

Minutes of Big Bad Wolf Children's Theatre Company

11 December 2011

Dobbie Hall

Present: Blair, Kevin, Colin, Iain, Susan, Grant, Linda, Karen, Fiona, Shirley, Hilary

Apologies: Julie, Mary, Mairi, Tracey

Issue arising prior to meeting

There are too many people giving the kids directions. The kids are being told they are doing things wrong and they don't know what is right. **Hilary** feels the moral is not lifting and should be by now. The kids have welcomed Finlay into the company. **Linda** commented that, when she was in the rehearsal last week, the noise levels were too high and the kids were not listening. **Mrs Graham** is finding it exhausting. **Iain** noticed kids mucking about with their phones. **Blair** thinks that, until we take their phones from the kids, things won't change. **Fiona** wonders if it's worth setting out ground rules for rehearsals regarding noise levels and mobile phones. **Blair** wondered if all factors (internal and external) are causing the problems. **Blair** thinks the company has lost some of the "family" aspect. He suggested the company do more as a group. **Linda** suggested having a Parent's Night.

How do we want to handle the situation. **Iain** feels the kids need to enjoy rehearsals or they'll leave the company. Does the **Committee** need to do something? **Karen** suggested getting the **Production Team** together again. **Colin** asked if anyone had witnessed interactions between the **Production Team**. **Blair** would like to see the **Production Team** setting out their stall again next year. The Principals would be in early again. When the rest of the Company arrives they should be brought up to date on what the principals have been doing and told how the rest of rehearsal will flow. The kids should all have their break together.

Susan asked if we should consider increasing the number of Parent Helpers in rehearsals. Not all parents get involved and keep kids quiet during the rehearsal. We have to stick with what we have for this production. **Colin** suggested speaking to the **Production Team** individually and as a Team. **Blair** will mention the problem with noise levels when the parents are in tonight for the Raffle. He will also mention that there will now be two **Committee Members** in each rehearsal to help support the **Production Team**.

Future Projects

The company has been invited to sing at Asda in Stenhousemuir on Saturday 17 December between 2pm and 3.30pm. The kids will run through their Christmas spot twice with a break between each spot. Parents have been asked to confirm kids availability by Tuesday.

We should consider approaching Marks & Spencer for a bag packing slot and Morrisons for a singing spot.

Dracula

Just over half the tickets have been sold, slightly ahead of The Wiz.

Kevin will update the Council website to show Dracula as our next performance.

We need to decide which **Committee Members** will be at each rehearsal. **Hilary** will be exempt as she will be needed at the workshop. **Kevin/Shirley** will attend on Friday. **Karen** on Sunday.

Susan has tried to contact Mr Blackstock, who purchased a large block of tickets last year, but has not managed to speak to him yet. **Susan** will also contact Donaldsons school again.

The Council website is currently showing the wrong price for Groups tickets. **Mary** will ask the Council to make sure it's corrected.

Gavin has to decide the positioning of the signer and confirm it in January.

No further changes are required on the flyer and we have sufficient quantities of them.

Programme

Colin asked if there was any benefit, other than advance ticket sales, for "Friends of BBW". There is also the potential for access to Backstage Tours. **Blair** suggested having sign up slips and pens on tables under the balcony and outside the balcony.

Falkirk Community Trust should be thanked in the programme.

Kevin feels that **Jackie** should be included in the **Production Team** in the programme. **Iain** will remove the bit about her leaving from **Blair's** introduction.

Set

We need to match up volunteers and get them down to the workshop to get the work done. The Back Cloth is nearly complete. Need to get together with **Gavin** for a Prop List. **Blair** will speak to **Fred** about props. **Hilary** will ask the kids who want to help to do the mugs etc.

Volunteers

Blair will ask tonight for more volunteers for backstage. Still short for Dressing Rooms and Runners on Thursday and Saturday nights. **Shirley** has asked **Mary** to send another email to parents to ask for volunteers. **Shirley** has also emailed Jane Allen to ask if she would be available.

Budgets

Iain has forwarded the cost breakdown for the Town Hall.

Payments

Blair now has a list of names and addresses for the band. He will send out the contracts this week

Admin Tasks

Could **Mary** check if the Dressing Rooms etc are now watertight after the problems with rain ingress last year.

