



Cambridge University Amateur Dramatic Club

Minutes for 21st April 2014, 7pm, ADC Bar

Meeting Commences: 7.05pm.

Choice of Snacks Include: nothing.

1. Apologies for Absence

Received from: Alex Cartlidge, Jen Hutchings, Rose Reade, Sam Rayner.

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

Minutes received, no objections raised.

Discussed the topic of stash for committee raised at the last meeting:

- Name / Role on the front corner of the breast.
- Big lion logo on the back with the website and full name of the club.
- Decided on a Royal Blue unisex rugby top; if committee members want to purchase an additional varsity-style jacket for themselves they are free to do so, and this will be organised.

3. Show Reports

(a) *Hedda Gabler* (Week 1)

S – ticket sales only at 10%. Concerns were raised that the shows this term have been affected by the rise in ADC ticket prices. Emma Hollows and others flagged up that most students wouldn't go to shows with higher prices. Hard pushed to get them to go to a £10 show sometimes, and raising them above £10 would put people off. To try and increase ticket sales we can ensure that there are the posters around town and in colleges, publicise it on Twitter and share the Facebook event, get some rehearsal shots for the CUADC Facebook page.

P – going well, only trouble is finding an upright piano and getting it to stage. Performance rights have been paid.

A – great cast, rehearsals underway with nice rehearsal shots.

T – got a good tech team.

(b) *The Tempest* (Week 2)

S – as before, not fabulous but they have an extra week. Also noted that the show is more expensive than *Hedda*.

P – going well, apparently have live musicians. Johann raised the concern that adverts for these musicians didn't seem to go out on the musicians list, highlighting the wider issue of open applications for musicians. Could be potential for a musicians' page on Camdram.

A – Rhianna Frost has heard good things, says cast seem to be enjoying rehearsals and the work produced is of a good quality.

T – having problems with finding a Sound Designer; live instruments on stage so need a mix and some sound effects need doing.

ACTION – Committee to help increase ticket sales for the shows by drumming up publicity and creating some excitement; sharing the Facebook events and putting up posters. Harry can upload rehearsal shots onto the Facebook page.

(c) *And The Horse You Rode In On* (Edinburgh)

S – tickets not yet on sale.

P – have a great venue (Paradise Green at St. Augustines); concerns raised over the use of the name ‘overcoats’ and the issue of production companies in Cambridge (not using their name on CUADC posters). It was noted that if a company does not put money into the show, then they shouldn’t have their name on the posters.

A – full and strong cast.

T – have a great tech team on board (Isla Tyrell and Johannes Ruckstuhl).

(d) *God on Trial* (Edinburgh)

S – tickets not yet on sale.

P – have a venue (C-Nova) and have received their budget. Appears to be some confusion over the process, and it was flagged up that one of the producers is in the cast and the director is the driving force behind the production. Looking for accommodation.

A – did have a full cast, but some are no longer available so may have to hold more auditions next week.

T – don’t appear to have a technical team and aren’t advertising for one; David will email them to check on this.

(e) *Bazaar and Rummage* (Edinburgh)

S – tickets not yet on sale.

P – have a venue (C-Nova) and have received their budget. The team seem to be on it like a proverbial car bonnet; had a great budget meeting with them, decided not to purchase posters only flyers and had a good publicity plan.

A – did have a full cast, but some are no longer available so may have to hold more auditions next week.

T – don’t appear to have a technical team and aren’t advertising for one; David will email them to check on this.

4. **Free Drinks**

David Stansby and Johann Hendrik Kamper explained the background of the issue:

Free drinks are always a contentious issue, during the last committee’s tenure they agreed to end free drinks, but it was not enforced as to not penalise Into the Woods. The reasoning behind free drinks is to reward our shows by giving one free drink to each CUADC member (which should be everyone on the production, as you have to be a club member to do a club show). The issues of membership for club shows and free drinks were initially separate, but clashed when it was suggested that if you were not a member (when you should be) you

would not get your free drink. Management were unhappy with this (especially after Panto) when people were denied their free drinks because they weren't members and then gave the bar staff some grief. Flo Carr wasn't happy with the bar staff enforcing it because of this. A token system was then suggested to operate the free drinks system which trialled and worked out well during Into the Woods. Johann printed out personalised tokens for free drinks for everyone and handed them out to the producers to distribute amongst the company. This put the onus on the producers in enforcing the membership and the free drinks system. As a committee needs to decide what the policy is on free drinks overall.

