

Minutes of Big Bad Wolf Children's Theatre Company

22 March 16

Gartcows Crescent, Falkirk

Present: Grant, Agnes, Gordon, Emma, Evonne, Louise, Fiona, Gemma, Stuart, Shirley, Karen, Tracey, Michelle, Blair, Hilary, Jonny, Sheena, Lindsay, Gavin

Apologies: Steven, Laura, Claire

Agenda Item	Action
Welcome and Apologies	Grant welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. We will be having a de-brief to celebrate success and look at room for improvement. Also to decide on next year's show.
All Shook Up Debrief – Management Committee	<p>Lots of great feedback – fab; loved it; brilliant. Agnes said it had been very well received. Grant said there had been no negative comments. The show had the most repeat custom with people buying tickets to see the show again. Jonny suggested that there were possibly lower sales on Tuesday/Wednesday as the show was not well known. Blair said certain shows will sell themselves then it depends on how a show is marketed before the event. Blair feels the company should look to see if there's anything more that could be done to get 'bums on seats'. Grant had spoken to Steven and ticket sales slightly down - £1700 overall on last year. Emma said that £1795 of tickets were sold at the door so no difference on last year. Grant said there would be a separate budget meeting soon for next year. Fiona said she felt the company sales for All Shook Up were appalling. Blair said that the company must sell the show. Grant said this is a problem as we are a Children's Theatre Company so not so easy for the kids to sell tickets. Bohemians tickets sales were mentioned. Fiona said that Bohemians have no costume costs as they are hired in. Blair said we should still be pushing sales – everyone should be encouraging ticket sales.</p> <p>Michelle said it was the same people who help every year. Karen said it was how people view it. Someone she had spoken to felt 'great pressure' to help. There was a discussion regarding efforts to make new members and their parents feel welcome. Sheena stated that emails make it very clear what's required from parents. Sheena felt that perhaps parents should be invited in more often to watch the last half hour of rehearsals. Karen suggested committee should speak to parents waiting in the hallway, so people feel more included. Blair said maybe registration should be in the hallway then 'on duty' parents could go into main hall afterwards. Michelle offered to be New Members Parents Buddy. Grant suggested that new member parents could sit in the balcony for the first rehearsal and register in hall. This discussion will be carried forward to the next meeting and then we can put in places measures to make new parents feel more welcome.</p>
All Shook Up Debrief - Production	Gavin said that, on the stage, the show was fine. On the negative side he felt there was a heavy reliance on volunteers with no kids in the company. Blair said that was especially true in the workshop. He feels something needs to be done. There was a lack of help from parents in the workshop. The commitment is now less from helpers as they have no kids in the company. Blair felt there would have

	<p>been no set if there hadn't been 'outside help'. Hilary felt when there are more active parents involved they were often there on a Friday night and Sunday afternoon when kids at rehearsal. Hilary asked if active parents could be encouraged to help on a Sunday afternoon. Agnes will say to parents and we will look at arranging visits to the workshop so parents know what's involved. Michelle suggested arranging a meeting for all the Dads in the company. Jonny suggested it would be worth Blair spelling out the set building problems. Blair suggested we have an evening for the kids and invite the parents to come for coffee too. Agnes suggested posting in Volunteer Scotland asking for set help. Emma suggested asking Duke of Edinburgh for volunteers from kids doing their award.</p> <p>Blair stated that he felt that as he had had no official response from committee for his request to receive a gift for his input he cannot continue as Stage Manager. He stated he had put in over 200 hours over the year and now has no kids involved in the company. Blair had asked to be treated as the other members of the Production Team. Blair gave Grant his resignation as Stage Manager. Grant said that he had gone back to Blair and informed him that the Committee were not currently in a position to respond. Grant accepted Blair's resignation. Hilary was upset that Blair had resigned as she will miss the camaraderie and teamwork</p> <p>Gavin stated that he had had a breakdown in his relationship with the costume team.</p> <p>Sheena felt that, generally, rehearsals had gone well. There had been an issue with the number of wee boys who had joined the company this year. She felt it was January before some of the younger boys were capable of being on stage. She suggested that, in future, some of the older kids could help the younger ones when the Production Team are working on other things. Some of the new kids needed extra support. She said we should keep pushing parents to take responsibility for the kids to have 'done their homework'. One or two kids were regularly missing rehearsals. Sheena feels that parents should occasionally be allowed into rehearsals.</p> <p>Blair said that the people at workshops were a great help and stage crew fantastic. He felt the kids were well behaved.</p> <p>Lindsay said we should make more use of social media. It should be used better to promote the company. Agnes said her posts constantly have 1500 view and often up to 5000.</p> <p>Lindsay suggested filming at rehearsal again including Facebook Friday. Karen suggested photos rather than videos.</p> <p>Lynn said that some parents were still asking questions about costume the week before Christmas. The costume info was handed out in October. She was handed a bag of costumes to 'check' by people who didn't turn up at the Costume Parade. It was suggested that in future the costume parade may be before Christmas. Lynn said she would prefer if Costume had a 'budget' as she was out of pocket herself when she had to pay for things.</p>
<p>Production 2017</p>	<p>Jonny said there had been lots of discussions regarding options. Are we looking to appease the older or younger company members?? Sheena said we always adapt the show anyway to make kids appear the best they can be.</p> <p>Karen feels we need to find something to suit the whole company. Agnes said Heather had been in the company 9 years before she got a main part. She doesn't feel the kids should necessarily get a part because they've been in the company a couple of years. Blair said the older kids should be teaching the younger ones 'stage craft'. Sheena said the</p>

