

Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the
Dramatic Society of the Imperial College Union
in the 2015/2016 session

January 2015

Committee Members Present

Zoë Edwards, Gautam Kambhampati, Steven Kingaby, Andrew Finn, Chris Love, Elena Stronach, Robert Schüssler, Ellie Rose, John Oliver and Sam Gardiner.

Committee Members Apologies

Agnes Donnelly and Oscar Gill.

Honorary Members

Peter Bridgman and Dan Price.

Agenda

- Shows
 - Birdland
 - Big Fella
 - Sweeney Todd
- Workshops
 - Writing Workshop/LSDF
 - Acting Workshop
- AOB

Approval of minutes from the last committee meeting

- Approved by Zoë Edwards.

Shows

Birdland

- Rehearsals going well, in spite of the fact that we are still having trouble with current booking system. “Booking system is a fluster fuck” - **Zoë Edwards**.
- For anyone who has problems with booking (and printing), email **Jack Steadman**. New printing restriction are that it’s not free anymore!
- First meeting took place on last Thursday. **Zoë Edwards** gently encourages production meetings to not take place in the storeroom, suggesting that it should be left only as a backup. **Elena Stronach**, the Producer, is happy and on top of everything - “Exams are done... can work without thinking about killing someone”.
- “Jack I need to bitch about something!” - **Sam Gardiner**
- **ACTION: Robert Schüssler** to rig a “profanity” buzzer for DO NOT MINUTE THAT.
- Acting side to Birdland seems to be going well, although some cast members haven’t been able attend rehearsals. Rehearsal timetable will be changed given that **Matthew Wright**, lead of the show, can’t attend many of the current scheduled rehearsals.

Big Fella

- Rehearsals are going okay, although we currently don’t have a room or dates for performances. Nevertheless, thanks to the publicity efforts of **Alhasan Al-Habib**, we now have a full cast. Overall success production currently seems very dependent on finding a performance space that will be used. We have informed the cast that the performance will take place in the last 2 weeks of term. One possible solution to not finding an appropriate space is moving the performance to the start of the summer term, however this will clash with cast members’ exam commitments. In the worst case scenario that we can’t find a room at all, we could double book a venue with the Dance show in last week of term. However this would mean Big Fella performances would take place earlier/later in the evening.

- We need a producer! **Andrew Finn**, who is also acting in this production, is currently acting as producer in a temporary position. “I’ve been shit basically” - **Andrew Finn**. If we don’t have a producer by the time of the next committee meeting, one possibility is enlisting the assistant director **Alhasan Al-Habib** to be the producer as well. However some members of the committee would prefer that someone who is less involved with the acting side of the production be chosen as the producer. That being said we are not spoiled for choice. **Harry Smith**, who is already helping out with MTSoc’s Sweeney Todd production, is another possibility to be the producer. Another option would be split the role of producer between **Alhasan Al-Habib** and **Dan Clay**.
- **ACTION: Andrew Finn** and **Zoë Edwards** to have a meeting with **Ben Howitt** about venues for Big Fella.
- **Alhasan Al-Habib** - readthrough has gone well. Exceptionally talented cast, which is made up of both newcomers and regular DramSoc members. Pleased with how **Jonathan Masters** is directing. Everyone gets along, very encouraging.

Sweeney Todd

- **Peter Bridgman** has recently had a production meeting, which involved talk of throwing flour. Everything is running smoothly so far. Meetings have taken place and a stage place is now in existence. We currently do not know who will be running the Birdland get out (need to know for Sweeney Todd get in).
- **ACTION: Elena Stronach** to determine who will be running Birdland get out.
- We are in need of a makeup person for this production. Ellie is acting makeup supervisor. **Daisy Simmonds** has expressed an interest in the past to help out with makeup. We need more ASMs, and someone to take on the role of armourer. We plan on using a blank firer for stage guns. Furthermore we should agree on a hirer for lights - need to decide how much money DramSoc will put money into this.

John Oliver leaves at 18.47. **Alhasan Al-Habib** enters at 18.47

Workshops

Writing Workshop/LSDF

- **Agnes Donnelly** unfortunately is not present. However we do know writing workshop is still in existence and that there is activity on the Facebook group for the workshop.

Acting Workshop/edinburgh

- Film workshop, to be led by Nicolas Pimparé, has been booked.
- We will start to incorporate edinburgh rehearsals in workshops; we need to start developing ideas for the production we will take up to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.
- From last term, some workshops were acceptable in terms of attendance. The regulars seemed to prefer to work on something long term rather than keep doing introductions each week. The better workshops were the ones with returning teachers from previous weeks.
- **ACTION: Andrew Finn** to organise an initial meeting next Thursday about DramSoc's Edinburgh Fringe Festival show.
- **NOTED: Helen Root** seems to be very interested in organising edinburgh
- With regard to edinburgh accomodation, the Techtonics are also going to Edinburgh so we may share living quarters with them while up there.
- "Radio 4 have an everything up in the Fringe" - **John Oliver**.

Robert Schüssler fixes the buzzer for DON'T MINUTE THIS.

Artsfest

- We have booked a slot at ArtsFest on the 19th of February for 20 minutes.
- FemSoc have contacted us to raise the possibility of DramSoc putting on some of the vagina monologues (episodic play).
- We need a director for this venture ... **Sam Gardiner** and **Steve Kingaby** are unavailable these dates. **ACTION:** find someone to fill in this role. We've emailed FemSoc to see if anyone on their is end is available to act as director.
- DramSoc + FemSoc = ArtsFest. "ArtsFest is happening" - **Zoë Edwards**

AOB

- Great Hall lights haven't been focusing. We have an extra booking in the great hall next Monday 9-6. No one hurt was in rigging. PPE (personal prospective equipment) new policy has been put into force.

- We now have a vacancy in our publicity officer. **Helen Root** has expressed interest in running for officer. Considering to appoint her as acting publicity officer. No objections and no other candidates were suggested for this role. Could be worth asking **Oscar Gill** (OCM) to help out with the transition, taking on some of the roles of publicity officer.
- **Dan Clay** organising various maintenance relating to set. Have had a meeting, where it was deciding to clear the chair store, clean stage, refurbish our legs and build SM's corner and build a props room. There is new pricing plan to on onto sponge (technical google drive for sharing things with crew and assorted other people).
- **Matt Bowman** has raised the possibility lending the Union Concert Hall to the BBC. What they're proposing to do is a series of lectures in the UCH. Given that we will have minimal access to the union concert hall during this time, as it stands, the committee has reached a decision to say no. We do not feel comfortable with other technicians using the space for such an extended period of time. Furthermore we would need a crew member from DramSoc to oversee it, provided they get a salary. We need to have more, positive, information about this potential arrangement before we would consider saying yes. **Chris Love** to continue talks to see if we can reach a compromise.
- Mylan, National Theatre Tour, is still in a work in progress. **Chris Love** is currently organising Mylan.

Summary of Actions

- **Robert Schüssler** to rig a "profanity" buzzer for DO NOT MINUTE THAT.
- **Andrew Finn** and **Zoë Edwards** to have a meeting with **Ben Howitt** about venues for Big Fella.
- **Elena Stronach** to determine who will be running Birdland get out.
- **Andrew Finn** to organise an initial meeting next Thursday about DramSoc's Edinburgh Fringe Festival show.
- Find a Director for ArtsFest slot.

Adjournment:

At 19:30 PM **Zoë Edwards** made motion to adjourn the meeting and **Steven Kingaby** seconded it.