



## Meeting #16 13/10/20

Chaired By  stage  
directors uk

## Agenda

Venue: Zoom Meeting

Date and Time: Tuesday 13th October 12-1.30pm

Chair: Alex Sutton - Stage Directors UK

Minutes: Alex Sutton - Stage Directors UK

### Present

**ALD** - Mark Jonathan, Ian Saunders, Jo Town

**ASD** - Dominic Bilkey

**CITA** - Nikki Edmonds

**FMTW** - Alistair Cope, Peter McKintosh

**FTF/ASAM** - Sadeysa Bailey

**MDA** - Asha J-G, Ayse Tashkiran

**PMF** - David Evans (also ABTT & SiPA), Mandy Ivory-Castle, Dan Shelley

**SBTD** - David Farley, Cat Silver, Fiona Watt,

**Scene/Change** - Grace Smart

**SMA** - Andy Rowley, Owen Thomas

**Stage Sight** - Bruno Poet

**The Video Code** - Ian Galloway, Gilly Tan

## **1. Welcome and Apologies**

APOLOGIES - Sunita FMTW

- Alistair Cope has joined us from FMTW
- Tanika has joined Stage Sight
- Gilly from The Video Code also joined us again.

## **2. Housekeeping**

Owen Thomas (SMA) is updating the google drive and the process of moving all documents from slack to it. A request was made that all documents are loaded to the drive moving forward.

A new folder in Drive has been created for the Education and Outreach project.

Owen will continue to deliver slack training please do sign up if you require some help in navigating and using it successfully. Please sign up on the doodle poll

## **3. Actions from previous meetings**

Speakers at upcoming meetings

- Helen Ryan from BECTU

Has been contacted by CITA and hopefully we'll have an answer soon.

- Patrick Maloney, Cultural Task Force

Discussion was made that Patrick may not be useful to AAPTLE and may potentially not be suitable to bring into a meeting. There was an agreement with this from several members so AAPTLE won't be pursuing him to speak.

- Amanda Parker, Inc Arts

Amanda will come to the meeting on 27th of October FMTW are now chairing that meeting swapping with Scene/Change for that date. This has been updated on the schedules in googe drive

- IPSE & CIF

This is still TBC and will be followed up in the coming weeks.

- Backstage Niche - Anna Fleischle

- Sebastian & Julian, UK Theatre

Contact has been made, but there has been no response as yet.

### **3. Back to Work Guidance letter**

There have been some responses to the letter (notably the Young Vic) however, and inevitably, many people are still on furlough so the rate of reply is not demonstrative of intended reach. (Read hit being about 9%).

So far there have been about 190 - 200 individuals and organisations who have signed up to the statement on the FMTW website. This may increase in the coming weeks as most organisations were preparing to hear from the first government support package so they may not have had the time to focus on it properly.

FMTW are sending the statement out every other day.

It was mentioned that The Stage did not link to the statement so was just an article, but had no way to click and sign it. It was noted that The Stage did actually print the whole statement unedited, so should be seen as it being of importance to them too.

The statement is on the AAPTLE website now as well as FMTW.

### **4. COVID working practice updates**

Only the SMA guidance has been uploaded to the campaigns guidance folder in google drive. If any other member association has guidance they have produced for their members, if they are willing, could you also upload it there too.

### **5. Representation within AAPTLE**

Unconscious bias training channel has been very active this week. SDUK has delivered its first few sessions led by Chicken Shed. Stage Sight have been investigating using Chicken Shed, but are aware that although they were prepared to offer them on a 'pay what you can', this should really be paid for in full if we are to practice what we sent out in the 'Back to work' guidance letter. SDUK has funded this training at no cost to their members as it is being absorbed by them. Stage Sight are also investigating using Talowa.

### **6. SOLT/EQUITY deal**

We are now all waiting for the various union ballots to take place before taking any further action on this.

## **7. Government culture fund for England distribution**

There are some confusing results from the grants with some supply chain companies who were thought to be ineligible, receiving them, and some companies using the grant to fund productions, which was unexpected as part of the criteria for applying was that the grant couldn't be used for this.

The letters sent out to successful applicants seemed to have implied that they thanked the government very openly on social/local/national media before receiving the money. This sat extremely uncomfortably with many members.

The need to reiterate that the money given out was part of the £1.5 Billion promised by the government, and not 'extra' money.

It was mentioned that buildings lighting themselves up in red would not receive any of the promised funding, however this still needs to be corroborated.

578 organisations appear to have not been funded. It would be useful to find out who these are. The press on this is given in the following link.

<https://www.artspromotional.co.uk/news/hundreds-arts-organisations-rejected-emergency-funding>

## **8. Future projects**

The education sub committee met on Monday. SMA is going to produce a letter to send out to heads of years and careers specialists (within schools). The aim is also to develop a list of representatives from the alliances to speak at potential careers events.

There are minutes from this meeting being updated on google drive if anyone wants to see.

Schools seem to be a little shaky in coming forward to external events, based on the scene change exhibition and how they have coped post lockdown.

It is suggested that AAPTLE follow the Creative Industries Federation on what they are doing as current thinking is that careers advice is very dated and not being delivered successfully, so is high on the agenda's of schools priorities.

- The mental well being project - Sunita to update at a future meeting.

## **9. AOB**

FMTW are inviting applications for their future lab panel discussions. They are looking for six freelancers and six representatives from buildings to take part. This is a paid opportunity. The next Future Labs are on the following:

1. How do we protect the freelance backstage workforce (including technical and making professions) if we can't go back to work until next year?
2. How can we provide support, ongoing training and meaningful opportunities for the future freelance workforce?
3. How can we ensure the freelance workforce voice is heard in ensuring that the theatre we come back to is sustainable?

These are safe space discussions (not recorded), however the results of these will inform future funding applications. <https://freelancersmaketheatrework.com/futurelabs/>

WME has a bike ride going around the UK this week. The Survival Tour  
<https://www.wemakeevents.com/the-survival-tour/>

There is also another big event planned for the 31st October.

Next Meeting: 20/10/20 @ 1200

Host: SBTD