



THE IMPERIAL COLLEGE DRAMATIC SOCIETY
Committee Meeting in the 2016/2017 Session

PRESENT:

Jack Steadman, Sam Gardiner, Chris Love, Anisha Kadri, Peter Bridgman, George Ainscough, Omar Hussein, Daniel Clay, John Oliver, Oscar Gill.

APOLOGIES:

Harry Kingsley-Smith, Daisy Rogers-Simmonds, Elena Stein.

GUESTS:

Rob Schüssler.

Agenda

1. Dramsoc President's Welcome talk
2. Approval of previous meeting's Minutes
3. EGM to fill available committee posts (Acting Director)
4. Shows: (Hair of the Dog, Red, Ghosts, Beowulf)
5. Acting Workshops
6. Writing Workshops
7. Technical: Workshops, Status, Crew Wages
8. Socials: upcoming, future
9. Publicity: changes to the running of Pub
10. AOB

1 President's Welcome Talk

Jack Steadman:

- Welcomes the committee back to another year.
- Notifies the committee that Oscar Gill has stepped in place of Olivia Gatliff as (Acting) Acting Director.

2 Previous Minutes

A review of the minutes from the previous committee meeting held on 9th February 2016 was approved unanimously.¹

3 EGM

Jack Steadman:

- Raises the question of an EGM, which is required to officially vote in an Acting Director.

Action Item: An appropriate date must be decided on for an EGM, and an email sent to the members informing them of it.

4 Shows

4.1 Hair of the Dog

- **Omar Hussein:** Dress rehearsal for Hair of the Dog was “pretty alright”.
- **Oscar Gill:** Unfortunately the Daily Mail and other publications have not been clamouring for press seats.
- There is a discussion on what the double bill’s MT play, Thirteen is about.²
- **Jack Steadman:** We are going first this year, in keeping with the tradition of alternating our starting shows in the double bill every year. Our play is also a bit shorter.
- **John Oliver:** Reports there is nothing wrong with Thirteen from a technical perspective.

4.2 Red

- **Jack Steadman:** Only 3 people have signed up for auditions, but a cast of 10 is required for Red. Could potentially target actors remaining from Beowulf and Ghosts auditions.
- A discussion yielded the possibility of cancelling Red if there is not enough acting interest, or at least postponing the date until after Ghosts. **JS** concurs this is very possible.
- **Jack Steadman:** agrees to the possibility of postponing Red, and expresses dissatisfaction with Blackett LT2, the currently booked venue.
- **Peter Bridgman:** Suggests that “Moving it in time may also give us opportunity to move it in space.”

Action Item: Look at alternative dates and venues for Red.

¹It came up here that Omar has problems with opening emails, and Pete soon felt like we were veering dangerously off topic.

² **Chris Love:** states “It started and it ended okay.”

4.3 Ghosts

Omar Hussein:

- Ghosts now has quite a good cast, which are currently in read through.
- However a complete production team is still required, the main things needed are set and costumes. A crew-talk email has been sent out for recruitment.
- The shows will take place on the 4th/5th November. Get in is scheduled for the evening of Thursday 3rd November.
- Technical requirements in terms of light and sound are minimal.
- We are keen to get a fresher to try it, as it is relatively unchallenging.
- We have identified all the props required.

4.4 Beowulf

Oscar Gill:

- We are auditioning cast for Beowulf. There have been some good auditions, though final decisions will be made in the next few days.
- Callbacks are set on Thursday.
- Casting plans include having two female Bards and one male Bard, as well as considering a female Beowulf.

Daniel Clay:

- A Production team for Beowulf Is required, an email has been sent out to freshers.
- Still need people for set, props and costume, though more experienced members like Emma, Hillary and Chads are happy to help.
- Lighting and Sound Designers are needed.

5 Acting Workshops

Oscar Gill:

- Have organised vocal workshops, which will be run by Conall O' Neill.
- There is also a combat workshop scheduled for this term.
- Rooms have been booked.

6 Writing Works

Oscar Gill:

- Would like to do a writing meeting 24th October, as LSDF work can then begin soon. A facebook event will be up for this soon.
- 1 writing workshop being organised for 21st November, to be given by a writer of some Sherlock episodes.
- As the writer is a friend, the cost for the workshop will be free.

