

Minutes of Directors / Members Meeting
Wednesday 13 September 2017
At Z-PAC theatre

1. Meeting commenced at 7.35 pm

ATTENDANCE: Approximately 30 in attendance including:

Pat Dearnley, visitor from NSW; Susan Dearnley Noosa Arts Theatre, Members, Trevor Passey, Barbara Lynch, Robyn Hicks, Roger and Jean Jennings, Val Grainger, Ric Carthew, Mark Thomson, Taylor Dunn, Cherie Treloar, Sally Sweeney, Marion Bridie, Casey Hadfield, Elliot Ashton

APOLOGIES: Johnathan Dunn, Graham & Julie Roberts, John Borg, Shane King, Ken and Michelle Sutton

2. Welcome from President Liane Mills

General background on the progress of the theatre to date

- Thanks to all our volunteers – Derek Barrington our VP and his team for our sets; Jeff Sweeney and Michael Doherty for sound and lighting, Deb Hunter our Treasurer, Steve Dixon our super-efficient Secretary
- Thanks to Our Directors this year, Judith La Forest, Jonathan Dunn, Graeme Roberts and Gavin Bolderrow (special mention to Gavin for all sold out shows!)
- Thanks to Michael Doherty for successful Karaoke – families
- Thanks to Ken Sutton for the amazing Country Rock Blues which supports the theatre in so many ways.
- Our Artistic Director Gavin for his help to all our Directors – we wish him well in England in 2018.
- Thanks to Bev Quealy for assisting with the archiving – now have a folder for each year last 20 years. Archiving still going on and is online too. Request for copies of programs and flyers if you have them tucked away at home. Reminder that archive material is also on our website.
- Visit by Graham Young, Director of Northern Campuses USC and Phil Graham – Head of school of Communication and Creative Industries USC to discuss how Z-PAC Can be utilized in courses they are proposing to bring to Hervey Bay. They are very impressed with our theatre and the quality and enthusiasm of our volunteers
- Great to see other groups utilizing our theatre – eg Jon Veava Veava Launch of his new CD complete with Bush Tucker and even 2 dingoes

- Brad and Candice from The League Studios who are holding their Dance Concert at the theatre in November – tickets for their 3 concerts already almost sold out!
- Also another dance school – Just Dance in December
- Hit Productions brought Shirley Valentine and Everyone loves Lucy and looking at bringing other productions in 2018
- Preview Nights for volunteers continuing this year – free drinks and nibbles and special preview of the show – popular with our volunteers.
- Preview nights for Charity Groups – Rotary, Lions and Burrum Heads United Church taking advantage of this new innovation. Great experience for the cast, great opportunity to bring new people to the theatre – hopefully will continue to come and spread the word and great way for other Not for Profit groups to raise funds instead of a sausage sizzle.
- I continue to get out promoting Z-PAC, attending Breakfast meetings with the Chamber of Commerce and Business Hervey Bay; speak at Seniors events, Steve and I judged the recent over 50's talent show, and I am now MC for the monthly Culture Café at the Community Centre which gets up to 200 participants each month; attending the Recreation for Recovery Event at the community centre Sat 23rd September promoting Z-PAC, to name just a few.
- Promotions are going well and as cost effective as we can be with radio, newspaper and print. John Borg has been dropping the flyers at caravan parks and motels and Julie Genders at cafes. More helpers needed, particularly in Maryborough. Our DL Flyers with all events for the year are very successful, and the posters at the front, and Banner on the Esplanade also effective in drawing people in.
- Financial Members numbers now sitting at 268, with our Email Database at 841.
- See attached slide presentation for more information including how our shows are going this year compared to others.

3. Artistic Director Gavin Bolderow

Gavin gave an overview of the Theatre schedule for next year and invited directors to provide a submission on their respective proposals. The following submissions were made to the members :-

1. Roger Jennings proposed "**Salad Days**" which is a light musical. He advised he unsuccessfully tried to put it on around 7 years ago and hopes it may be successful this time around. Roger said it's the production's "time" as it is a young, cheerful and bright play.

Suggest we consider it in September / October 2018

2. Trevor Passey suggested "**Please Sir**"
no other information was really provided other than the fact Trevor liked it.

3. Mark Thomson & Theresa Saunders

"It's only a play" by Terrence McNally

Mark provided a slide show and entertained members with the theme of the play and a reading.