Post Dracula

Blair suggested running workshops on an ongoing basis but we'd probably have problems with fitting in another night due to kids having things on. Auditions for new members could take place at the beginning of March. **Iain** pointed out that, at that time, we may not know how many places are available in the company. **Blair** said we would need to ask earlier but could have a larger waiting list. Could we open up the workshops to the Waiting List? **Hilary** asked if we should bring the Waiting List parents in before the auditions to let them know what commitment would be required. Possibly an informal afternoon tea with tables for each area of the company? We need to encourage parents with younger kids in the company to get involved so that the committee continues. **Kevin** thinks we should speak to the **Production Team**. Should we look at workshops which have an "end product" e.g. September Show. Could we open up the September Show to all the kids on the Waiting List? We would then be more inclusive, which could raise the possibility of more access to grants/tickets. **Blair** thinks the September Show should be compulsory. This would be possible as new members join but current members would have to be given notice of this, at least a year. Can we make the suggestion that all the kids in the company take part in one other show, be it Care Homes, Christmas Lights etc? **Karen** felt this may conflict with other activities the kids have. **Blair** would like to get a list of other projects for the Company and get these out to the kids so they can see what

will be going on. **Iain** doesn't think it's a good idea to tell the kids they have to take part in all projects. **Blair** feels we still need to discuss the options with the **Production Team**. He will ask **Miss Ambrose** if she wants to be involved in the workshops. If **Miss Ambrose** does not want to be involved then we may have to contact another dance school. The workshops will be open to the waiting list. There will be a parents meeting to make them aware of the required commitment. We will potentially have a "finished article" from the workshops for part of the September Show. There could also be a song/dance section to backing tapes. It would take the format of a Cabaret show. It would also give us "spots" to use for fundraising at various events. **Gavin** would like to take the kids to drama festivals. The kids could have the option to take part in acting/drama for festivals with **Gavin**, song/dance for cabaret or possibly both, depending on timing.

We want to be in the position of knowing what the next show will be before the run finishes on the current one, although possibly not until next year's show now. We could advertise the September Show during the run this year. We need to have better long term planning.

Iain asked if we could approach Musical Theatre International. Karen thinks that Beverley was asked to contact them last year. **Iain** has a list of productions – Alice, Aida, To Sawyer, Aristocats, Jungle Book (Junior), Annie, All for One (Four Muskateers), Back to the 80's, Big, Camp Rock, Carousel, Fame, Footloose, High School Musical, The King & I, Les Mis (Junior), Mulan, My Son Pinocchio, Our House, Peter Pan, Seuessical, Sound of Music, Thoroughly Modern Millie, Treasure Island, The Wedding Singer, Winnie the Pooh, Secret Life of Walter Mitty, Around the World in 80 days, Me & My Girl, Secret Garden, Railway Children, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, Happy Days and Clue. **Iain** suggested we go with a younger, family show, ideally Disney.

Gavin has been looking at Thoroughly Modern Millie, Young Mulan, Peter Pan, Fame, 9 to 5, Les Miserables (School Edition) and Young Frankenstein.

Blair thinks we need to go for a "name", something that grabs the attention. **Hilary** thinks we need to consider the cast and set as well. **Blair** thinks potentially Jungle Book or Mulan. Disney would charge approx. £3500 in royalties etc if BatB was anything to go by. Hopefully running a Cabaret in September would raise funds to help with the costs for a bigger production. We should raise ticket prices for the main show to £9 for adults but keep kids at £7 next year. We are not looking to make a huge profit, just cover costs.

We will go ahead with workshops, potentially part of the September Show. The kids would return in March until the end of May then back in August to "polish" show. Potentially 11 weeks of rehearsals. The kids could return earlier in August. There is also the possibility of taking part in festivals the following year (2013). We do need to be aware that we are not doing too much. The workshops could be "time-slotted" with part of the time for festival/acting and part for song/dance cabaret. The September Show could be "Fame" based.

Blair suggested running a social event in April.

Blair would also like to visit local High School drama groups to encourage more boys to audition. He has contacts in Grangemouth and possibly Larbert High.

Blair feels we need to hit the ground running after this show. The **Production Team** should be invited back immediately after the show to be part of the new projects. **Blair** had asked early last year about workshops but they ended up last minute and slap dash. It needs to be better next year.

AOB

Linda said the Care Homes had been a great success. The Company received a donation of £120 from the home last week. She had received good feedback from Saturday too.

Mary has spoken to Scott Campbell's mum regarding RBS sponsorship.

Meeting closed 5.10pm

Next meeting Sunday 8 January