



CHESHIRE PERFORMING FINE ARTS COMMITTEE

1220 Waterbury Road • Cheshire, Connecticut 06410

Phone 203.272.ARTS (2787) FAX 203.699-8857

CHESHIRE PERFORMING AND FINE ARTS COMMITTEE THEATER SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2009
7:00 PM AT ARTSPLACE**

1. Determination of Quorum – mtg called to order @ 7:10 pm
Present: Averack, Burt, Lodynsky / Absent: Bussmann
2. Old Business
 - a. Fund Raising Campaign for the Cheshire Park Fund for the Amphitheater (C.P.F.A.)
 - i. Plans to approach Friends of CPFA to manage finances for C.P.F.A. – TBD
 - ii. Could we establish a structure similar to that which was used to build/re-build Playground in the Park?
 - iii. Research what was done to create the Simsbury Performing Arts Center
 - iv. Met with CYT Parents in September to discuss 2009 show and float the idea about the amphitheater
 - v. Handling of concession funds received during 2009 shows: subject to review of the CPFA Scholarship Fund and its needs; to be recommended at the next full CPFA meeting
 - b. Brief Discussion of 2010 CYT Show Candidates
 - i. Current candidates are *Guys and Dolls*, *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*, and *Seussical*
 - ii. Some parents looking for “meatier” material
 - iii. *Willy Wonka...* and *Seussical* taken out of consideration
 - iv. Other shows discussed: *Oklahoma*, *Hello Dolly!*, *My Fair Lady*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *South Pacific*, *Oliver*, *Finnian’s Rainbow*
 - v. *Hello Dolly!*, *Oklahoma* and *Oliver* added to list
 - vi. Some discussion of whether we could do any of the Disney shows
3. New Business
 - a. Review of Cheshire Parks and Recreation Recommendations for CYT & IOI
 - i. “With the problems with the lighting company I’m wondering if we should move in the direction of buying our own equipment (some each year) to slowly eliminate the need of renting each summer. (Maybe sound equipment also).”
 1. Lighting is a greater priority than Sound, and should be pursued first – greatest potential for ongoing reuse; Under Audio, body mikes might make sense from an ownership vs. renting perspective – having said that, the technology changes rapidly, so it’s questionable
 2. The P&R Performing Arts Coordinator should research lighting equipment that could be purchased, along with associated costs





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- ii. “If that took place we could have the scaffolding erected by Waco with help from the parks crew, and our crew could disassemble it themselves.”
 1. Some questions as to whether someone would need to be “certified” to construct the scaffolding and/or anything that would hang on it; need to look into this to verify
- iii. “If the two plays were indoors we would not have the large rentals bills, the set would not be disrupted by inclement weather, and everyone attending would be in an air-conditioned room.”
 1. need to develop pros and cons (e.g. eliminate lighting and scaffolding costs, but we assume the cost for additional building supervision)
 2. concerns about disrupting “tradition” of being outside, i.e. the expected experience by actors, parents, and patrons
 3. concerns as to whether this would be a disincentive to build the amphitheater; on the other hand, it could be an incentive, if spun as a “temporary, necessary measure”
 4. potential for bringing the show indoors as an “experiment” to determine the public reaction
 5. would this eliminate the need to hire police?
- iv. “In the future, whether inside or out, could we have a matinee performance, maybe during the week for our camps or on a Saturday afternoon?”
 1. weekdays would be difficult, because musicians, tech people, etc. have full time jobs they’re at during the day
 2. could do a “trailer” performance at camp to whet the kids’ appetite to come to the show
 3. concerns about stamina of young actors and volunteers to do two shows on a Saturday
 4. closing on a Sunday matinee seems more feasible
 5. rights would be more expensive due to fourth production
 6. would we need to increase staff salaries due to fourth production?
- v. “Do the plays have to be consecutive weeks; are we possibly eliminating some from the audience by forcing them to go to two plays in two weeks?”
 1. depends on CHS availability – subject to building management decisions
 2. could generate more attendance
 3. would we lose staff who plan for two straight weeks?
 4. would we lose CPFA volunteers who plan other activities during August?
 5. we take on additional rights costs for IOI to accommodate additional rehearsal time, or we have to delay the start of rehearsals
 6. could be another “experiment”
- vi. “By separating the plays wouldn’t it be easier on those volunteers or paid staff that is involved with both? Maybe a little time to breathe before they are into a new play would be beneficial.”
 1. See above comments





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2. May need to recruit more/different volunteers to supplant CPFA volunteers
- vii. “How can we entice more Cheshire participants to get involved with Comedy 101? Does it ever seem like too big an undertaking, expense and labor wise to continue to have this play for a small group of Cheshire kids and a small audience?”
 1. Would like to see more buy-in and encouragement from the CHS Drama Teachers
 2. Could open IOI to Juniors to expand potential – but what about their “social exposure”?
 3. Will continue to foster social networking among actors through the CYT Alumni Facebook Group
 4. Need to select shows that have greater commercial appeal / name recognition
- b. Planning for the 2009 Post-Production Meeting(s) for CYT & IOI
 - i. Possible Dates: Thu, 8/27; Tue, 9/1, Wed, 9/2
- c. Set Shop Inventory
 - i. Desire for a digital record of all costumes and props with counts, sizes, and other descriptive information
4. Determination of Next Meeting
 - i. TBD after Post-Production Meeting
5. Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm

