Minutes from Showstoppers' AGM 2015

Thursday 16th March 2015, 18.00pm in 34/3001

Expected

- RJ Robin Johnson (President)
- AP Anna Pinnell (Vice-President)
- AB Andy Banks (Secretary)
- PB Peter Bridgwood (Treasurer)
- FMD Fiona McDowell (Social Secretary
- GM –Georgia Meredith (Development Officer)
- SK Sev Keoshgerian (Tours Officer)
- RF Robyn Fryer (Webmaster & Promotions Officer)
- DW Dan Wills (Webmaster & Promotions Officer)
- AFC Alyssa Fox-Charles (Ordinary Member)
- CL Cat Lewis (Ordinary Member)

Apologies & Absences

Non-Committee Present

- JM Jed Marshall
- TP Trini Philip
- KP Kimberley Pearson
- BW-Ben Willcocks
- JHR- Jess Hector
- CT Charlie Taylor
- JC Josh Cox
- GT Gem Tunley
- OW Olly Williams
- JB Joe Barr
- CH Charlie House
- AM Angry Morgan
- MS Michael Smith
- BG Becky Griffin
- JHY Jamie Hemingway
- DM Danny McNamee
- PJ Phoebe Judd
- EF- Ellie Fowler
- DNL Daniel N'Guessan Lopez
- LE Lydia Edge

KA - Kenni Alli

JMC - Jeremy McCabe

JM – Jamie Martin

JS – Josephine Ssemuyaba

HC - Hannah Cann

Agenda

I. REVIEW OF THE YEAR

RJ: So yeah, first of all we need a review of the year, Miss Anna Pinnell!

AP: Don't do this to me, I'm not even drunk!

RJ: Well, we'll do each person's review as they stand up, they'll have 20 seconds each

AP & RF "haven't done anything this year."

RJ: Why just talk about it, when you can sing about it? Forgive me.

Cheer as Robin prepares to sing

RJ: It started out kinda wrong, it didn't start quiet or slow and there where loads of surprises, but then one morning we woke to realise, we had a good thing showing. It's not that nothing went wrong, Merrily!

Applause

RJ: Sondheim too led perfectly into our 24 hour show, 24 hours to learn, what happened in that show?

Mamma mia spoof, words too fast for me to write...sleep deprivation, show elation and other things. Well written.

Followed by the Phantom MESS, pounding and crying.

Again, followed by a spoof of Greased Lightin' for Freshers. Brilliant costumes, cheese and lots of dough mentioned.

RJ: At the 25th annual Putnam bee, amazing reviews and hilarity, and loads of fun for the audience 'cos everyone likes spelling with Sugden and Josephine, it was a very nice, very nice, very very very nice small show! We had a cabaret old chum, please do more cabarets! I don't want to show off no more, it was pretty good though, I don't wanna kill tunes no more, I don't want to compete with Phoebe's voice no more, I don't wanna show off but it made MONEY! Thank you guys it's been a swell year on stage, Drowsy and Showstoppers took my life over, and that's your year in review!

APPLAUSE AND WOOPING. Robin is some kind of God.

RJ: So, a finance review, Peter?

PB: It's been a fantastic year for Showstoppers, Grease earned lots of money, and Drowsy did too. I've spent all of it now on 2 big purchases, one new mac for keyboard Mainstage and patches, and the microphones deal,

credit to Charlie House, with SUSU so they bought 8 mics which they rent to us at a tiny price, we should make £10000 savings over the next five years. So don't worry, I haven't left society in bedlam, we still have money. Good for Edinburgh shows woop woop.

RJ: Next up, the constitution review!

II. REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION

RJ: We won't read the whole thing unless you want us to, we'll just explain the changes we've made.

Unanimous consent.

AP: Don't read the small print and you'll be fine!

RJ: Yeah this bit's all the same, corrected some typos erm...we've changed cabaret from once a term to once a year.

AP: Because of the fuss and hassle it caused this year, it would be good but we don't want to say you HAVE to have one per term.

RJ: We've also given the Secretary the power to convene meetings in case the President is unavailable, look there's a formatting error, lol! Erm, duhduhduhduhuh

Lots of scrolling.

AP: Me and Robin have the power to expel people whenever we want, muahahaha!

RJ: Under productions, we've said no member of a creative team/cast can be part of both Freshers' and Small shows, but producers can. We've also formalised cast and prod liaisons, and written them into the constitution.

AP: These are the new things that we tried out this year, you all experienced them.

RJ: We've added rule about committee care, it was unspoken before, aka Drowsy.

RJ: And yeah that's it, so now to vote it in over past years' versions, or to reject it

AP: Any questions?

RJ: Does anyone want to read specifics?

AP: Clarification?

Noone seems to need this, or at least care enough about it. This is probably a good thing, as if it wasn't passed I don't think any of us know what we would do...

RJ: In which case, eyes closed. Your options are to pass or reject the constitution, or abstain, so ok

New 2014/15 Constitution under Robin Johnson is voted in, which replaces all other versions on record.

RJ: Now onto the exciting bit, elections! So can we have nominees for Presidents and Vice Presidents up please!

PRESIDENT/VICE-PRESIDENT

AB & CL vs. TP & GM vs. SK & BW vs. JC & CT

Alyssa - Acting Secretary for P/VP elections

Andy Banks/Cat

We're both 2nd years, and have both been on committee a year. We've been involved in every Showstoppers' show since we arrived at uni. We served two different roles on committee – bringing together two different sets of skills. Cat tended to the needs and wishes of members, Andy dealt with organisation and communication. We are both committed. We intend to keep weekly meetings, action tables, to make sure Edinburgh is fully supported after Easter. We will continue Edinburgh following this year's model, Andy is also on the Edinburgh sub-committee. Cat wants to make cabaret a good thing, and wants to be able to showcase the skills of the society, with committee support we can pull it off. They want to get workshops up this year, by getting them up and running from the beginning of the year, and plan to aim workshops towards developing the skills of the society. As for socials, shows are fun, but can be hard work, we want socials outside of rehearsals to be more of a thing, for example committee presence at karaoke every week. Andy wants to continue building bridges and keeping crossover between sister societies, and StageSoc. They will create pitching handbook (taken from Lucy's committee handbook), with this developed handbook for pitching being created over Easter.

