

OUDS Meeting: Trinity Term Week 8

15th June 2020, via Zoom

Present: Alasdair Linn, Ana Pagu, Henry Calcutt, Alison Hall, Ros Ballaster, Krishan Emmanuel, Katie Friedli Walton, Georgina Dettmer, Darcy Dixon, Emma Hawkins, John Watts, Lola Beal, Nancy Case, Ariadne Si Suo, Ros Ballaster

Apologies: Mina Moniri, John Livesey, Emma Smith

Agenda

1. Guide to Anti-Racism in Theatre

KE updated the committee on some of the stuff that OxBame had been working on - a guide to producers and directors relating to a commitment to anti-racist practice. When it's finished, look to other societies (OUDS, DisDram etc) to make amendments etc, then sign on the dotted line - this is something we will all be committed to.

Focus group - BAME students already involved in the drama scene, stuff they'd been uncomfortable about in the past, to flag stuff up.

Specific welfare commitments - KE will send EH an email in the next few days.

2. Oxford Mystery Plays

In the same vein as Monologue Festival, down to OUDS to facilitate theatre for students in what will be a very disruptive MT. AL had the idea of a series of Mystery Plays - theatre around a small town, that would go through the stories of the Bible - wouldn't be a religious thing if we did it. The idea would be to do something in a 'Mystery Plays' format - a history of Oxford, do it in a big space, like Port Meadow - lots of small scenes, by students, in groups of six or less, with a performance taking place, with a marquee, hot drinks, snacks.

NC - might be worth speaking to the people who do the mystery plays each year.

JW - it's Leslie Smith, and a few others, who organise it alongside students. These are more strictly medieval in their approach. These plays should also comment on today's moral, socio political situation.

HC and AL - with possibility of Cuppers not happening, is this something that AH and LB could direct and spearhead?

AH - Cuppers a series of recorded performances from each college?

AP - issues with filming shows, streaming rights - much more likely further down the road that these will be easier to organise.

AL asked if anyone knew anything about performance in public spaces in Oxford, might be easier to do in University Parks? These belong to the University, permission would be granted by GLAM.

AL - to propose a call sometime soon with AH and LB about both the Mystery Plays and about Cuppers, better to have that contingency down as soon as possible.

If anyone has any other ideas regarding alternative forms of theatre, do get in touch with AL!

3. Programming Update

Two updated issues concerning programming - Playhouse and BT still organising next term. O'Reilly putting together contingency planning, there is progress - a clearer idea of what theatre might look like next term. What can OUDS do with the remaining Pilch week that isn't booked up with shows from last term?

4. OUDS Funding

AP thinks we should open bidding quite late in the summer - mid to late August. Does decision-making about funding need to happen in a meeting, or can it happen in a poll?

RB says historically that has happened as a poll.

AP wonders whether we have a problem with doing funding in the summer, in that same way that we have a problem with doing bidding in the summer?

AL thinks it's ok - people will still be doing things from their room.

EH - issue a welfare statement about it.

AP - on a rolling basis, take applications as they come? Might be chaotic - instead, have a deadline. Opening funding in August, with payments in September.

AL asked whether the O'Reilly are going to advertise bidding at all. AP - generally they are officially 'announced' when someone sends out a crew call, but suppose it is possible. This won't happen until bidding is over anyway - doesn't matter how many are bidding. Provisionally say 20th August, funding deadline.

Who in funding meetings - Treasurer, President, Secretary.

AP wants to have some kind of funding workshop to demystify funding - can't really happen over summer. Alternatively, a detailed document to be put together.

5. Students Saving Our Theatres

KFW had a meeting with the founders last week, she is going to be the rep for us. A series of challenges for the next five weeks (OUDS Committee to get involved as much as possible!). About awareness that it's constantly going on, linking to GoFundMe.

We need to choose what theatre we're going to support, the quicker we can relay this to the founders the better.

GD - Northwall Arts Centre and Pegasus - the work they're doing within the community, stuff they're offering, these theatres are giving platforms to work that isn't necessarily commercial.

RB - Old Fire Station as well, they do work with homeless groups.

KFW - so Northwall, Pegasus, and OFS are the three we're keen on.

AP - could we just check this with John first? Would we be insulting the Playhouse by not going to them, as well.

KFW to create a poll with these three theatres, to send around.

RB brought up Juliet Bernard Prize - not many applicants, do we want to reopen?

AL thinks we should extend - RB thinks to the beginning of 4th July.

HC to put this out in the newsletter tonight!

6. Outreach Workshops and Volunteers

GD - getting together the group of volunteers over the summer, getting in touch with teachers of schools and talking to them about schools. Going to have to be postponed because of Covid, but wants to get the ball rolling. As soon as we're allowed to go into schools, Cheney School - ultimately going in a club format.

7. Updating of Site for Access & Outreach

GD and DD have a document for prospective students to put on the website - how to get involved with directing, lighting, guide to bidding etc.

8. Graduating Companies

The ones that do have money, people are donating to charity. AP wonders about encouraging people to donate money back into Oxford Drama, as well as charity?

NC - if graduating companies can donate 50% of their profits to charity?