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POSSUM POINT PLAYERS

ARTISTIC COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 3, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Marsha Shull called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM. Members present were: Marsha Shull, Richard Huffman, Steven Wimbs, Chase Schirmer, Nina Galerstein, Rosanne Pack, Fred Dean, Les Ferguson, Donna Flomp, Maddie Cuesta, Lorraine Leavel, Zach Naar, Jordan Kilgore, Claudius Bowden and Anthony Policastro. Absent: Bernie Noeller, Scott Beadle. Ann Baker Executive Administrator was also present. Quorum was confirmed.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of Agenda for meeting - Three items were added to the agenda:

1. Procedure for additional shows would be added under Old Business
2. Returns Day booth would be added under New Business
3. Motown Show Fund Raiser for 2023 would be added under New Business

A motion was made by Richard Huffman and seconded by Fred Dean to approve the agenda with those changes. **CLOSED**

B. Minutes of October 6th, 2022 meeting - There was one change in format to the minutes that were published. A section with red print relating to the director of Wait Until Dark needed to be changed to black print with removal of the question mark and any others printed with red be changed to black. After properly moving (Chase Schirmer) and seconding (Nina Galerstein) the minutes were approved as amended. **CLOSED**

III. REPORTS

A. Executive Administrator

1. The calendar in the system needs to be updated for affiliates meeting dates for 2023. It currently shows the following:

- a. Dreamers meets the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 PM
- b. Shakespeare meets the second Monday of the month at 6:30 PM
- c. Radio Company meets the third Tuesday after Executive Committee
- d. Possum Juniors meets the third Monday from 5 PM to 8 PM

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e. On the Edge schedules their meetings on every Thursday with the exception of the first week when Artistic Committee meets. Discussion took place about the reason for On the Edge needing so many meeting dates. Executive Committee had discussed the topic at their last meeting but had made no decision. The discussion raised questions about fairness in comparison. While they were scheduled to meet in the Green Room, they were flexible enough to move to another part of the theater if that needed to happen. After a prolonged discussion Donna Flomp, On the Edge chairperson indicated that the group would continue meeting weekly but would use other areas of the theater until the end of the current year. That would allow time for a long term plan to begin in 2023. **OPEN**

2. New people continue to move to the area. Some of them have interest in Possum Point Players because they had a background in community theater where they previously lived. One of the things that is currently done is the e-mail address for these individuals is given to Fred Dean so he can contact them for set construction and other chairs are notified if someone has an in their area. The committee indicated that if individuals had an interest in volunteering, we should offer them that opportunity. A good example of this would be asking them to be hosts for performances so they can get a feel for things. Anne Baker will help direct them to such activities. **CLOSED**

3. Ticket sales for White Christmas production - Both matinees are sold out. There are about 120-130 tickets sold for the evening performance on the first weekend. There are about 150 tickets sold for the evening performances on the second weekend. A waiting list has been started for individuals looking for matinee tickets. A question arose as to the procedure to be followed if additional shows are needed. The current process in the policy manual is that a decision would be made on that by a subcommittee consisting of the show director, the Possum Point President and the Executive Director. For the upcoming production the current Possum Point President is also the director. In situations, such as that, it made sense for the Vice President to be the third person on the subcommittee. Donna Flomp made a motion seconded by Chase Schirmer that for future additional performances that are directed by the Possum Point President, the Vice President would act as the third member of the subcommittee. Motion was carried. **CLOSED**

4. Unscheduled or impromptu meetings that use the theater should be cleared with the Executive Administrator. It is both an informational issue and a liability issue. **CLOSED**

B. Show Directors -

1. White Christmas - Kenny Workman reported that rehearsal for the show was ongoing. The first act has already been blocked. Work is currently underway for blocking on the second act. Set work, painting and prop list are ongoing. The cast was asked if they would be available for a Saturday Matinee performance on December 10th if other performances are sold out. There may also be a need for a Thursday evening performance on December 8th if ticket sales continue to be as good as they have been. **INFO**

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2. Wait Until Dark - Jordan Kilgore was present. The Chairperson Marsha Shull pointed out that the Artistic Committee was here to assist him as a first time director. Auditions will be on November 6th and 7th. Donna Flomp will be the stage manager. The script has been copied and print enlarged to help it be more legible. Budget is being developed. Individuals have been selected for costumes, set, lights and sound. There is still a need for hair and makeup.

INFO

3. Affiliates and Fundraisers

a. 50th Anniversary Celebration

(1) Everything for the Gala performance was donated including musicians, food and auction items. Profit was \$16,500

(2) There are about 150 plaques with old shows on them to be sold or auctioned

(3) Possum related giveaway items like t-shirt, Christmas ornaments, etc will be door prizes at upcoming shows.

(4) The puppet videos to introduce the upcoming shows have all been completed. They will be addressing the affiliates in the upcoming videos.

(5) The “50” sign for the lobby has been repaired

(6) We continue to look for \$2500 show sponsors. Dogfish Head Brewery will be one of the sponsors.