The following points were raised in the discussion:

- David Stansby noted that free drinks cost approximately £150 per show, which works out as £1,500 annually. It is a nice gesture and a good thing to do for members, but is also a sizable amount of money that could be used on theatre.
- Given the money that is spent on the Committee it would be morally unjust to continue spending this, but not spend anything on treats for members.
- CUADC offering free drinks creates expectations for other societies to offer free drinks (whether or not this is financially viable).
- Free drinks can be (and have been) a viable tool to increase membership; although it is important to note that membership is not directly linked.
- Why are we funding drinks as a dramatic society?
- Could potentially have a situation where there is an area of the budget that can be used for free drinks or other show needs; this idea was rejected.
- The idea was floated that membership could be cut to £5 and free drinks not offered or conversely raise the membership fee to cover drinks. It was felt that the issues shouldn't be so directly linked, especially as you can do multiple shows as a member.
- The point was raised that there are many roles on a production team that don't demand too much involvement, and whether they get free drinks or actually attend the after parties to receive them.
- Could a tally be made for each person every time they do a show that gets a free drink and redeem it; this idea was also rejected.
- The reason that free drinks are given is to say thank you to a show; there are various other positive reasons such as keeping people around at get-outs and encourage them to stay for the after party.
- The idea was raised that potentially free drinks could be purchased from the ADC at a reduced rate; this would have to be discussed with management.
- Nice way to repay those who loan equipment to shows.

Overall there are many good reasons for keeping them, and £1,500 is affordable. We will keep free drinks for everyone in a show who is a CUADC member, using a token system to enforce this.

5. Website (cuadc.org)

Peter Birch updated the Committee on the status of the website:

- The '@cuadc.org' emails have been fixed and are working.
- Front page may be redesigned over the summer vacation.
- Peter will refresh and update the website.
- Need to find out what the 'CUADC font' is so the same one can be used on the logo, website and maybe even the minutes.
- The new Committee pages also need to go back online.

6. Camdram Search by Role

It has been suggested that there could be a function that allows someone to search by particular role (as well as names of individuals, and shows etc.) The Committee then discussed the idea.

Points in Favour:

- Could potentially be a good idea if a show is stuck and looking for someone to fill a specific role.
- We want to make things easier for people and this would be very useful.

Points Against:

- Although this could potentially mean that people (potentially on the technical side of things, more than others) would get harassed; multiple emails per week asking them to do shows.
- It was raised that it could potentially harm new people getting involved; the same people over and over again getting asked to fill the same roles.
- Also don't want to pigeon-hole people and a Camdram credit for a role doesn't always guarantee that someone has actually done that role and done it well.
- Potentially could raise a data privacy issue; currently if you do a show you make an informal verbal agreement to be listed on Camdram, if we changed the way of sorting it this could change the data agreement.

General Points and Conclusion:

- Maybe people could contact Committee representatives to help find people; although representatives would only know some people, and we want to go out and get new people involved.
- The search could be a way of getting people who are involved in a lot of college theatre into ADC/ Playroom shows.
- Emails aren't attached to Camdram, you would have to actively search for it after finding the name of a person.
- Questions raised over how it would actually work; how would it work for some roles with abbreviations e.g. T.D. vs. Technical Director.

- Overall, will adding this function do more harm than good?

ACTION – David Stansby will email and investigate about the possibility of adding this function to Camdram.

7. Show Photography

David Stansby passed on that management flagged up the issue that there are not that many people taking good quality photographs of shows that the theatre can use.

- Photographers seem to be one of the only roles that ask for payment, which can create problems. It is important to note that no one should ever be paid to do things on a club show.
- The idea was raised that we could link with photography societies in Cambridge.
- Potential for more than one photographer on each show in case you don't like the style of one.
- People would want to do it, especially people who haven't previously been involved in theatre, so good to get more people involved.

8. Club Stash

Jamie Balcombe suggested that instead of simply having show stash, we could have CUADC stash that members could purchase.

- Might make more people keen to become members.
- Could purchase it at a reduced price when you buy it with membership; as long as it is well advertised and could advertise with the new membership adverts.
- Sell them at the Freshers' Squash.
- Could be black or navy; clearly different from Committee stash.
- Emma Hollows and Jamie Balcombe to organise, and Maddie Heyes can help with the admin.

ACTION – Emma Hollows and Jamie Balcombe will look into options and designs for club stash; and can be organised ready for Michaelmas.

9. Info List

- Craig Slade's Poster/ Publicity Design Workshop.
- Photographers for shows.

10. A.O.B.

Harry Stockwell – showed the Committee the membership poster which looked amazing, and it was noted that the ice-cream should be changed and additional information added.

Emma Hollows – the nightmare accessing the Costume Store in Queens’ continues; Jamie and Emma have been discussing ways around this.

David Stansby / Maddie Heyes– the Garden Party; the date is the 15th June and still hunting for a location, enquiries are being made in different colleges.

David Stansby– the theatre has hired two new members of staff:

- Technical Manager: Iain Harvey.

- Operations Manager: Oli Rew.

Congratulations to them from the Committee!

Meeting concludes: 9.47pm, hungry.

**The next meeting will take place at 6.30pm on Sunday 27th April
in the Larkum Studio.**