Trini/Georgia

Georgia has been on committee this year as Development Officer, has a strong background in musical theatre, lots of contacts beneficial to Showstoppers, has done lots of Showstoppers shows, and is doing TG showcase which can keep up relationships. I'm organised, friendly and dedicated. Trini is SUSU Student Groups Officer, so she knows about how SUSU runs, deals with funding on SUSU committee (?), is working in entertainment in SUSU and therefore has contacts, has been to lots of committee meetings so she knows how it works, and she's on SUSU TV committee.

They've been in a majority of roles within cast and prod shows, but know how difficult it is to not been cast in shows, and want to increase ways members can get involved in shows when not cast. We're good at working together, and bring each other down to earth. We have different styles of communication, are very approachable, have been involved in PA for ages, and have lots of good relationships with lots of people. Trini is good at administration etc. and SUSU funding, Georgia cares about members. Showstoppers deserves a good team. We will create a prod team handbook, with dates organised at the start of term for workshops and socials – one each per month. Cabaret, we want one at the start of the term for the Freshers. Georgia says the band is invaluable to Showstoppers, so it is important to include them in socials, making them a part of the society.

Sev/Ben

We want to start by saying Robin and Anna have done a fab job this year, and we want to continue this. Sev would bring committee experience, Edinburgh funding knowledge, and how to run a society from Robin, we have now got two shows going up to Edinburgh, when we had none last year. I have committee experience as a liaison which meant I had to cope with different experiences, I learnt a lot. Ben says a Vice-President needs to

be reliable, organised and help with prod teams, he throws himself into everything, loves Showstoppers. This year I am a fresher, so I know how to welcome freshers, and what it's like to come into a new society.

We're totally on the same wavelength, and want to push the society in the same direction. We're very similar in terms of character, ie. Professionalism/still want to have fun. We would take meetings in the same direction as we're very similar. We want to endorse professionalism, continue this. Proposition of a mentoring scheme, with freshers assigned to society members so they can talk to about cabaret nights/shows coming up – this would help to consolidate freshers into the society. Committee will go to Freshers' show rehearsals. Let's bring fun to the society!

Josh Cox/Charlie Taylor

Charlie wants to increase the regularity of workshops, focusing on dance workshops, singing techniques, audition techniques workshops, with a Christmas cabaret, led by committee and freshers to give them a chance to perform. Non-drinking socials have proved popular, and they have a discussion about having an unauditioned chorus – still keeping auditioned ensemble but allowing other people to get the confidence to perform. Liaisons would have to come to rehearsals every two weeks, to keep things communicated, a society wide feedback form every month to the whole society, to allow feedback from everyone. We would ask the President and VP to attend the first rehearsal of each show. We will create a handbook that details all the show slots and how they can pitch etc., which would be good to get to freshers. Minutes and agendas would go up asap. We'll have show trip socials. Show clothing for everyone too. Josh has been on committees, organised student things twice in SUSU, has been in shows etc., and has good relationships with everyone. Charlie has been in shows and in different roles. We have good working relationship!

How would you overcome Showstoppers' incredibly busy schedules? Not forgetting we have to work around other societies shows etc.

AB/CL – We would make sure workshops are relatable to rest of society, TG manage to keep them up, we will connect it to what is going on in the society, make workshops related to things we're doing.

TP/GM – The past year's workshops have been organised on an ad hoc basis – don't do too many, come up with schedule, once a month, so we know exactly when they are.

SK/BW – Working with development officer, we would supply one workshop a week, with all of committee to go to every workshop, and bring their freshers with them, as incentive.

JC/CT – They don't need to be weekly, we will use society feedback to see what the society wants, which will make workshops very beneficial.

How do you work well as a pair?

JC/CT – Outside of Showstoppers Josh has leadership, Charlie has a music background, and their relationships are based on colleagues who bounce off each other very well.

SK/BW – Good partnership, did a show with TG before Showstoppers, great friends

TP/GM - Trini would deal with SUSU. Hopefully as you have seen we don't tread on eachother's toes, we are friends and have a professional relationship

AB/CL – We work well as a pair, we're professional, AB livens CL up and CL reigns AB in.

If you as a pair were to pick a Freshers' show and a Main show right now, what would you pick?

JC/CT – Loserville for Freshers' as it's loads of fun, and they want to relive teenage lives. Hairspray for main as it's really exciting and fun for all

SK/BW – Hairspray for Freshers', it is great fun and has loads of energy. The Producers for main show, as it is a triple threat show, great fun and can bring together other societies.

TP/GM – Camp Rock, it has the same vibe as previous good Freshers' shows, it's young and fun. Oklahoma as main show, it has big choruses, good main roles, and a good name to bring in audiences.

AB/CL – Hairspray for Freshers', people joining societies want to do a show which is a lot of fun, and Les Mis for main, a challenging contrast to Hairspray

One of the difficult parts is saying no to people – to be the bad cop, to give feedback to unsuccessful pitches, do you have experience of that sort of thing?

AB/CL – Cat's been an Ordinary Member and show liaison, she needed empathy for both sides of the situation. You need to understand how best to express things. Andy has been on the back end of unsuccessful pitches, experience of the sad side.

TP/GM – We have experience of saying no to freshers auditionees, inviting them along to other auditions, and times in Grease conversations had to happen to resolve small problems without escalating them.

SK/BW – As show liaison I had to give feedback as it was part of the role, I had to keep professionalism and not be harsh.

JC/CT – Josh is a nurse, deals with empathy, and having experience being on the other end of the bad news, they want to keep the society behind them, and take from other people.

Three words to sum yourselves up?

JC/CT – Dedicated, passionate, experienced

SK/BW - Professional, fun, innovative

TP/GM – Hard-working, fun, friendly

C/A – We'd be Candy

Showstoppers is quite a close knit group, how would you keep your personal relationships from tainting your decisions as President and Vice-President?

AB/CL – We've both been on committee a year, had to put personal lives behind us and be professional, we know that people will still be our friends.

TP/GM – We're a society full of divas, we've all been involved in show with disagreements, open communication and understanding. Had experience in SUSU when Showstoppers came up.

SK/BW – Personal and professional bias cannot overlap on committee, we wouldn't let it.

JC/CT – We have to keep personal friends out of the equation and do what's best for the society.

Voting Opens: Sev is the new President with Ben as his Vice-President!

