

BERMUDA MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC SOCIETY (BMDS)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 28th October 2021
Daylesford Theatre & via Zoom - 6:00pm

Executive Members Present:

President	Nicola Flood
Vice President	Kim Day
Vice President	Owain Johnston-Barnes
Treasurer	Ashley Mitchell
Secretary	Theresa Hall (via Zoom)
Music Chair	Lisa Maule
Bar Chair	Sandy Amott
General Member	Christine Whitestone
General Member	Vicky Anderson
General Member	Charlie Grainge
General Member	Neil Joynson

Apologies:

Barbara Jones – Vice President
James Barr – Premises Chair
Robbie Godfrey – Drama Chair
Heather Conyers – General Member
Evelyn MacGregor
John Dale
Florence & Grant Hall
Shirley Brown

General Members Present:

A list of the 47 members in attendance is attached to and forms a part of these Minutes.

The President called the meeting to order. She thanked everyone for attending the in-person and virtual AGM and adhering to the Covid 19 Protocols.

1. Confirmation of the Minutes

On a motion made by Libby Durrant, seconded by Jennie Lamerton and carried unanimously, the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 29th October 2020 were approved.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

3. President's Report

- 3.1 Nicola Flood, President of the Society, presented her report, a copy of which is attached to and forms a part of these Minutes. Further, she acknowledged the work carried out by Kelly Joynson in creating the Society's new website.

4. Reports of the Standing Committees

- 4.1 Drama– Neil Joynson presented the drama report, a copy of which is attached to and forms a part of these Minutes
- 4.2 Music – Lisa Maule presented her report, a copy of which is attached to and forms a part of these Minutes.
- 4.3 Premises – Owain Johnston Barnes presented the Premises report, a copy of which is attached to and forms a part of these Minutes.
- 4.4 Bar –Sandy Amott presented her report, a copy of which is attached to and forms a part of these Minutes.

5. BMDS Charitable Trust Report

Adrian Lee-Emery then presented the report from the BMDS Charitable Trust, a copy of which is attached to and forms a part of these Minutes

6. Treasurer's Report

- 6.1 Ashley Mitchell presented his report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st May 2021, a copy of which is attached to and forms part of these Minutes.
- 6.2 On a motion by Emma Muggleton and seconded by Kurt Birrer and carried unanimously the Audited accounts for the period ended 31st May 2021 were accepted.

7. Amendment to the Society's Constitution

- 7.1 To recognize the importance of the Social Committee, it was recommended to the Members that an additional Standing Committee be created.
- 7.2 On a motion by Alan Brooks and seconded by Mary Brier, and carried unanimously it was RESOLVED That the Constitution of the Society be amended in the manner following, namely:

by deleting the word "four" in the first line of constitution clause 7.2 and inserting the word "five" in its place.

by adding at the end of constitution clause number 7.2 the words "(e) social".

8. Executive Committee

8.1 Nicola Flood advised that the following incumbents whose 3 year term expired at the AGM were willing to stand for a further three year term. As no nominations were put forward the following candidates were deemed to be elected:

Treasurer	Ashley Mitchell
General Member	Charlie Grainge

8.2 Nicola Flood further advised that the positions of President held by Nicola Flood, Vice President 3 held by Barbara Jones and Drama Chair held by Robbie Godfrey were also expiring and they were not standing for re-election. The following were willing to stand; Kim Day as President, Vicky Anderson as Vice President 3 and Debby Correia as Drama Chair. As no other nominations were put forward, they were deemed to be elected.

8.3 The positions of Vice President held by Kim Day, Premises Chair held by James Barr, General Members positions Heather Conyers and Vicky Anderson were also vacant. The following were willing to stand and serve for the remainder of the three year term of the position, Emma Muggleton as Vice President, Adam Gauntlett as Premises Chair, Barbara Jones and Alan Brooks as General Members. As no other nominations were put forward, they were deemed to be elected.

8.4 Bob Legere was willing to stand for the new position of Social Chair. As no other nominations were put forward, he was deemed to be elected.

8.5 It was confirmed that the 2021 elected Executive Committee would therefore be:

President	Kim Day
Vice Presidents	Vicky Anderson, Emma Muggleton, Owain Johnston-Barnes
Treasurer	Ashley Mitchell
Secretary	Theresa Hall
Drama Chair	Debby Correia
Music Chair	Lisa Maule
Premises Chair	Adam Gauntlett
Bar Chair	Sandy Amott
Social Chair	Bob Legere
General Members	Christine Whitestone, Neil Joynson, Alan Brooks, Charlie Grainge, Barbara Jones

Kim Day thanked Nicola Flood, outgoing President, for her commitment and dedication to the Society during the 6 years of her tenure.

