



Cambridge University Amateur Dramatic Club

Minutes, 20.11.22, 15.00, ADC Bar

1. Apologies for Absence

Present: Jonathan Black, Izzie Sayer, Thomas Shortland, Stephanie Cho, Christian Longstaff, Lily Blundell, Tom Chandler, Amy Meyer, Zachary Green, Thomas Shortland, Tungsten Tang

Absent with apologies: Rosie McLeish, Mercy Brewer, Rishi Sharma, Kate South

Absent without apologies: Lucas Holt

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

JB says nothing has arisen.

CL encourages committee members to check their secret santa allocations. CL has a person and has no idea what to get them. JB notes gifts will be exchanged a week today; on LB's birthday

3. Event Reports

a. LGBTQ+ Social

Allegedly CUADC are organising this on Wednesday. JB asks if anyone can attend. Most people cannot.

The event is postponed until 30th November.

b. Dress as Your Degree Club Night

JB notes 3 people dressed as their degree. The *Field of Folk* folk were dragged along and sung One Day More. JB notes the bar was lively; he had a few drinks and learnt the Footloose choreo. There was a good atmosphere. There was dressing as degrees.

It is noted that the Winter Party needs publicity. It begins during the meeting. See CUADC social media for further details. JB promises Michael Bubl  (not in person) and Jamie Rycroft (in person). That's that.

4. Show Reports

a. Panto

JB notes it is happening. IS notes that he began his remarks on Panto last week in exactly the same way.

The get in is progressing. Not that many people showed up at 9am, although many old SoDs came to the lighting overnight. Lights were hence done by 7:30. Breakfast took two hours.

JB attempts to list some good things about the show; he saw a run of Act 1 and relays that it 'is actually quite funny'. He thinks it is coming together and will take some time to settle down but is all coming together.

He adds that there is pretty much a full band, there is a cow costume and there is a star cloth (from Peterborough). He informs the committee that the star cloth retrievers tried to go to a pub in Peterborough but they got judged by the locals and so left. They did not go to the cathedral. TS notes that his least favourite train station is in Peterborough.

CL asks what a star cloth is. JB explains that CL has been in a show with a star cloth.

JB concludes that the show will happen and will be good.

LB asks about ticket sales. JB says they are better but more work is needed on publicity. Some posters have already gone up. Thurs/Fri/Sat performances are all selling well. Mon/Tues/Wed are not selling as well but will be okay. Overall sales are good but could be better. He adds that many students will also not have bought their tickets yet.

JB notes set budget has been increased a bit.

JB is concerned about the mid-out and get-out. He will talk to LH; TT offers to join the conversation.

JB asks for any other thoughts.

ZG will come in at 4/5pm tomorrow for a welfare session with the cast.

CL asks if there will be a CUADC social to see Panto. JB notes he is already seeing the show 4 times and most of the rest of the committee are involved so this seems unlikely.

TC asks how welfare is going. JB (the welfare contact) notes that not many people have been in touch with him, but the cast asked for a day off and are not rehearsing or attending the get in today. He is concerned that the show needs more work and so this may lead to some more stress later but believes the rest day should help. He is uncertain how the tech team is doing. Generally it feels less efficient than it could be but the set is perhaps smaller than previous years which has helped. LB thinks progress is slow but steady.

JB thinks the tech and dress rehearsals will be more stressful.

TT suggests that JB stays welfare contact rather than being involved in the get in as his presence may be more useful when the show is approaching the tech and dress. TT is concerned that the cast may expect tech to all be ready for the start of the tech rehearsal which may lead to techies being stressed if the tech is delayed. They also thank JB for being the welfare contact.

SC requests more welfare snacks on Tuesday, specifically Welsh cakes. CL asks what a welsh cake is.

TS adds that lighting budget changes have all been okay. JB notes that he and TS may need to chat about budgets RE reallocation between costume and sound.

5. Freshers' Plays Feedback

Sections are added for clarity to break up this relatively lengthy and disparate discussion

a. General Feedback

JB saw both ADC Freshers' Plays (*The Government Inspector* sold out before he could get a ticket). The shows were excellent, the teams did very well and the productions have made CUADC money. There were great performances and the plays were great choices - he thanks those

who made these choices. JB also thanks everyone who supported the teams, especially ZG who was very supportive especially with the challenges *Blue Stockings* had earlier in the week including drop outs.

CL and ZG note *Education Education Education* slapped.

TS saw *The Government Inspector* which also slapped.

TT adds that the freshers audience in Corpus was great and via their vibe based assessment the production was really good.

b. Get Out and After Party

ZG and IS attended the get out.

