

Community Players of Salisbury University
BOARD MEETING
April 6, 2022

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Melissa Dasher, presiding, Sammy Barnes, Sharon Benchoff, Cass Dasher, Darrell Mullins, Rusty Mumford, Charlie Linton, Kel Nagel, Shelbie Thompson

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bonnie Bosies, Lynne Bratten, Pete Cuesta, Jerry Gietka, Debby Nagel, Jessica Windsor,

President Dasher called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Sharon Benchoff/Kel Nagel moved to approve minutes of the March 2, 2022 meeting. Motion passed

Treasurer's Report: Charlie Linton reported that we took in more than we spent. Treasurer's Report was accepted as distributed.

President's Report: President Dasher requested that during what is likely to be a long meeting discussing the next season, we put our tempers aside, recognizing that we all have the same goal.

Committee Reports

Facilities: No Report

Grants: Melissa Dasher reported as follows:

- She received an email regarding the upcoming Zoom meeting with MSCA representatives.
- Gary Finley and Sharon Benchoff will attend the meeting.
- This will be an exciting opportunity to represent us.

Hospitality: Rusty Mumford reported as follows:

- We are still hospitable
- The cast and crew of "Senior Follies" enjoyed the leftover snacks from the Players' Night performance.
- The audience for that performances did not seem very interested in the food.

House: Kel Nagel reported as follows:

- Thanks to those who served as ushers for "Senior Follies."
- He is recruiting Betsy Metzger to serve as House Manager for "Jesus Christ SuperStar" and for next season.

Lifetime Achievement Award: Pete Cuesta reported as follows:

- There are three nominations
- He is recruiting members to serve on the committee
- The award will be presented as the June production of "Jesus Christ SuperStar" since the recipients was unable to attend last fall's production.

Membership: No Report

Newsletter: Rusty Mumford reported as follows:

- Reminder that the deadline for submitting newsletter content is the 15th of each month
- Thanks to Sharon Benchoff for providing the trivia content

Nominating: Sharon Benchoff reported as follows:

- Anyone interested in running for a Board position should contact her

- Nominations can come from the floor at the May meeting
- Nominations will close at the end of the May meeting.
- The vote will take place at the June meeting
- Those with up-to-date memberships may vote.
 - Cass Dasher, Sammy Barnes, Sharon Benchoff, Tom Robinson

Social Media: Shelbie Thompson reported as follows:

- Lots of engagement during March
- 24 new “likes”
- 43 new “followers”
- 1,500 people currently follow our page
- For April, she will be sharing “Senior Follies” photos

Patrons: Kel Nagel reported as follows:

- We have one new patron
- He asked that someone step up to chair the committee while he is serving as President in the upcoming season.
- If no one is interested, he will continue as Chair.

Production: Shelbie Thompson reported as follows:

- The vote on the upcoming season will take place this evening.
- Please read the ballot directions carefully
- The results of the vote will be announced at the end of tonight’s meeting.

Kel Nagel commented as follows:

- Thanked Shelbie for her work as Chair of the Production Committee
- There are some tweaks to the process that we can discuss
- He requested that those voting consider “Kiss Me Kate” for the June slot and “Is He Dead?” for the January slot. If both were approved he would withdraw “Is He Dead?”
- He will support the Board’s decision.

Publicity: Debby Nagel reported as follows:

- For “Senior Follies”:
 - A story in the “Independent”
 - Coverage in the “Go” section of “The Daily Times”
 - An appearance on WBOC’s “Delmarva Life” program; they are requesting two people to participate.
 - “Travels With Charlie” did not work out for this production
 - We are at the mercy of the Media

Scholarship: Lynne Bratten reported as follows:

- Scholarship materials have been sent to all area schools.
- We have two applicants
- Will announce results during “New Business”

Tickets: Rusty Mumford the following seat counts for this weekend’s performance of “Senior Follies:”

- Friday Night: 48 seats reserved
- Saturday Night: 108 seats reserved
- Sunday Afternoon: 118 seats reserved

- Word of Mouth is working

Old Business

“Spelling Bee”: Producer Shelbie Thompson reported as follows:

- We sold out the second weekend.
- Many rave reviews.
- Some people came more than once.
- Hard work by all was much appreciated.

“Twain” Show: Director Matt Bogdan reported as follows:

- A successful run
- \$1,400 in profits
- Four shows

“Senior Follies:” Director Jerry Gietka reported as follows:

- Things are going well.
- The show has already been financial success given how little needs to be purchased.
- The show is an artistic success; good cast.

Melissa Dasher reported as follows:

- A cast member tested positive for Covid
- What now?