There being no further business brought before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm.

Nicola Flood
RESIDENT

Theresa Hall
SECRETARY

ATTENDEES – 2021 BMDS AGM – 28 OCTOBER 2021

Adam Gauntlett
Adrian Lee Emery
Alan Brooks
Andrea Kulmala
Ashley Mitchell
Bob Legere
Charlie Grainge
Christine Whitestone
Claire Simons
Courtney Day
Dave Pitman
Debby Correia
Deborah MacKenzie
Emma Muggleton
Jennie Lamerton
Kim Day
Kurt Birrer
Kyle McGhee
Libby Durrant
Lisa Maule
Mary Brier
Monica Dobbie
Neil Joynson
Nicola Flood
Owain Johnston Barnes
Richard Grainger
Sally Browne
Sandy Amott
Tracey Beach
Vicky Anderson
Adrienne Hintz via Zoom
Adrian Lee Emery via Zoom
Anil Chatergoon via Zoom
Betty Dale via Zoom
Clive Dakin via Zoom

Coral Dakin	via Zoom	
Janet Simpson	via Zoom	
Lorraine Beasley	via Zoom	
Paul Lowry	via Zoom	
Phil McIntosh	via Zoom	Overseas member
Ryan Day	via Zoom	Overseas member
Sheilagh Robertson	via Zoom	
Susan Bailey	via Zoom	Overseas member
Theresa Hall	via Zoom	
Ghislaine Lemay	via Zoom	
Valerie Butterfield-Wallbank	via Zoom	
Dave Day	via phone	



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



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2021 AGM

DRAMA REPORT

BMDS AGM Report Drama Committee

Prepared | October 21, 2021

Drama Committee Members

- Robbie Godfrey
- Will Kempe
- Rebekah Nebard
- Debby Correia
- Sheilagh Robertson
- Lisa Maule

Year in Review

- 2021 has been another year in flux with COVID outbreaks and restrictions that have prevented a consistent offering of theatrical productions at Daylesford. The year began with a closed theatre and the Drama Committee continued to meet monthly via Zoom to explore potential productions that could be conducted in a COVID safe way once the theatre reopened.
- It has been challenging to operate with such a level of uncertainty, however, the Drama Committee has not fallen short of creative ideas waiting to be executed once it is safe and feasible to do so.
- During the peaks and valleys of COVID outbreaks, the DC worked on plans for play readings, radio plays, small cast productions, theatre in the park and other innovative ways to bring theatre back to the community. However, on the precipice of kicking off a performance, restrictions would increase, and activities would be cancelled. Therefore, these plans could not come to fruition to date.

Summary of Activities

- In January, Lisa Maule joined the committee to facilitate a connection between drama and music.
- The "Widow of Warwick" virtual play premiered in March and it was encouraging to have some activity (albeit virtual) within BMDS.
- An executive decision was made in June to once again forego a Pantomime performance this year. This decision was fully supported by the Drama Committee.

Key Learnings

- Recruiting volunteers continues to be challenging. Support from members is crucial to organize and execute performances and activities.

- Utilizing social media to recruit volunteers and announce society news helps us better engage with our members and increases enthusiasm. It is the DC's recommendation to leverage these communication channels more in 2022.

Forward Looking Thoughts

- As the Chair, Co-Chair and Secretary step down from the DC after the AGM, they welcome the new committee and pledge their support with the transition and beyond.



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MUSIC REPORT

Music Report AGM 2021

Sadly, this has been another year when artistic efforts have been stymied by the Covid pandemic. However, as Monty Python advised us, we have been 'looking on the bright side of life' and using the time afforded to reflect on the role that Music plays in the Society.

To quote from one of the many old programmes I have recently been reading, 'In 1944 a small group of music lovers decided to form a society which would promote interest in music and drama in Bermuda...The aims of this Society are to stimulate an interest in and the appreciation of music, drama and the cognate arts, to engage in musical and dramatic activities, to sponsor concerts and dramatic performances and to establish educational facilities in the said arts'. Throughout it's lifetime, the Society has seen many changes, but the underlying principles of its founders, as written in the Constitution, remain at the forefront.

