

**The Gilbert & Sullivan Very Light Opera Company
Board Meeting**

July 13, 2020

In attendance were: Wally Benbenek, Alexander Gerchak, Stephen Hage, Shawn Holt, Barb Hovey, Malka Key, Anna Maher, John Orbison

This Board Meeting was conducted via Zoom and was called to order at 7:30 pm.

Ticketing / House Manager Position:

Julia Ockuly is willing to continue in the Ticketing / House Manager position if she can have a break over spring break. Wally will continue to see how to make the job easier.

Stage Manager Position:

Stephen has hired Keara Lavandowska as Stage Manager for *Ruddigore*.

Ruddigore Remount:

The Board has unanimously decided to postpone *Ruddigore* until the spring of 2021, assuming the widespread availability of a COVID-19 vaccine. We will produce *Ruddigore* in June, if necessary due to as later distribution of a COVID-19 vaccine. This idea is strongly supported by both Joe Andrews and Randy Buikema. Eric Pasternack has notified Plymouth Congregational Church that we may need to reserve the theater for June performances from the 4th to the 27th. Production of the show at an outside venue would present a lot of technical issues, but it could be explored if the theater were not available. The Como Lakeside Pavilion would be one option. Stephen and Wally will update the website regarding the changed date of the remount. Richard Rames will be asked to send an email blast to our emailing list as well.

Minneapolis Pops Orchestra

The new Pops Director has not responded to Wally's email about the potential of the GSVLOC singing in the bandshell in 2021. Stephen suggests that we advocate to sing *Ruddigore*, especially if we stage the show in June.

Cabaret Proposal:

Anna and Alex proposed an arrangement with The Hook and Ladder to do a live stream cabaret event with GSVLOC performers. The arrangement would be a 70/30 ticket split. The venue sells drinks and arrange for food trucks for a potential audience?

Diversity / Equity / Inclusion:

The board had a discussion regarding how to be more inclusive of BIPOC as a company.

In regards to the cast, we intend to take various steps to encourage people of color in to audition. It should be noted that casting decisions made by music and stage directors. We can, however, share with them our goal of a more diversified cast. It should be noted that our company already creates diversity in the cast with age. This could inform how we accomplish encompass racial diversity.

We should endeavor to recruit more people of color into the orchestra. Could we draw people of color from youth orchestras?

The Board, through Stephen, directly hires production staff. We need to look at openings as opportunities to hire a wide variety of people.

The Board could also reach out to Rick Shiomi, and other theaters for people who would be interested in production staff positions.

Stephen is in conversation with Alex Flinner about a new Followspot Operator, the one current opening in the production staff. He could ask Alex if he knows a person of color who might be considered for the position.

We could consider people of color as our vendors

Malka will create a Google Doc with discussion points for people to add to between now and August 3, 2020, our next Board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Shawn Holt