



**Friends of Finchley Youth Theatre**

## **Board Meeting**

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2017 at 7:30pm  
at Finchley Youth Theatre, 142 High Road, London N2 9ED**

### **Minutes of meeting**

#### **Present**

Roger Chapman (chairman), Ken Osborne (secretary), Catherine Nolan (treasurer), Emilia Georgiou (part time), Lisa Bark, Liz Sacre (part time)

#### **1. Introduction and Apologies for absence**

Roger welcomed the attendees to the meeting. Roger had emailed an agenda on 21/3/17.

Apologies for absence had been received from Marley Seville.

#### **2. Minutes of last Board meeting**

##### **2a Accuracy and approval**

The draft minutes of the previous Board Meeting held on 8 February 2017 (issued by Ken Osborne on 13/2/17 - file **FoFYT Board Meeting 170208-minutes.doc**) were approved with a minor change to the wording of **Action 4/B170208**. Ken would re-issue as approved and send a redacted PDF version to Tony Bachelor for uploading to the website.

[\*\*New Action 1/B170321 - Ken Osborne to issue approved Board meeting minutes of 8 February 2017 to Board members and a redacted version to Tony to upload to the website\*\*](#)

##### **3b Actions from previous meeting**

**Action 1/B170208 - Ken Osborne to issue approved Board meeting minutes of 7 December 2016 to Board members and a redacted version to Tony to upload to the website**

- **Status:** Issued to Board members on 13/2/17 as file **FoFYT Board Meeting 161207-minutes-approved.doc**. Ken had sent a redacted PDF version to Tony for uploading to the website (at Meetings/Events > Board Meeting Minutes) which Tony had uploaded on 12/3/17 (delayed due to Tony's illness) and Ken had emailed the Supporters to inform them
- **Action - done**

**Action 2/B151117 - Roger Chapman to ask for donations to FoFYT at a future meeting of the East Finchley Traders' Group**

- **Status:** the group was now meeting on a regular basis at the Clissold so Roger will raise when appropriate
- **Action - ongoing**

**Action 2/B170208 - Roger Chapman to buy the ballet barres which The Archer have agreed to fund**

- **Status:** one barre bought, the second to be purchased, see §4 below
- **Action - done**

**Action 8/B150514 - Roger Chapman to contact the Council Conservative member who chairs the committee which looks after the FYT building to decide if it was worth having a meeting**

- **Status:** Yet to do - to do at an appropriate future date
- **Action - ongoing**

**Action 3/B160201 - Roger Chapman to send a letter of thanks to Alan Jobson's family and talk to them about an appropriate way to use the money to remember Alan Jobson**

- **Status:** Roger had yet to talk to the family after sending a letter of thanks
- **Action - ongoing**

**Action 7/161021 - Roger Chapman/Catherine Nolan to transfer balance from Co-op account to Barclays and close the Co-op account**

- **Status:** Roger yet to do
- **Action - ongoing**

**Action 3/B170208 - Roger Chapman to speak to Flo Armstrong to try to get further information about the Council's proposal for changes to the Youth Service**

- **Status:** see §3 below
- **Action - done**

**Action 4/B170208 - Catherine Nolan to investigate Shedlink to see if they would provide a useful business model for FYC**

- **Status:** Catherine wondered how helpful the Shedlink model would be for FoFYT.-She said that the company that sets up a new Shed (FoFYT in our case) takes the lead but must use the Chicken Shed inclusive creative method in which the lead company staff must be trained. She was not sure about the balance between fundraising and activities. Agreed Catherine will enter our information on the Chickenshed website to see how they respond. A summary of Catherine's investigation is attached at **Annex 2**.
- **Action - done**

**New Action 2/B170321 - Catherine Nolan to enter FoFYT information on the Chickenshed website and report back on any response**

**Action 5/B170208 - Liz Scare to contact the CEO of BEAT (Lynn Holman-Fox) to discuss possible ways forward**

- **Status:** Other options discussed in §3 below were considered preferable so this action was cancelled
- **Action - cancelled**

**Action 6/B170208 - Lisa Bark to make proposals for improvements to the website and social media to better publicise the facilities at FYC**

- **Status:** See FoFYT Social Media 100317.docx issued by Lisa on 12/3/17 - discussed in §2bi below
- **Action - done**

**Action 7/B170208 - Lisa Bark to ask her local architect friend to suggest whether structural improvements to the FYC building would be useful and feasible**