Having operated as a lone soldier for the past three years, I am excited to announce the establishment of a Music Committee whose mission will be to put the M back into BMDS, with an expansive and varied range of events. We are looking forward to hearing **your** ideas and encourage you to email them to us at music@bmds so that we can put dates in the calendar and return to enjoying live music making as soon as we are able to perform!



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PREMISES REPORT

Premises Report AGM 2021

Under guidance from our treasurer, maintenance has been kept to a minimum this year, although some essential work has been carried out.

At the beginning of the year, the bar area was given a much needed fresh coat of paint by Tom Langley. Thank you, Tom!

At the end of February it was all hands on deck for the clearing and cleaning of the casting couch and under the seating in the theatre. The entrance to the props cupboard was also cleared to give clear access to the fuse box, preventing a fire hazard. It was, as always, a case of many hands making light work, so many thanks to all those who attended!

Replacing the card reading system and installing access control to the theatre and first floor has heightened our security, backed up by cameras located in key areas. Thanks to Charlie Grainge for his expertise in this area!

Charlie also managed to secure an insurance settlement from Argus for the Crestron System, which failed following the hurricane. A replacement for this is under discussion.

Repairs to a building of this age require regular maintenance, so some minimal work has been carried out to patch roof leaks and repair the bathroom facilities.

Debbie MacKenzie kindly investigated a new poster hanging system for the bar area. Following her presentation to the Executive, it was agreed that a new design would be made in house and the existing one sold. Volunteers to help this team would be welcome!

We are so fortunate to have a home for our creative endeavours and grateful to all our members who chip in with their time, skills and knowledge to help keep this 'old lady' standing!

Thank you!



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BAR REPORT

BAR REPORT
BMDS AGM – 28th October 2021

Madame Chairman, fellow Exec. Members and fellow Members —

2021 has been another very challenging year for everyone! Because of Covid-19, the bar has been closed for much of the year. We have lost revenue and bartenders!

We are again open on Thursday and Friday nights. From 5.30 until 8.00 pm on Thursday nights and 5.30 until 10.30 pm on Friday nights. For the bartenders and helpers who make sure the bar is running smoothly and making sure masks are worn, members practice social distancing, , etc., etc., I want to say a big thank you. For the bartenders and would-be helpers that want to return to working the BMDS bar, we look forward to seeing you when that time comes.

Thanks also to everyone who has helped in any way to make the running of the bar a success. You know who you are!

In summing up, I would like to thank all of you as Members for patronising our bar.

Wishing everyone a wonderful Christmas Holiday and and a Happy and Healthy and, of course, Prosperous, NEW YEAR!! And I can't wait for the day when we won't have to wear masks!

Thank you!

Sandy Amott aka PG
Bar Chairman



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BMDS TRUST REPORT

2021 will be remembered for many things, mainly bad. Few will remember it as the twentieth anniversary of the BMDS Charitable Trust. Despite many problems, the Trust has continued to fulfill its mission to award sponsorships and bursaries to Bermudian students studying various aspects of Theatrical Arts at accredited learning institutions. That would be mainly good.

Probably most Bermuda charities have seen their income drastically reduced over the last two years as a result of the Covid pandemic. The Trust is no exception. Its primary source of income revolves around various aspects of BMDS and its members, particularly the Famous for Fifteen Minutes Playwriting Festival. That Festival now last took place in 2018, first because of scheduling conflicts in 2019, and subsequently because the Daylesford Theatre has been dark for 2020 and 2021 as a result of Covid restrictions.

None of the peripheral shows that have previously benefited the Trust have been able to take place. The BMDS Bar tip jar has drastically reduced from \$1285 in 2018 to \$147 in 2020 because the bar has effectively been closed. Membership donations and Membership renewal donations have continued but at an understandably reduced amount. As always we appreciate and thank the Membership for the continued support.

Despite all this doom and gloom, the Trust has, as a result of prior years "rainy day" provisions, still been able to provide four Bursaries of \$5,000 each to the following well-deserved recipients:

Zayla Bolin who is starting a BA (Hons) degree in Acting for Screen at Bath Spa University, and who has acted in several BMDS and G&S productions for many years.

Skye Minors who is beginning her university experience at Howard University pursuing a degree in Theatre Arts – Dance Arts

John Seymour who will be attending his first year at the Berklee College of Music seeking a Bachelor of Professional Studies in Interdisciplinary Music

Jesaiah Talbot who is starting a BA (Hons) degree in Music and Sound Design at Manchester Metropolitan University in the UK.