Andy resumes as Secretary

TREASURER

AS vs. AM

AB as Andy Sugden (Channeling the spirit of his namesake. You know why they call us the Andys.)

Hi, I'm Andy and I'm running to be your treasurer. I really hope it is Andy Banks reading this out as he told me he would be, or that joke doesn't really work. Just to mention, in case anyone doesn't know, the reason I cannot run in person tonight is because Catherine bought me tickets for Christmas to see a show that is on at the Mayflower tonight. As much as I desperately want to be on Showstoppers committee, skipping that would probably be a step too far!

Anyhow, why do I want to be on Showstoppers committee, you may well ask? I've been a cast member in two Showstoppers shows now, and co-directed last week's profit-making show with our esteemed out-going president. During these shows and the intervening period, I've made a hell of a lot of friends in this society, including some of my very best friends, and as someone who came into '13' as a weird loner who hung around the outskirts of TG, I really want to give something back to this society that has welcomed me so totally.

I think I would be a good choice for a committee position because I have a lot of experience in and around the society, as well as PA in general, being in TG, Showstoppers and ComedySoc and knowing a lot about StageSoc and the difficulties that they face by... errrm... proxy. In a committee that is likely to contain a lot of inexperience and, therefore fresh ideas and energy, I feel that I would be a good choice as treasurer to temper some of that energy with a harsh screen of realism. Through my time, I've seen and helped create a large number of budgets, and have the perseverance needed for this role.

Treasurer would be an ideal position for me as it's a role for an experienced head like mine. I would keep the same approach exactly that Peter Bridgwood has brought in the last two years, with budgets being looked at and strongly questioned during pitching sessions so that, when shows come round and money is spent, the budget is strong enough that no large losses are made. If Showstoppers were to pitch for and get the Nuffield slot for next year, I would make sure I was as involved as I could be in that show, making sure the budget was tight from the beginning and that any overspend was passed to me immediately. I would therefore hope to integrate myself onto the team as either an official or unofficial Executive Producer in control of budget.

Other than that, treasurer is an interesting position in which new ideas at this time are not necessarily required. Peter has done a very good job, and the recent radio mic deal is a fantastic one for Showstoppers that will provide us with a lot more money to put on amazing shows through the years. One idea I have had to maybe streamline the budget pitching process is to provide a 'standard' Showstoppers contribution to each slot, possibly varying by slot, to pay for specific things, most likely Stagesoc hire and a certain level of publicity. By doing this we take away the mystery of the contribution, and of course can always provide more if we feel a show is adventurous and would be good in a way that will really benefit the society.

As I'm doing my masters next year, too much time will be spent doing that to overcommit to shows, but being on committee would keep me involved with the society well and help me to give something back. Thank you very much for listening, sorry again for not being there in person to answer questions.

AB sits back down and starts to minute again.

AM: Hi, my name's Angry! Firstly I'm a Maths student, I'm not very good with words, but I do love numbers! I've produced 2 shows now and been in charge of budgets for both of them, Grease made a huge profit!. I enjoy doing budgets, so I'd enjoy picking each apart at pitches, I know what makes a safe budget. What I'd do if you voted me in, is to form an edited budget template to make it easier to use and understand, as the first time I looked at it I was confused. I'd give support and help to all producers, whether they're new or have done it a lot. I'd like to enforce the Box Office system that I helped Charlie develop, it's an easy way of getting in tickets and it uses the new printer, and manages reservations a lot more efficiently. I'd like to make sure show casts all have membership this year. Erm, what I'd like to do with the money, assuming we have enough after the shows and spending it on radio mics and the Mac (which are amazing!), is buy a few little things; like hairspray, make up and gel for shows to use. They're always bought by cast for shows, and then we don't use all of it. It would save money and benefit the boys as they have to scrap on girls' make-up. Full length mirrors for the Annex too, perhaps collaborate with TG and LopSoc, as when Cat brought one for Merrily, it was useful, especially as there were so many costume changes. It saves going outside in the foyer.

JHR: Obviously, Peter Bridgwood successfully got us 8 radio mics, most casts are larger than 8, so all the principals of Into the Woods are deserving of radio mics, would you buy more?

AM: I don't think it would be appropriate to buy more, they're quite expensive, there's not enough moneyfrom Showstoppers to have more, it would have to come from a shows budget, that they'd have to squeeze it out of, not every person can have a mic.

PB: The radio mics we have, there are 8 packs and receivers, but there are more capsules.

AM: There are more headsets in SUSU too, I think they have 8 Britney Spears-type ones, only pacs we'd need to switch.

BW: You'd be potentially the 3rd /4th person in line to run meeting, how would you run committee, eg. the sub-committee for 24?

AM: I feel like, I would rise to challenge as best I could, don't think I've ever properly had the opportunity to be a leader, but I could do it really well. I'd rise to it, read all the minutes and the agenda, this is what I mean I'm not good with words! I'd just research a lot and make sure I'm really prepared. I'd look into it a lot so I would be more comfortable talking about it.

PB: I'm "Budget Bridgwood," partly due to my heavy scrutiny of budgets. Could you bring the strictness that is required when speaking to prod teams?

AM: I think I would, when I came to summer pitches, knowing you weren't there, I was thinking I could say "You can't do this or that," not realising you'd done both of them, so I was a little disappointed! I helped Charlie do the Spelling Bee budget, which was the first time he properly looked at a budget and I was like "You can't do this!" If I can tell my own boyfriend "No no no," then I think I could to other people.

MASSIVE APPLAUSE FOR THIS INDEPENDENT WOMAN! YOU GO GLEN COCO! Budget Dominatrix??

Voting Opens: Angry Morgan elected as the new Treasurer

SECRETARY

AB vs. KP vs. JC

Alyssa resumes as Secretary

AB – I'm a 2nd year, have been Secretary for the last year, I know how to write agenda, but have made mistakes. I've not been as organised as I could have been, for various reasons, I've learnt that I need to organise my time a lot more effectively and efficiently. I'm comfortable with the roles of secretary, I'd introduce deadlines with Sev and Ben that must be met, and have committee deadlines regarding minutes, and if needs be a committee minute review at the beginning of meetings. I know how the society works and am committed to maintaining its high standards.

KP – I'm quite organised, I tend to make a good list, I keep myself quite organised. It's been a privilege to be a part of the shows, Trini and Georgia called me and asked to be an Assistant Producer after Grease auditions. I know that I would be very passionate and dedicated, and I do psychology so have a lot of time on my hands.