- **Status:** Lisa put Roger in touch with architect Malcolm Collins who had met. Feasible changes were fairly limited and small scale; not a great deal can be done to make significant difference. Probably revamping the foyer would be the biggest improvement but even then no great advantage. So we're not missing anything major. Extending into loft or adding a mezzanine to increase space would be possible but very expensive (particularly if disabled access was needed).
- **Action - done**

**Action 8/B170208 - Roger Chapman to get Lisa Bark added to the Charity Commission list of FYC Trustees**

- **Status:** Yet to do
- **Action - ongoing**

## **2bi Discussion of comments from Lisa on our public image**

FoFYT Social Media 100317.docx which had been issued by Lisa on 10/3/17 was discussed. The main points and comments raised were:

### Name

- Some confusion between the name "Young People's Activity Centre" (on the notice board outside the building), "Finchley Youth Activity Centre" (on the Barnet website [www.barnet.gov.uk/citizen-home/children-young-people-and-families/youth-support/young-peoples-organised-activities/finchley-young-people-s-activity-centre.html](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/citizen-home/children-young-people-and-families/youth-support/young-peoples-organised-activities/finchley-young-people-s-activity-centre.html))) and Finchley Youth Theatre or Finchley Youth Centre which both appear on various webpages and elsewhere.

## FYT

On Google - No obvious link to a web page in its own right - only via the [barnet.gov.uk](http://barnet.gov.uk) page (above) which now usefully list the facilities available, opportunities for hire, photos of the theatre and dance studio and the programme of activities

## Outside the theatre

The notice board could usefully have the programme of activities on it. But recognise that the Council may have to approve what goes on it.

## FoFYT

- On Google - the website comes up early in the search results;
- Updates - the pages are updated at different times. Ken explained that certain pages such as the Board minutes page are updated frequently but other pages do not need updating. Lisa suggested a bi-annual update of all pages so anyone looking at it knows it's a current website;
- Lisa queried the [info@fofyt.co.uk](mailto:info@fofyt.co.uk) email link, what a Supporter is and the wording on the Donations page
- Additional links could be added and Lisa suggested that the Arts Depot link be removed as a competitor. In the discussion that followed it was agreed that links to Soto Dance and Airborne Circus be added. Ken would ask the webmaster to do this and review the other links.

### **New Action 3/B170321 - Ken Osborne to review the links page on the FoFYT website and ask the webmaster to make changes including adding Soto Dance and Airborne Circus**

It was suggested that the programme of activities be added to the website. Ken explained that it was already there (at Meetings/Events > Future Meetings/Events) although it was outdated since he had not received subsequent updates from Liz and maybe poorly placed. Ken would send the latest version to the webmaster (now available from the [barnet.gov.uk](http://barnet.gov.uk) page).

### **New Action 4/B170321 - Ken Osborne to send the latest programme of activities to the webmaster for uploading to the website**

Roger agreed to add more information to the FoFYT Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/FinchleyYouthTheatre](http://www.facebook.com/FinchleyYouthTheatre))

### **New Action 5/B170321 - Roger Chapman to add more information to the FoFYT Facebook page**

It was agreed that future FoFYT Board meetings should include a standing agenda item on what new items to put on the website and social media.

## **2c. Matters arising not elsewhere on the Agenda**

None raised.

## **3. The Way ahead - Developments with Barnet Council and Architect visit**

See status of **Action 7/B170208** above regarding the architect visit.

Liz said that there had been discussions about who might like to run FYC. She also said that it was clear to her that the Council did not want to knock down the building and they wished to keep the facility in some form.

Another option

### **New Action 6/B170321 - Roger Chapman to email Sharon Dodds about the future (copied to Flo Armstrong)**

In terms of increasing the use of the building and making the community more aware of its facilities, it was suggested that more use could be made of the foyer and to make it more open to the outside (by running a cafe or similar attraction) possibly in conjunction with Oak Lodge and/or Oak Bridge.

#### 4. Ballet Barre – Arrange photo opportunity with Archer. Option for second barre

Having received the first ballet barre, courtesy of The Archer, which Emilia had confirmed was very useful, Roger would now arrange purchase of the second barre and said that The Archer would like to write a short article about the barres including a photo. Roger would arrange a suitable date & time for the photo in conjunction with Emilia.

