

OUDS Meeting: Trinity Term Week 5

25th May 2020, via Zoom

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

Apologies: John Watts, Lola Beal, Nancy Case, Mina Moniri

Agenda

1. Bidding

AP opened, making reference to JL's recent UDO statement.

JL spoke about this briefly; he had agreed with the venues that bidding won't open until the end of term, with guidance to be put out about what socially distanced theatre might look like etc. His suspicion is that, when the university guidance comes out, we might get a clearer picture of what theatre might look like.

AP feels as though the UDO statement doesn't reflect the reality of the situation.

JL doesn't see the reason not to be optimistic: we have to be prepared for shows to go ahead, his statement was informed by conversations he had with the venues. He feels there are several issues with organising and planning to have any serious decisions to be made later into the vac - that is time that is supposed to be for holidays. Yes, shows may be cancelled or delayed, but we cannot plan for that.

AP isn't suggesting not to program for next term, rather, she is suggesting that people need to be more aware that social distancing and reduced capacity may be a reality.

KE, as a member of Balliol, feels that it is unlikely that the Pilch will be running.

JL feels that there is a difference between understanding that venues may be closed and actually cancelling all bids, making a presumption about what might happen in six month's time.

RB doesn't think that the end of May will bring any great clarity; all we are doing is planning for socially distanced things to take place, with the possibility that they may not be able to happen at all.

JL doesn't quite understand what wasn't clear from his ODU statement. He worries that if we delay too much, we create more confusion.

AL will email AP, JL, HC, RB and JW to set up a meeting to discuss this further, with HC putting the statement out in the OUDS newsletter ASAP.

JL - current situation is that bids are delayed until June. At that point, two contingency plans, one for cancellation, making sure all theatre companies get reimbursed. The other plan, guidelines for socially distanced theatre.

AL - we will share UDO statement with AP's amended description **this evening**, with a meeting following - discussing potentialities of how theatre might look in MT (with those members above).

2. Freshers Fair

RB would be very surprised if this went ahead physically, might be virtual. Best way to think about next term is that everything will need a virtual equivalent.

Wait until end of May statement for some information, then AL will get in touch with the relevant people.

3. Producer Facebook Network

AP to revive this in a few weeks' time.

4. Funding Information for Website

AP has a wishlist of things to upgrade/add to the funding commission on the website. Wants to look into which funding bodies are still operational, including individual college funding bodies. Funding bidding information may also need to be reviewed, in case there is anything extra we might like to hear from people - contingency planning.

5. Juliet Bernard Prize

AL - advertisement for this to go out **tonight** with the newsletter.

6. New Senior Member

Names the committee have discussed: Sophie Duncan, David Tolley.

RB says that this person needs to be a 'post-holder', on a university post, able to take fiscal responsibility, both of these names may be problematic.

If you look up the names of tutors online, you can see what position they are in. Another place to look at is the TORCH network of theatre and performance.

You want someone who cares about and engages in theatre.

Other names floated: Wes Williams, Philip Bullock, David Taylor.

If anyone else has any suggestions, make sure to get in contact with AL.

7. Lockdown Shakeup

AL - seventeen members signed up so far. By end of week, hopefully we should have around thirty. Very exciting potential news about individuals running some workshops.

8. Other items raised

AP asked about updates on insurance. JL waiting hear back from safety officer, she said it's not a top priority right now, hopefully this will all happen soon.

AL to be in touch with GD and DD in the week.