

**South London Theatre Centre**  
**57th AGM**  
**8th September 2024**

**1. Present:**

Simon Gleisner (Chair), Lorna Felix (Minutes), Cal Beckett, Chris Bennett, Jenny Bennett, Bob Callendar, David Clements, Graham Clements, Eddie Coleman, Lily Ann Coleman, Carole Coyne, Fiona Daffern, Eleanor de Souza, Teresa Donoghue, Han Evans, Dennis Fenton, Brian Fretwell, Phil Gammon, Kimberley Goldsmith, Chantal Gregory, Stephen Hayward, Angus Hepburn, Barry Heselden, Jeanette Hoile, Carole Ironside, Guy Jones, Jack King, Bex Law, Geoffrey Lill, Matthew Lyne, Ian McEwan, Richard Shead, Marysia Skwarka, Mike Smart, Christine Theophilus, Hayley Thomas, Sean Thomas, Sally Toynton, Pippa Tuck, Gregory Williams, Malcolm Woodman, Shirley Woodman, Shree Ziradkar.

**Apologies :** Sarah Farage, Hwyl Roberts, Helen Chadney, Gareth Milton, Gerri McAndrew, Chris Stooke,

**2. Chairs Opening Remarks**

Simon Gleisner, Chair, welcomed everyone to the 57th AGM of South London Theatre Centre Ltd. He reflected that 2023 had been a good year after some turbulent times with over 20 productions and events. A video compilation of pictures reminded us of the fantastic and high quality productions of 2023. In addition he said that during 2023, membership bounced back and exceeded pre Covid levels. Volunteering particularly in connection with productions had also started to bounce back and the year ended with finances looking healthy. This year has seen us prepare changes to ensure that SLT is fit for the future.

Simon thanked everyone who had contributed to making 2023 such a success (in no particular order):

- Front of House, Box Office, Raffle
- Backstage teams
- Wardrobe and props
- Directors, designers and performers
- Youth Theatre
- Members Club and all the bar volunteers
- The Building Preservation Trust
- Building management team, Bex and David
- Hirers, visitors and audience members
- General Council: Lorna Felix, Gareth Milton, Barry Heselden, Guy Jones, Chris Stooke, Hwyl Roberts, Jo Boniface, Han Evans, Eddie Coleman

### **3. Approval of the 56th AGM Minutes**

Proposed by Fiona Daffern, Seconded by Geoff Lill. Agreed by the meeting.

### **4. Approval of EMG May 2024 Minutes**

Proposed by Fiona Daffern, Seconded by Geoff Lill. Agreed by the meeting.

### **5. Financial Report**

Simon Gleisner presented the end of year financial report on behalf of Chris Stooke, Financial Director. He explained whilst SLT Profit and Loss records increased losses in 2023, this is due to the way that SLT and BPT work together. SLT gave BPT money towards overheads, but in 2023 SLT gave BPT more than was needed. Simon reassured members that overall profit and loss across the two organisations for 2023 is a net increase of £38k. Going forward there will only be one set of accounts. He also reassured that the figures for training are the result of a mis allocation of costs ; going forward we know Training will bring in a profit. He also commented that ticket sales have increased by 25% and membership income by 20%.

Comments, Questions and Answers:

- a. Jeanette Hoile noticed donations were lower than in previous years. However these figures don't include significant donations made to BPT , including for replacing glass in the WatchTower.
- b. Increased revenue from ticket sales is likely to be due to a combination of ticket price rises and an increase in ticket sales. Members were reminded about the introduction of Early Bird tickets which enables audience members to beat the last inflation price rises, and Wednesday tickets with flexible pricing from £5.
- c. Loans : Simon confirmed the decision to pay off the Architectural Heritage Fund Loan, of approx £40K. And said that we're currently negotiating interest rates for another Lambeth Loan of approx £200k.
- d. The £200 show budget has not increased in recent years. Whilst there is provision for Directors to negotiate a larger budget it was asked if it were time to either increase that figure or have an annual budget for TC to manage. Simon said the new structure would review the situation.
- e. Sean Thomas asked, if we could afford a new ladder! - Bex agreed to arrange the purchase.

### **6. Resolutions**

#### **Resolution 1. Change all references in the Articles of Association and the Bye Laws from 'Artistic Director' to 'Theatre Director'.**

When our new Articles were discussed and passed at the EGM, there was some concern that calling the Trustee responsible for the creative output of the theatre "Artistic Director" could be confusing as the role isn't that of a standard Artistic Director. It was agreed that we should change it to "Theatre Director". This is just a change to the name of the role and doesn't change the nature of the role or responsibilities covered. This resolution will allow us to change the Articles to reflect this.

**Proposed: Simon Gleisner; Seconded: Chris Stooke; AGREED by the meeting.**

**Resolution 2 : Correction to the Articles of Association to control changes to the classes of membership.**

Due to a typo in the articles agreed in May 2024, the following sentence was missed on Article 11 point 3.

‘(b) a special resolution is passed at a separate general meeting of the members of that class agreeing to the variation.’

