



The Bermuda Musical & Dramatic Society

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2021 AGM

BMDS TRUST REPORT

2021 will be remembered for many things, mainly bad. Few will remember it as the twentieth anniversary of the BMDS Charitable Trust. Despite many problems, the Trust has continued to fulfill its mission to award sponsorships and bursaries to Bermudian students studying various aspects of Theatrical Arts at accredited learning institutions. That would be mainly good.

Probably most Bermuda charities have seen their income drastically reduced over the last two years as a result of the Covid pandemic. The Trust is no exception. Its primary source of income revolves around various aspects of BMDS and its members, particularly the Famous for Fifteen Minutes Playwriting Festival. That Festival now last took place in 2018, first because of scheduling conflicts in 2019, and subsequently because the Daylesford Theatre has been dark for 2020 and 2021 as a result of Covid restrictions.

None of the peripheral shows that have previously benefited the Trust have been able to take place. The BMDS Bar tip jar has drastically reduced from \$1285 in 2018 to \$147 in 2020 because the bar has effectively been closed. Membership donations and Membership renewal donations have continued but at an understandably reduced amount. As always we appreciate and thank the Membership for the continued support.

Despite all this doom and gloom, the Trust has, as a result of prior years "rainy day" provisions, still been able to provide four Bursaries of \$5,000 each to the following well-deserved recipients:

Zayla Bolin who is starting a BA (Hons) degree in Acting for Screen at Bath Spa University, and who has acted in several BMDS and G&S productions for many years.

Skye Minors who is beginning her university experience at Howard University pursuing a degree in Theatre Arts – Dance Arts

John Seymour who will be attending his first year at the Berklee College of Music seeking a Bachelor of Professional Studies in Interdisciplinary Music

Jesaiah Talbot who is starting a BA (Hons) degree in Music and Sound Design at Manchester Metropolitan University in the UK.

In addition to these awards the Trust was able to continue to support the Bermuda School of Music Bursary programme with a contribution of \$3,500 which incidentally benefits BMDS in terms of rehearsal space for major productions.

Reports on last years awardees include that Waverley Moran has completed her Production & Technical Arts degree at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art and has even managed to find work in her field which in the current climate is a great achievement, and that Nathan Fagundo has done well academically and continues his studies at Brock University. Despite several attempts we have not been able to get progress reports from the other two awardees from last year. Is entitlement an issue ?

Financial Statements for the Trust are available by emailing bursary@bmds.bm. If nothing changes vis-a-vis Daylesford theatre activities in the next few months, the "rainy day" fund will effectively run dry, but the Trust will be able to provide probably two bursaries next year. After that, unless the Trust receives donations, the Bursary programme will have to temporarily cease (which would be bad news) until income can again be generated by the Famous for Fifteen Minutes Festival (which of course already has the six plays and a winner decided and ready to go, although now looking for a major sponsor to replace long-time sponsor Washington Properties). That would be good news.

This difficult report is optimistically and respectfully submitted by the Trustees of the BMDS Charitable Trust - Kevin Blee, Carol Birch, Jennifer Campbell, Adrian Lee-Emery and Philip McIntosh