

Community Players of Salisbury University
BOARD MEETING
March 2, 2022

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Melissa Dasher, presiding, Kate Adkins, David Allen, Sharon Benchoff, Bobbie Calloway, Cass Dasher, Robin Finely, Darrell Mullins, Rusty Mumford, Charlie Linton, Kel Nagel, Tom Robinson, Shelbie Thompson

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bonnie Bosies, Jerry Gietka, Betsy Metzger, Debby Nagel

GUESTS PRESENT: Kevin Taylor, Jessica Windsor

President Dasher called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Charlie Linton/Rusty Mumford moved to approve minutes of the January 5, 2021 meeting. Motion passed

Treasurer's Report: Charlie Linton reported that the month of February was slow.

Treasurer's Report was accepted as distributed.

President's Report: President Dasher reported that plans are underway to improve tech at Wor-Wic.

Committee Reports

Facilities: It was reported as follows:

- We need to be more aware of returning borrowed materials to the appropriate place in the warehouse.
- Rock and Roll Revival returned some things that had been altered but not returned to their original configuration. Darrell Mullins stated that the Rock and Roll Revival staff will be informed that this is unacceptable if they wish to continue borrowing materials.
- There are also some problems with material borrowed from Parkside High School.
- Production directors rehearsing in our facility need to remember that trash needs to be set out on Thursday evenings for Friday pickup. Also, remember to bring the trash container back from the roadside after trash has been removed.

Grants: Robin Finley, on behalf of Gary Finley, reported as follows:

- We are waiting to hear about a "Creativity Grant" offered by the Maryland State Arts Council
- A MSAC representative attended a production of "Spelling Bee" and was impressed
- Gary Finley and Sharon Benchoff will be meeting with MSAC rep via Zoom.

Lifetime Achievement Award: No Report

Hospitality: Rusty Mumford reported as follows:

- Covid has impacted the extent to which we can socialize.
- Suggestion that we might return to having refreshments after Board meetings.
- The kitchen needs consistent cleaning.
- Anyone having anything in the refrigerator should remove it by Friday of this week. Otherwise it will be discarded.

House: Kel Nagel reported as follows:

- Things went well for "Spelling Bee."
- We acquired 12 Usher badges; one is currently missing
- Audiences were cooperative regarding mask mandates.

- We found out on Friday of the second weekend that Wor-Wic had lifted the mask mandate. This meant that we did not have to limit the size of the audience. Cast members were advised to message friends who had been unable to reserve because of the mask mandate to come if they were still available.
- We need someone to be House Manager for “SuperStar” as Kell will be unavailable.

Lifetime Achievement: No report.

Membership: Cass Dasher reported as follows:

- Membership cards continue to go out.
- People asked for membership applications during the run of “Spelling Bee.”

Newsletter: Rusty Mumford reminded us that the deadline for submitting newsletter content is the 15th of each month

Nominating: Sharon Benchoff reported as follows:

- Anyone interested in running for a Board position should contact her.
- As of June 1, the following will be cycling off the Board:
 - Cass Dasher, Sammy Barnes, Sharon Benchoff, Tom Robinson

Patrons: Kel Nagel reported as follows:

- Received a \$500 renewal for next season.
- A letter to recruit Patrons is going out.
- He would like help on this committee as he will have additional responsibilities next year as President.

Production: No report as the proposed season will be discussed in “New Business.”

Publicity: We will be moving forward as follows:

- Debby Nagel is stepping up as committee chair.
- Shelbie Thompson will continue coordinating social media.
- Pete Cuesta will continue coordinating yard signs for productions.

Scholarship: Melissa Dasher, on behalf of Lynne Bratten, reported that at present we have not yet received any applications but is aware that there is interest.

Social Media: Shelbie Thompson reported as follows:

- Significant engagement in February.
- 40 new page likes.

Tickets/Season Tickets: Rusty Mumford reported as follows:

- Tickets for “Spelling Bee” went well.
- We need to publicize ticket policies
- We need clarification on how to override settings if circumstances change due to the Pandemic.

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 was unable to attend the meeting as there was a performance this evening.

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

- Things are going well.
- Blocking is complete.
- Moving on to memorizing lines.
- Lots of good, physical comedy
- Still needs technical support as follows:
 - Sound
 - Lighting
 - Props
 - Tack Backdrops
 - May need to spend some money on set decoration
 - Producer Pete Cuesta is working on filling these gaps.
- Sammy Barnes is doing well as Assistant Director/Stage Manager
- We no longer need the mysterious and missing red sofa

Kel Nagel reported as follows:

- At present, Wor-Wic is not restricting the capacity of the auditorium.
- Masks are optional
- Concessions will return
- We have received an invoice for the rental of the facility

85th Season Fundraiser/Concert:

NOTE: Some of what appears below were not actually discussed during the March meeting. The recording secretary has added information as a means of providing context and clarity.

Questions were raised about whether or not the event had actually been approved by the Board.

