

## **Minutes of the AGM of the Thalian Theatre Company**

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2025, at 7pm at Thalian Hall**

### **1. Notice of meeting**

Mandy Sayers, Chair, formally welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

### **2. Apologies**

Apologies received from Tim Spink, Belinda Gee, Maureen Davies, Brian King, Nick and Vanessa Baker, Tammy Wall.

### **3. Last year's minutes**

These were proposed by Vinnie Clemmens and seconded by Darren Barsby

### **4. Matters arising**

None.

### **5. Chair's report – Mandy Sayers.**

2024 was a year of firsts- First performance of Twelfth night the musical outside the US, our first youth production ( Six), our first rock opera ( Evita) and the Christmas show making the first year in which we have produced four shows.

This year we are producing Kinky Boots and Nativity. Producing four shows necessitated a large reliance on technical and backstage crew.

Projects completed last year include a new stage extension to the right, new skylight covers, an increased props and storage space and new star curtain and projector. Also a separation of the band from the bar and audience area.

This year's projects include a new stage floor, permanent sound solutions, improvements in backstage and facilities ( including headsets). Many thanks to our set builders, Tim Spink and Martin Lester, and to Angela Monaghan for her tireless effort in getting our damp issues sorted.

Moving forwards we will have changes to our bar licencing, as Peter Sayers has received a personal bar licence for members' use. We will also have an increased number of temporary bar licences available for non members use.

We plan to automate our membership system, establishing a rolling membership whereby a member receives a full year of membership benefits from the time that they take out their membership. We will remove the 'family' category to simplify the system. There will no longer be a six monthly membership available.

There are two seats available on the executive committee. MJ Scott will be proposed as Social Secretary, and Darren Barsby as Marketing and Public relations officer. Thank you to our current publicity team of volunteers.

Tim Spink is standing down as Vice Chair. However he will still be continuing with maintenance of the hall and set building, for which we are very grateful. Enormous thanks to him for all the work he has done for us up to now.

Thank you to all members of the Executive committee who work very hard also.

## **6. Treasurer's report- Angela Monaghan**

Please see the email attachment for the Thalian Theatre Accounts document for 2024.

Producing four shows in one year is expensive. Twelfth Night and Evita broke even, but Six and the Christmas show were very profitable.

Thanks to Martin, Tim, Andy Barker, Clifton Hoyle and Nick Mogg for their invaluable time and effort for these shows.

We receive useful income from letting our car park and the hall. This helps to offset the costs of running the hall.

We were presented with a huge gas bill, and after much time and effort spent, Angela managed to get this reduced to a fraction of the cost, which was all due to a faulty meter.

The society is in a satisfactory financial status. It should be pointed out that whilst we receive substantial profits from the bar, these should not be relied on to provide profit from shows.

Evita presented a much larger costume bill than expected.

We were able to hire out our new projector to the Barn.

We now have a separate reserve bank account to set aside money for projects. The priority this year is a new stage floor.

A question was posed about the projected occupancy rate at shows in order to break even. We set this at 80%. This information will be included in future. Please see the attachment for this year's figures.

## **7. Artistic Director report – Tammy Wall**

In Tammy's absence her report was read out, summarising the shows produced in 2024.

A question was asked about the make up and role of the artistic committee. The committee comprises members and non members who research possible shows for the society, taking into account the potential to sell tickets, suitability for our stage and availability of the licence. Carl asked for a budget to be given to the committee for the next season of shows. In 2026 we will be producing The Curious incident of the dog in the night time, and in 2027 we have secured the licence for Come From away. Other shows to be confirmed soon.

### **8. Report on Twelfth Night – Darren Barsby ( May 2024)**

Darren stated that directing this show was the highlight of his year. Thank you to the Thaliens for taking the risk with him and this show. He had an amazing team, including a choreographer and fight choreographer brought in for the show. Also the amazing Emma Gilby as choreographer. The cast grew to enjoy the language of Shakespeare, and the show was very well received by audiences. Jenny and her team on marketing were invaluable, notably through several performance type promotions at the Howard Centre. There was an emphasis on acting as well as singing. Also the appearance of sword fighting, as well as the whole cast performing a tap dance ( It was noted how refreshing it was to have an outside choreographer treat everyone on a level playing field in terms of ability, with no preconceptions or preferential treatment). The show received a brilliant NODA review. Thank you to everyone involved.

### **9. Report on Six, teen edition – Tammy Wall.**

In Tammy's absence, her report was read out.

This was one of the most meaningful and rewarding experience's of Tammy's life. The group of teens involved embraced whole heartedly the themes of reclaiming stories, finding your voice and standing boldly in your truth. They all pushed themselves beyond what they thought they could do. They showed courage, vulnerability, determination and heart. Thank you to the Thaliens for their support with this project. Especial thanks to the musical director, Rachel Davies, who came to every rehearsal with patience, calm and a quiet strength that grounded everyone.

### **10. Report on Evita – Maureen Davies**

In Maureen's absence, her report was read out, in which she expressed her delight at having been asked to direct this show. It was not easy to perform, but the leads were wonderful, as was the ensemble, who brought the house down. Special thanks to the very talented Margaret Johnson and her band. The show received the highest praise from audiences. It was hard work, but Maureen loved every minute of it.

### **11. Report on Stars for a Night- Alison Downes**

From our old time music hall shows to modern variety shows, this is what the society has always done well. The difference is that this show was produced in only four weeks. Everyone rose to the challenge. Particular thanks to Courtney for choreography, Darren for fight choreography and MJ for costumes. Amazing solos, duets, group and whole cast numbers. Thank you to our host, Bob Ferguson, Andy Barker, FOH, backstage and bar crews. Alison loves directing these shows as they provide an opportunity for everyone to shine, be creative, but most importantly, have fun. They represent the essence of what our society aims to be – truly all inclusive.

### **12. Election of members of the Executive Committee.**

MJ was proposed and elected as social secretary.

Darren Barsby was proposed and elected as PR and Marketing officer.

Martin was proposed and elected as Vice Chair.

All proposed by Pete sayers and seconded by Amy.

Angela stated that she will continue as Treasurer for one more year but will then be retiring. Jenny Lewin is taking on the Bookkeeping aspect of the role. If anyone is interested in shadowing Angela this year with a view to taking on the role of treasure, please contact Alison.

### **13. Election of Life Members.**

None.

### **14. Election of Legal Advisor**

As and when needed.

### **15. Election of Auditor**

Pete Sayers agreed to continue acting as scrutineer

### **16. Resolution to amend rules/new rules**

There will be a rolling automated membership system from the date you join (payable annually). Scrapping of 'Family' category. Scrapping of six month membership option.

This will take effect from January 2026.

Proposed by Carl Robinson and Seconded by Zara.

### **17. AOB**

Help was offered to build a stud wall as an interim measure to counteract the damp problem in the dressing room ( Carl).

Claire asked if anyone was tasked with focusing on diversity and inclusion. In response, we have an equality and diversity policy and a form which all members are asked to complete. Through our marketing for shows such as The Wiz and Kinky Boots we have tried to encourage as diverse a cast as possible.

The meeting ended at 8.05pm.