	<p>casting is always done for the right reasons – to have the best cast they can.</p> <p>Gavin had asked Lisa Keeley to put together a team. Agnes said some parents had approached her but she was not aware that Gavin had done this. The team was mostly 'seniors' and Gavin had pulled together their main points on the shows they were considering. There was no outright winner. The least favourite was Dr Dolittle. All good points from the kids. It comes down to which shows best suits 8 – 18 year olds. Legally Blonde and Copacabana not so good for the younger kids. There are arguments for all the other shows.</p> <p>Only Disney show available is My Son Pinocchio, which is a full length musical. This has more than 9 main parts plus extras. Lots of fab songs. Familiar songs. Well-known name. Magical element. Not alienation seniors. Legally Blonde has not been done in our area. It would need 'tailoring'.</p> <p>Copacabana is less adult. It has Showgirls/Boys etc. Plenty of parts. Great songs. The story follows the lyrics of the song. Set mostly in 1947. Big band. Karen asked how that would work for the younger kids. It does have shooting/kidnapping.</p> <p>Return to the Forbidden Planet. It has one set. Based in space. Good music. Shakespeare based. Fewer parts. Sheena put this show on at Grangemouth High. It would be up to us to make it look professional.</p> <p>Godspell – Jonny not sure about the crucifixion scene. All parts would be opened up to the full company.</p> <p>Decided against Dr Dolittle. Copa/Legally more for the older kids. Gavin said that Lloyd Webber shows are a no no as restricted on three levels. Gavin suggested having a top three as we won't necessarily get the first license we apply for. Agnes is concerned that Pinocchio may not have the same audience as All Shook Up did. Jonny said it is a well know show with good music. Sheena says we should nurture ability and remember we are a Childrens' Theatre Company. Grant suggested we narrow it down to look at Legally/Copa/Pinocchio. All are currently available. Gavin said that, in light of Blair's resignation, the setting of shows should be taken into consideration. Taken to vote:</p> <p>Pinocchio – 8 votes Copa – 0 votes Legally Blonde – 3 votes.</p> <p>Grant will check first if he can purchase the license for Pinocchio. If this is not available he will try Legally Blonde. Grant will try tonight so we should, hopefully, know tomorrow. Grant thanked everyone for all the work put in. Both Grant and Gavin said it is becoming more difficult to find a show suitable for 8 – 18 year olds.</p>
BBW X	<p>Gavin suggested that this be a 'one night only' show. Fiona said there could be issues if only one night as no runners or backstage help. Emma suggested the kids sit in the front of the stage when not performing so there would be no need for backstage. This will be carried forward.</p>
Open Auditions	<p>It is hoped to have auditions for new members in May and new cast in June.</p>
Scotland On Stage	<p>The event is on 24 April. Tickets cost £1000 plus VAT for a table of 10. 20% deposit due. Programme advertising - £199 per half page. Supporting statements have to be in by 11 April. There will be a rehearsal in the afternoon for kids performing. They will not be allowed in the hall. Maximum 15 kids performing for 3 – 5 minutes. We must give a couple</p>

	<p>of choices of piece. It was felt we need to discuss if we take part. We need more information. Mikes? Space? We can perform 'Can't Help Falling in Love. Gavin queried the total cost of taking part. Gavin felt it could be done but said we are up against two ballet schools and BSPA. Not really an actual category for our kids. Grant said we would have more information when the pack comes out on Monday. He suggested we then decide, by email, if we should take part.</p>
<p>AOCB</p>	<p>Someone told Hilary there could be Health and Safety issues with the mezzanine level at the workshop. The H&S issues are not just BBW but the whole workshop. FDACC funding being cut. We may get short notice on the workshop closing. It will be raised at next FDACC meeting to ask if companies will be informed. The cost of the workshop is £4000, with BBW's share being £1500. Blair said the options, other than finding somewhere else, are to speak to other companies to look at taking it on as a co-op. Speak to British Waterways. There have been no repairs done. Blair has looked at other options - £8000 for 1500 sq ft in Winchester Avenue but no costumes would be allowed to be stored. Brown Street would be the cost of purchase and repairs. Blair asked if we knew of anyone who could have a look at Brown Street and give an opinion on repairs etc. Lindsay said there is one unit available on Bog Road. Evonne said there was a barn in Carronshore, she will check if it is available. Evonne suggested asking on Facebook. 1500 sq ft 15 ft in height. Emma said there is a garage in Boness available until November. Blair said he will check the sublet on the Denny workshop. Sheila is hoping to hire the BBW UV Fish and large sheets of cloth. Agnes will ask Sheila to liaise with Hilary.</p>

Meeting closed 10.35pm

Next meeting – TBC – Hilary kindly offered the use of her home again.