JC - Secretary is one of the important roles, I want to improve on getting committee minutes and meetings out in advance, get the minutes done asap. I would have committee and non-committee versions to upload to the website too, I would a like to incorporate the Web and Promotions Officer to summarise committing meeting and minutes etc. for the rest of society. I've been heavily involved in SUSU chairing and organising meetings, I have experience with minute taking, have worked independently with Sainsburys', I would ensure the society is being communicated with, as it's very important. Showstoppers should be allowing every member to come to committee, with plenty of warning.

What font would you use to type up minutes?

AB - Times New Roman, same answer as last year, it's classic and official.

KP – The one they give you? Calibri.

JC – Helvetica because is easiest to read, other members might need it on green paper to make it easier to read

If you have just had meeting and have got a deadline for the next day and you've got lots of rehearsals, how wold you balance your time?

JC - I'd make it as easy as possible in the meeting, write out the minutes as I go, have things in a table, people in the society deserve to know what's going on

KP – I would probably record the minutes, then I would sit down and take the time out to write down what is said.

AB – I would take what learnt from this year, introduce set deadlines and have the President chase me up to make sure I'm on top of things.

You are also members of committee and need to have your say, what would you bring to committee decisions, and how would you keep dedicated to minutes?

AB – Having been on committee, you have to take a step back from discussions for the first few minutes, and tell people to be quiet and speak when you want to make a point, before resuming.

KP – With my method of taking notes, I would have a chance to contribute a bit more, I could have my say, and I have a great passion for performing and being a part of Showstoppers.

JC – The key thing is try to go into the meeting with points written down, if you need or want to be in a discussion, record some sections too, it's important to know when you need to be a part of the discussion and when you need to step back.

Voting Opens: A tie between two candidates means voting has to be reopened between two of the candidates.

Voting Re-Opens: Andy Banks is voted in as this year's Secretary!

Andy resumes as Secretary, not just for this meeting but a whole other year

SOCIAL SECRETARY

JHR vs. TP vs. PJ

JHR: I'm Jess, and I'm a 2nd year. My 1st year was a write off, I was barely involved, didn't do anything, and intended to leave after Christmas. I told myself to leave, but I didn't. Now I've joined Showstoppers, I want to give back the enthusiasm and passion that it gave me, I want to inspire new freshers, and bring new fresh ideas to the table. I want musical socials every 2 months or so, whether at the Mayflower or Uni, confirm links with TG and arrange cinema socials-well not going to cinema, but in Grease we hired out the Annex and watched a film. It sounds simple, but it's fun and free. We could put musicals on in the Annex or in here, and we'd have cinema nights. Chilled nights after rehearsals. I would integrate quiz nights, Danny's quiz night was fantastic. I wasn't there but I've heard it was. I would do quiz nights tailored to our interests, with musicals, maybe chemistry questions erm...yeah. Tailored quiz nights. Integrated social freshers, such as BBQs, as I didn't know any of the society except the Grease cast during the show. We could make use of houses, think outside the box. As for the Christmas ball, I would honoured to take that over. To summarize, socials tailored to us, dedicated with love to society, to lift spirits, provide comedowns after rehearsals, and have fun like I've had all year.

TP: I'm back! So basically I don't want to repeat myself. Events is what I get paid to do, I'm the Events Assistant at SUSU, it's my job to organise the Grad Ball, award ceremonies and even weekly things, events in the Bridge etc. I have lots of experience and contacts within SUSU and Southampton, I massively enjoy events, want to do it as career, and love putting on really good night for people, like the Christmas Ball, Leavers' Meal etc. I would love to organise the Christmas meal, everyone has a great evening. As much as we love balls and aftershows, we also like to sit around and watch Disney films, I really pushed film nights this year with Merrily and Grease and I suggested one at committee. I'd love to do casual, non-drinking socials where we do things like watch films, pancake socials, I have loads of ideas, like picnics on the Common, on a semi-regular basis, which will contrast with bigger socials. Sitting in on committee as not just one positon but also collaborative person, I've been to almost all Showstoppers committee meetings and I've been on 5 other committees, which provide experience, there lots of freshers on committee this year, last year with people like Robyn and Alyssa it's good to have that experience to tackle problems from past.

PJ: Hi, Phoebe. I think I could do quite well in this role. I'm friendly, I like to think I get on with people, am really enthusiastic, integrated. I've done loads, covered quite a few bases, I'm super organised (a bit of an OCD freak), which will come in handy when organising socials. There are a couple of key ideas I want to do, I want to integrate freshers, to make sure they meet everyone and get involved, so loads of socials with the freshers. When we were sat round Hobbit tables during Grease, it was lovely to get to know everyone. Another thing, I'd love to organise proper theatre trips, like at the Mayflower, we should take advantage of places near us, and it doesn't have to be in London. Something that brings everyone together. It's good to see not only our shows here but also TG, LopSoc, and other societies' shows, then they're more likely to see ours! I'm really interested in sober socials, even things like BBQs and common picnics, the Pancake Day was amazing, I didn't feel like I had to sort of put myself out and spend loads of money. Post rehearsal socials are important after stressful rehearsals, giving time to relax, connect with the rest of the cast, and be friends with people as well as working with them. I organised my prom at school, the ball is apparently the 20th anniversary this year, so I wanna go all out and put as much as I can into it. I'll try really hard I promise.

CL: Returning to Phoebe's speech, as a member of Showstoppers who makes effort to see other societies' shows, obviously there are certain things we don't get great attendance for, both to other shows and to our own. What would you say about that, do you have solutions or something similar you want to talk about?

JHR: LopSoc did this deal with Butterflies, come see our show then come see ours half price, it's all about relationships and communication. This year, TG and Showstoppers have been particularly close; I'd help make integrated socials for them.

TP: Information is key with this, shows often sneak up on people. It would be great at the beginning of each term to release a list of dates so people know what's happening when. PA committee tried to introduce the card, which got lost in translation, as lots of people didn't know about it. I'd love to work with PA committee promoting that idea, have schemes like 2 tickets for 1.

PJ: Seeing eachother's show is one of the most important things we can do, it's polite, and needs to become a habit. It needs to be reinforced, we need to communicate about which shows are when, then get that information out there.