Melissa Dasher commented that the issue was discussed during the May, 2021 Board Meeting. At that time, Shelbie Thompson suggested that we should hold a gala event in the summer of 2022 similar to that we had for our 75th anniversary. No action was taken, but Shelbie was asked to follow up with some suggestions. Shelbie Thompson was at that time willing to coordinate the event.

Some related issues:

- Rusty Mumford offered to direct a musical revue in early September of 2021.
- The September 2021 meeting minutes indicate that Rusty had not been able to secure a musical director and suggested we postpone the revue until the spring of 2022.
- The January, 2022 minutes reflect that Shelbie Thompson suggested we produce a “Thank You” concert consisting of songs from shows we have produced over the years. She likes the idea but is no longer able to lead the project.
- At the same meeting, Rusty Mumford suggested we stage that event at our facility as a benefit for members and then at another venue as a fundraiser. He asked anyone interested in the project contact him. He is willing to lead the project with a co-director.
- At the same meeting, Melissa Dasher suggested we invite former cast members to participate. She also suggested we wait until the summer.
- The minutes of the February, 2022 meeting indicate that Rusty Mumford reported as follows:
 - There are volunteers willing to work on planning the event.
 - The event will be in July or August
 - There are potential venues for the event.

- Suggests a performance for members for free and then a performance elsewhere for admission.
- He will present a plan at the March meeting.
- Anyone interested in working on the project should contact him.
- Recording Secretary's Analysis: While there was conversation at a number of meetings suggesting that we would move forward with the project. There does not appear to be a record of a vote to do so.
- Rusty Mumford reported as follows:
 - The possibility of performing the revue at Christ Church
 - The possibility of performing the revue at Revival
 - Related events such as:
 - A "Memory Tree,"
 - A Photo-op
 - Door Prizes
 - A catered event
 - A 50-50 raffle
 - Mementos such as key chains and/or coffee mugs
 - He proposed a "no-charge" event with a donation box, similar to what we did for "All Together Now" or a nominal charge
 - The event would be in July or August
- Members questioned Rusty about resources and budget information.
- Rusty commented that he was still gathering that information.
- Charlie Linton/Kate Adkins moved that the organization supports the idea but would like more specific information presented at the next meeting. Rusty Mumford commented that he did not feel trusted by the Board and that perhaps someone else should step up to lead the project.
- The motion passed with 14 "ayes" and one "nay."

Jesus Christ SuperStar: Director Sharon Benchoff reported as follows:

- An all-female production team consisting of herself, Susan Robinson, Kim Cuesta, Kat Adkins and Katie Oakley
- Auditions will be held at 6 pm on March 27-29

Musician Fee Update: Melissa Dasher reported as follows:

- A committee is forming to research the issue.
- She will be reaching out to musicians in the area and will report back.

New Business

Office Calendar: Melissa Dasher reported as follows:

- There is a paper calendar in the front office. Those wanting to schedule the facility should provide specifics on that calendar.
- We will eventually transition to an electronic calendar.

Board Nominations: Sharon Benchoff reported as follows:

- Nomination Committee Chair Sharon Benchoff is accepting nominations.
- Nominations will close at the end of the May Board Meeting
- Elections will be held at the June Board Meeting

Production Committee Recommendation for the 2022-2023 Season. Production Committee Chair Shelbie Thompson reported as follows:

- The Production Committee reviewed a total of 16 submissions.
- Musicals proposed included:

- "I Do! I Do!"
- "Kiss Me Kate."
- "Little Women"
- "Singin' In The Rain"
- "Sweeney Todd"
- Plays proposed included:
 - "Crimes of the Heart"
 - "Inherit the Wind"
 - "Is He Dead?"
 - "Leading Ladies"
 - "Lone Star Love Potion"
 - "MASH"
 - "Over the River and Through the Woods"
 - "The Play That Goes Wrong"
- The committee's recommendation was based on the following criteria:
 - Technical Demands
 - Financial Demands
 - Audience Appeal and Name Recognition
 - Content of Show
 - Acting, Singing, Dance Abilities
 - Diversity in Casting Opportunities
 - Style of Shows to Create a Cohesive Season.
- The committee presented the Board with a number of possible combinations. Those appear below rank-ordered from most to least-preferred. The first option in bold is the committee's recommendation.

<u>November</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>June</u>
Little Women	Leading Ladies	Crimes of the Heart	Singin' in the Rain
Over the River...	Crimes of the Heart	Leading Ladies	Over the River...
Inherit the Wind	Is He Dead?	Over the River...	Kiss Me Kate
Sweeney Todd	The Play That Goes Wrong	Inherit the Wind	The Play That Goes Wrong
Lone Star Love Potion	I Do! I Do!	The Play That Goes Wrong	MASH
MASH	MASH	I Do! I Do!	
		Lone Star Love Potion	
		MASH	

- At the April Board meeting, the Board will vote on one show per slot. If a show appears in multiple slots, select only once.

Other New Business.

- Jerry Gietka suggested that in the future we may want to consider voting on directors rather than specific shows.
- There was discussion about whether or not we would need to meet in July. It was decided that we will make that determination during the June meeting.

Charlie Linton/Shelbie Thompson moved that we adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.

Submitted by Darrell Mullins, Recording Secretary.