ZG adds that the afterparty at the ADC last night was very lovely. It was a very, very wholesome thing and a very beautiful environment. It filled him with joy in a horrible way. IS agrees wholeheartedly.

ZG notes that there was a slight issue last night; the get out was very quick, which was great but it was supposed to be a teaching opportunity for the freshers, especially for the actors to learn and appreciate the work of technicians.

ZG notes some sexist and rude comments were made to the freshers and also to ZG and IS by the old SoDs who came. By 1am there was essentially nothing left for the freshers to do, as the old SoDs started the get out before the safety talk on behalf of the freshers. Gabrielle James (GJ, current ADC Production Manager, Duty Manager of the get out) was not aware they were coming at that time.

It is noted that an email to the gossip list implied a start of 12:30am.

ZG adds that the support for the Panto lighting get in was great and he is very appreciative of the wealth of knowledge available, however the behaviour of some of the attendees last night marred the night a bit.

TC adds that this should be discussed with management. IS notes that she and ZG talked to GJ about the issue last night.

IS adds that as well as not really allowing the actors to gain an appreciation for tech, the situation was also quite unhelpful for the fresher technicians, as none of them were really able to learn how to run or help at a get out.

TC adds that old SoDs are often quite misogynistic and so perhaps how they are encouraged to come in should have more careful consideration.

LB apologies that this happened.

ZG is also disappointed that the freshers picked up on this which is a shame.

SC adds that the Panto LDs are also freshers and so may not have been aware of the need to finish a get out before starting a get in; IS adds that Panto LDs were in no way the issue; it was the old SoDs.

TT adds that from SoD some of the old SoDs seem to have something of a saviour complex. They think that in the future, it would be worth working with Panto TD to re-frame assistance from old SoDs at a get in as a tradition rather than a crisis and also emphasise that the invitation applies to the panto get in but not the freshers' get out. TT thinks this is likely to be a recurring issue.

JB adds that the agreement was that the old SoDs would start once the freshers had finished. He also notes that the Panto LDs were not yet on the gossip list as they are freshers and so it was Matthew Wadey who sent out the email, who is not technically affiliated with either Panto or the freshers' shows, although it is noted that his email did indicate that the Panto get in would start properly once the freshers' get out was done, even if this is not what happened.

LB notes that it could be good to work with the SoD chief about this.

JB adds that management could be involved in this as they have authority over the building.

LB adds that we do rely on the old SoDs so it is a challenging situation.

TC suggests that even if the old SoDs did come in at 2:30am and ended up helping the freshers to finish off their get out, at least it would give the freshers a chance to learn how to do it themselves.

ZG adds that following the get out, the afterparty was lovely.

c. Communication and Committee Support

TC thinks that for next year it could be useful to set up a clear chain of communication as a result of their experience this year. They think *Blue Stockings* seemed to really benefit from ZG being really hands on, and

they were worried that *The Government Inspector* team were left to their own devices a bit. TC wonders if there is space to potentially appoint 2 committee members to help out the freshers, potentially as dedicated freshers reps.

JB and ZG took up these roles in a way with the freshers teams this year which was helpful, but JB agrees that this would potentially be useful and may fall into the VP role. JB adds that the show contact role can be difficult as it depends on how proactive the producer is, especially for the freshers' shows.

JB adds that the *Education Education Education* team seemed to do fine anyway so it can be more challenging to give a team like theirs support.

ZG suggests that the distribution of work between actors reps next year could be one person helping the ADC main show and the other helping the other two shows. TC adds that tech support can be a bit more complicated as e.g. the tech rep knows technicians, designers rep knows designers etc.

TC also suggests not doing a non-copyright text which needs editing.

TT still liked the edit but TC adds the confusion surrounding the opening of the script editor role was perhaps unhelpful.

SC adds that it would be good if every show has multiple people to contact in case of emergency as for instance she was called while asleep to come and lock up the building.

JB adds that it is important to have boundaries with the shows.

ZG adds that he wouldn't know what he would have done without SC on Monday night and is very thankful that she helped.

SC adds that the University Security team are the contact and don't always know the ins and outs of the building.

ZG adds that it was the responsibility of management to pick up the phone in an emergency like this, but the lack of response may be related to the teething issues of having such a new management team.

TT adds that it is important, especially for technicians, to make it clear exactly what they need to be trained on, including what can be peer trained, to ensure they know everything they need to do. TT adds that there should be at least 2 keyholders on each show.

JB notes that if the keyholder leaves, everyone needs to leave.

SC thinks that it would be ideal to have one member of the committee contactable at any one time but this may not be reasonable. ZG suggests that it might be useful for the whole committee to be keyholder trained, but he acknowledges that this situation should have been the responsibility of management.