Action Item: Talk to Daisy about publicity for the workshops.

7 Technical

7.1 Status

Peter Bridgman:

- Freshers week has been exciting, we're doing another small show next week. Everything is fine in terms of events.
- Will be in touch with MT to find out what they require for the Revue.

Action Item: Get in touch with MT about tech for Revue.

7.2 Workshops

Peter Bridgman:

- Workshops are dependent on venue availability.
- There will be a First aid workshop next week.

Action Item: Get a Quote for workshop in the next day.

7.3 Crew Wages

A discussion took place about how crew wages are dealt with.

Peter Bridgman:

- Crew receive money in exchange for labour as compensation for keeping antisocial hours and their large time commitment, particularly for events that are often not exciting or interesting.
- Need to pay crew to make events that are unattractive opportunities happen.
- The union have changed the payment system, and require pay-rolling to happen via e-activities.
- For this need to provide union with a clear Wages Policy from Dramsoc, in order to start making payments.
- We need to clarify Dramsoc's policy regarding minimum wage, and compensation.

- It can be difficult to give an accurate quote as wages may change depending on how events progress. (i.e. more people showing up to help, or things taking longer due to unforeseen circumstances.)
- since labour hours vary, this means varied financial liability for Dramsoc.
- Dramsoc needs to be more realistic regarding quoting for events, so that number of crew hours is accurate. Even if this means the quoted values go up.
- In addition, to ensure that crew are being paid at least minimum wage (currently 6.70 for under 25s), we need to ensure any discrepancy in paid hours for crew can be compensated for by Dramsoc's account, even if it makes loss (or less profit) for Dramsoc.
- We need to work out if there are any outstanding wages owed to crew, and pay them as quickly as possible.
- We can look at the different types of events run, which ones need to be paid staffing, and which are volunteer events and volunteer expenses like food and transport are reimbursed (e.g. Silfest).
- The Wage Policy must be finalised soon in order to start paying crew.

Action Item: Peter Bridgman to send out draft policy to committee for feedback. Committee to send an email vote to president@dramsoc.org by midday Thursday.

Action Item: Chris Love to work with union to get accurate data on the extent of our financial liability.

8 Socials

Remarks on behalf of **Harry Kingsley- Smith** (in absentia).

- Would like an informal vote on Laser Tag vs. Paintball for the first committee social.
- Feedback: A majority vote decided upon Laser Tag.
- Medics Drama have approached us with a social. The cast for their Autumn show is taking a trip to watch 1984.
- They have not yet confirmed tickets, but there is a deal for 2 free tickets for every 23 tickets bought.
- Harry proposes an earlier show time for Ghosts on the 5th of November, Bonfire night (an earlier performance time has been approved, if only to increase viewership).
- Harry would like the society to go for fireworks after the show, and perhaps sell tickets for the show and fireworks together.
- Feedback: Reselling tickets may be problematic, especially if it gets cancelled. Could try see if there is interest to see fireworks after the show, but as an unofficial/unsubsidised social.

Action Item: More detailed pricing for the 1984 trip is required from Harry, but it was agreed we would like to pursue better integration with Medics' Drama.

Action Item: Harry to send out doodle regarding the Laser Tag event shortly.

9 Publicity

Remarks on behalf of **Daisy Rogers-Simmonds** (in absentia).

- Would like to have more delegation in the role of Publicity Officer, as the job is currently quite stressful.
- Producers of shows are required to recruit someone to undertake publicity for their show.
- Alternatively, they can get in touch with Daisy to allocate the job to someone appropriate/willing.
- Daisy is happy to train or help people with publicity roles.
- Stresses that directors and producers of future shows should ensure there are fewer last minute changes and delays in relaying information to the Publicity Officer.
- This can be particularly frustrating due to the inefficiency and unreliability of Instant Print.
- Feedback: Everyone agrees with these proposals, current and future Producers will be notified.

10 AOB

- **Oscar Gill:** Emails to acting director are not being redirected to Oscar.
- **John Oliver:** This will soon be rectified.

11 Adjournment

Peter Bridgman called for the meeting's adjournment, **Jack Steadman** seconded this motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:56pm.