JHY: When I was social sec, the ball was hard to organise: how would you split your time up to organise it, especially with the 20th anniversary coming up, what are your ideas?

PJ: Getting things done asap is majorly important, as it gives time for error, for things to go wrong. I think if we could get a really nice venue sorted nice and early, somewhere that's a bit different, gonna interest people, that's it.

TP: I'm obsessively organised, always getting stuff sorted early, starting with procedures asap. I have schedules I stick to really early on, especially with the 20^{th} anniversary sorting out price would be important. Trying something spectacular without a massive price, focusing on nostalgia, celebrating musicals and Showstoppers' achievements over the past few years rather than glamour.

JHR: As it's the 20th anniversary, I would do a survey of people, asking if they want to spend more because it's the 20th or whether it should stay the same. I would enhance the contacts Fi has already made, which could be an easy way to get the venue again, or research into other venues, as we are students

FMD: First of all, for any help you need, I've got tons of info and stuff, what I found with the ball was, I didn't start too early, but 3 or 4 days before the money was due, I was messaging Peter all day trying to negotiate between us and the hotel manager, who was really trying to swindle me, I had to be insistent, but realistic. Do you have it in you to do this against people, who do this every day of their lives?

JHR: When I was helping produce Posh, I managed to get PoshPads to give us enough money to get the tails

AB: TABSCHOO!

TP: I do that as a weekly basis with my job, it doesn't intimidate me, I'm happy to be the bad cop, I have experience and do it on a regular basis.

PJ: I've done it before with my prom, it's not enjoyable but you have to do it. I do Psychology, so I've studied manipulating people too, I know what I'm doing, how to approach people, talking to the right people.

Voting Opens: Phoebe Judd is elected as the new Social Secretary!

WEB & PROMOTIONS OFFICER

AS vs. JC vs. JB vs. OW vs. CH

AS (through the mouthpiece of AB): Hi, I'm back again! Well, I'm not back, he's back. Whatever. Anyway, Web and Promotions is the other position that I am running for today, and one I also think I suit very well indeed. Web and Promotions is a role on committee that I feel does need a lot of work over the next year, and so I'll outline how I'll do both aspects of the role now. From a web point of view, I will be endeavouring to make the website more available and try to bring it into the 2010s from a design perspective. I'll also be having a sit down and just updating many aspects of it to fit with how the society has moved in the last few years, probably integrating the show pages with the galleries from said shows, and then adding links to reviews for the shows as well. Also quickly getting rid of dead links such as the calendar and replacing it with a google calendar that can be integrated with peoples' phones etc. and making it a hub of Showstoppering activity! I am not a fantastic coder, but with the site set up the way it is currently I would not need to be, and having a base of knowledge of the main web programming languages, could pick up anything I needed for any new ideas I had. I would aim to have my main 'updates' concluded over the summer period, and then keep the site updated and fresh through the shows that occurred over my term. I would also want general control of things on a promotional side of things, helping production teams to get the best out of Facebook and Twitter promotion as well as making sure design and promotional methods for shows were effective. I would try and develop a unique voice for the Showstoppers twitter page that was entertaining, and not simply a place for promotion, which would lead to more people engaging with the page and therefore giving it a higher place in peoples' minds. I would happily lead campaigns for Showstoppers' events that do not necessarily fall under the remits of production teams, too, promoting cabaret nights and general socials as well as, of course, the general schedule of auditions and shows. This, coupled with how keen I am to contribute as a more senior member of committee over the next year in general capacities, would make me a great Web and Promotions Officer for a society that has some absolutely amazing things to promote and show off! Thanks for listening, Andy.

JC: I wrote a publicity handbook for the national company thing I was involved with, biggest response with the way you were publicising. I've been a Public ambassador for Sainsburys', I have links with Solent etc., I could use them to talk to more people, I've been on multiple prod teams which has also helped me, I would work with Dan to make sure the website is updated and full for the new year. We need to push members to go to website,

which will be there if I'm elected, I'd also like to set up a forum like Stagesoc's, to recruit prod team members, and have prod teams things, like a you said/we did section, we could share suggestions then do them. Web is not my biggest area of expertise, but I know a lot of people who could help me. We'd have regular social media updates outside of the society group, to establish ourselves as a force to be reckoned with in Southampton. To publicise better, building partnerships with local groups, sitting down and chat with the uni, form a strategy about posting in buildings, having a regular newsletter, so every week we get to know things from committee more, Michael Carr from the Daily Echo can write an article about the society in general. I'd like to have a publicity handbook, to help inexperienced prod teams, which gives them the information they need, past experience helps me, and a lot of work is needed this year.

JB (via AP): Hi everyone! Sorry I can't be there in person to give this speech. I would be honoured to be given the opportunity to be your Web and Promotions officer for the coming year. In this position I would be in charge of the Showstoppers website, so I would put a lot of emphasis on keeping the website useful. Not only keeping calendars up to date but also using it as a promotional hub for productions, hosting trailers and information on the shows, and upcoming events from the society. This would not be a replacement for the Facebook group, but instead an extension of it. I would also be very keen to set up more promotional material to attract more members to join the society, with an informative stall at the Bunfight next year and wider promotion of audition information for all shows. In addition to this, I would look to coordinate with the Social Sec, Tours Officer, and Development Officer(s) to ensure a broader promotion of any and all events across the society. Thank you for listening and again, apologies for not being able to deliver this in person!

OW: Good evening everyone, I've chosen to run as, in the 6 months I've been part of Showstoppers, both shows and events have been fantastic, and anyone who misses out is doing themselves an injustice! Ways we've drawn people in have been very successful, and I like to work hard, I have some small experience in promoting events that I came up with off my own back, like the charity concert to raise money for cancer. I can promise I have a positive mental attitude, which is fundamental for both written and spoken communication, it's important skill in this role because you need to present what you're doing to people, enjoy publishing, designing, marketing that side of it, getting involved in local politics is also a more interactive and personal way of letting people know and getting them involved, if someone gives me a leaflet, they will find it 3 months later, we don't just inform people of what we've got on and presenting, but we sell it, and it's that legacy that I would like to build on and I guess ultimately I can see myself as a team player, and the current committee have done a tremendous job, Showstoppers has become like a family within uni, if you voted for me, I'd look forward to working with other committee members and a new generation of Showstoppers. Thank you very much!