SC adds that they did call management but they didn't pick up.

ZG adds that it is especially challenging as the individuals involved are freshers.

TC adds that the training sheet is different to actually locking up and it might be useful to shadow someone who is unlocking/locking up before a person is signed off to do it alone.

TC notes that Lucia Revel-Chion (former ADC Production Manager) took people around the building during training.

JB and IS note that management have consistently answered when called previously and they believe this may be the result of teething issues of the new management team.

TT asks if there is anything CUADC can do about the fresher who has had their keyholder rights revoked; JB will talk to LD and GJ about the elements of keyholder training that we have discussed.

6. Winter Party

JB asks ZG, TC and TS to encourage the fresher plays teams to attend the winter party.

JB notes it is a week today. There will be a free drink for every CUADC member; 1 per person. JB will organise drinks tokens. Some people will be needed downstairs to sort this out as people arrive; hopefully RM who will be able to use the membership system to check this.

The CUADC Club Cocktail, the Blue Worker, will also be on offer for 1 night only.

JB suggests the committee provides entertainment if people are willing to. Next week there will be a meeting at maybe 4pm, followed by decorating including tinsel and potentially a tree. CL suggests decorations are stolen from the prop store.

JB asks if someone technically minded could set up a microphone and backing track. He asks committee members to message him if they would like to sing. He is banning stand up comedy, mainly as he wants people to continue to mingle during the performances.

LB adds that we will set up for the party, go to her birthday drinks then return to the ADC. There is some confusion about the timing of her birth and its relation to the timing of her birthday drinks.

KS would like CUADC to perform Carol Of The Bells. JB adds rehearsal to the committee agenda for next Sunday.

JB also suggests pass the parcel. He will also be giving a speech. JB will also get KS to reveal the CUADC party theme. There are various suggestions of how to reveal this including the kabuki drop.

JB adds that we are amateurs.

LB asks if the event is just for students. JB has decided nice old SoDs are allowed. For example Sam Frakes is welcome to attend but [REDACTED] is not.

TC asks if it is a closed party i.e. will random non-CUADC students come. JB is uncertain if those who turn up but are not CUADC members will be allowed. JB suggests £10 is quite a good deal for CUADC membership and considers selling it on the door. He thinks that if a rogue group turns up, he or Jamie Rycroft (former ADC Theatre Manager, duty manager for the Winter Party) will deal with them. He reminds everyone that Jamie Rycroft is in fact not a bouncer but he did in fact get decked by a bouncer from the Union while emptying the bins. Sorry Jamie.

LB adds that Eduardo Strike (former ADC Technical Manager) has previously chased away bar runner thieves mostly using his mad persuasive skills. There is much discussion of Eduardo.

JB encourages everyone to tell everyone they know (providing they do theatre).

ZG adds that a few freshers were asking about their membership cards at their get out; JB will check in with RM about this but TT adds there is a digital membership system which will let RM check them in for the party but of course this doesn't give them ice cream discounts.

Action: JB to contact RM re membership cards

7. AOB

a. Fringe [TC]

TC asks what the plans are for this.

JB notes apps will be opened next Monday and applicants will have until Week 0 of Lent to submit applications following which there will be interviews.

JB notes things will proceed as discussed in the meeting with Richard Barnes about the maximum bursary of £250, maximum cast size of 6 and likely maximum production team size of 6, pending specific discussions about individual circumstances. JB notes that CUADC are planning for a 2 week Edinburgh Fringe run and a week long Camden fringe run which will be taken into account during the decision making process. JB will also contact his contacts at the Lion & Unicorn as he is confident that they would be happy to host CUADC this summer:)

JB will proceed in this way unless there are any objections.

b. Tech Masterclasses [TT]

TT included on their manifesto that they would hold some tech masterclasses run by professionals rather than by them or LH, on, for instance, how to join wood without screws. LB asks if TT has spoken to Alex Bevan (AB, current ADC Technical Manager) about this as he planning to run a series of workshops next term e.g. Patching 101.

TT suggests a number of workshops:

- Wood joining
- Lighting desk
- Gauze and shadow puppetry

JB thinks that, as has been shown by the number of show applications this round which mentioned dropping the forestage following *Wuthering Heights*, people want to do things that they have seen in other shows and so the most effective way to spread knowledge can be to just do things in other shows e.g. put shadow puppetry in *The Hollow*.

TT adds that retaining the knowledge from those who are leaving is important.

c. Panto Costumes [AM]

AM asks the show contact for *Education Education Education* to ask where their costumes are as she needs them for Panto.

d. Show Choir [JB]

JB also asks people to come and see show choir; he will sort out tickets.

Meeting adjourned: 16:13