**Proposed: Simon Gleisner; Seconded: Chris Stooke;    AGREED by the meeting.**

**Resolution 3: To receive the report and financial statement and accept the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023.**

Proposed: Simon Gleisner; Seconded: Chris Stooke;    AGREED

**Resolution 4: To appoint the auditors (Begbies)**

Proposed: Simon Gleisner; Seconded: Chris Stooke;    AGREED

**7. Youth Theatre update : Teresa Donoghue Youth Theatre Manager**

Teresa gave an overview of SLT Youth Theatre. Classes take place on Fri evening and Saturdays during term time, with 135+ youngsters on the role. Currently there are waiting lists for all bar one of the classes. Only the 10-12 age group currently has space.

Teresa thanked her skilled and dedicated team of staff. The core team are currently Greg Williams, Florence Henderson, David Clements, Holly Marsden and Mattea Thomas-Gray with a number of other people also able to cover for core team absences. The Youth Teachers also provide chaperone cover for productions where children are amongst the cast.

In 2023 the Youth Show ‘Chaos’ which involved two casts of young people staged a couple of additional shows in West Norwood Cemetery chapel.

Teresa finished with some lovely feedback from parents both about the content of the classes and the positive impact of our Youth Theatre on their childrens’ confidence and self esteem.

**8. House update: Chris Bennett**

Chris presented the House report on behalf of Gareth Milton.

Based on the number of completed shifts for House roles ( Box Office, Front of House, Raffle); Feast Stand; Open House Support BUT Not BPT support or Wardrobe; the top ten volunteers in 2023 are:

- 1st Anne Crane (67)
- 2nd Hayley Thomas (42)
- 3rd Gareth Milton (41)
- 4th Dennis Fenton (37)
- 5th Christine Theophilus (31)

- 6th Jeanette Hoile (30)
- Joint 7th:
  - Malcom Woodman (22)
  - Lorna Felix (22)
  - Chris Bennett (22)
- 10th Eddie Coleman (20)

Chris conveyed a message of personal thanks from Gareth to the core team of people he relies on namely:

- Chris Bennett (for organising the FoH resources)
- Jeanette Hoile (for organising the Raffle)
- The core team of members for being there on a regular basis
- Those people who attend my House meetings to help input to the "House view" in the GC meeting.
- Anyone who has done a House Team shift in the last year

Chris urged anyone who hadn't done a shift in the last year, so please do so!

Thanks also to :

- The Backstage team
  - For shifting, building, painting, lighting every show, and then dismantling it all again.
- The Wardrobe team
  - For maintaining and adjusting all our costumes, raising money and entertaining and educating us with their costume displays in the foyer.
- The behind the scenes show crew
  - For positioning props, dressing and undressing actors! and making sure everything and everyone is in the right place, and the lighting and sound effects happen at the right time.

And not forgetting:

- Teresa Donoghue and the Youth team
  - For putting up with all that noise and energy every week!
- Bex and David
  - For the work they do maintaining the building, especially unblocking the toilets (far too often!).
- There are of course also hires that use our space in the times when we don't. These provide much needed income for the fixed costs we have, occasionally we also get recognition from the hirers, and Chris left us with one such example from L'Arche following their summer show this year.

Hayley Thomas proposed a vote of thanks to Gareth Milton, for his continually good humoured and positive approach to supporting the House team which was heartily endorsed by the meeting.

## **9. To confirm members of the Board of Trustees**

After counting all votes including those cast at the meeting tonight and those cast in advance of the meeting, it was confirmed that all six members applying to be Trustees /Directors had been successful. Threshold is 50% of votes cast.

Therefore those appointed are

- Geraldine McAndrew,

- Marysia Skwarka,
- Chris Stooke and
- Shree Ziradkar
- Simon Gleisner - Theatre Director
- Gareth Milton - Commercial Director.

Simon confirmed that the next steps towards implementing our new governance structure are:

- The new Board of Trustees will meet and elect a new Chair
- A notice will be issued confirming Trustee appointments after necessary due diligence
- A decision will be made as to whether to seek additional trustees ( To fill any skill gaps, up to a maximum of 9 trustees)
- Formation of the Executive Committee ( effectively roles previously covered by General Council members )

But in the meantime, it's business as usual.

#### **10. Questions /comments from the floor**

- a. Those who volunteer in Front of House roles get a free ticket for that show, Bar volunteers get a free drink, could those who volunteer to assist with Get In's be automatically invited to attend dress rehearsals? Yes!
- b. Bike Racks have been installed outside the theatre. Huge thanks due largely to Anne Crane for her persistence in negotiating this with Lambeth.
- c. Cal Beckett ( Publicity ) offered a vote of thanks to Hywel, Jeanette , Christine, Eleanor, Malcolm and Brian who all assist behind the scenes with the key role of Marketing and Publicity.

Finally the Chair thanked David Chappell and the cast of The Kitchen Sink for letting us use the theatre to hold the AGM during their get in week.