

Notes from LADS committee meeting held on 25th March 2021 on Zoom.

Present: Mark Lingard (Chaired), Anna Lingard, Bex Smith (connection problems), Julia Thomas, Steph Jerrard, Ian Phelps, Ron Gunstone, Cynthia Hilton (connection problems)

Apols: Alison Utting, Jan Evans.

I ignored the minutes from the last 2 meetings, and the treasurer's report (Bex joined late, and Julia was limited on time).

Ian gave an update on the grant funding. He also emailed a report Pam had written. The main question was over the 'hiring' of lighting. There is reference made to hiring at £1,752 for 1 night. No-one could quite make sense of what Pam was suggesting, if it is literally for 1 night's hire it seems quite expensive. The upshot was we decided she should be invited to the next meeting, so that she can explain what she is thinking with this, might make much more sense then.... no-one could quite work on how one night's hire in a 3-year plan would fit with the bigger picture.

2021-2022 - the majority view was that summer may still be too early to plan for, and that November may be a possibility. There was no support whatsoever for the idea of putting on Macbeth. Most people felt if we do anything at all it should be a) In Llanymynech, b) Small cast, c) Light hearted/funny. Most people expressed the view that this was the wrong play for November. People seemed much keener on doing something like a series of short Alan Ayckbourn plays, in which each one might have a small cast, or even using some of Marg's one-acts. We discussed the fact that the reality is that even by November, audiences may be limited (partly may not want to come, partly we may be restricted on number) and so whatever is put on must be low budget.

Talking points for next week should be: will people be happy rehearsing by summer, will we get audiences, what restrictions will be in place and how will we make it work inside (one-way systems, tables for family groups etc); what sort of plays should we be putting on (there was a feeling that there is perhaps too much Shakespeare and we're not a Shakespeare group - is it putting some people off being involved, people are missing some of the old comedies/farces etc); should we be looking at 'crowd-pleasing plays' to get audiences in; are their members interested in directing, could we use small one-acts for November as a way of introducing people to it with less pressure, or some sort of mentoring system; mission statement (Bex said this would be useful for grant applications) - members to discuss next week with the view to putting something together based on what some out of it...