4. Cherie Treloar

Proposes a musical by Stephen Swartz called "**Godspell**"

Cherie gave the members background on the play. It is religious but the main theme is building community and love. Music is very well known. It would be good to put on just before Easter.

Cherie talked about the amazing voices there are in churches and it would be great to get them involved in theatre and see theatre as a place where they are welcome. She would like to promote the play amongst churches.

5. Graham Roberts

Gavin provided information on behalf of Graeme Roberts who was an apology this evening.

"Babies in the Wood" which is a Robin Hood type of pantomime

- 6 sets or 6 scenes.
- A good play for school holiday crowds

Graeme also suggested **Sluith** - written by Peter Schaffer

- Well known play and has been on Broadway

Also suggested **Driving Miss Daisy**

- Gavin provided some background

6. Taylor Dunn

Suggest '**Tea at 5**' written in 2001 by Matthew Lombardo

About the life of Kathrine Hepburn

1 actor play running through her life over several stages - the Hepburn story.

1 set required. Taylor would like to perform it and is looking for a Director to assist.

7. Johnathan Dunn

Put forward "**Wolf lullaby**"

About a daughter who may or not have committed the murder of a young child

Johnathan will want to get the schools involved and as Australia Gothic Theatre is part of the high school market it would be popular with them.

8. Liane Mills

Ken Ludwig's "**The Games Afoot or Holmes for the Holidays.**"

It's a murder mystery comedy with a well known theme of Sherlock Holmes but with multiple twists. Think Weekend at Bernies and Sherlock holmes together.

Also submitted but not discussed, a play called Duets. Four short stories of couples. Poignant and beautiful stories, unconnected but with themes of love and loss. Easy to rehearse. 4 sets of couples or doubling.

9. Jeff Sweeney

- Proposing a Shakespeare play **The Tempest**
 - One of the dramatic pieces
 - Traditional play - Jeff proposes to follow the original cast etc

Gavin advised this is the most proposals received. He will go through them all and then the committee will sit down and consult with all the committee members regarding feasibility in terms of technical, set design and construction, costs, promotions, audience appeal, calendar positions. It was reiterated that it is a committee decision as to the program of events for the year.

Gavin invited feedback from the theatre community prior to final discussions. Liane to send out email asking for this.

4. Treasurer's report

3 very financially successful shows to date.

All shows are paid for before we sell the first ticket.

For 2018, we will be Looking at budgets for the shows with a view to ensuring we use our increased finances to improve the shows further.

Strong financial position - Already at the same surplus as last year with 4 months to go.

Grant applications in for some maintenance on pipes (just approved) and a new Keyboard (waiting to hear from the RSL)

5. Secretary's report

1. Code of Conduct

- Adding great value to our theatre
- The code has certainly encouraged individuals exhibiting inappropriate behaviours to vacate the theatre.
- People understand bad behaviours will not be tolerated.
- Relevant to say being a director is not a licence to
 - Be rude
 - Insensitive to people and their particular behaviours
 - Act superior to other members of the theatre.

2. The stage

- Is used by many diverse groups
 - 5 productions & 41 performances
 - But plenty of other use
- Country Rock blues every Sunday
- An entire range of groups from dancing to other
- Need to insist the theatre is not locked up for more than 2 weeks before a production commences.
- Discussed safety issues... people have had accidents as a result of props and the like cluttering the stage.

3. Requested all Directors support the theatres policies and procedures

- Can audition members of the public ... however
- We insist that Directors can only recommend to the committee actors who are members of Z-PAC
 - Non members are not eligible to be included in a production or hold any volunteer position.

6. Grants... Louise Fantinel

- We have received some free plumbing work recently from the council, as a result of our request for a grant to do this job.
- We have a grant application in with the RSL for a keyboard at the moment.
- Louise noted that lots of different groups of people support the theatre
- Noted the benefit to Z-PAC of having a committed Management Committee
 - And the particular role of Liane in motivating the theatre and all its volunteers.

It was Noted

- there are 3 Members nights each year. AGM, Directors Night and Xmas Party.
- Currently we have over 268 financial Z-PAC members, including 68 CRB Club members
- Data base of 841 supporters who receive regular emails.
- 793 people currently have Liked on our Z-PAC Facebook page
- Selling out some shows. Current show has Over 300 tickets (1/4 of tickets available) sold with 4 weeks till opening.
- Further Discussion of the genres that we are pursuing.

Next members night is the Christmas party December 1st 6-9 .

Meeting closed at 8.40 pm.