INFO

C. Executive Committee Representatives -

1. The directors list for the anniversary season was approved. **INFO**

2. The members were made aware of the weekly meetings of On the Edge (see III A 1e above) but no decisions were made. **INFO**

3. Calendar Girls had done some different things as ancillary fund raisers than are normally done with Possum productions. They sold calendars. They sold pieces of the artwork from the set. There were some areas where details of the process could have been better worked out and communicated. Examples include:

a. The calendars were selling for \$15 apiece. However, additional donations were also accepted. The result was that there was more money collected than would

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have been expected for the actual number of calendars sold. This created a book keeping problem after the sale in terms of figuring out what was paid for the calendars versus what was donated. **INFO**

b. Donations for the artwork were to be passed through to a food distribution charity. However, this meant passing dollars donated to one non-profit like Possum to another nonprofit. The need for book keeping to accurately reflect this was another issue that arose. A discussion took place about how this would best be done in the future. However, this appeared to be outside of the scope of the Artistic Committee meeting. For that reason there will need to be a committee including both Executive Committee and Artistic Committee representatives to work out a process for this in the future. This would be taken up under New Business at the February Artistic Committee meeting. **OPEN**

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Possum Juniors (PJ's)

1. Meeting with the Trustees. They are still working on a date with the new Possum Juniors board members. The meeting will take place at the beginning of next year. **OPEN**

2. The new Possum Juniors board members were updated on the PJ's documents. **INFO**

3. There is a plan for the PJ's to sing Christmas carols prior to the performance on the opening night of White Christmas. **INFO**

4. There is a goal for the PJ's to be more involved in other Possum activities like ushers, selling snacks, etc. **INFO**

B. Use of the Green Room for affiliates meetings - See Item III A 1 above **INFO**

C. Procedure for adding additional shows - See Item III A 3 above **INFO**

V. NEW BUSINESS -

A. 2023 Christmas show - reading committee had selected The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus. It is based on a story written by L. Frank Baum the author of the Wizard of Oz . It is not a musical. Selection of a director will follow the usual process. Chase Schirmer motioned and Donna Flomp seconded that the production be approved. Motion carried. **CLOSED**

B. White Christmas budget (Attachment 1) - the amount of lumber needed in the budget was different than what was told verbally to set construction. However, the written number is the one that has been submitted for approval. Les Ferguson motioned seconded by Nina Galerstein to approved the proposed budget. Motion carried. **CLOSED**

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C. Returns Day parade will be on November 10th in Georgetown. There is a plan to apply for a booth at the parade. This has been requested but no response has yet been obtained. It will need to be staffed if it is available to us. Chase Schirmer made a motion seconded by Donna Flomp that a booth be approved for Returns Day. Motion carried. **CLOSED**

D. Claudius Bowden indicated that Dreamers was looking at doing a Motown fund raising show the weekend of October 20th - 22nd, 2023. Rehearsal dates would be Wednesdays. Diane Troutman has agreed to be musical director. A question arose as to whether there would be overlap between the cast members for Motown and Ragtime which will take place three weeks before. Claudius did not foresee that as a major issue. A building use form was requested. **OPEN**

VI. ARTISTIC COMMITTEE MEMBER INFORMATION

A. Richard Huffman reported that the Shakespeare company is working on Troilus and Cressida. They would not be having a December meeting. **INFO**

B. Rosanne Pack reported that ads for White Christmas would continue running until Thanksgiving. She had been notified that we would have extra ads left over for the future. **INFO**

C. Nina Galerstein reported that the Reading Committee was working on the 2024 season and hoped to have a report available in January 2023. **INFO**

D. Steven Wimbs reported that there are three new members for Dreamers **INFO**

E. Les Ferguson reported that he had met with Jordan Kilgore as a new director last week to go over the policy requirements. **INFO**

F. Fred Dean reported that lumber continued to be expensive. **INFO**

G. Chase Schirmer reported that there had been concerns raised about the volume of sound for Calendar Girls. Some of it may have had to do with the British accents that the cast used. However, the overhead mikes are getting old and are spread across the stage. He has contacted Mid-South audio about the possibility of adding additional microphones and additional speakers as well as some changes that would allow the window to be removed from the sound booth to allow the booth to hear the level of sound directly instead of through the current in room speakers. **OPEN**

H. Zach Naar reported that the PJ's are looking at doing a non-musical for their summer show in 2023. Nina Galerstein suggested that they look at previous performances. They could repeat one of them in line with the concept being used for main stage productions during the 50th Anniversary season. **INFO**

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VII. ITEMS FOR EC APPROVAL, NOTIFICATION OR INFORMATION

1. Amendment for additional shows to use the Vice President on the subcommittee in cases where the President is also the show director

2. White Christmas Budget was approved

3. The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus was approved as the Christmas 2023 play

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE - currently is scheduled for December 1st. That would conflict with dress rehearsal for White Christmas. The following week is a potential additional show on December the 8th. Richard Huffman made a motion seconded by Chase Schirmer that we move the meeting to December 8th at 6 PM. We would reconsider that date if a performance is added that night. Motion carried. **CLOSED**

IX. ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Chase Schirmer and seconded by Richard Huffman. The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 pm.