In addition to these awards the Trust was able to continue to support the Bermuda School of Music Bursary programme with a contribution of \$3,500 which incidentally benefits BMDS in terms of rehearsal space for major productions.

Reports on last years awardees include that Waverley Moran has completed her Production & Technical Arts degree at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art and has even managed to find work in her field which in the current climate is a great achievement, and that Nathan Fagundo has done well academically and continues his studies at Brock University. Despite several attempts we have not been able to get progress reports from the other two awardees from last year. Is entitlement an issue ?

Financial Statements for the Trust are available by emailing bursary@bmds.bm. If nothing changes vis-a-vis Daylesford theatre activities in the next few months, the "rainy day" fund will effectively run dry, but the Trust will be able to provide probably two bursaries next year. After that, unless the Trust receives donations, the Bursary programme will have to temporarily cease (which would be bad news) until income can again be generated by the Famous for Fifteen Minutes Festival (which of course already has the six plays and a winner decided and ready to go, although now looking for a major sponsor to replace long-time sponsor Washington Properties). That would be good news.

This difficult report is optimistically and respectfully submitted by the Trustees of the BMDS Charitable Trust - Kevin Blee, Carol Birch, Jennifer Campbell, Adrian Lee-Emery and Philip McIntosh



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2021 AGM

TREASURER'S REPORT

Report

The financial year 2020/21 was a difficult period for BMDS as the impact of COVID-19 restrictions took hold. For the year ended May 31, 2021 the Society's revenues decreased some \$171,000 from the prior year, and despite a decrease in expenses of \$43k, the Society ultimately made a net loss of \$71k.

Our primary profit base, musical and dramatic productions, was effectively nil due to closures, restrictions on theatre numbers and our own abundance of caution to ensure the safety of our volunteers. When allowable, the bar reopened and contributed a small profit of \$5k for the year. Many thanks to all those who volunteer at the bar especially given the ever changing rules and requirements. Membership and subscription revenue showed a decrease of \$8k from prior year, despite the support of many members there was the reality of those not renewing given the uncertainty of the benefits we were able to offer. Our health in large part is attributable to the recurring revenues from the car park rentals. During the year, we found a significant new partner in Athene to occupy 5 spots vacated by Estera, increasing our rental revenue to \$53k per annum and ensuring a guaranteed monthly revenue stream which has been a blessing during difficult times.

Out of an abundance of caution and the uncertainty regarding the length and impact of COVID-19, the Society ceased all unnecessary expenditure early in the pandemic. Essential maintenance will also be required on an aging building, however this only contributed \$10k to the annual expenses. Recurring non-preventable expense such as the amortization of fixed assets, utilities costs, land taxes and insurance were unavoidable and therefore comparable with the prior year.

Despite the significant net loss incurred in 2020/21, our cash position remains a point of pride. Our cash at May 31, 2021 of \$252k shows only a \$17k decline from the same point in the prior year. Prudent cash management was identified as essential early in the pandemic and I am glad to report that as of today the cash position continues to remain healthy at the \$250k mark. This can be attributed to the monthly cash streams provided by the car park rental, the support of our members through annual fees and the restricting of non-essential expenditure.

Regarding the remainder of our balance sheet, there was little capital expenditure during the year with the primary movement in this account due to amortization. Inventories held were limited due to the closure of the premises prior to year end in accordance with COVID guidelines, and our payables remain at a low level and are paid in a timely manner.

BMDS: Treasurer Report for 2021 AGM**Summary**

In summary, 2020/21 proved a difficult period for the Society financially. Though no-one could envisage a global pandemic prior, we were well prepared financially due to our healthy cash reserves and recurring revenue streams. COVID continues to impact the Society, however we hope that calendar year 2022 returns to some normality with productions and expanded bar openings. Many thanks to Sally Browne, who continues to do a stellar job in keeping the Society's finances healthy and current.

Lastly, I would like to thank the exec, the sub-committees, and the active members and volunteers. The Society continues and will continue to need the support of its members and volunteers, more than ever as we get our feet back on the ground and rebuild our offerings post-COVID. We trust there is a real commitment from our base to assist in returning the Society to some normality and extend thanks to those who generously give their time.

Questions

Please submit any questions to BMDSSecretary@gmail.com by 12 noon on 28 October, latest.

Sincerely,

Ashley Mitchell