HIADS
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MONDAY 24 January 2022

Officers	**EC Members**	**Apologies**
Vicky Fox, Chairman (VF)	Dave Ellis (DE)	Laura Duncan (LD)
Laurie Noble, V-Chair (LN)	James Wood (JW)	Leslie Marshall (LD)
Andrew Thompson, Secretary (AT)	Rob King (RK) (invited observer)	Jason Christopher (JT)
	Phil Hanley (invited observer)	Alan Hoad (AH)

1.	**Apologies:** LM, LD and JC
2.	**Approval of minutes of last meeting** • Adoption of minutes of the last meeting proposed by VF, seconded by LN
3.	**Theatre premises** • Roof repairs had been due to start on 10 January but were postponed as Sonny tested positive for Covid-19 (he's in the clear now). • Heating/boiler. LN chasing Trevor – noted 'he does turn up eventually' • Foyer. VF proposed that we pick it up again when we have a new executive committee in place. With potentially fewer shows this year, there may be good time slots for the work to be done. But DE note there could be delays in getting builders to schedule the work. We will need to look again at comparative prices • Phil Hanley made a short presentation to exec members to set out lighting problems that need to be fixed. There was a discussion of requirements and opportunities. This included the elevated auditorium lights where there is a health and safety issue about replacing them. There was also discussion of the need to buy new LED lights, those in place are thought to be around 8 years old. We could need as many as 9 lights at a guesstimated cost of £15k plus cost of scaffolding/gantry to get up there. Also worth considering approx. £600 for lighting safety check. • A new lighting desk in control room, with two monitors and a dedicated desktop/laptop computer could have an all-in cost of around £3k. • It was agreed to continue assessing/considering the best course of action/value for money for lighting issues.
4.	**Correspondence** • Bench Theatre has been suffering financial difficulties and wrote to explore possible collaboration. In discussion it was suggested should there be fewer of their own shows Bench actors might seek roles in HIADS. VF said that, in line with our Constitution, they could take part in open auditions but applications for membership should be voted on. The best-case scenario might be for our membership and shows to increase, although JW pointed out it would not really be viable to reduce our 6-weeks-per-show preparation cycle. • There was a discussion of guests who felt they had been given incorrect tickets, seemed to be a confusion about Row "L" or Row "I". It was suggested we should "re-brand" the signage to make it clearer.
5	**Administration** **Emergency lighting and fire alarm tests** • Tests had been done by LN on 14 January.

6	**Treasurer – Martin Stevens (MS)** • MS had circulated the accounts earlier. VF said there had been a question about valuing EOY stock (bar, wardrobe, scenery etc) at £4,230 at end-2021. Valuation should be the lower of cost or net realisable value. As there was little saleable value in props wardrobe or workshop stock a decision had been taken to reduce to bar stock value of c£1,200 over the next two accounting periods. • There was also a question over how much we should pay HMS for their support in the Hansel & Gretel panto. After discussion of the resources provided, it was felt that £500 was sufficiently generous and a "good round number"
7	**Newsletter** • VF said the latest one had gone out, LN was lined up to do the next one
8	**Productions** • JW said he had been able to cast the necessary roles for *The Hothouse* and the first rehearsal was due on the following night. He has happy with relatively good rehearsal time slots ahead • JW added that the rights for *Around the World in 80 days* are available for May. There was a discussion of race/casting issues. JW said a solution would be found with no "blacking up". He noted some actors/characters would be needed to play multiple roles. It would be done with a light touch • A production committee meeting was being planned for the following week.
9	**Visiting Events – Laurie Noble** • IDF – a Saturday date had been agreed, now in the calendar. • SSA were bringing back *Loose Cannon* and *Beggars Opera* • LN said he needed to talk further with CCADS • Dawn Gracie and Hank Marvin (tribute) were interested in coming back • DE asked about how we decide what we provide and what the visitors provide, e.g. Front of House staffing. LN said we manage case by case, for example in some cases we have helped with promotional videos. Plus, the policy is to only bring in one-night performance where they don't interfere with our own programme of shows
10	**HIYA** • Nothing to report in terms of restarting, but there was a discussion about possibly providing training workshops for young people when it gets going again
11	**Front of House** • VF said that during the panto the same group of people did a lot of the FoH work, although there were several dropouts through fear of Covid. • There was a discussion about incentives to FoH volunteers, e.g., free tickets/watching dress rehearsal etc)
12	**Films Report** • *Women in Gold* had been popular and covered its costs • RK said he would like to set up a film club and initially would be prepared to underwrite it to see how popular it was. It could be run on a membership basis with members voting on what films to show. It might attract a new "off island" demographic. It would probably also require a tech/projector upgrade

13	**Publicity** • JW said he had been in discussions with Brian and felt we needed to re-start the work of the publicity committee, perhaps come up with a template for publicity that should be applied to every show, and look at modernising our branding
14	**Little Theatre Guild** • We need someone to be our LTG representative, and attend the LTG conference due 13-15 May in Southport near Liverpool
15	**Pastoral care – EC members** • Dave Barlow has recovered after op, VF sent biscuits and a card on our behalf.
16	**First floor storage – position vacant**
17	**Member Events –** • Coffee morning had been held the preceding Saturday
18	**AGM preparations** • Margaret Wiscarson has confirmed she will resign as a Trustee, so AGM will be asked to approve a successor • VF noted we must also have a DPS role on the EC. Those with DPS licences include VF, JC and LN – RK said he too was licensed • It was suggested that AH's speech should be short since, thanks to Covid-19 last year, he had not been able to attend any of the productions.
18	**AOB** • VF tabled a paper setting out the application for a grant from the 'Let's Create' Jubilee Fund. If successful this would produce outreach activities in puppetry by the artists Splodge Designs and open days at the theatre on 2, 3 and 4 June. Attached. • JW will set up and lead theatre skills workshops.
19	**Date of next meeting (agreed later).** 21 February 2022, 7.00pm at the theatre