



# Cambridge University Amateur Dramatic Club

## Meeting Minutes, Sunday 5th February 2017, 5.00pm, Larkum Studio

Meeting Commences: 17.07

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Received from: Alex Barnett, Saskia Baylis, Amy Malone and Rebecca Vaa.

Present: Ellie Mitchell, Sheanna Patel, Lewis Scott, Oscar Yang, Jack Rowan, Will Bishop, Toby Molyneux, Emma B-P and Catja Hamilton.

N.B. Meeting is preceded by a discussion of how we never eat together anymore, like a broken family. Will Bishop volunteers to cook next week and now it is in the minutes so everyone can hold him to that.

### 2. Minutes and Matters Arising

Some revisions to last week's minutes are suggested.

Catja Hamilton has spoken to Jamie Rycroft about content notes, and he is going to make it his position's responsibility to make sure they are put on the website.

### 3. Action Points

- a. Come up with BME theatre list, as Rebecca Vaa points out that having a list for one category and not others looks discriminatory.

Everyone to send to Sheanna Patel.

- b. Ellie Mitchell to chase Mitchell Clarke about garden party photos again.

They are at Eve and Ravenscroft and just need picking up.

**Action Point:** Ellie Mitchell to pick up the photos.

### 4. Show Reports

- a. *The House of Bernarda Alba* (ADC Theatre, Show Contact: Catja Hamilton)

**S** – They sold out the final two nights! Jack Rowan jokes that they have made enough money that we could put a grand behind the bar for Club Dinner if we wanted. We're not going to. But we could.

- P** – All went well, but reviews didn't come out until Thursday.  
**Action Point:** Sheanna Patel to contact editors about this again.
- A** – All happy.  
**T** – The get-out went well.
- b. *Some Voices* (Corpus Playroom, Show Contact: Emma B-P)  
**S** – Pretty low, only 16%, but they have just released a trailer.  
**P** – All going well.  
**A** – All great.  
**T** – Toby Molyneux built them a last-minute table. #classictoby
- c. *Fen* (ADC Theatre, Show Contact: Ellie Mitchell)  
**S** – Sales are low; we discuss publicity possibilities.  
**Action Point:** Ellie Mitchell to talk to Producer about this.  
**P** – Going well.  
**A** – All happy.  
**T** – They are still lacking a TD, but waiting on a reply from someone who may be able to do it.
- d. *The Shape of Things* (Corpus Playroom, Show Contact: Alice Brightman)  
**S** – 19% without publicity! The producer (Ellie Mitchell) is very happy.  
**P** – Design meeting went well and have opened for further production roles.  
**A** – Rehearsals have started and seem to be going well despite the two leads also being in the Marlowe arts show \*hiss\*.  
**T** – Lighting Designer needs to learn how to use the Jester, but should all be okay. Currently lacking a Sound Designer but Ellie Mitchell has spoken to John Evans about how to set up sound/projection and it shouldn't be a problem.
- e. *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (ADC Theatre, Show Contact: Alex Barnett)  
**S** – 10%, but they are starting publicity this week.  
**P** – Publicity has arrived! Business cards! They are going to flyer in suits. Ellie Mitchell is very down with this idea and would like to join in.  
**A** – They are missing one man (what happened to him?) but rehearsals are going well so far.  
**T** – They are lacking a Head Carpenter, but Sheanna Patel has agreed to consult on flying.

#### 4. LTM Production Team

Catja Hamilton has looked at the production teams of the last ten LTMs on Camdram to see how many women occupied key production team roles, and this year is one of the lowest. The stats would also seem to suggest a general trend of less women in technical roles and more in design roles, which improved in the last two years, but has this year reverted to the lower level (LTM year on left, number of women in key production team roles on right):

2017	4
2016	10
2015	11
2014	6
2013	5
2012	7
2011	6
2010	5
2009	3
2008	4
2007	5

Sheanna Patel asks if this is an LTM problem or a general problem that manifests most obviously in LTM and we agree that it is probably the latter, and should be addressed. Oscar Yang says that ten roles on this year's LTM were only applied to by one person, seven of which happened to be male.

