



Cambridge University Amateur Dramatic Club

Minutes, 14.11.21, 17.00, Larkum Studio

1. Apologies for Absence

Present: Ella Fitt, William Audis, Jonathan Powell, Annabelle York, Jonathan Black, Emily Shen, Amber De Ruyt, Maria Cleasby, Claire Lee Shenfield, Elliot Aitken, Iona Rogan

Absent with apologies: Hannah Collins, Aine McNamara, Mahon Hughes, Derek Penny

The presence of the Diversity and Inclusion Consultant, Mithiran Ravindran, was not requested at this meeting.

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

3. Action Points

- a) Mithi to approve BIPOC family wording and form. - Ongoing (waiting for Mithi approval)
- b) EF to contact management about previous programmed shows (for show selection). - Ongoing
- c) MH and ES to start a team to revamp the website. - Ongoing
- d) JB to contact Richard to work with him to contact alumni. - Ongoing
- e) EF to invite Mithi to next foreseeable committee meeting, to discuss the protected terms document. - Ongoing
- f) WA to speak to Luke Dell about ticketing and bar capacity for Christmas Party. - Ongoing
- g) WA to send the policy over Slack again for a final read through before it is signed in next week's meeting. - Ongoing
- h) Committee to rephrase and revise the costume cupboard policy. - Ongoing
- i) WA to sort out a rota for snacks for committee meetings. They are reimbursed by the club. - Ongoing
- j) EF to make a spreadsheet of when people will be where for get-in. - Done
- k) AY to discuss with MC about directing and tech workshop. - Ongoing

- l) CLS to contact The Maypole about a 'Snow-cial'. - Ongoing
- m) CLS to contact Bolin about CUMTS x CUADC Social. - Ongoing
- n) Blanket statement to be drafted about costume store and designer's rep that it cannot be accessed this term but it will be sorted for Lent and handed over next term to new committee. - Ongoing
- o) WA and CLS to chase for access statements. - Ongoing
- p) EF to send out resources for show selection before next week's meeting. - Done
- q) WA to send the welfare policy asap. - Ongoing

4. Show Reports and Freshers' Plays Update

A Small Family Business:

EA gives positive feedback for the intimacy workshop, it seemed to make them feel a lot more comfortable and would be a good thing to keep an eye out for in future

(AY notices that WA is competently sound designing the meeting with his unhealthily loud laptop whirring)

Harlequinade:

MC is TRing the get in - set shouldn't be that complicated, just some masking

ADR not sure that a press release will help tickets, rehearsal clips and takeovers should be more helpful

Kitchen Sink:

Panto:

5. Event Reports

EF reports that the Snowcial is the 28th Nov.

Action point: CLS to sort out with Maypole

Another directing and producing tech workshop maybe 27th Nov, we should send to management to give to shows

JP reports that the writing workshop is open and shuts Tuesday after next, had some submissions already. Judging is not sorted yet, would like a committee of people to shortlist and then give to someone who actually

knows what they are doing so they have less to read. We will post reminders about submissions.

Action point: CLS tells committee to have a think about club dinner themes for a few weeks time

6. **General Business and Updates**

We will be funding Life Before the Line, Enemy of the People, Speakeasies and the Calligrapher next term

ADC Management would like to limit involvement in number of shows. Proposed committee limits: Group O 2 shows max 1 ADC main, [rest of committee], Actors ambiguous. General limits: Coordinators 2 shows max 1 ADC main, Leads 3 shows per term max 2 ADC mains, Assistants/Minor roles 4 shows max 3 ADC mains, Actors 4 shows max 2 lead roles ADR points out that lending a hand on shows we aren't directly involved in cannot really be stopped

JP what if there are shows that need people to step in but we've maxed out our limits? WA says that in those cases it would not count towards the total of shows.

EA doesn't know if this is the best way to go about it, are there not other things like training that would be more useful?

JB worries that trying to encourage people into theatre whilst there being a limit feels odd but the committee limits are not a terrible idea. People may be forced to overshoot their show limit in order for shows to go on

ADR it depends massively what the show is, a mainshow could be Panto or it could be Top Girls - they are very different technically
How can we put limits in place but how do you do this constitutionally?

MC can we train producers in receiving applications - explicit about time limit, knowing about the out and in, onus on the producer

ADR need to talk to directors about when they should contact tech, being extremely clear about time commitments for all involved

WA everyone has different limits and different degrees/extra-curriculars

Shouldn't this be a management problem rather than a CUADC problem?

ADR there's a culture of there needing to be certain people on the prod team for it to be a good show - difficult with training people up

AY limits would force people to take on new people but they would still need all our support and some shows just wouldn't have tech

EA worries on the welfare front, are we going to be throwing in newbies to tech massive shows?

MC we will have a much bigger pool of capable techies next term - the freshers are doing really well

WA being informally stitched into a show would count towards the limit but stepping in as a club capacity would not

JP how are we policing this? Checking camdram?

ADR we should just ask for other commitments in application packs etc

MC and IR it's so hard to have context on it e.g. running freshers shows for actor's reps in Michaelmas

EF if we put these limits under constitution it's likely that we won't manage to get a full committee

EA so many welfare issues but this doesn't feel like this is the thing that would make the change

We should just have less shows, this is the fundamental problem

This feels more like a management issue than a CUADC issue

JP reducing the 16 hour rule wouldn't help because the work would just have to be pushed to another day having another knock on effect.

Realistically all we can do is scale down shows for the moment.

IR but the point of the ADC is to be ambitious without thinking about jumping through these hoops - if we want to be spending time making a show good then why can't we?

WA we need to think about the difference between health and safety and welfare?

Recommendations would give us precedent to intervene, things like don't do shows in a row or don't do shows after week 4 for panto

JP classic story with having an issue with directors - could we get management to get them to come to the workshop and understand from the tech point of view

MC limits on combining shows would justify producers in not accepting people and opening up the conversation with people about what they can handle doing

EA also helps with rehearsal scheduling knowing other schedules

JP should we just say that you shouldn't do back to back shows

AY Having the 'best' techie who is tied up in many other shows is of no use to anyone - should we be letting less experienced people do shows whilst being mentored by those more busy?

MC can we put recommendations into the constitution?

ADR Or should we make a 'how to' to send to production teams?
We should maybe make it mandatory to go to the directing and producing tech workshop

CLS there is also a feeling for directors and actors who want to do this as a career for the year of shows that they have lost to put on a professional CV, an anxiety to just do everything before graduating

EA we need to remind people that this is still amdram - people are not always going to be professional and slick all the time

ADR helpful if we can have these conversations at the beginning of the whole process, whole different attitude if the director wants to springboard it to other things etc in terms of professionalism

There may just have to be a bumpy period where we catch up after covid, we just came back all guns blazing

IR this is an issue of culture rather than policy - is it so bad now that we cannot change it without policy though?

WA having taken a step back we need to think about how involved we all are and how we involve ourselves in the culture

Alternate weeks would mean that the established people would be spread out better and others would have chances to do shows. Producer responsibility to ask what other commitments people have. We should do this.

Action point: Committee should reflect on alternate week plan for shows before we handover to the new committee

Meeting concluded at 19:10