release more once clarity on theatre opening requirements from the government.

TC reported that the Shorts programme was also progressing. TC is meeting with Directors on 5 July to brief on the new Director's pack to include any ongoing covid-safe practices. TC confirmed there were no shows before Christmas that involved children, for safeguarding purposes. This would now be via Zoom.

GM to talk to Bex about FoH numbers need for safe evacuation once fuller audiences back. Noted that Bex has reissued covid-safe notes to CB; GM also updated FoH notes. GM to share with TC.

GM GM

TC also announced that submissions for the next season would be open between 29/6 – 30/8.

Bar Service

GJ confirmed drinks would be seat service for the next two shows, same as during the previous interlude. Bar were hopeful to then open, subject to govt guidelines. Bar will continue to use the Barden space over the summer, as and when (non-show nights and weather permitting).

Volunteering

GM confirmed FoH and box office volunteers quite healthy for the next two shows. GJ confirmed the bar rota was also quite healthy. GJ had received a flurry of enquiries recently – a question of momentum and people being aware of something to volunteer for.

SG had spoken to Charlotte and Adam re the wider volunteering issue. Adam keen to set up a sub-group to look at how volunteering could be made more attractive to a wider group of people. MP and GM agreed to work with Adam from GC.

There are also plans for a volunteer's celebration event, once restrictions are lifted.

6.	Equality, Diversity and inclusion (EDI) Policy SG introduced the purpose of this new draft policy; as a prolific community theatre in the heart of London, diversity and inclusivity is essential for the range, quantity and quality of work we do. This means we need to continually attract and maintain a diverse range of people in our theatre - both as members and as our audience. To achieve this we need to be more systematic in our approach. The policy incorporates an action plan, which will be regularly updated. Aiming to ensure it is achievable. Comments were invited.	
	 All agreed the importance of this and a really good start. Suggestions included: sense checking with external organisations (SG confirmed he had reviewed some other theatres' approaches); check with Little Theatre Guild (LTG) if any advice / guidance to incorporate into Directors' pack the importance of consulting with members; potential for co-opting someone as an advisor to GC looking at how we would review and measure progress? What targets might we wish to set? Discussed importance of looking at positive action measures to encourage members to submit more diverse plays / engage with colour and gender blind casting etc. Agreed we would not wish to impose this on membership. 	
	Actions: SG to write an article to raise issues with the membership SG to contact LTG.	SG SG
7.	Website RD presented the updated wireframes following discussion with BPT and BarCom. There will be lots of 'donate button' opportunities. Designs for the Homepage should be ready shortly. Still aiming for July sign-off. RD confirmed there were plans for user testing. GM asked when was the cut-off date for any final changes - he would like to review some of the FoH volunteer resources to be more similar to the Bar pages. As this was replicating a template it was possible, but the cut-of point needed to be imminent.	
8.	Members' Survey The survey had originally been written pre-covid, but paused during the pandemic as activities were paused. GJ had reviewed the questions and they were still relevant, GJ suggested this be actioned after two or three shows. The timing was further discussed and agreed it would be helpful to share outcomes at the AGM and as a tool for the post AGM committee to prioritise actions.	

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	GJ to recirculate the survey and then issue to members in August	GJ
9	BPT and Bar updates	
	BPT Air Handling Unit (AHU) Project: should be completed by 15/6, bar some cosmetic refreshing. Many thanks to all those who have made this happen.	
	Shutters: Reviewing costs/options for additional security shutters to make the front of the building more secure. Bex has secured quotes from a firm that is used to dealing with architectural heritage buildings and has confirmation from LB Lambeth that these will not breach any listed building requirements. This would impact on building closure and will discuss with MC, as bar volunteers most impacted.	
	Kit Room Floor: Looking at insulation options to prevent sound travelling to the theatre/backstage and enable the room to be used for rehearsals on show nights. Strongly supported by TC who have scheduling issues!	
	Roof and Tower: water still getting in so priority for next fundraising drive. Thanks to Bex and David who have been cleaning the gutters and on pigeon patrol.	
	Jason is progressing an environmental policy for the building. MP suggested inviting Jason to the next GC to present. Agreed.	FD invite JS
	Bar Nothing to add.	
10	AGM FD talked through format and timings for the next AGM: Last year's approach to the AGM, with online videos / speeches outlining why people were standing and online voting worked well and we will repeat this. Subject to Government guidance, we should be able to hold the AGM in person, but we can have members dial in over Zoom if they do not wish to be present.	
	Date Action	
	2/7/21 Notice of AGM and necessary info as determined by para 35 of Bye-Laws	
	2/7- 13/8 Opening and closing date for Directors' nominations and Members' Club nominations (named roles only). Any person wishing to stand is requested to submit a two- minute video that outlines why they wish to stand, plus a transcript of their video.	
	15/8 Videos to be uploaded on the SLT website (AGM pages).	
	21/8 List of nominees and transcript of speeches and to be	
	posted to anyone who does not have access to the internet	

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	40/0	plus a proxy form.	
	13/8	Closing date for any resolutions	
	15/8	Publish resolutions on the website	
	4/9	Closing date and time for receipt of proxy forms.	
	(5pm)	Suggested these are forwarded to the General	
		Secretary/Members Club Secretary. If there is competition	
		for the post of General Secretary/Members Club Secretary,	
		a second nominated person for receipt of proxies. This will	
	0/0/04	enable easier counting on the night.	
	6/9/21	SLT AGM followed by Members' Club AGM.	
		ils will be communicated to members in the next Members' and uploaded online.	FD
	General	Updates	
11.	Finance	•	
	£55k of f	funds in the bank. The audit is underway. VAT return ed.	
		Volunteering	
	Youth	for many T. Jane	
	_	for more Tutors.	
		n workshops had excellent feedback.	
		summer courses and Sept courses.	
		g report for HLF	
	Request	for merchandise – will liaise with RD.	
	Adult		
		course running	
	_	theatre lighting course for September	
	First Aid	course delivered 13/6 (another planned)	
	Theatre	Committee / GTM	
	Nothing	to add	
	Member	shin	
		nbers in total.	
		to increase (up from 255 in Feb) – shows drive membership	
	_	of enquiries recently.	
		or enquinee recently.	
	Discussi	ng options for discount tickets with GM to encourage	
	members	s to return.	
	Action: G	GJ to do an impact assessment on cost vs returns of proposal.	GJ
	Marketir	ng.	
		lunteers for Feast. GM to add more volunteer slots to the rota	GM
	on sign t		Civi
	_	ing for Open House (4 – 12 September)	
	_	ositive interest from members to support publicity.	
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	House Focusing on requirements for the show this week, undertaken box office refresher training. 11 volunteers completed completed 1 st Aid training	
12.	AOB	
	None	
13.	Open questions	
	Questions from Jenn Nettles and Mat Hill.	