

# LAOS AGM 2020 Minutes

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020, 7:15pm

Online via Zoom



Leicester Amateur Operatic Society | Chairman: Nick Cox | Treasurer: Vaughan Ashcroft

Secretary: Matt Barton

*Attended – Nick Cox, Vaughan Ashcroft, Matt Barton, Eleanor Bowley, Karen Hamilton, Ian Hamilton, Kat Etoe, Leeann Rana, Edward Turner, Dan Brewer, Rebecca Valentine, Jackie Oddy, Liz Knott, Josh Knott, Pip Illife, Shelley Henry, Katie Wilson, Nade Franklin, Gill Kitchener*

Discussion Point	Detail/Description
<b>Apologies</b>	Liz Valentine, Katherine Goodall, Christine Tarry, Millie Wrzyszc, Imogen Nicholls, Bronte Heller, James Beck, Sophie Kandola, Ellen French, Callie Barter, Beth Sly, Natalie Mee, Scott Tomkins, Nikki Strickland, Richard Wiles, Nicky Hignett, Jade Afflick-Goodall, Mia Dobney, Charlotte Beaver, Debbie Longley, Craig Saunders
<b>Introduction</b>	Chairman, Nick Cox introduced the meeting and welcomed everyone. Its strange we could not see each other in person for this year's AGM but thanked everyone for joining us online this year.
<b>AGM Minute Approval</b>	Liz Knott approved the minutes from last year Seconded by Jackie Oddy
<b>Chairman Report</b>	<p>Normally my report would consist of me reflecting on the year and looking back with pride on our annual show. But as we all know; this has been anything but a normal year. I also cannot yet provide firm details of our plans for next year, as lots of factors are currently in play that mark any future plans as 'hypothetical'. It has been a difficult year for everyone, we have all had to overcome a great deal of hardship and many are still struggling. The theatre industry has also of course suffered considerably, with Covid proving to be the final nail in the coffin for the current incarnation of the Haymarket. However, despite the current sea of uncertainty, we must remain positive and try to look towards a better future.</p> <p>One thing we do know is that we unfortunately won't be performing a full-scale show in 2021. This is due to a number of factors. Firstly, Covid-19 will likely place a restriction on audience numbers well into 2021, meaning the financial risk of staging a show would be too great for us. We also currently don't have a home, something that came as a real personal blow to us. The Haymarket had become a stable and supportive home for LAOS and we were grateful to be given a secure annual slot and complete autonomy with regards to our choice of show. We remain hopeful that the theatre will be back up and running within the next 12 months and the council have already indicated that they are committed to ensuring it remains a performing arts space, as well as potentially diversifying into other uses. The final hurdle is our financial situation; though I won't steal Vaughan's thunder, the sudden closure of the Haymarket took a considerable sum of our own money with it. Therefore, fundraising will likely be our focus for 2021. We have started to discuss the idea of staging some concerts next year, once it is safe again to rehearse as a company. These plans will be explored further towards the beginning of next year.</p>

	<p>I know many of our members, production team and fantastic cast were very excited to stage Rent and we remain committed to doing so. However, this will likely now be in the summer of 2022. Again, this depends on a number of factors, but we believe this to be the most sensible course of action at this time.</p> <p>We are very grateful to those members who have still paid their subs into this year, your support is much appreciated. We have taken the discussion to not enforce membership payments this year, due to the fact that we have largely been inactive. Not paying your fees this year will not have any impact on your membership. However, if you would like to continue to pay in support of the society, your donation would be greatly appreciated. That being said, there will be no judgement on anybody who wishes not to pay, as we recognise the impact of Covid has been very difficult financially for a number of us.</p> <p>We have tried to keep the LAOS candle burning by hosting our lockdown quizzes and it has been lovely to see people smiling and getting involved. Let's look to the future and remain hopeful that one day soon we will be back in a rehearsal room doing what we love again.</p> <p>Thank you to the committee and our members for your continued support. Best wishes to you all and your families at this uncertain time and I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year. We will be back!</p>
<p><b>Treasurer Report</b></p>	<p>It's been a very odd year for everyone and the accounts are very depressing to see. I can't hand out sheets this year but instead I will 'screen share' for everyone to see. If anyone wants physical copies of the accounts then do let us know and we will be happy to send those out.</p> <p><b>Quick Breakdown of costs:</b>  We gained over £1,000 in membership subscriptions so thank you for your continued support!  Overall, for 2020 we are in a deficit of £12,392 from last year.</p> <p>This is mainly due to Leicester Haymarket falling into administration, our 2020 rehearsal costs and future show deposits etc.</p> <p>We are pursuing the Leicester Haymarket liquidators (CBA) to try get this back.  We are pursuing MTI to get our show deposits back.  We are also pursuing Charades Costume Company who still hold a deposit for Half a Sixpence which never happened due to Kilworth House.</p> <p>It is unlikely to get anything back from the liquidators, but we will also pursue our insurance company to see what we can claim back that way</p> <p>We are hoping to do some fundraisers for 2021 to try recuperate some of the debt for this year and keep the society going for the future years.</p> <p>On a positive note, we have been in worse situations before financially and still continued to put on shows so onwards and upwards to LAOS.</p>
<p><b>Propose the accounts</b></p>	<p>Rebecca Valentine approved the accounts  Seconded by Joshua Knott</p>

<p><b>Election of Committee, leavers and Approvals</b></p>	<p><b>Nick Cox available for re-election as Chairman</b>  Approved by: Rebecca Valentine  Seconded: Liz Knott</p> <p><b>Vaughan Ashcroft available for re-election as Treasurer</b>  Approved by Nade Franklin  Seconded: Leeann Rana</p> <p><b>Matt Barton available for re-election as Secretary</b>  Approved by Dan Brewer  Seconded: Jackie Oddy</p> <p>We are saying farewell to Ellen French from the committee this year as she has moved away from Leicester. She will continue to support and help the committee where she can in the future. We thank her for all her contributions this year.</p> <p><b>This allows 1 vacancy available to be on the committee:</b></p> <p><b>Dan Brewed proposed himself to join to the committee</b>  Approved by: Edward Turner  Seconded: Nade Franklin</p> <p><b>Nade Franklin has served 3 years on the committee and is up for re-election. She still wishes to remain a member of the committee for another 3-year term.</b>  Approved by Kat Etoe  Seconded: Eleanor Bowley</p> <p>The current LAOS Auditor will continue to audit LAOS' accounts. Vaughan to arrange an audit for the last 2 years.</p>
<p>Any Other Business</p>	<p>LAOS is 130 years old; we will continue to survive and thrive into the future to within the legacy of LAOS. If LAOS can withstand a world war, we can withstand this pandemic.</p> <p>Previous Chair, Jackie Oddy, expressed her support and gratitude to the committee. 'I know all too well the difficulty of being on the committee and the problems occurred in the past, but I can't imagine the challenge of this year and the current situation' 'We have been in financial difficulties before and recovered so I know LAOS will continue to survive and thrive in the future. We are all behind you and your decisions for the future and will support you all the way, thank you'</p> <p>Nick thanked Jackie for her kind words of encouragement. Here's to the future of LAOS. Happy Christmas to everyone!</p>