[New Action 7/B170321 - Roger Chapman to arrange a suitable date for The Archer to take a photo of the ballet barre provision in conjunction with Emilia](#)

#### 5. Finance report including information on funded places

Not discussed at the meeting but Catherine provided the following update for the minutes:

PayPal	£404.15
Barclays	£0.01
Cash	£30.00
Co-op	£2223.05
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2657.21</b>
Jobson fund	£762.60

#### 6. Any other Business

None raised

#### 7. Date of next Board meeting

The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday 2 May 2017 starting at 7:30pm [Secretary's note - subsequently postponed until 12 October 2017].

The Meeting closed at 9pm

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#### **ANNEX 1 - WISH LIST OF ITEMS FOR FUTURE PURCHASE CONSIDERATION**

Nothing yet added - to be maintained as a standing agenda item and items added as they are identified.

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#### **ANNEX 2 - CATHERINE'S REPORT ON SHEDLINK**

(Information from website plus Catherine's comments in red)

Chickenshed created the ShedLink inclusive theatre training Programme in 2000 in order to impact on the performing arts provision in the UK by creating a wider and deeper understanding of inclusive theatre practice.

We established theatre groups led by artistic leaders trained in the Chickenshed inclusive creative method which progress to independence. Each 'Shed' develops its own direction but remains associated with Chickenshed by a shared vision of inclusive theatre – its philosophy and practice.

Each 'Shed' has its own Children's & Youth Theatre groups and some have gone on to establish an Adult Company, schools outreach work and early years activities."

Chickenshed has developed 19 "Sheds/Inclusive Community Theatre Groups". 9 are situated in Greater London and the others spread across the UK.

#### **London Sheds**

- Angel Shed – Islington, North London
- Hackney Shed – Hackney, East London
- Harringey Shed – Tottenham, North London

- Harrow Shed – Harrow, North West London

### **Other UK Sheds**

- Cotton Shed – Rossendale, Lancashire
- Herts Inclusive Theatre – Watford, Hertfordshire
- Hop Shed Theatre Company – Maidstone, Kent
- Orbit Shed – Reigate, Surrey
- The Theatre Shed – Chesham Buckinghamshire
- Tram Shed – Blackpool, Lancashire
- Woodshed – Northfleet, Kent

### **How to set up a Shed**

[www.chickenshed.org.uk/set-up-a-shed](http://www.chickenshed.org.uk/set-up-a-shed)

We are always looking for organisations or consortiums of organisations to work with us to establish new 'Sheds' / inclusive community theatre groups.

### **Overall aim of each ShedLink Programme**

To set up, through training, an exciting, vibrant, inclusive organisation comprising a Children's Theatre group, (7 - 11 year olds), a Youth Theatre group (11 - 16 year olds) and an Adult Company (16+ years). → **Adult Company is something we hadn't considered up to this point but not every shed has this.**

### **What it takes to set up a 'Shed'**

Each 'Shed' is unique – created by Chickenshed with the support of the local community through a 'Lead Organisation'. A Lead Organisation could be: a local authority or business who wish to regenerate a specific area; a primary and secondary schools looking to make stronger links; a group of parents wishing to make inclusion a priority for their community or an individual with the necessary vision and motivation to make things happen.

All of these models can and have led to the establishment of 'Lead Organisations'. For all of these partners the ShedLink Programme becomes a catalyst for change, bringing inclusion, community cohesion and excellence in the performing arts.

The 'Lead Organisation' we work with must share our passionate belief in the right of every individual to have access to the performing arts and will recognise the tangible benefits that this can bring to the wider community.

The next essential is the ability to secure the funding so that we can begin to train local arts practitioners in the Chickenshed inclusive creative method. We are looking for positive, proactive 'Lead Organisations' in all areas. **So we would be the lead organisations. There is then an application form on the website to complete to register an interest.**

### **Chicken Shed -Southgate, North London**

<https://www.chickenshed.org.uk/>

#### **History**

In 1974, musician and composer, Jo Collins, met Mary Ward, a teacher and director. With a shared belief in harnessing the creativity in everyone and anyone, they started a theatre company. In a chicken shed.

Their creative process worked. More members joined as church halls replaced the eponymous shed. In the early 1980s the company included a boy with cerebral palsy for the first time. 'If we're open to everyone, why is he the only one?' asked teenage members. Enter John Bull and his pioneering work on integration. He joined with Mary and Jo and Chickenshed became the first truly inclusive theatre company. Open to everyone.

Judi Dench and Trevor Nunn joined us as pro-active Trustees. Our first CD, a record contract, TV and West End performances followed – and an increasingly public profile.

