



Friends of the Court Theatre

AGM 2024 Minutes v1

Location: The Court Theatre, Lobby
Date: Monday, 11 March, 2024
Time: 7:00pm – 7:45pm
Present: 56 Friends of the Court Theatre – list appended
Guests: Ben Limmer (Speaker)
Apologies: 52 Friends of the Court Theatre – list appended

Meeting details:

I. Welcome

- The Chair (Annie Bonifant) thanked everyone for their attendance.
- The proposed new Patron of The Friends of The Court Theatre, Ben Gough, was introduced, by the Chair, and spoke to the meeting about his delight to be proposed for the role and his long history with The Court Theatre.

II. Apologies

- The list of 52 apologies received, was taken as read.

Motion: That the apologies, as received and listed, be accepted.

Moved: David Winfield **Seconded:** Cheryl Vandertie **Carried**

III. Minutes of prior meeting - held Monday 13th March 2023

- **Discussion/Comments/Corrections**

Correction: Jenny May was an apology.

Motion: That the minutes be approved as a true and correct record.

Moved: Elisabeth Cooch **Seconded:** Raewyn Raynel **Carried**

IV. Chairs Report

- Annie Bonifant delivered and spoke to the Chairs report (copy attached).

Motion: That the Chairs Report be accepted.

Moved: Rachel Vavasour **Seconded:** Jenny May **Carried**

V. Treasurer's / Performance Report

- Lynn Vandertie delivered and spoke to the Treasurer's / Performance report (copy attached).
- Lynn acknowledged the assistance received from Tony Feaver and indicated that Felicity Richards would be assisting in the coming year.

Motion: That the Treasurer's / Performance Report be accepted.

Moved: Charles Duke **Seconded:** Raewyn Raynel **Carried**

VI. Elections

• Patron

Motion: That Ben Gough be appointed as the Patron of The Friends of The Court Theatre.

Moved: Raewyn Raynel **Seconded:** Andrea Bankier **Carried**

• The Friends of The Court Theatre Committee

- 11 nominations were received (list attached).
- Nominations were announced, along with their specific role (as appropriate) to the meeting.
- As there were just sufficient nominations for the Committee, no vote was required and the nominees were duly appointed.

VII. General Business

• Friends Committee

- Tony Feaver - Annie paid tribute to retiring Committee member, Tony Feaver, and covered some of the numerous roles and activities that he had been involved in during his many years with the Court Theatre. His financial assistance and work with the Trust and Incorporated Societies documentation was invaluable. The Committee and the meeting attendees wished Tony the very best for the future.
- Carolyn Grant – Annie welcomed Carolyn Grant to the Friends Committee. Carolyn has been involved with the Applause and related fundraising campaigns for the Court Theatre's new building, and is a welcome addition to the Committee.

• Honorary Solicitor

- Brian Palliser (QSM) - Annie announced that The Friends of The Court Theatre Honorary Solicitor, Brian Palliser, was retiring. Brian has been involved with the Friends (formally The Supporters) of The Court Theatre for 50+ years and has contributed to the smooth running of The Friends, by running his legal eye over the required/legislated paperwork.

A presentation of a gift basket was made to Brian on behalf of The Friends, by Cheryl Colley.

Brian spoke to the meeting and noted that he had greatly enjoyed his involvement with The Court Theatre and appreciated the acknowledgement. Brian also noted that his favorite Court show of all time was “Little Shop Of Horrors” and it was time to “bring it back”.

VIII. Guest Speaker – Ben Limmer

- Ben, whose current role is that of leader of The Court Theatre Education & Outreach program, has had an extensive career in the performing arts, both in New Zealand and 14 years overseas. He has acted in a number of productions and also recently directed his first show for TCT – The Kuia and The Spider.
- Ben, a Christchurch lad, joined the Court Theatre in July 2023 and has led the Education programs since that time. His aim is to reinvigorate The Courts Performing Arts Education activities. To date he has been very successful.
- Ben outlined the various educational activities that The Court Theatre undertakes.
 - Term Time Classes – 13 being run with participants ages from 7 to 70. These classes are oversubscribed.
 - Holiday Programs – for both juniors & seniors
 - Youth Company – 20 actors involved with ages ranging from 17 to 21. At present they are preparing for the show “She Kills Monsters” (20Au2024 to 31Aug2024)
 - Scholarships – this year saw The Friends provide funding for a scholarship for an aspiring actor. The Uplift Scholarship is a new addition to the suite of programs and Ben thanks The Friends for their generosity.
 - Jester Youth Company – Court Jesters in training and there are 20 young actors involved
 - Youth Crew – a group that provides assistance to schools in the performing arts space
 - Ambassador Program – schools nominate students to ‘take a look’ at the Theatre environment and this year there are 25 young folk involved
 - School Matinées – at least 5 shows are provided each year and each is accompanied with an education pack
 - Theatre Sports in Schools Competition – possibly one of the longest running ‘shows’ in the world! It has been operating for over 30 years and won a Carl Gibson award recently. 2025 will see some enhancements and the introduction of a ‘hub for improvisation’
 - School Touring Shows – shows are delivered at over 25 schools in Canterbury, Otago and the West Coast. In excess of 3,000 students get to see these shows.
 - Workshops For Primary Schools – run on demand
 - Backstage Tours, Bespoke Tours & Road Safety touring show (Crash Bash) – run on demand

- Master Classes – for advanced actor training, any age
- An Education Administrator has been appointed recently which should lighten Ben's paperwork!
- Annie thanked Ben for his presentation and expressed admiration and surprise at the number of educational/outreach programs being run by The Court. This sentiment was echoed by the meeting attendees.

IX. Closure

- The Chair again thanked all attendees and invited them to join with the newly formed Committee for a post-meeting drink.
- David Winfield proposed a vote of thanks to Annie for her diligence and work on behalf of The Friends. This was greeted with acclamation.
- The meeting closed at 7:45pm.

X. Proposed Next Meeting - AGM

- Monday 10th March 2025, 7:00pm.
Location yet to be determined

Signed as a true and correct record:

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____