We think the problem is in the gender balance of people making applications rather than any bias in making appointments. How do we encourage more women to be interested in technical roles, and to apply for big shows?

Emma B-P suggests that it's a self-perpetuating problem, whereby women don't see many other women in certain roles and so don't go for them themselves. Ellie Mitchell asks if there has ever been a female Technical Manager; we aren't sure.

Ellie Mitchell asks if we could suggest to the next committee that they introduce more overt appeals to women to the get involved programme, and Emma B-P suggests that we could create more general workshops related to ETG and Panto whereby everyone can try different roles out, which may help to even out the balance. Catja Hamilton agrees that this would be a really good idea, as one of the main attractions of ETG is that it doesn't advertise for specific roles for Fresher technicians but makes a point of keeping it open. Lewis Scott suggests we introduce an apprenticeship type scheme and that we could trial it with LTM, advertising for general technicians to help out with and find out more about different roles, without feeling like you have to apply to one.

**Action Point:** Lewis Scott and Toby Molyneux to draft a role description and open for this for LTM.

**Action Point:** Catja Hamilton and Ellie Mitchell to speak to management about gender outreach.

## 6. Constitutional Amendments to Election Process

Sheanna Patel expresses concerns regarding the decrease in number of first years on committee in the past few years, which decreases the number of presidential candidates. She is worried that the recently proposed constitutional amendment involving the merging of Group B and C will only make it more likely that this trend will continue.

Emma B-P says that she hasn't ever felt like a lesser member of committee for being in Group C, and Jack Rowan agrees that it is an issue of labels.

Lewis Scott argues that the merging of Group B and C will not affect the issue, and says that in the past few years, there have been more freshers on committees than have run for President. He also suggests we do more to encourage freshers to run for committee.

Sheanna Patel reasserts that the issue isn't with a definite causality; it is just that the merging would make it less likely that freshers may get onto the committee, because of voting habits tending toward people voting for people they know, rather than reading manifestos.

Ellie Mitchell suggests that we could not go through with the merging of Groups B and C, but rename the three groups so they aren't hierarchical.

Lewis Scott thinks this discussion should be happening at the AGM and not in a meeting; Sheanna Patel points out that the AGM will be too late, and that we need to review the amendment before then.

**Action Point:** Ellie Mitchell to put mini constitutional review on next week's Agenda.

Will Bishop says that encouraging freshers to run for committee is really important. Ellie Mitchell agrees and asks if we could provide some kind of application pack to make the roles more accessible and transparent. Emma B-P is keen to coordinate this and to make up a document like the one she did for acting as Actors' Rep last year.

**Action Point:** Everyone to send a few lines about their role and why people should apply to it to Emma B-P before the next meeting.

**Action Point:** Ellie Mitchell to work out when applications actually need to open.

## 7. Reserves

After consultation with the theatre, it has been agreed that the best use for some of our reserves is to make a donation to the Theatre to be spent on improvements to backstage

communications infrastructure.

## **8. Club Dinner**

Ellie Mitchell has brought the dining menus for Club Dinner as she needs to let Michaelhouse know what our options are.

A very intense debate concerning Vietnamese Beef versus Steak and Ale Pie arises. Arguments range from the inherent classism in dismissal of pie as a legitimate black tie dinner menu item, to the availability of stir-fry deals in Sainsburys, to whether or not rice cooked in England is edible. Tensions become so high that Sheanna Patel calls for an anonymous vote.

The results are close, but Steak and Ale Pie is elected the non-vegetarian main course for Club Dinner. Sheanna Patel almost does a David Cameron and resigns in reaction to this result.

## **Info List**

Some Voices

Show Applications

## **9. A.O.B**

Ellie Mitchell

- a. Asks if we have a policy regarding May Balls wanting us to circulate their worker applications. We agree not to.

Sheanna Patel

- a. Harry Stockwell has agreed to act as returning officer for the election and so we will be offering him a free ticket to Club Dinner if everyone is okay with that. We are. We also agree to offer Mitchell Clarke and Richard Barnes free tickets.

**Meeting Ends: 18.26**