

TAO Membership Meeting Minutes
February 25, 2009
House of Love and Hope ~Westside Olympia

- I. Opening at 7:30pm.
- II. Meet and Greet
 - a. Present: George Dougherty, Elizabeth Lord, Rochelle Morris, Dave Beacham, Paul Purvine, Michael Christopher (Vice President), Heather Christopher, Josh Anderson (President), Blythe Olson, Jenny Jenks, Kim Holm (Secretary), Rob Rostad, Scott Brown.
- III. Board Vision
 - a. At the Executive Board Meeting earlier this month, the Board was asked to prepare their own 5-year plans/visions for TAO.
 - i. Kim:
 1. Create Policies and Procedures.
 2. Create handbooks for each aspect of production that include timelines: Director, SM, Lighting Design, Publicity, Programs, Producer, Actor, Costumer, etc..
 3. Have Welcome to TAO packets for all cast/crew of each show that includes the handbooks, contract, etc.
 4. To build a talented and committed leadership team with clearly defined roles and shared goals for the future.
 5. As a first contact for TAO for many, require that all TAO on the interweb (Olytheater.com, Myspace, Facebook) be up to TAO standards; up to date, organized, easy to navigate, highly functional.
 6. Continue developing a volunteer database showing skills, interests and time constraints.
 7. To have full season announcements on time and incorporate a brochure or some sort of printed material announcing the season.
 8. Develop season subscriber plan that boasts 1000 subscribers within 5 years.
 9. Work towards a 5-show season with one Shakespeare, one musical, one large venue straight show, and two smaller venue shows.
 10. Explore other venues for performance with "mini-shows" throughout season. Cabarets, Staged Readings, Cocktail Shows, etc. at places such as Ben Moore's, The Olympic Ballroom, other cities?
 11. Have a monthly TAO Reader's Theater at set local venue.
 12. Having in place grant writing capabilities and other non-profit funding lists.

13. Finding a downtown space for performances and rehearsals that TAO could create some kind of co-op ownership with other orgs such as OFT.
14. Annual Gala Auction Fundraiser.
15. To keep ticket prices at \$12 for at least the next 5 years in order to keep shows accessible to more people.
16. Participation and marketing at local events such as...fairs, parades, outdoor events, etc.
17. To have the Board of Directors filled with savvy business owners rather than artists, and incorporate a fully functional Artistic Director position and artistic staff separate from the Board.
18. Be able to financially compensate cast and crew for their work by developing sponsorships, grant funding and fundraisers.
19. Hire a fulltime Producer or other staff member to coordinate the success of each production.

ii. Josh:

1. We should be a stable, self-sustaining, artistically empowering, and often-lauded organization at the forefront of experimental and Fringe Theater.
2. Find a permanent rehearsal/performance /shop/storage space.
3. Run a full season including a "Shadow Season" which would include even edgier works, original works, local playwrights, etc.
4. Initiate an education program in conjunction with OFT.
5. Track membership and audience make-up demographics.
6. Continue to take advice and guidance from successful theater companies in town.
7. Encourage communication and partnership between TAO and other companies.
8. Become THE leader in the theater community for promoting experimental and Fringe Theater. The group that people think of automatically when the word "fringe" comes up.
9. Foster new works and encourage local playwrights through staged readings and productions of original works.
10. Increase funding base by \$75,000 with grants, donations, season sales, and yearly fundraising effort.
11. Perform yearly internal audit.
12. Maintain a database of local artists and artisans.

iii. Michael: (none submitted) Informed membership that he will not be running for re-election in June.

- iv. Pug: (none submitted)
- IV. Committee Updates
 - a. Season Selection: Pug emailed the following update, which Kim read to group.
 - i. This is a list of the front-runners as it stands. We are still taking submissions until end of the month.
Next meeting sometime in next two weeks TBA .
~*Poona The Fuck Dog* - Director Attached Robert MConkey. Possible Christmas show @ Midnight Sun.
~*The Brain From Planet X* - SPSCC space required. Spring Musical.
~*One Flea Spare* -Director Attached Pug Bujeaud @ Midnight Sun.
~*Rabbit Hole* - SPSCC space required. Possible Director Attached Tim Samland.
~*Othello* - Director Attached Robert McConkey. SPSCC space required.
~*Misery* - Possible Christmas show. SPSCC space required.
~*All the World's a Grave* - A Shakespearian deconstruction. SPSCC space required.
 - b. Bylaws: Kim Holm (Committee Chair) shared copies of old bylaws and the new finished draft for review.
 - i. Will email them to membership for review and for any suggestions.
 - ii. Plans to vote about them on April 4th, Saturday at noon. Downtown Olympia Library meeting room.
- V. Sign up new Members
 - a. It was moved by Kim Holm that attendance to a board meeting constitutes enough "TAO involvement" in order for people to pay the \$5 and become part of the Membership. Seconded by Josh.
 - b. Kim passed out Membership registration forms.
 - i. The following people paid the \$5 fee and received receipts to become official TAO members for 2009: Blythe Olson, Jennie Jenks, Elizabeth Lord, George P. Dougherty, Rochelle Morris, Scot C. Brown, David Beacham.
 - ii. Paul Purvine filled out his form and will arrange payment soon.
 - iii. Membership of 30 days required in order to vote on any issues presented to board, so Kim will email out the membership form to her email list of interested TAO folks to make sure anyone eligible can vote on the bylaws at the April 4th meeting.
- VI. Membership input: Josh opened the floor for comments, suggestions, compliments, complaints, etc.
 - a. Rochelle and Blythe expressed interest in taking the grant writing class at Evergreen. Blythe had already taken the first part of the class.

- b. Dave pointed out what a pleasure it was to work on the cast of *Reefer Madness*. He thought it was a fine experience.
- c. Elizabeth expressed a desire to find one space for TAO to do rehearsals and keep props/costumes/etc. in.
- d. Discussion about The Eagles and how they were founded in Seattle by a group of actors and are always eager to work with theater folk. Elizabeth is a member and others expressed an interest in perhaps joining. Comments about how the stage in the bar could be a good venue for a side cabaret TAO gig or similar event.
- e. Paul started discussion about finding board members by networking with other theater companies. Elizabeth shared methods used with solicitation letters for donations.
- f. Kim brought up the Theater Liaison and how Pete emailed her about getting together to plan how to help each other share resources.
- g. Dave shared that he may know of someone that may be interested in being Treasurer and will check into that and get back to Josh.

VII. Closing: Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.