



Thalian Theatre Company

(Formerly Welwyn Thaliens)

RECORD OF AGM

Meeting Venue:	Thalian Hall, WGC	Date of Meeting:	27 th March, 2023.
Time of Meeting:	8.00pm	Duration:	75 minutes
Chair:	Attendees:	Apologies:	Distribution:
Mr Vincent Clemmens	Executive Committee Members	See below	Posted on website

Point

No. Item

1. Welcome:

Vinnie Clemmens welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Apologies:

Brian King.

3. Last Year's Minutes:

No matters arising. Proposed by Annette Leishman, seconded by Peter Sayers

4. Matters arising:

None

5. Chairman's Report:

Another busy year, with three shows: Jack the Ripper, Calendar Girls and a Christmas show. The society is in the process of rebranding itself. Our new name is Thalian Theatre Company, which has been approved by the charities commission. Martin has done lots of work updating our new website and producing our agreed new society logo. We have updated our constitution (first time since 1969), and other policies are also in the process of being updated (Director's contract, contract for Musical Director, Production manager and Front of House duties). On a disappointing note, it was discovered that our NODA reports for Jack the Ripper and Calendar Girls had been plagiarised from other societies' reports. We have received no apology, and plagiarism was denied, but the responsible has retired. We were nominated for an award for best show for Calendar Girls, but declined the offer to attend the event. A donation of £550 was made to Blood Cancer UK. This had been raised by the sale of programmes and donations from audience members after the Calendar Girls shows.

Angela on our behalf has been making grant applications for small projects. Many projects have been completed and are ongoing in the hall.

Proposed by Mandy Sayers and seconded by Nick Baker

6. Treasurers Report: (Angela Monaghan)

The accounts have been reviewed by Peter Sayers as scrutineer. Thank you, Peter.

We received a grant of £1000 from Herts County Council towards our lighting project. After a positive meeting with Councillor Artem, more grants are in the pipeline. Thank you to Martin, Tim, Andy Barker, Clifton Hoyle, and Nick Mogg for the huge efforts in improving our lighting and building scenery. We continue to let the car park which brings in a regular income. We are currently letting the hall to four regular groups. Maintenance of the hall remains a large expenditure. Thanks to Martin and Tim for carrying out minor repairs and maintaining the hall on a day to day basis. Our financial position remains satisfactory.

Angela took members through the Welwyn Thaliens accounts 2022. Of note are the new stage curtains, which were a significant expenditure (under scenery). The excess of expenditure over income is £1,382.20, largely due to the current lighting project.

On a personal note, Angela expressed her wish to step back from the role of Treasurer in due course. She would like to work with someone over the next year in succession planning and transitioning into the role. If anyone is interested in this position, please speak to Angela.

Carl asked whether we plan to put on another big show at a larger theatre in the near future. We are planning to approach Welwyn Hatfield council and negotiate with Campus about the possibility of putting on a show there.

Proposed by Tammy Wall and seconded by Jackie Radford.

7. Report on works to the Thalian Hall

Tim gave an overview of the work carried out so far: Five years ago an apron was added to the stage, increasing the acting space substantially. The hall has been redecorated. We have new stage curtains and pelmet. New black curtains over the doors. New plumbing to the back stage toilet and front of house toilets. The main lights in the hall have new bulbs and electronics.

Projects carried out so far this year: a spend of £6000 on lighting project. New lighting bar and side bars with trunking (300m of cabling!). House lights. Two new lighting dimmer packs. New stage speakers. Relay speakers in the dressing rooms. New smoke detectors. A large tree has been cut down , and others pruned at the front of the hall. The alarm system and boiler have both been repaired. Hall wi-fi installed. Martin has produced and maintains the new website. We have a tool cupboard and new tools. We have a device for credit card payments. The foyer is in the process of being redecorated.

On going problems remain those of the leaking roof and damp dressing rooms. We are waiting for the council's response to these.

Before The Wiz there is some plumbing in of sound to be done, as well as construction of reversible stage flats, and a banner fixing system outside.

