



The Bermuda Musical & Dramatic Society

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2021 AGM

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Members and Executive Committee I would like to welcome you to the 2021 Annual General Meeting for the Bermuda Musical & Dramatic Society. To begin tonight's meeting, I'd like to acknowledge the loss of several BMDS members and supporters of the arts in Bermuda over the past year with a moment of silence to remember and to reflect on the lives of the following individuals: Nea Willitts, James Smith, Quinton 'Tiny' Burgess, Paul McCoy, Don Jolliffe, Lynn Labonte, Marjorie Stanton and Victor Zelkin.

Thank you.

Well, what a strange year 2021 has become, I honestly thought at last years AGM we would not be in the same position this year. When could we have ever predicted us being "dark" for nearly two years?

Fortunately, we are still financially healthy and this is in no small part due to your membership fees and your continued support of our society. Right now, at last count this morning, our number of members was 437 with 188 awaiting renewal. Membership dues are keeping us alive at the moment so please encourage anyone you know who has yet to renew their BMDS membership to continue to support us during this difficult time. Our other sources of income at present are the car park and the bar. Thank you to Sandy and her amazing team for helping generate a healthy income from the bar on Thursday and Friday evenings. A special thank you to Neil and Kelly Joynson for putting on their, not to be missed, Speakeasy nights. They are also planning a Halloween party for Saturday night, please get your favourite costume on and join us in the bar for what promises to be a spooktecular evening..

As our policies for Covid change I hope to see more members return and I hope you all feel safe whilst here. On that note, if you feel comfortable enough to return to BMDS please sign up to help. Sandy's details are on our website or you can probably track her down in the bar after this meeting.

We are totally committed to bringing live theatre back to Daylesford as soon as it safe to do so and we appreciate your patience in the meantime. We did put on a virtual play “The Widow of Warwick”, written especially for us by the very talented Steven MacCasland which was well received by the membership and thank you to all involved in bringing it to our screens.

Now, I need to thank Andrea Kumlala for her hard work and diligence in keeping our membership list up to date. She works silently behind the scenes and without her continued dedication we would be lost. Thank you Andrea.

Financially we continue to hold a healthy bank balance due to Ashley Mitchell, our treasurer, and our bookkeeper Sally Browne who have been diligent again this year in watching our finances, especially during these difficult times. Ashley will fill you in shortly on the financial details of the Society, and answer any questions you may have.

Our social program has too become a victim to Covid 19 but it would remiss of me not to thank our lovely Vicky as she steps down as social chair and steps up to VP. Vicky has dedicated much of her time over the last several years to offer us a lively, varied and profitable social calendar. She will be sadly missed but I’m sure she will be there to lend a hand for future Daylesford events.

I would like to thank the current committee of the Charitable Trust, Adrian Lee-Emery, Carol Birch, Phil McIntosh, Kevin Blee and Jennifer Campbell. We are lucky to have such a dedicated team that work to raise funds for the Trust bursary programme - Adrain Lee Emery will give us more detail in his upcoming report.

Now there are some Exec members who are standing down and thoroughly deserve our thanks – Robbie Godfrey as drama chair, Robbie brought a vitality to the drama committee and saw many a show come to fruition on this very stage. I'd like to thank him and his team for all their hard work and commitment to us despite Covid and all the challenges it has brought them. Debby Corriea is taking the reins from Robbie and I wish her every success for the future, once we are able to offer live performances I'm sure she'll have a varied and entertaining calendar for us. Heather Conyers and James Barr have only been with us on the exec for a brief time but whilst serving they provided us with consistent and valued support, thank you. I am sure you also know that this is my last year as President and I would like to thank all that have supported me on this journey, especially my long suffering husband Glen! I wish Kim every success as the new BMDS President and ask that you all rally round to give her your support. I promise you that your new Exec will work hard to bring theatre back to Daylesford and will maintain the high standards of productions which you have come to expect. Also to work to ensure that Daylesford is a safe, healthy, welcoming and enjoyable place to be. That said, BMDS will always be the sum of it's parts, and we all have our roles to play. BMDS will continue to navigate through this pandemic to make this venue one of which we can be justifiably proud and noted for the quality of both it's activities and it's people.

It would be remiss of me not to warmly thank the present Executive Committee – I could not have done this job for the past year without the support and encouragement of the whole Exec. I assure you that the members of the executive who have served and continue to serve have difficult and time-consuming positions (along with full time jobs!) and they do not take their responsibility to the society lightly. You may not see everything they contribute but I assure you the society could not exist without a hardworking team at helm. They all volunteer, not just to fill a seat, but to add their passion for the theatre and their various levels of

expertise to our very dedicated executive. Please be sure to recognize the level of commitment they bring to their positions and that the decisions made on your behalf are made from one goal – to do what is best for the society as a whole.

Thank you. Nicola Flood President October 2021