CH: What I wanna do is ensure that, since they are a brand, that Showstoppers has a brand. I helped Robyn design the Bunfight flyers, but never saw those anywhere else. I'd like to use lots more flyers, invest more in PA updates and trailers, with our logo on the end so it's clear that it's us. TG has its burgundy colour, we don't have that as far as I know. I would create non-show specific videos about the society as a whole, like what we are, what we do, committee members just after the Bunfight so freshers can know us before they commit to auditioning. I'd like to speak to the Development Officer and Treasurer and do workshops not just for actors, but also for producers too, so how to use various technological things. Budget training socials for example; we're not just actors, were performers, directors and producers as well. We could have a much bigger social media presence, tweeting committee things regularly, so it's not such a hush hush thing, it's more of a laugh, and people can get involved even if they're not on committee. I'm not a performer, but I still have a valuable opinion on productions, from a producer and tech side.

DW: I think I heard maybe one of you mention the newsletter, it's becoming an important part of the role, so what are your plans?

JC: For me, I think it's important to release that on Friday after committee, maybe get the President and Secretary to write a note on what is happening to have a little thing saying "Hi, I'm President" with funny questions so they can get to know us, building a picture of the people in the society, by informing people outside of shows and committee what is happening in a fun way, not formal minutes.

OW: I think a newsletter would be important to keep people outside of shows connected, a good way of getting plans of committee for future out, to help the society develop. With that on the group, opinion polls and feedback could go too. We could make it very cooperative, a democratic process to truly get the most out of what other people feel.

CH: Weekly is too regular, I wouldn't read it, and making it takes a lot of time. If they were monthly, there would be much more excitement and they would be much more professional, and therefore people are more likely to read it. Also it could include information about non-Showstoppers things, like Olly's Elvis night, so people are aware of not just our shows but the Nuffield, Mayflower etc.

JMC: If we were all freshers, how would you sell Showstoppers to us now?

CH: I'd have a video for the Bunfight; not show videos, but ones from the rehearsal process, to show how much fun we have. Interviews with committee and prod teams too, as it's important to make them aware of how the society works, as well as getting to know eachother and having a laugh. Focusing on teamwork, the Bunfight and the days after the Bunfight.

OW: Go up to freshers, look them in the eye, and tell them that Showstoppers is a missing part of yourself, you get to know people so well and you can anticipate making friends for life, one thing I'd say is though it's hard work, it's very rewarding, you get what you give, so the only way you lose is if you don't give it a go.

JC: The main thing is to not bombard them with too much info, Showstoppers is a place to come out of your shell, to develop as a person, and share fun with people of similar interests to you, the fun aspects as well as pitching. We should show how the society is growing and their abilities as performers, I've seen formerly shy Freshers' Show people come out of their shells, you don't need to be a natural performer to be part of Showstoppers.

RJ: If you had to promote Showstoppers with a hashtag, what would it be?

JC: #showoffforshowstoppers, because it's somewhere you can show off and come out of your shell

OW: #stagetastic.

CH: #musicalfun.

DMN tweets a message to Showstoppers: #BOXSTEP

Voting Opens: Charlie House is voted in as the new Web & Promotions Officer!

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER(S)

JHR & JM vs. GT

JM: I'm a fresher who's really enjoyed being in the society, so this role intrigued both me and Jess, it's a chance to interact with the grass roots of the society, Georgia's done really well and created solid foundations which we can build on, to lead to future developments, and embed them for future. As development officers, we will deal with two aspects of growth. 1) freshers and 2) auditions workshops.

JHR: It's difficult keeping unsuccessful auditonees, but biweekly, or weekly if enough demand, workshops would give productivity with enjoyment, giving them a chance to improve their dance, acting and singing abilities, to the point where they feel comfortable to audition for shows. The mixed gender pairing will be helpful, and we'd aim to balance workshops between enjoyment and benefitting from experience.

JM: Audition workshops are one area which we see there is to work on. With only 4 auditions a year, we could give opportunities to rehearse, as post-audition feedback isn't always helpful, by focusing on the audition experience we could help members on the outskirts of the society to keep trying out.

JHR: It's important to have someone with piano for the singing, and Jamie is Grade 7 piano, and I've done Grade 8 Ballet. They're things we do as hobbies, rather than as MDs/Choreographers, so we can encourage enjoyment rather than presenting it like a lecture, which will be more to members' benefit.

JM: We'd also develop on the cabaret night, for one person it was very difficult, but Georgia did well.

GT: IN ALL MY NATURALNESS. I think I'd be a great Development Officer because I'm currently MDing Into the Woods, Dogfight, and actually spent 4 years teaching in a school before I came here. I have been actively teaching drama, singing and dance, so I'm already experienced with workshops and teaching. I'd really like to have more formal, structured workshops once a term, using the strength of members already here. Choreographers and MDs could be really good, developing skills as performers as well as production teams, whilst also making connections in the wider theatrical community for different approaches, directing and being a part of a production team. Charlie and I had no experience as MD's before Into the Woods, it's been nice to test the waters. Informal drop-in workshops, where those who aren't in shows get chance to take pieces and get feedback on them would be good, giving people the opportunity to request specific times, so I can balance between what members want and what we can provide. Cabarets, one of Georgia's successes, I would hopefully do 2 or potentially 3 cabarets, as they have a good purpose. To have one before the Freshers' Show to get people involved in the show would establish a presence in auditions, then another one in February like this year, and a third one between summer and 24, to give shows that have already happened a chance to relive being in the cast. I'd use workshops to promote large ensemble numbers, ie. for prod team members, finding people to help make things possible.

BW: So this will be a bit different as one is a pair, but you both briefly discussed cabaret as that is one of your responsibilities, how would you manage you time well to bring that forward and make it work?

GM: I do a Music degree, so balancing different aspects is something I'm used to. I worked 2 jobs in my gap year, I'm good at organising rehearsals and have a realistic view of how long I take to do things, I can give leeway.

JM: We're both Humanities students, so we have lots of free time, a good friendship and working relationship. We will set a deadline and get it done guaranteed. We cover a wide variety of skills, we can always help people who are feeling nervous about cabaret out, as a pair we work well together.

PJ: I feel like dance is something we can really develop, do you have any ideas?

JM dances awkwardly

JHR: I have experience of teaching musical theatre dance and ballet, we're not a street dance, jazz or tap society, so I would focus on chorus and ensemble musical theatre dancing.

