

AAPTLE Meeting No. 8

Tuesday 11th August 2020, 12:00 on Zoom, chaired by the PMF

Present:

David Evans – PMF/ABTT/SiPA; Dan Shelley – PMF; Johanna Town – ALD; Mandy Ivory-Castile – PMF; Kinnetia Isidore; Sunita Hinduja – FMTW; Tracey Elliston – PMA; Peter Mckintosh – FMTW; Owen Thomas – SMA; Fiona Watt SBTD; Max Jones – SC; Katrina Lindsay – SC; Dom Bilkey – ASD; Grit Eckert – ASAM; Bruno Poet – Stage Sight; Ian Saunders – ALD; Stuart Porter – ALD.

Apologies:

Apologies were offered by Freelance Task Force, Costume in Theatre Association & Stage Directors UK.

Apologies will only be included if the entire organisation is unable to attend.

Welcome

The PMF welcomed all to the meeting and drew attention to last meeting's minutes for review in the AAPTLE Slack group. New attendees representing Association of Scenic Artists and Makers (ASAM) were welcomed. Also, a reminder for attendees to update their screen names to list who they are and which organisation they are representing.

- Update on Action Points from last meeting:
- All organisations to add their basic membership numbers and various categories and a rough definition of what that covers to a new slack channel #membership_numbers before the next meeting on 11/08/2020. It was confirmed that most members associations had passed on their numbers. The last few were added in the meeting. This information will be held on a Slack. Info supplied will be collated for later use.
- Check the dates your organisation is due to host & chair meetings. It was confirmed all associations were happy with the current hosting/chairing schedule proposed.
- Create guideline for Minutes and a template for future use and add to #minutes Slack Channel. The Minutes guidelines and Minutes Template have been added to #minutes Slack Channel for all associations to refer to and use.

AGENDA ITEMS

Further info on agenda item:

#WeMakeEvents – Update: Requests from #WeMakeEvents planning meeting was for all associations and individuals to push the event on all forms of social media, to help raise the profile.

WME kicked off in Manchester with the Flight case March. The Thames event has a Watch Party attached which will be available on Facebook, this will enable everyone to join the events on the boat. This live stream goes live at 20:45 on Tuesday 11th. A brief overview of the plans was given with additional info from Wales and Scotland.

BECTU/Equity Recap:

- Members discussed the pros and cons of the previous meetings guests from BECTU and Equity.
- It was raised that we should invite reps from BECTU & Equity once a month, for them to update and inform this group of what they are doing. This would also give us the opportunity to continue a dialogue and interrogate.
- We agreed that we should give advance warning of questions and points of discussion, for the reps to be prepared. Advance questions should be proposed on Slack.
- We had an update from members who had been present at recent Equity/UK Theatre / SOLT negotiations regarding the failure to produce clause. We were informed that members had been successful with pushing back on this proposed change. The compromise of pay points has been agreed to change from 3 payment points to 6 (ie: signing, white card, final model, designs agreed, rehearsals, performance/Press). Ensuring that set and costume designers have more security throughout the process. There are more discussions to be had, updates will be continued.
- It was raised that we have little power from the numbers of designers and directors who are members of Equity. Last week the Equity rep had stated that Actors were always going to be the priority of the union because the vast majority of members were actors. Should we therefore encourage our members to join the unions to give us more power “at the table”.
- It was also raised that BECTU work hard for and seem to understand TV, however they always state the theatre workforce are more difficult to understand. That we are too many people with too many different needs.
- Discussions were had about the Pro’s and Con’s of both BECTU and Equity. Which would better protect our members and associations. It was raised that there is little faith or trust in the unions.
- It was raised that both Equity and BECTU should be actively courting AAPTLE, to encourage us and our members to join the unions.
- Many associations voiced that their members often feel disappointed by communication they have with either union, the outcome being lots of members simply do not join either union. This seemed to be a very common theme amongst associations present.
- Shared disappointment in the unions approach even in this moment of crisis. Also, the unions lack of speed.
- Equity and BECTU are our current route to SOLT & UK Theatre and central government (DCMS).
- Equity Designers committee was discussed. There are limited numbers of designers within Equity. The designers committee work very hard, there has been a high turnover of members recently.

- Agents v's Unions, is it better to have an agent rather than a union membership?
- It was raised that there was disappointment with the unions ability to offer a reduced package during Lockdown.
- It was raised that we should engage in open and frank conversation. Asking what they could do for us and in turn how we and our members can help and encourage. Friendly constructive conversation.

Aims and Manifesto

- Final draft of the Aims document which has been on Slack to be updated over the next few days. Thanks to those who have worked so hard on this document.
- Collate a list of regular representatives from each association. Encouraging regional voices and diversity.

AOB

- It was raised that we should be encouraging our diverse members to join the meetings each week. Actively encourage the diversity of our group. We must keep working on this.
- This week's meeting was lacking in diversity and it is each of our responsibility to challenge this.
- Mindfulness of ensuring regional voices was also raised, from all four nations.

ACTIONS ARISING

- Invite Paul Fleming – Equity General Secretary along to our meeting on 1st September.
- Invite a BECTU representative along to our meeting on 1st September
- Add representation to next weeks agenda. Ensuring diversity and representation is given time in our next meeting.

Next week's host is Scene Change: Tuesday 18th August 12 noon.