Jerry Gietka commented as follows:

- We can find someone to fill in
- Perhaps we can have someone hold the book and deliver lines using a microphone

Melissa Dasher commented that since the actor was at the run-though last night, the entire cast/crew has been exposed. Also, is it possible to postpone upcoming performances? In addition, will Wor-Wic charge an additional rental fee?

Kel Nagel asked what our liability is in a situation like this.

Rusty Mumford questioned whether or not Wor-Wic would be available during Easter weekend. In addition, we have to report to Wor-Wic about this. Perhaps we could postpone and do it with masks and social distancing.

Shelbie Thompson stated that Wor-Wic would be closed during Easter weekend. In addition, she would recommend using an actor in the original cast rather than a fill-in. She needs to be notified asap so that she can pull social media posts if necessary.

Cass Dasher suggested we reach out to Wor-Wic to ask about availability if we postpone.

Pete Cuesta stated that Covid numbers have increased. Perhaps we are entering a new wave.

Matt Bogdan commented that we should postpone, better safe than sorry.

Sharon Benchoff/Cass Dasher moved that we postpone upcoming performances if it is feasible to get the Wor-Wic stage during the weekend after Easter. Motion passed.

Additional discussion as follows:

- If Wor-Wic is not available, we should research other venues.
- Rusty Mumford will send a sample message to share with current reservations. He will send it to us for feedback.

Jesus Christ SuperStar: Sharon Benchoff reported as follows:

- The show has been cast, for the most part. There will be one more callback.
- First rehearsal will be this Sunday.
- The cast list will be posted to our website.

Melissa Dasher asked if we could perhaps have a "Swing Cast."

Sharon Benchoff responded no.

85th Season Fundraiser/Concert: Rusty Mumford distributed a detailed document summarizing the feedback to this event during the March meeting. Questions/Comments were as follows:

- Sharon Benchoff asked why do a concert if people can attend a celebration for free? Rusty Mumford commented that staging a concert at "Revival" would draw in people who would not attend the celebration.
- Cass Dasher asked if "Revival" have an average audience size? Rusty Mumford responded that the size of the audience is "event specific."
- Shelbie Thompson asked if "Revival" would be the only venue for this performance. In addition, perhaps we could offer a discount to members. Jessica Windsor replied that the staging would be very different based on venue. (NOTE: The recording secretary inferred that this might be a reason that we could not easily stage the concert in multiple venues). Rusty Mumford commented that he was fine with either approach.
- Matt Bogdan suggested that we could perhaps incorporate some of the celebratory activities with a performance at "Revival."
- Sammy Barnes asked if performance dates had been selected. Rusty Mumford responded that he prefers August dates.
- Darrell Mullins/Shelbie Thompson moved that the performance should take place at "Revival" on August 5 and 6. Rusty Mumford responded that he will report back on whether or not those dates are available.

Musician Fees: Melissa Dasher reported that she had sent questions to a number of potential music directors in the area but has decided she has to recuse herself from this project because her husband, Ken Dasher, is one of those experts. Darrell Mullins volunteered to take over the project.

Special Productions: Matt Bogden reported as follows:

- Why should we do these productions? They are beneficial.
- He created a proposal form that was distributed to those in attendance.
- A "Special Production" committee will vet proposals.
- Feedback from the committee will be sent to the Board of Directors.
- The Vice-President will chair the "Special Productions" committee as well as the regular one.
- Charlie Linton/Sharon Benchoff moved approval. Motion Passed.

New Business

Furnace Town performance. Sharon Benchoff moved to table this until next meeting. Motion Passed

SWAC Fundraising Event: Sharon Benchoff reported as follows:

- We have been invited to perform at SWAC's "Arts on the River" event.
- The plan would be to perform some songs from "Jesus Christ SuperStar."
- We would be able to advertise "Jesus Christ SuperStar" as well as our upcoming season.

Charlie Linton/Sammy Barnes moved that we participate in the event. Motion Passed.

Survey Monkey: Sharon Benchoff reported as follows:

- There is no longer a free “basic” version of Survey Monkey
- Fees are \$16.00 per month or \$192 annually.
- Unlimited number of surveys but each is limited to ten questions.

It was suggested that we research using “Google Drive” to see if we can get the same functionality.

Loaning/Renting Sets, Costumes, Props: Sharon Benchoff moved to table this issue until the May meeting. Motion passed.

2022-23 Season: Shelbie Thompson reported as follows:

- The Production Committee’s original recommendation was approved with a clear majority.

Other New Business: Charlie Linton announced that we received a note of thanks from the Viese family. NOTE: The recording secretary did not have notes specifying how we contributed. Assuming it was flowers sent.