



## Minutes of A.G.M. 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2017.

- 1. Apologies for Absence.** M France, D Bill, O Buckley and K Newton.
- 2. Minutes of 2016 AGM.** Minutes available online and circulated JB and JF to be sent copies.
- 3. Chairman's Report.** Verbatim (Lee Brennan) Since the last AGM, MAODS have undergone a number of changes none more so than the named roles of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and that transition has both been challenging and liberating for the committee and wider members of the society. I cannot report on the past 12 months without recognising the hard work and dedication which has gone before and only by stepping into these shoes do you appreciate the enormity of the organisation.

Overall the past season, has been successful for a number of reasons, a total of 4846 people have watched the three main productions, an increase of 11% compared to the previous year, a total of 244 fully paid members, which is an increase of 39% on 2015/16, a significant increase on studio performances by Next Generation, with all groups performing at least two productions over the past 12 months and we are financially stable with a slight increase on the surplus and reserves, mainly due to the healthy houses for all productions.

This season, three productions have been housed at The George Lawton Hall, and we will continue to build a positive relationship with the venue to host future productions. The three productions included: The Railway Children, Grease and Parade, each were successful and provided the new committee with a lot of learning, in relation to communication, taking risks and how we identify what makes a quality production. The committee felt, the production of Chaplin, which was announced 2015/16, wasn't right for the society and changed the programme to Parade, with a reviewed budget and marketing campaign it has highlighted we can take calculated risks with new / unknown work and make it work financially and introduce and develop new audiences.

The committee play an integral part to the organisation and have a legal responsibility to ensure MAODS is governed in line with charitable law and that everyone is accountable for decisions which directly affect MAODS members and reputation. So I would like to thank all the members especially those who are stepping down this year: Molly Mae France, Dominic Dunn and Kerry Newton. It goes without saying, that sometimes within an organisation the workload and responsibility can be carried by the few rather than the many, this is something I am conscious to address moving forward, ensuring we share the load and those that join the committee in the future understand the role is more than just attending a meeting every month.

A goal was set following the AGM last year, to become more outward facing to serve the community, this is a work in progress, but we have started to forge a partnership with The Vale and supported their community projects, actively engaging in community events and establishing conversations with key members of the community.

Next Generation has grown from strength to strength and seen an increase in membership, new tutors who have both trained and are working professionally within the creative sector. During the past 12 months, there have been over 20 different productions Next Generation have been involved with, including a broad range of showcases here at The Mill. Over the next few weeks there is a packed programme of showcases from The Crucible to a musical showcase which features Adams Family and Dreamgirls. The committee felt there needed to be an investment to upskill and protect our younger members, and have covered the training costs for all tutors and key members of the committee in Safeguarding Level One and also Safeguarding Level Three. A new class has been introduced this year, the APG (Advanced Performance Group) and they have been performing all over the region. It is also with great pride they will be performing at The Lowry in July as part of 'Showcase' which is a charitable event raising money for Christies.

At the recent Dinner Dance, within my after-dinner speech, I encouraged everyone to value the awards based on what an adjudicator have valued or seen, not as a comparison against other organisations. I highlighted that we had received 40 nominations over the past 12 months from GMDF / ACT and NODA. Since May, we have received a further 20 nominations from both GMDF and ACT, and winner will be announced over the forthcoming weeks. It has also been decided that the during the next season we will become members of MMA and be eligible for their awards during 2017 / 18.

It was a great pleasure to invite John Fletcher, John Buckley and Richard Ryder to become joint Hon. Presidents of the society for the foreseeable future, and they all agreed and accepted the title.

Moving forward into 2017/18, we have decided on the productions, listening to our members who requested a focus on some of the older Musicals, which we have included in our programme with Gypsy, showing in April 18'. Prior to that, Brassed off directed by James Schofield will take place in September, the production has been cast. In December, we will be performing a new musical called in the Heights, directed by Sam Maurice, choreographed by Simon Fitzpatrick and Gary Jones-McCaw and MD'd by John Barry. The new committee will make decisions very soon for the 18/19 programme, and open to suggestions by our members.

To finish off, on behalf of the committee, I would like to thank all the Volunteers who have given time to the society and without your support there would be no society, the 'in-kind' time would be measured at 000's of hours and it does not go unnoticed – so thank you.

N.B Mention was made of the joint venture between AODS/DOADS/HOADS – Mosaic theatricals. More news coming in the coming months.