Future plans include: hot water in the kitchen, completion of the foyer revamp and outside signage, new stage flooring, blinds for the skylights, revamp of the men's dressing room.

Tim thanked Angela for processing all the expense claims.

8. Report from the Artistic Director

Tammy introduced the Artistic committee, comprising herself, Carl Robinson, Clive Dancey, Mandy Sayers and Nick Baker. Their purpose is to research and present shows to the executive committee to aid decisions on future shows. The intention is to produce a three year plan of shows for the society, whilst also putting on more shows each year (plays as well as musicals). There is still a focus on the 'big theatre experience', with theatres such as campus, The Sandpit Theatre in Sandridge and the University of Herts being considered. We need to recruit new members, so we will be offering free workshops for 16-25 year olds, as well as open mic nights, audition workshops and possibly a cabaret show. If you have any ideas for shows please speak to Tammy.

9. Report on Jack the Ripper – Mandy Sayers

The first time Mandy directed this show was at campus in 2002 an at the Welwyn drama festival, where we received fourth place. This production took place at the Thalian Hall in 2022 and was the first post pandemic show. It is a musical surrounding the horrific murders of women in London in 1888.

The challenge was to produce the show on a much smaller stage. A lower acting platform was added, as well as side flats with brick fascias. Huge thanks to Martin and Tim for all their hard work on this. Akls to vanessa for recreating the Thames and providing props. Thank you to Andy for the sometimes moody, sometimes bright theatrical lighting and creepy silhouettes. Thank you to Louise for costumes. Of the four main characters,(Tammy, Alison, Jenny and Maryann) Mandy's favourite 'death' was Maryann's slump inside the Caligari cabinet! The bad gang of four (Carl, Vinnie, Alex and Martin), were both intimidating and comical, while Adam carried off the role of Chairman with aplomb (what a soliloquy!). Clive portrayed the ultimate baddie with thought and skill. A good ensemble, which is vital to this show.

Mandy was delighted to bring this show back to a different venue.

Proposed by Angela and seconded by Amy.



10. Report on Calendar Girls – Clive Dancey

This show was directed by Clive and co-directed by Mandy.

We welcomed some new members for this show, namely Lisa, who played the role of Chris, and Kyle and Archie, who played the two male teenagers.

Thank you to Tim and Martin for set building, notably the piano, which became a shop counter, coffin, etc. Also for the couch and brick wall effect. Thank you to the ladies who rehearsed with Clive over the Summer. This was invaluable to achieve the results we did in this complicated show. Thank you to Mandy for dealing so sensitively and cleverly with the 'reveal' scene. Thank you to Nick and Vanessa for the back cloths. This show was extremely prop heavy, so thanks to Mandy and team for the organisation of this. There was also a big chorus who carried out their roles admirably. £550 was raised from donations and programme sales for Blood Cancer UK.

Proposed by Gill Shaw and seconded by Cark Robinson.

11. Report on the Christmas show- Alison Downes

A Night Before Christmas was directed by Alison and choreographed together with Tammy. It had been put together in just six weeks, which was a first for the society. With no compromise on quality, it was an action-packed, all-inclusive, singing and dancing spectacular, interspersed with sketches, and hosted by the wonderful Bob Fergusson. There were solos, duets, barbershop quartet, whole cast ensemble numbers, poems, and comedy men's and women's numbers. Thank you to Andy Barker for his wonderful lighting, to Vinnie for stage managing, and to all who helped front of house, back stage and in the bar, helping us to make over £1400 profit over the two shows.

Proposed by Nick Baker and seconded by Belinda Gee.

12. Election of Chairman, officers, and committee

Carried.

13. Election of Life members (if any)

None

14. Election of Legal Advisor

As and when needed

15. Election of Auditor

Peter Sayers elected.

16. Resolution to amend rules/new rules

None

17. AOB

All help with any areas of the running of the society are gratefully received. Louise is responsible for our social media, and would particularly welcome ideas and help from specialists in this area.

Jackie asked if props lists could be issued early, so that everyone can assist with items they may have at home.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

