

## CODS COMMITTEE MEETING 21<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2024

**Present:** Mike Canning (MC), Carol Stoye (CS), Gillian Mackenzie (GM), Alan Baker (AB), Lyndsey Betts (LB), Holly Harris (HH), Craig Phoenix (CP), Paul Walker (PW) & Yvonne Youles (YY).

**Apologies:** Simon Gould (SG) & Helen Clarke (HC)

**1. Minutes from 27<sup>th</sup> February** – CP proposed, GM seconded. All happy.

**2. Matters Arising** - MC has had a quote for programmes & we will go with 300 for £582 & sell at £2. Sponsorship & adverts will cover the costs. YY will source the ice creams. MC has written to the Town Council after reading in the Courier Bowden Hill & Dean Street will be closed from 2<sup>nd</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> April, which will impede on getting to QE. He expressed a wish for good signage & is awaiting a reply.

**3. The Wedding Singer** – MC had mentioned at rehearsal we are struggling to sell tickets for Monday & Tuesday but doesn't want anyone thinking we are in financial difficulties. The balance we hold at present, together with ticket sales, bar & draw will comfortably cover of the cost of the show. He is concerned we have sponsors for the Monday but at present there are only 37 tickets sold, including 7 for the sponsors. He had asked for suggestions from the cast & these included discounts for group bookings, concessions & freebies. GM suggested offering something extra – this would include 'upgrading' those who already have tickets – perhaps putting out an advert 'We would like to fill Monday' & offer a free drink. AB agreed & suggested an ice cream. It was agreed this was probably not enough incentive to choose Monday over another day. MC thinks he will sell at least another 150 tickets for Tuesday to Saturday between now and show week. HH suggested we wait & see what the situation is on the Tuesday after Easter & make a decision then. CP reported all the riser hand rails are now complete & just need painting black. LB reported we now have the Chaperone licence, which is Wedding Singer specific.

**5. Any Other Business** – GM reported the Town Council have awarded us a £1500 grant which will be spent on the riser handrails. PW told us Mike Palmer is happy to step down from the website as he is winding down from all jobs this year. He is more than happy for someone to take over the administration. HH was suggested for this, but AB has the expertise so he will talk with Mike Palmer. Mike P has also approached Eve Chivers about taking over the photography role. YY suggested we have a box office phone number on the posters as not everyone can access the website. HH suggested a CODS owned phone which could then be passed around if the Box Office manager was away. All agreed this was an excellent idea.

**6. Minutes** - YY asked if there any need to have hard copies of the minutes? GM thought there was no requirement as a company. All minutes are available online on the website. Any part 2 minutes would need a hard copy, however.

**7. EGM – 24<sup>th</sup> April** – MC had requested any thoughts from SG as he was on holiday. SG emailed & mentioned revisiting the Constitution & procedures. MC will ask SG if he is happy to form a sub committee to look at these items.

A discussion then continued as to bullet points to put to the membership in a MailChimp for discussion at the meeting.

Suggestions as follows, with a request to add any other suggestions for scrutiny before the MailChimp is sent

- Should we still be doing 3 productions a year? All the work falls to the same people for each of the productions?
- Should we reintroduce remuneration for members being directors/ choreographers?
- Do you know the cost of putting on the Easter show?
- What do you think CODS could do better and how?
- Currently the October production, The Men Who Marched Away is in danger of being cancelled as no one has come forward for production roles. Is this acceptable?

**8. Date of Next Meeting** – Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April at the Old Town Hall at 19.30

The meeting closed at 21.40