

## **Minutes of April 24, 2007 Midcoast Youth Theater General Membership Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 6:14 p.m. by Henry Eichman. In attendance were Juli Millett, Mike Millett, Carol Leach, and Jennifer Jacobs.

Regrets were received from Elaine Perry, Pam Tondreau, Tracy Kapocius, Kathy Christensen, and Beverly Diller.

### **Agenda**

- I. Approve Minutes
- II. Treasurer's Report
- III. Old Business
- IV. New Business

#### **I. Approve Minutes**

1. Minutes from the two strategic planning meetings and the March 2007 general membership meeting are not yet available.

#### **II. Treasurer's Report**

1. Juli reported that budgets for both summer shows are written at a loss. The board has already paid out about \$4,000 in performance fees and other expenses toward these shows. Further work by Henry, Michael, and Juli will be done on various sections of the budget (e.g., fine-tuning estimates of costume expenses: the Teen show will need two sets of dance costumes).

2. A discussion of the participation fees resulted in a motion by Juli (seconded by Carol and approved by all present, without objection or abstention) to set the fee at \$60 per participant (includes T-shirt) for both the Youth and Teen summer programs and to keep the Family show participation fee at \$50 (no T-shirt) per person (or \$60 for those who want a T-shirt). As always, we will make it clear that we encourage people to contact Henry if they need to request a confidential reduction or waiver of the fee.

3. We then considered the question of whether or not to add a third ticket price for the Youth Show, as we did for the Family show (i.e., a lower price for ages 6-12, in addition to the Adult and Student/Senior prices). On the basis of that discussion, Carol moved to add the third price for the Youth show, Juli seconded, and all approved. (Teen show tickets will continue to be offered only at the original two prices, as we are not looking to increase attendance among children under 12 at those productions.)

4. Juli moved to increase the stipend from \$250 to \$300 for individuals filling the roles of Stage Manager, Technical Director, Costumer, and Choreographer. Carol seconded; all in favor.

### III. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

### IV. New Business

#### 1. Staff for 2007 Programs

The Teen show, "Crazy for You," will be directed by Michael Millett, with choreography by Elaine Perry and musical direction by Rebecca Beck Atkins. Beverly Diller will costume the show.

The Youth show, "Seussical, Jr.," will be directed by Henry Eichman, with musical direction by David Olsen-Petrowski and choreography by Pam and Leah Tondreau. Tracy Kapocius and Steve Vanardi will serve as Technical Directors, and Sarah Cropley will be Stage Manager/Assistant Director. A costumer has not yet been identified for this show.

The Family show, "A Christmas Carol," will be directed by Henry Eichman.

#### 2. Application for Grant

Kathy Christensen and Carol Leach have prepared and submitted a grant request for \$1,000 to the Town of Brunswick's Nathaniel Davis Fund, and Henry has an appointment to meet with Davis Fund representatives.

#### 3. MEPAN Conference

Carol presented information on the 2007 Maine Performing Arts Network Conference, to be held May 14-15 in Phippsburg. Speakers from the Maine Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as local presenters, will address such topics as fundraising, grant applications, and public relations for nonprofit arts organizations. She asked the board if they wanted to allocate MYT funds toward the registration fee of \$154 to send a board member to the conference. After further discussion, Mike moved that MYT send up to two board members, as some sessions of interest to MYT were concurrent. Juli seconded; all in favor. At the time of this meeting, Carol was the only member definitely able to attend.

#### 4. Facilities Group Report

Henry summarized the findings to date of the Facilities Group (Henry, Mike, Tracy, Kathy, Elaine and Pam). MYT anticipates needing at least double our current storage space, if not triple, in the coming year. The business manager of MSAD 75 has notified Henry that he wants MYT out of the barracks so our three rooms there can be given to the Share Center. (Henry has told him that MYT wants to stay in the barracks until the end of our lease, which runs for one more year; we are sending payment for the final year now to ensure that we can't be evicted). In addition, we are under pressure to remove equipment and props we've been storing on the Mt. Ararat stage and at the Orion Theater. We will also eventually need to remove items stored in Juli and Michael's garage.

Henry, Mike, and Marie Maderal have visited the vacant warehouse that's for sale on Weymouth St. in Brunswick. Before any use of the building is possible, minimal requirements would be to correct a manageable mold problem (all existing sheetrock and wood have to be removed), replace the roof and two walls, and remove all interior partitions. Rocky Hill Nursery has indicated that they'd be willing to clear out the insides. If MYT were to acquire this building, we would have to be creative in establishing partnerships that would enable us financially to maintain the building after purchase (e.g., rent space to dance/exercise/yoga instructors, day care providers, etc., during hours MYT is not using it).

We need to decide what our long-term goal is---whether purchasing the warehouse or another property to convert into a permanent home for MYT, or settling on some lesser solution that addresses our immediate and pressing need for storage space---and come up with a plan for how to achieve that goal. Henry emphasized that the storage issue represents the greatest threat to MYT at this time. Our ability to continue our programming hinges on securing sufficient space to store our inventory of equipment, props, and costumes, which has already outgrown the temporary space we have and will continue to expand with each of the productions planned for 2007.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Carol Leach (substituting for Tracy in her absence)

**The mission of Midcoast Youth Theater is to empower youth through a safe, nurturing theater experience and to build life skills with teamwork, creative problem solving, public speaking, risk taking, and tolerance while enhancing self-awareness and self-esteem.**