

Trinity Theatre
Annual General Meeting
Thursday 12th January 2023

Welcome: by Michael Stevens Chairman:

Michael welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Introduced Steven James as the new Chairman.

Thanked Alex Green for his work at Trinity.

Explained that during his time as Chairman, the Artistic Directors have been John Martin followed by Kezia, then Sean.

Explained that both Steven and Johnathan (Financial Director) will be speaking.

We have received KCC funding for Creative Engagement including the Speech Bubbles Programme.

Thanked the public, the staff, the volunteers, and the board.

Thanked Steven James for taking over as Chairman.

Apologies for absence:

Kathy Adams

Approval of the Minutes of the 2021 AGM:

Proposed by: Brian Bissell

Seconded by: Penny James

Election of Directors:

Michael stepped down, handed over to Steven James.

4 directors to appoint:

Matthew Gibbons – Vice Chairman

Stuart Turner – Company Secretary – 20 years' experience in risk & general management.

Martin Brice – Director - FT journalist.

Kathy Adams – (not present) – Director – Chartered accountant, relocated to TW.

Proposed by: Simon Collins.

Seconded by: Richard McCarthy.

Finance Report and Appointment of Auditors:

Johnathan presented the finance report.

Hilden Park Auditors were reappointed for the next financial year.

Annual Report – Chair’s Report:

Steven James gave thanks to Michael for being Chairman for the last 9 years.

Referred to Johnathan highlighting the difficulties encountered, eg limited opening in August 2021, Omicron in Christmas 2021.

Significant events:

October 2021: Clocktower project with grant support. Early April 2023 completion. Will bring in the whole community.

July 2021: Lease and management agreement of the Pump Room (not yet agreed).

July 2021: New Artistic Director, Sean Turner.

Thanked staff and volunteers, with special mention to the gardeners who have won an award.

Gave thanks, on behalf of the board, to Nick Mowat, acting Chief Executive.

Thanked Alex Green for taking voluntary redundancy.

Thanked Sean Turner, who left to pursue freelance opportunities.

Delighted that Nick Mowat has taken on the role of Chief Executive.

Explained that Trinity faces immense financial challenges for which we need support.

Annual Report – Acting Chief Executive Report:

Nick Mowat introduced himself, explaining his background and experience and said that the future will contain high quality events.

Thanked staff, volunteers, and patrons.

Fundraising Campaign:

Matthew Gibbons presented the fundraising campaign, explaining that £100,000 is needed by end of March, £25,000 of that by the end of January and £75,000 by the end of February.

Steven James stated that they would be approaching all major stakeholders and the board will be committed to more fundraising ideas and to doing more ourselves, and this was to become part of Trinity’s culture moving forwards, and to publicising what needs to happen to make this target.

Any Other Business / Questions:

Q: What are we doing about marketing to TW and surrounding areas?

A: Nick Mowat explained that he will develop the skills of the marketing team under his eye. For now, no new appointment. Nick will be responsible, together with Hugh and Oscar, to distribute printed materials eg the brochure, which remains a key sales tool for Trinity. New brochures will be A5 size.

Q: Would we consider hiring a marketing consultant, part-time, who is experienced, so we can choose how much of their time we use?

A: NM – Yes, we have done in the past and potentially a good way to go.

Q: So many people don't know about Trinity which we need to address. Have we considered quality control about our productions? The quality of the last 3 Christmas shows was not good enough. The Aliens show was fantastic, aimed at young children who don't have a lot to go and see, however the last 3 main Christmas shows have been a disaster which is why people don't come.

A: SJ – We all recognise this point. Low audience means a show has failed. When a new AD is appointed, trust is put in that AD.

A: NM – Agreed it is a fair point. We need to put on what people want to see, especially at Christmas with both good pre-sales as well as good sales during the run.

Other towns have more than one Christmas show. As a venue we won't be afraid of that.

Q: Who would take responsibility for quality control?

A: NM – Me and the board.

A: SJ – Artistic subcommittee to give feedback.

A: JL – Has not been on a subcommittee for any of the previous shows.

Q: We need comedians trialling here. Could this be something we could pursue?

A: NM – it does happen but not here so much. We will be trying a particular promoter to get these back.

A: SJ – we have ideas coming forward, will let us know.

Comment from attendee:

Endorsed previous comments from attendees.

It is a very positive new era for Trinity.

Has been involved for many years.

This has been a brilliant AGM this year.

Thanks for acknowledging issues.

Welcome to Nick Mowat.

We have quality here at Trinity.

We all have different opinions, but collaborative commitment is what is needed going forward.

Close:

Steven James asked if there was any other business then closed the meeting.