GT: Dance is hugely important, integrating that with acting and singing is important. I've had teaching experience with tap, ballet and jazz, it was a job in my gap year. I'd be giving people the opportunity to do tap dance and make those contacts, getting people involved on the teaching and performing sides, developing both.

GM: Another part of the role is trying to organise external workshops, what ideas do you have to benefit the society?

GT: Obviously, as a Music student, there are a lots of contacts in the department we can use, Rhona could do acting through song, and I'd be using contacts outside uni, for example MTS, whose directors could come and do things, and put a different spin on things

JHR: Externally I'm from Bournemouth, and I have singing and dance teachers there, who've offered their services. Internally, the Nuffield has a great link with TG, so I say why not try the same with us, they do things like script writing workshops. It doesn't need to all be about performance, we should look at all areas.

Voting Opens: Jamie & Jess voted in as this year's Development Officers!

TOURS OFFICER

Cl vs. JC

SK gives an explanation of Edinburgh, and the Tours Officer role. Showstoppers "lads on tour" (AHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA). Also, his first (if unwitting) presidential speech.

CL: I'd just like to start by saying if you pick RON after all of this I'll kill you all. This is not necessarily according to plan, I don't have a speech or a planned version BUT, I know Edinburgh is a lot of work, and I have access to people who know stuff about it. Compared to running as a VP, it's a bigger responsibility than before, I would have difficulty in going to Edinburgh because of other things, but I have to prioritise things I am passionate about, and Edinburgh is one of those. Everyone should have the opportunity to do it, it is one of the best things Showstoppers can offer! I guess I haven't got much more to say, but I would work my hardest to make sure we had more years at Edinburgh, not just one. There are so many talented people coming up, to establish that it should happen every year would be something we could be proud to say we've done. And if I'm in trouble I can always delegate to the sub-committee.

JC: Well today didn't go as planned, but I have a couple of ideas and not just for Edinburgh. I love fringe theatre, bringing lesser known shows about, as Tours Officer I could be responsible for expanding our fringe theatre connections, I will be working in Edinburgh for 6 weeks this year, I can draw info out of Sev from this year. I want to take at least one show, and there's also a new theatre called Stage Door opening in Southampton, so let's look at other smaller venues and take us out of just the Annex, to expand our audience. Some shows don't work in the Annex, but if we did them elsewhere, we could show Southampton that we are a force when it comes to musical theatre, not just a uni society, but good quality amateur theatre. Cat would do a great job, but I

want to focus on NSDF, helpful feedback which can make us blossom as members of society. Let's look at other venues, take some shows to Edinburgh but also focus on other things.

RJ: So, one of mine and Anna's campaign goals was to make Edinburgh pitches more competitive, so we tried to convince as many people as possible to pitch. Do you want to build on that, and if so, how?

CL: I think that for next year, it will depend on what we gain in knowledge based on this year's platform, as it's our first time up in 2 years, so there are things we will get wrong and others that we will get right. Next year, I'd hope to help develop the premise of original shows, and workshopping these shows to suit society members more. Any kind of fringe experience should be for the people who are paying the money to go up and putting the time in, they should be getting everything that they can out of it. We should take full advantage of original shows as we don't have the limitations of rights contracts.

JC: We should be proud of the competition this year, credit to Anna, Robin and Sev. I'd like to start the ball rolling earlier in the year, if a group in the society wanted to come together and write a show for Fringe they could, I want to say to people don't be scared to pitch righted shows, as they will probably sell in Edinburgh. Also there's a range of fringe theatre we could take to Edinburgh, it's just that it takes money. We're a good society with ridiculous amount of talent, so let's focus on other things too.

AP: As part of your role, you have to organise the actual going to Edinburgh, often negotiating deals and things like that with people who are going. You need to organise them and such; how would you deal with negotiations?

JC: When I was on a national executive committee, I had to organise a 3 day conference with people from everywhere in the north. I had to do lots of negotiation with hotels, and got £15 per night for 1000 delegates. If we start the process earlier in year, we can start those talks sooner, and use links from this year to say we're gonna bring a show, what can you bring to us, and start getting people competing to work with us, I've been on holiday with market people bartering all the time, I've done it before.

CL: Anyone in the room who has had to talk to me on phone will know that-

Sev laughs

CL: I'll probably keep grinding the poor bastard down 'til he gives me what I want. Communication and levelling with people is one of the things that I'm good at, which I have developed as an Ordinary Member and show liaison. Like I said earlier, I feel like it's important, organisational roles are not what I typically step into but I have no qualms about them, at the core it is something I totally care about and am invested in.

Voting opens: Cat is chosen as the new Tours Officer!

ORDINARY MEMBERS

GT vs. CT vs. JS vs. LE vs. MS vs. DMN vs. HC vs. KP

DMN: So, I have committee experience as the VP of Comedy for two years, so I know more about SUSU stuff, how they're run and such. I've got good relationships with and contacts in other societies. I've got prod team experience so I know the mechanics of putting on a good show, from AP-ing Drowsy AD-ing Into the Woods, the first of which I went above what I needed to do and got loads of reviews and sponsorship money. I came up

with the inaugural Showstoppers quiz', I've done Edinburgh before, have a good say in discussions. I'm a good talker and good listener.

JS: I would like to be an Ordinary Member, I hope I'm friendly and approachable! With everything that happened in the first term I wasn't able to meet all the freshers, but next year I hope to meet more of the freshers and get along with them. I like to listen to everyone's point of view and-STOP LOOKIGNA T ME ROBYN I CANT TAKE IT-I love the society, would love to be on committee as I've had such a great time and would love to give back.

HC: I'd like to be on committee because I'm quite a maternal person, I love making sure everyone's like cool and happy and finds their place. I could be an example of freshers who end up falling through cracks, as had problems in freshers, so I can stop more people falling through cracks, as I've got the experience to counter it. I'd like to include the ensemble more as sometimes ensemble, especially in the Freshers' Show, fall out. I'd get more dance in to pull more people back into the society, and also I'm happy to talk to people and just have a great time!

CT: This is the role on committee that I really want to do, as there's no particular special skills, but instead doing a bit of everything. Having been a lead, MD and ensemble member, I know pretty much everyone now, like going on socials and being a part of everything. With English I only do 6 hours a week, so if I was a liaison, I would like to go to rehearsals often, to help other members out if they need me. Showstoppers is the reason why I'm still at uni, as I actually made friends, I could be an asset and would like to be involved.

