



AAPTLE Meeting Minutes – Meeting #11

Date and Time: Tuesday 1st September, 12-1.30pm

Chair: FMTW (Peter McKintosh)

Minutes: FMTW (Jack Hudson)

Present:

ALD: Jo Town, Mark Jonathan, Stuart Porter, Lucy Carter

ASAM: Sadeysa Greenaway-Bailey (FTF)

ASD: Dominic Bilkey, Zoe Milton

CITA: Claire Hartley, Nikki Edmonds, Catherine Kodicek

FMTW: Peter McKintosh, Sunita Hinduja, Jack Hudson

Freelance Task Force: Susie McKenna

PMA: Helen Mumby

PMF: Mandy Ivory-Castile, Dan Shelley, David Evans

SBTD: Fiona Watt, Cat Silver, Katie Scott, Nicky Shaw

Scene/Change: Katrina Lindsay, Grace Smart

SDUK: Alex Sutton, Abigail Graham

SMA: Arran Pallan (FTF), Andy Rowley

Stage Sight: Tony Gayle, Bruno Poet

Welcomes and Apologies

Apologies: Max Jones (SC) David Farley (SBTD), Owen Thomas (SMA)

FMTW welcomed everyone to the meeting and individuals, old and new, introduced themselves.

Housekeeping

- A reminder to add your organisation to your name in Zoom meetings and on Slack.
- There are a few organisations who have not added their rough membership numbers to the slack channel (#membership-numbers) – please have a look and make sure it is up to date.
- Similarly, please can all organisations ensure that they have added their nominated representatives for future meetings to the Google sheet in Slack.

Action points from previous meetings

Future Guests

A schedule for future meetings has been added to Slack but no guests have been confirmed yet.

Suggestions include:

- **Julian Bird** (SOLT) and **Sebastian Slater** (UKT) – it was agreed that we should wait on both of these until we have ratified agreements so we have something to address. Max to update.
- **Patrick Molony** (CTF) – Nikki has contacted to check availability in Sept – no reply yet.
- **Helen Ryan** – she was available on the 22nd but we have now proposed this to Paul Fleming so Claire will go back and ask for another date.
- **Paul Fleming** (and **David Winter?**) – discussed below.
- Commercial producers – not specifically discussed.

As a rule, we should not move the meeting to accommodate guests, unless an exception is agreed. We should also try and leave a week between guests to allow thinking time and to prepare questions.

Update on ABTT/SMA report on rehearsal process

The report, which is in Slack, has been released as a 'living document' which is likely to remain in the process of being redrafted. Thank you to everyone who contributed. The producers involved have shown a positive attitude towards getting things moving again. There is a meeting tomorrow with producers and directors to talk about the guidelines and how they will work in the context of a whole production and creative community.

Representation within AAPTLE: Weekly follow on discussion

Of the organisations present, SDUK reported that they are in conversation at the moment about the ethnic make-up of their members. It was suggested that all represented organisations sign up to Stage Sight and share their ideas and plans for promoting diversity and inclusion backstage.

The following groups and disciplines were suggested as missing from AAPTLE:

- **The Movement Directors Association** – Sadeysa has emailed Ingrid (Mackinnon?) – the group has been newly formed but they are in communication.
- **Actors** – although AAPTLE's focus is on backstage roles, we could invite some individuals from existing associations. Abigail to contact Stephanie Street, chair of Act For Change, and Nikki to contact John Schwab at Curtain Call.
- Representation from **Video Code**.

We will need to discuss how we bring new members in, to keep the meetings manageable and we should aim to widen regional representation. We will start a thread in Slack for people to contribute and revisit next week.

Sunita has reached out to Amanda Parker from Inc Arts – she is away for a couple of weeks but after the #BameOver conference we will return to her and ask her to speak at the following meeting (it would be fine to invite her between guests if we are separating them by a week.)

Meeting with Equity General Secretary Elect Paul Fleming

4pm on 22nd September was agreed as the best date for Paul to attend – Fiona Watt will follow up with him.

It would be good to establish a format for this meeting and it was suggested that we identify a lead to organise questions and chair the discussion.

Potential questions have been suggested in a document in Slack, which need to be consolidated into a manageable document to forward to Paul before the meeting, as there is a lot of cross-over. Fiona has volunteered to organise this in a separate meeting alongside Max, Sunita, Nikki, and Zoe Spurr from the Equity Committee who Jo will invite. Fiona will action and send back to the group.

COVID-19 Working Practice document

The proposal for AAPTLE to put out a statement with working practice requirements still needs actioning. Andy will report back from tomorrow's meeting about the rehearsal process in Slack and then a smaller sub-group should form to work on the document.

Internal Affairs & Comms

AAPTLE website development – no update.

General communication channels – activity is currently being communicated via Slack and email, for which there are two lists – 'members' (for meeting details, agendas etc) and 'contact' (for correspondence to be forwarded on to relevant associations). It was agreed that we should keep conversations on Slack as much as possible. Owen is preparing a document to explain how to use it. It was suggested that we time-limit channels for archiving so they don't get out of hand.

Peter is happy to lead a separate meeting to re-organise communications now that the group has grown and established its identity. Jo, Dom and Katie have offered to join.

Slack's accessibility issues were raised, and should be returned to at some point, as it can be quite overwhelming for some people. Sadeysa is happy to start this conversation.

It was questioned whether weekly meetings are necessary and suggested that fewer regular meetings (maybe two a month) might allow people to dedicate more time when they engage.

It was suggested that unions and groups form a formal alliance. There are several aspects that would make this difficult however we should keep macro conversation on the table about how we work together and pool information and knowledge.

In terms of the proposed administrator role, it was agreed that it is still too early days and difficult to appoint someone on a paid basis whilst there are still conversations to happen about our internal structure and constitution.

Funding was not specifically discussed.

AOB

We Make Events are conducting a survey, which has been shared in Slack, to correlate accurate factual information about freelancers for press releases - https://bit.ly/WME_Freelancer_Survey. They are relaunching the next stage of their campaign tomorrow with an ongoing scheme over the next few months to raise money for freelancers. Bryan Raven is also correlating information on MPs and how best to approach those that have been supported and those that have not to keep pressure on the Government to support the arts.

The Freelance Task Force have two surveys out as well and Susie will share updates on activity with the group in the near future.

There are currently a lot of surveys happening and it might be worth gathering groups together to combine into one. We Make Events are open to people contributing as much as they can.

A letter has been sent out by TV Mindset beginning a "coalition for change" around mental wellbeing, which BECTU have signed. It was asked whether there is a theatre equivalent of this or if it something we could be doing for our sector, which Sunita would be happy to lead.

Date of Next Meeting and Host

12:0-13:30, 8th September

hosted by ABTT – David Evans