

STAGE-M Program Selection Committee (PSC) December 11, 2018 – Minutes

I. Call to order *Time:* 6:12

Members present: Frank Hartley, Laura Taylor, Kristy Motz, & Bruce Morgan; Chris Kesting arrived 6:25.

Members absent: Ed Mallett, Bob Clark (Bob has resigned from the committee)

II. Entertain comments about the Saturday (December 1, 2018) STAGE-M meeting from any PSC member(s) who attended

1. Concerns were raised about the deadline for the program selection recommendations in terms of timing of advanced publicity.
 - a. PSC committee representative pointed out this had been discussed earlier in the year and the later deadline for recommendations was approved.
2. Next STAGE-M general membership meeting is scheduled for January 5, 2019.
3. Insurance and liability issues that were raised during the Saturday meeting were discussed.
 - a. It was recommended the Board explore this through CTAM.

III. Congratulations to Laura on her election to the position of vice-chair of STAGE-M

A. Status of revised bylaws of STAGE-M

1. Bylaws are nearly done – the tentative ones are up on the website.
 - a. They have not yet been formally presented or voted upon.
 - b. If/when revised bylaws are accepted, Laura will become chair of the PSC.

IV. Production Suggestions

A. Four PSC members responded to the chair's request viz. tentative final choices of productions for the PSC to recommend for the upcoming season

1. The productions chosen (in no particular order): *August: Osage County*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Evita*, *The Foreigner*, *Noises Off*, *Once Upon a Mattress*
 - a. *Dancing at Lughnasa* and *The Foreigner* were each selected by all four of the responders

Summary Discussion:

The committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Board *Dancing at Lughnasa*, (Phil Himebaugh directing) for Fall 2019, and *The Foreigner*, (Emily Aslakson directing) for Spring 2020.

The committee engaged in a lengthy and in-depth discussion about the final production recommendation for the season (Summer 2020), traditionally the summer musical. The only show/director combination the PSC has received is for *Evita*, Aaron Wilkinson volunteering to direct with Laura Taylor as musical director. Traditionally, every other summer Stage-M produces a family-friendly/children-involving musical. The musicals of summers 2017 and 2018 did not, and the musical for Summer 2019 does not, meet that criterion – it was mentioned that younger persons can be cast as supporting extras in “Little Shop.”

Laura pointed out that there is a scene in *Evita* where children have a singing number with candles.

Kristy said the content of *Evita* isn't really the same as a family-friendly musical for friends and family members to bring children to see other children.

Kristy presented the balance sheets for four recent summer musicals to emphasize that Stage-M needs to turn a profit on these summer shows to function.

According to the balance sheets she received:

2015 – *Willy Wonka* made \$9000 (attendance of 1763)

2016 – *Mary Poppins* lost \$4000 (attendance of 1740)

2017 – *South Pacific* made \$1300 (attendance of 836)

2018 – *Hunchback* lost \$8400 (attendance of about 842)

STAGE-M Program Selection Committee (PSC) December 11, 2018 – Minutes, continued

Extensive, productive discussion continued. Laura asked what family-friendly musicals we haven't done since she thought we should avoid repetition. She suggested *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (Grand Rapids Civic has the car). *The Sound of Music* (although STAGE-M has produced it before and it was scheduled again until rights were pulled) was mentioned.

The Program Selection Committee, at the next STAGE-M general membership meeting, will ask that the following be discussed at Board Level.

- The challenge, and suggested ways to mitigate that challenge, of recommending a show with a confirmed director 18 months away, especially a show as involved as a large summer musical. For example, if the production season were to follow the calendar year (January through December), with the upcoming season announced in December of the previous year – the 2020 season would be announced in December 2019, it might be easier to recruit directors for desired productions, or to have directors apply with a production to which they will commit, for the upcoming season.
- We strongly suggest the board codify either what has been “tradition” for STAGE-M, or decide on a production season framework, so the Program Selection Committee has that framework in writing to help guide its recommendations. The “traditional” season framework of STAGE-M as understood by many members and directors is:
 - A holiday show every other year in the fall.
 - A family-friendly musical every other summer.

Action:

Frank moved that we recommend *Evita* as the summer 2020 production. The vote was 4-1 in favor, with Kristy dissenting. It was also suggested that STAGE-M begin to develop and provide youth programming to offer educational and performance outlets for our talented youth to continue their interest in theater.

V. New Business

1. Bob Clark has resigned.
2. Terms of office are up for Ed, Kristy, Frank and Bruce.
3. Remaining committee members are Laura and Chris.
4. New members will need to be solicited for next year.
5. The committee expressed deep thanks to Frank for his work the past two years as PSC chair.

VI. Adjourn

Time: 7:34 pm