GT: I came into Showstoppers as an ensemble member for Grease, Showstoppers is part of the reason I came here, and being in the ensemble, I'm the kind of person who managed to integrate with leads. We lost a lot of Grease ensemble as they felt that they weren't involved, but being ensemble doesn't mean you can't be involved in more of the social elements. I think I have so much passion for Showstoppers, and so much drive for what committee have done this year, and I love the idea of multiple liaisons.

LE: Ok, so I guess I really want to be on committee, because I really love Showstoppers and care about how we go forward. Being an Ordinary Member is not about me, it's about you guys. I'd like to think I'm an approachable person, if you weren't happy I'd like to have a conversation and sort out why. On the other side, I'm an organised person and don't do things by halves. If I'm doing something I'll do it. I'll fill any role it's fine, as I'd like to represent all of you.

MS: Although it might not always come across, I like to think that I am a nice person. From my experience in casts and prod teams at the same time, I know both sides of the coin. I know a lot about the society because I do too much, I get to know a lot of people in the society. I met the freshers early on, and would be good on committee as I'm a sensible person who can contribute to discussions, and can separate my own opinions when selecting shows.

KP: I would love to be on committee because I think I'd have a great opinion on part of something that means so much to me. From AP-ing Grease and being in Drowsy, and producing Into the Woods, I love being a part of both productions and shows. I know if I were a liaison, I'd be quite easy to talk to, and valuable as I have both prod and cast experience.

AM: Which musical would you say best describes your personality and why?

DMN: Is there a musical called BOXSTEP? Probably The Drowsy Chaperone because I loved it, got on with it so well, and I feel like I fitted well into the tone of that show.

MAIN IN CHAIR HAND MOVEMENT!

Dan Wills heckles poor Josephine. I think he's still drunk.

JS: Thanks Dan for the suggestion, but Book of Mormon, as it's funny and my family's from Uganda!

HC: I'd go for Dreamgirls because if anyone's been to my house, they'd know I'm Jennifer Hudson when I'm in the shower

CT: Cats, because I don't make sense but I like singing!

Universal appreciation and agreement: Andrew Lloyd Webber is a d^{***} . Robin weeps over the ghost of Phantom.

GT: Legally Blonde, in all my naturalness!

LE: Wicked because I think Elphaba's out on the fringes, and I've been there, but this society welcomed me in. If I were on committee I'd want to do that too.

MS: Legally Blonde because it's incredibly fun, over the top and it's about hard work, which is something I'm quite good at. And it's incredibly gay.

KP: Mulan, because when my mum cut my hair I'd swish it around, and I'm brave and outgoing like she is.

AP: Do you dress as a man often?

Laughter and merriment shared by all.

AFC: One thing with the role, is that you are relied to be that shoulder if people have issues, if something isn't too positive. How would you be able to cope with that and not be offended or take sides?

KP: When people talk to me, I tend to look at both sides, I don't tend to bias myself and I think I am quite easy to talk to, and a good listener which is part of the deal.

MS: I think, having been on losing team every pitch I've ever done, I feel like I could help people as I've been there. With feedback, I feel I could mould the way I talk to people if it's feedback, and I like to think I'm a sensible person too, if people came to me with problems.

LE: Part of my degree is being a professional who you can talk to, and who listens. I'm not perfect but I hope people would come to me. I wouldn't take sides, I would listen, and yeah.

GT: I think I'm a level headed person generally, I don't lose my temper often, nothing that gets me so fired up that I couldn't control it. I've worked as a liaison before between parents and teachers, so I'm used to taking feedback and giving it to friends, I feel that I'm approachable.

CT: Having been on a prod team and casts I've seen both sides, I had good friends who didn't get into Into the Woods so I feel like I can talk objectively, whilst also being happy to take time to talk to people. I've talked to liaisons since I've been here, they're important.

HC: I think I'm approachable and friendly, people can come talk to me, voice their opinions and whatever they were saying. I understand things can get lost in translation, but when people talk it through, things can be sorted.

JS: Like Lydia, I'm training to be a healthcare professional, I feel I'm quite empathetic, I can understand how other people are feeling.

DMC: I don't take myself too seriously, when I have a job I do it. Shows can be stressful, but we are here to have fun, I'd be good at bringing these issues back down to earth and getting them sorted, to make sure we are having fun!

AP: If there was one celebrity figure or someone you could work with, that you think you would work well with, (a partner in crime so to speak), who would it be, and why?

The candidates are given time to gather their thoughts. At some point after at least 10 minutes-but before the end of space, time, and the end of the universe as we know it mind-they actually start to answer!

DMN: The kind of person who is sort of similar to me, who always pushes and tries to do better than expected, but doesn't take things too seriously, is James Corden, who's always going onto the next big thing but doesn't take himself too seriously.

LE: From Grey's Anatomy, I would chose Sara Ramirez-

[I think that's her name? I don't watch it. This is Andy talking to himself, not what Lydia said]

LE: -because she is strong woman who does so much and represents lots of people and minorities. We're similar and would bounce well off eachother.

KP: Someone I find really inspirational and creative, who likes to think outside the box, is Tim Burton, as his films are so cool, with movements of trees, shapes and everything, all clearly inspired by him.

CT: Either Julie Andrews or Michael McIntyre. Julie because she's amazing or Michael because I take myself way too seriously, and he'd balance me out.

HC: I'm going for Morgan Freeman, he'd be the best person to narrate an awkward situation ever!

JS: I've chosen this person because they're hardworking, Olivia Pope-

[I should really watch more television. I'm clueless.]

JS: -from Scoundrels, as we're similar in many ways and yeah.

MS: I'm gonna go for Dara O'Brien, because 1) he's a funny guy, so I'd work well with him, and 2) he has a Physics degree, so he's very intelligent and balances his academia with humour.

GT: Someone like Jessica Ennis, she's put extra effort in herself to learn how she works with others, she's a good symbol of what women can do, and someone I aspire to be.

Voting Opens: Lydia & Danny are voted in as 2015/16's Ordinary Members!

AB to organise collecting swears money from leftover committee peeps. Everyone goes to the Stags' because Stags'.

Praise le canard!