Amidst all this, 1988 was a pivotal year: Lord and Lady Rayne met Chickenshed – and Lady Rayne became our President. She introduced our work to The Princess of Wales, who 'got' Chickenshed, heart and mind, from the start. As our Royal Patron, she shared her time – personal and professional – and gave us genuine loyalty and unwavering support.

When Enfield Council pledged land for a theatre, it was Lord and Lady Rayne who tirelessly raised the funds to build it. In December 1994, the company moved into a beautiful flexible space. At the heart of the building sits The Rayne Theatre, named after the family who turned our dreams into reality.

From our new home, things really took off. 1995 saw our first national tour. 2 months, 20 performers, 5 cities and 20 schools, enjoyed by over 5,000 people.

For Mary and Jo, the concept of inclusion that seemed so obvious at the start is now an international movement with a mission to change the world. The awards that recognise this – two MBEs, 'This is Your Life', Creative Briton Award, a Snowdon Award and Honorary Doctorates included – are as much for Chickenshed as for them.

Some of the original 1970s members are still the core of our company. Most have moved on, outside performance art, but the Chickenshed experience remains within them all. Adult lives underpinned by the values and skills absorbed during their magical time at the Shed. And an understanding that diversity and inclusiveness should be a way of life.

That understanding is just as relevant for members today. Every extraordinary piece of theatre they create at Chickenshed shouts out the same thing: anyone can thrive in an environment where everyone is welcome.

### **Who we are**

Chickenshed is an inclusive theatre company that first began in. Primarily based at our own purpose-built venue in North London, we create theatre for all ages and run successful outreach projects, education courses and membership programmes throughout the year.

We are also a registered charity and rely heavily on the generous support of individuals, companies, trusts and foundations in order to continue our pioneering work.

### **Performance**

Entertaining and thought-provoking

Performance is at the heart of everything that we do and brings together all aspects of the company. Our work uses the stage to celebrate diversity and performance as a vehicle to communicate with audiences and tackle topical social issues. We regularly present original and entertaining productions for young children, families and adults. We also create new work, inspired by the people around us, about personal and social issues that affect society today which we then take on tour to theatres, community centres and schools across the UK.

### **Education**

Everyone has a right

Chickenshed changes lives by bringing young people from all social and economic backgrounds, races and abilities together to study creatively alongside each other, many of whom have been marginalised by society and excluded from mainstream educational settings. We welcome over 200 students onto our BTEC, Foundation Degree and BA level programmes every year. 66% of students would not otherwise have the opportunity to study, yet 95% of these same students achieve a nationally recognised qualification at Chickenshed.

### **Membership**

Celebrating diversity

We believe that every person who joins our company positively changes the way that we work. We work to every individual's strengths, finding the creative environment that will enable them to flourish. We hold weekly workshops for over 900 children and young people - providing them with a safe and rewarding environment where they can gain a new-found confidence and have the chance to regularly perform in major in-house productions.

### **Outreach**

Targeting those who are difficult to reach

Chickenshed has established a network of partners that enables us to effectively target children and young people who would otherwise not be able to access our work. We regularly take our inclusive outreach model on the road, delivering over 15 projects and benefiting over 15,000 young people every year in venues ranging from primary schools and young offender centres, to mainstream and special schools. Our work engages and educates young people about relevant social issues through the power of performance and active participation in workshops.

'You must do the show in my primary school because that is when everything bad starts.' - 13-year-old boy from a school in London.

We also run [Shedlink](#) - an ongoing project that enables us to help community groups set up independent 'Sheds' around the UK (and two in Russia!) so that more people can benefit from our ethos and teaching style.

## **Chickenshed Kensington & Chelsea**

Expanding our work to meet growing need

In 2011, we launched our branch in [Kensington and Chelsea](#) to bring our work to an area of London polarised between rich and poor. This will ensure even more children and young people can experience the importance of being included and valued; not segregated or rejected. 50% of children in the Borough of Kensington and Chelsea attend independent schools, yet 42% of children in the Borough are from low income families.

### **Young Creators**

Vocational training programme

Young Creators is a professional development programme which launched in 2013, providing young people with access to training and practical work experience in a variety of theatre skills. The programme provides a platform which teaches young people creative skills and arms them with the necessary tools to further their professional development. Each year, up to 165 [Young Creators](#) can benefit from the programme.

### **Awards and nominations**

We were nominated in the Best Male category of the Off West End Theatre Awards 2012 for The Rain That Washes and in 2011 we were awarded Winner of Best Theatre Company in the Fringe Report Awards and the Panel Award at The Off West End Theatre Awards.

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