

# MTB Committee Meeting: 6/8/2024

## Present:

- Beccy Smart (President) (BS)
- Lucy Tytherleigh (Vice President) (LT)
- Lily Suchet (Treasurer) (LSU)
- Marcia MacSween (Equality and Wellbeing Officer) (MM)
- Isabel Hay (Communications Officer) (IH)
- Issy Davy (Workshop Rep) (ID)
- Ella Waring (Social Secretary) (EW)
- Finlay Cooper (Music Coordinator) (FC)

## In Attendance:

- Lauren Somerville (Secretary) (LSO)

## 1) Apologies:

- Sophie Lee (External Opportunities Officer / Alumni Rep) (SL)
- Modge Tait (Social Secretary) (MT)

## 2) Actions Update:

### Old Actions:

- ~~EW to send off Lizard Lounge form~~
- ~~ALL send in videos for results day video~~
- ~~EW and MT to send out form to gauge interest for Hairspray and Dear Evan Hansen~~

### New Actions:

- EW and MT to further investigate Unilife trip abroad
- ID to continue exploring potential workshop after Showcase and 48 auditions to encourage and maintain involvement after auditions
- EW and MT to contact Barrelhouse regarding Open Mic nights
- FC to further discuss a concert similar to Summer of Love but predominantly encourage those who have not yet been involved in a show to get involved
- IH to create posts exclusively to promote and create more buzz for upcoming cabaret sign-ups throughout the year (ongoing)
- EW and MT to continue planning a shared social with BOpS in October

## 3) Newbies, Spring Cab and 2nd Main Show:

- Sophie has successfully secured dates for Newbies and Spring Cab at Improv. Both shows will have a 2-night run (Newbies: 27th and 28th November 2024, Spring Cab: 2nd and 3rd April 2025)
- 2nd Main Show - Loco available w/c 10th March and can accommodate Saturday matinee for us. Tobacco unsure if they can accommodate us as of right now

#### **4) MTB Trip to see Hairspray and Dear Evan Hansen (Ella and Modge):**

- A form has been sent out on Instagram stories to gauge interest for MTB theatre trips to see Hairspray and Dear Evan Hansen this year
- Running both theatre trips ensures more opportunity for more people to see a show with MTB

#### **5) Showcase 2024 Updates and Discussions:**

- (Note: voting happened at the end of the meeting once all proposals had been discussed). In no particular order, the six successful Showcase 2024 pieces are Little Women, Anastasia, Beauty and the Beast, Wicked, Everybody's Talking About Jamie, and Cabaret
- Ellie Bell will be Head MD for Showcase and we will recruit 4 'trainee' MDs who Ellie will oversee. Each MD who will be assigned one show each, with Ellie assigned to two shows. This is to both spread opportunity in the MD role and reduce the stress and workload for one MD overseeing six shows.
- Double casting people in Showcase and 48 remains as a grey area. Whilst we need to be cautious about how many people are cast in both shows, having a totally separate 48 cast could put it at risk of being seen as a 'rejection' show for those who were not cast in Showcase, as it was seen by some last year. As we agreed that this poses a risk of creating a split within the society, to combat this we need to make more of an effort to positively promote 48 as a fun, desirable opportunity, as many may consider a main role in 48 as more desirable than ensemble in Showcase in the first place.
- Whilst a 'one main role per term' rule exists, the concern surrounding casting the same people is still being raised. There is uncertainty as to how we should tackle this - one idea is to track principal roles across the whole year instead of termly, however this is likely to become very difficult as Showcase and Pegg 48 auditions are separate from Main Shows and Winston 48 auditions, and are also panelled by different people who each have their own criteria. This has the potential to also create an environment where people only want to audition for either Showcase or Main Show in hopes of landing a main role in the one they want.

#### **5a) Showcase and Main Show: new rules / ideas to implement:**

- Only core prod roles are required to propose a show before auditions (Director/Choreographer and Vocal Coach) - callouts to fill extra prod roles will

happen after auditions to encourage those who did not make the cast to apply and still get involved. Going forward, members of rejected proposal teams will be prioritised as the first point of call to recruit for these roles and callouts, and then callouts will be made to the wider society if roles remain unfilled

- A strict attendance requirement for rehearsals to deter people from missing rehearsals - establish a maximum number of missed rehearsals before prod can make the decision to remove someone from a show
- A strict, non-negotiable requirement for full availability of cast for both tech and dress dates for any show they are cast in
- A more conscious effort will be made to reach out to those who were not cast in Showcase / 48 / Main Shows to apply for prod roles / STA as coming back after rejection can be very difficult. Place emphasis on the fact that we have lots more opportunities for everyone
- Cap Showcase cast at 85-90 for safety reasons, keeping in mind a handful of people will drop out
- A separate email will be sent in addition to rejection emails advertising all the other opportunities on offer to apply for (e.g. Newbies, shadow roles, prod etc) as listing these other opportunities right after someone has read the rejection sentence above can feel as though we are trying to sympathise / compensate for rejecting someone.

#### **7) AOB:**

- Ella and Modge have successfully made initial contact with Unilife for a trip abroad - planning is underway
- Finlay has talked with Maori about doing a concert similar to MTB x BOpS Summer of Love with the aim of getting as many people as possible involved as, on the whole, the general consensus was that this year's concert still felt quite exclusive. This would be a perfect opportunity for those who have not been cast / involved in shows or other opportunities yet to be involved
- With the 1st Main Show being earlier this year, this will also allow those who are also in Spring Cab more time to rehearse than last year.