

## Minutes of the FCTC membership meeting

January 16, 2008

**Present were:** Michel Denizot, Walter Mahany, Margie Cain, Kevin Christopher, Jen Carbee, Linda Horner, Thom Smith, Cherie Gagnon, Robin Mahany, Myles Cahoon, Harold Smith, Bob Martin, Alisa Smith, Tom Townsend and Mary Skidmore Taylor

The meeting was called to order by President Walter Mahany at 7:40.

**Secretary's Report:** The Secretary read the minutes from the Annual Meeting. Bob Martin moved and Thom Smith seconded a motion to accept the minutes as read. The motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jennifer Martin reported that the company realized \$244.40 in profit from *Greater Tuna* and \$293.29 in profit from *O Henry Christmas* for a total profit of \$537.69. Our current checking balance is \$2778.10. Cherie moved and Brenda seconded a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion passed.

**Membership Criteria:** Myles asked what the criteria were to be a voting member. The membership some years ago voted to include those as members who had been involved in any production during the previous year. Involvement includes ushering and set building in addition to direct involvement in performance or production.

### The 2008 Production Year

**Spring:** Walter Mahany is proposing *A Murder Is Announced* by Agatha Christie. The script was unfortunately backordered and Walter did not receive it in time to prepare a proposal for tonight. This plot involves a newspaper article announcing that a murder will happen at a particular time and in a particular place. Villagers show up to see who the murderee will be. A stranger is murdered and Miss Marple unravels dark intricacies of the psyche. Walter is making the proposal for the last week in April and is thinking that BFA will be the site. Thom Smith asked whether Peter Harrington is planning to repropose *Laura*. Margie said not at this time. The Board passed a motion tonight recommending that the membership vote on Walter's proposal at this meeting with approval contingent upon budget approval and a bylaws review. Cherie moved and Bob Martin seconded a motion to accept the Board's proposal. The motion passed.

**Alternate location:** Thom Smith suggested that the Baptist Building on Main Street in Fairfax might be a possible site for performances. It is smaller than Westford and would seat 80, possibly 100 people. The stage is smaller and it would be necessary to rig curtains. The United Church of Fairfax Board might want to approve the production.

**Summer:** Cherie is proposing *A Cry of Players* by William Gibson. The play is about William Shakespeare as a young man, takes place over 48 hours in Stratford, and is about the day he decides to run away from home and join the theatre. The play has three acts

and original music is offered with the show. The language is not Shakespearean, not iambic pentameter. There is a sizable cast with many men. Paul Ugalde will be the Fight Choreographer as there is lots of combat. Cherie reviewed the production staff (Please see attached). There is musical accompaniment on stage by instruments played by the characters. Thom Smith will design and build the set. There will be a plain stage with a platform around the back. A whipping post and a bear trap are included in the set. Linda Horner asked about the sexually graphic language. Cherie said that this is a PG-13 kind of production. There is lots of innuendo and the tone is bawdy, but it doesn't have to be graphic. Margie said that we could cover this concern with appropriate advertising. The character of Will is very complex and will require a strong actor who is believable as a twenty-one year old. Anne has to look nine years older. Jenny is young, impressionable and "hot". The schoolmaster is a mature character.

**Fall:** There are two proposals. There was some discussion of the feasibility of producing both, but the Board felt there were too many obstacles to producing two shows so close together in time.

Jennifer Martin is Proposing *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon* which combines 209 fairy tales into one show. There are five actors playing 42 characters and two narrators, one male and one female. Jen reviewed the production staff (Please see attached.) This show includes physical comedy, verbal comedy and slapstick and there is room for improvisation. She is hoping to use the Westford Brick Meetinghouse. There are simple set pieces, including a box and a bench. This show just became available and hasn't been done in this area. The Baptist Building won't work because wings are necessary for many costume changes. The play goes for 110 minutes and consists of two acts. It is suitable for older children. There are two versions, one more violent than the other. Jennifer has decided to use the alternate, more kid-friendly version.

Walter has read the script and expressed a concern about the audience participation. He felt that goading the audience into participation would not go over well. Some of the language is a bit strong. There is some picking out of audience members and saying certain things. Kim Ward read the script and suggested that we be a bit sensitive to the age make-up of the audience. This may be a show geared more to a college aged audience. Jennifer said that she will make sure that the cast does not make anybody uncomfortable. If what is in the script is not working, it can be worked around. "Plants" in the audience are a possibility.

Margie is proposing *Translations* by Brian Friel. She is considering taking the show to another location such as St Albans for a second weekend. The play takes place in Ireland and the cast includes seven men and 3 women. The British Engineers are going to create a map of Ireland and come to a small town. They anglicize the place names. One character is a young officer who is an "accidental soldier." He falls in love with Ireland and with a young woman he meets there. There is a delightful love scene in which they don't understand each other's words but totally understand the message. In Act 3, the soldier is gone and the Engineers threaten the townspeople. The basic idea is what conquerors do to the conquered, which is quite relevant today. It is beautifully written

with wonderful characters. There is a woman with a speech impediment who is supposed to be “slow” but may not be. The suggestion was made that the proposal be approved with the understanding that the show might be taken “on the road.” It will either have 4 shows in Westford/ Fairfax or three local shows and three in St Albans. Walter said that we got wonderful space in the media for the holiday show but it was too late for people to plan to attend. Adding the extra weekend would give the publicity time to work for us.

**Voting:** *A Murder is Announced* was approved 16-0.

*A Cry of Players* was approved by a vote of 14 to 2.

*Grimm* received 9 votes and *Translations* 7.

*The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon* was approved for the fall.

Michel moved and Linda seconded a motion that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed and the meeting ended at 9:30 PM.