Mention was also made of the huge increase in Next Gen members.

**4. Secretary's Report.** Not required as all matters dealt with within Chairmans Report.

**5. Treasurer's Report.** Copies of the Audited accounts were handed out by Samuel Maurice as Treasurer. The accounts were audited by Peter Taylor who is independent to both the society and to the Treasurer. A brief summary and a breakdown of the years productions was given. The Treasurer stated all productions during the financial year had shown a profit, membership monies were up from last year.

- £83K income against £74K expenditure.
- £9500 in profit Largely driven by Grease due to £9K profit alone made on that show.
- J Crebbin pointed out the importance of 241 on opening night.
- Treasurer advised that we had taken a step away from the "family ticket" and renamed it "Group Booking".
- Points were raised about reaching some stage of consistency on tickets pricing on all shows. Counterpoint was made that it has always been this way and decisions should be made on a show by show basis. Chairman pointed out that's what the committee had decided. Treasurer pointed out that we are cheaper in comparison to other local societies. Questions were answered to the satisfaction of the meeting.

B Ganderton proposed, R Ryder seconded that the accounts audited by P. Taylor be accepted. Carried unanimously.

**6. Auditors Report**

Nothing further to add.

**7. Membership Report**

Highlighted within Chairman's report. Noted that we saw a lot of new faces for Parade and agreed that certain productions will attract new faces and hence and increase in membership. Noted that there has been an increase in Next Gen members but this was also countered by the fact they are almost always in all three productions throughout the year.

**8. Elections.** The Chairman read out the nominations received for Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer: These positions being for one year as per the constitution.

For Chairman – L Brennan, Secretary – C Egerton, Treasurer – S Maurice

Since no other alternative nominations had been received it was proposed by B. Ganderton in respect of Secretary and Treasurer and C Morris in respect of Chairman and seconded by J Wood in respect of Chairman, J Buckley in respect of Secretary and G Jones-McCaw in respect of Treasurer that the nominations be accepted. Carried unanimously.

The Chairman then advised the meeting that due to the Society becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation four of the existing trustees were required to step down at this AGM. Namely K Newton, D Bill, D Dunne and M France. Of the Four only D Bill wished to stand for re election. Five nominations had been received in respect of D Bill, L Hoyle, M Copsey, W Pretsell and A Taylor and to conform with the constitution the four elected nominees will stand one year.

Biogs of the five nominees were read out by the Chairman.

Voting slips were handed out the result being that, W Pretsell, D Bill, M Copsey and L Hoyle were elected on to the committee for one year.

Votes were tallied by L Brennan, noted down by C Egerton and checked by S Maurice. 2 Ballets were classed as spoilt.

Hon. Auditor – Peter Taylor to be invited to continue.

J Buckley suggested that if someone were to step down from the committee during this next year that A Taylor be asked to step up. This was seconded by F Webster. Unanimously carried.

#### **9. Past and Future Productions.**

Again this point was highlighted within the Chairman's Report.

Reported that all three shows were well received being Railway Children, Grease and Parade. Noted that the launch of the next season being Brassed Off, In The Heights and Gypsy had also been well received.

Future productions put forward:

- Shirley Valentine
- Anything Sondheim

J Buckley presented that the modern marketing approach was not necessarily capturing all followers. Chairman and Ticket Secretary P Davenport advised that P Davenport sends bulk email from the J Fletcher list of previous years. J Buckley advising this was not the up to date list...

Agreed that as a committee we were still using as many marketing channels as possible but was taken on board that as a new committee there had been a lot to deal with within our first 12 months. J Buckley agreeing the new committee had done a fantastic job and was just suggesting another avenue.

J Schofield raised the issue of posters being put up. Chairman and Secretary advised that the committee each had an allocated area within which they were to distribute the posters and leaflets. This then relies on a trust basis that an area has been covered. S Fletcher suggested we speak with other societies and ask if they are willing to distribute within their area.

J Buckley advising that additional studio was required for stage building.

Plays – discussions were had re pushing back the dated of the plays by J Schofield due to restriction on rehearsal time covering the holiday period. Chairman advised this would be taken into consideration.

#### **10. A.O.B.**

None.

The Chairman requested that the newly elected trustees stay behind for a short while to arrange the next GC meeting and complete New Trustee Details Form.

As there was no other business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and brought the meeting to a close at 8.55pm. 26 Attended.