



**The Alliance of Associations
& Professionals in
Theatre & Live Events**

Meeting Minutes 09.02.21

In Attendance:

Zoe Milton ASD (Chairing)
Dominic Bilkey ASD (Chairing)
Kate Flatt (MDA)
Mark Jonathan (ALD)
David Ayton (ALD)
Katie Scott (SBTD)
Nikki Edmonds CiTEA
Andy Corrigan (Guest Speaker: Viva la Visa)
Dan Shelley (PMF)
Mandy Ivory-Castile
Nicky Shaw (SBTD)
Peter McKintosh (FMTW)
David Evans (PMF, ABTT SiPA)
Andy Rowley (SMA)
Stuart Porter (ALD)
Helen Mumy (PMA)
Max Jones (Scene Change)
Bruno Poet (Stage Sight)
Tamykha Patterson - Stage Sight
I:OPERA Ana Inés Jabares-Pita
Owen Thomas (SMA)
Mark Shayle (Guest PMF)
Anna Fleischle (Scene Change)
Ian Saunders (ALD)

As Andy Corrigan is only available for a short amount of time, his agenda point has been moved forward to the start of the meeting.

2.1 Talk from Andy Corrigan

Andy Corrigan has joined us from Viva La Visa, They organise and help with visa applications and movement across the world, predominately for touring musicians.

They have been monitoring the whole situation since the Brexit vote and are aiming to better understand the new relationship with Europe.

It was hoped that the relationship with Europe would be very much like the USA's, but this is not the case. There are lots of caveats that have come into place for UK resident's movement. In addition to this, across the Schengen area there are individual states with their own rules. It seems that some countries are also requiring entry visas for UK residents.

Other countries have work permit requirements, under EU law this is a requirement to work, some countries across the EU have creative

dispensations such as France but other countries like Bulgaria have different requirements.

Currently Andy is compiling a list, documenting all these different requirements.

On top of the border requirements, each country has a different Covid requirements, for the short term it's going to be a problem, but in the longer term, it will become simpler.

The situation must be seen in the context of tax and insurance too.

The petition from Tim Brennan, was discussed by MPs yesterday. The petition asked the UK Government to negotiate free travel for UK touring professionals but was categorically refused by the Government. The UK government offered EU freedom for performance if reciprocated and the EU refused, so in those terms the Government see no further discussion. The main issue here is uncertainty for touring professionals going forward. Questions were asked by the members present. The 90 days in 180 rules were discussed, the conversation centred around the management of travel across the EU. There was also a question about reciprocal tax benefits, which remain the same, but changes have occurred to the A1 form and the insurance.

Long term visas are an option, one for each country, but it isn't a simple process.

France is still offering a creative passport, as is Germany, but none of the processes are simple.

The Cabotage Rule pertains to the number of drops allowed for a UK based truck before it comes back to the UK. Currently this number is three drops, but an exception is being discussed for self owned trucks. Big haulage companies are setting up in Europe to bypass this issue. Tonnage is being reduced to 2.5 tonnes, which would further impact touring companies.

A question was asked about whether tours that go from UK to Dublin would remain unaffected by the new rules, Andy Corrigan suggested that this route is currently unaffected as it is part of the common travel area and would remain unaffected.

The dispensation for traveling with your instrument that exists in Europe has not been confirmed for the UK, Andy is reasonably confident that this will be ratified but it hasn't been yet.

A further question about the 90 days in 180 rules was asked. The question centred around how these dates would be recorded. Andy advised that from next year there will be an electronic pass for EU travel, so if the authorities chose to check into your days, it would be easy for them to do so. The Schengen agreement has slightly different rules, but as the UK is not part of this UK residents have to follow the individual rules.

Andy made his email available for members, if they have any further questions regarding visa and movement he will be happy to help.

1. Welcomes and apologies

Apologies: Sadeysa (ASAM) David (SBTD) Louie W.

Welcome to Ana Inés Jabares-Pita from i:Opera, Kate Flatt from MDA and Mark Shayle from PMF, Slack information was put into the chat and a welcome letter will be forwarded to the new members.

2.0 Meeting minutes ratified

Minutes from the last meeting were agreed and have been made available for members to read.

2.1 Action Points from Previous Meetings

Social Media

The social media team reported back on the progress of the social media. Positive news stories can be shared via the slack, or via direct message to Katie Scott.

There are draft documents in the slack that are due to be sent to Kate Morley. These include the Mission statement, the return to work document and a proposal for an Instagram campaign to mark a year since theatres closed on March 17th, 2020. A lot of hard work has been done and a summary can be found in the slack.

The new members were introduced to the various communication methods that are used by AAPTLE.

Getting back to Work safely

Questionnaire has gone out to the members of the various associations. Currently only members are being approached for the questionnaire. The benefits of expanding the deadline were discussed and it was decided that we could continue the deadline to the end of February which would enable the findings to be collated and made public ahead of the March 17th anniversary of theatres closing due to Covid 19 restrictions. The data is coming back to the ASD Jot-form, the ASD will collate the data and share with the group.

Covid Safety monitor issue.

Time was given to this issue to allow members to further investigate the merits of a Covid safety monitor. The ABTT guidance does not recommend Covid Safety monitors or supervisors. The general feeling was that the role is problematic and needs to have clarity. Stage managers are training as Covid marshals, and this is felt to be a good thing, it was felt that introducing this role as an additional member to the team reduces the pressure on the existing team.

Costume departments have been approaching it in a slightly different way, working with HSE to increase the HS training for costume workers. In reality the emphasis should be on personal responsibility but there needs to be an empowerment of workers so that they feel able to step forward if they are aware of issues.

Within the Costume model an additional member of staff is made available to clean and remind colleagues of personal guidance, like wearing masks.

They are also hoping to open up the training to CITEA members. It was felt that the idea of linking Covid safety with H&S culture should be included going forward. The title of assistant was also felt to be positive.

The idea of supplying Covid-19 safety training for actors and dancers was raised. It was felt that One Dance UK has been doing good work on this.

#NotHereAllYear

This is a social media campaign to mark the date of March 17th. The PR group are looking to find out when individual countries shut down their theatre industries. They asked that if members were traveling last year and can remember the date that they were asked to close, please could they let the PR team now. The information will be used to create a global picture of the impact of Covid-19 on the industry.

3.1: Mental Health

Members reported that the ABTT gave a very positive seminar this week and off the back of this APPTLE members decided that we should be more involved in raising awareness and signposting information for association members.

The general feeling was that this course was a really positive and much could be learnt from the way it was run. Members were interested in participating in similar mental health awareness courses for APPTLE members. It was hoped that this could be organised in the same way as the recent bias training. A new channel will be created in the Slack to discuss the best way forward.

Mark Shayle put forward this website:

<http://www.time4changementalhealthcharter.com/> as a good resource.

I:Opera also put forward their website www.iopera.org/kindness for more information.

ACTION POINTS: Meeting to be called, Slack Channel to be set up, research to be done into the Cow Shed and other training providers.

3.2 Management Structure of AAPLTE

The addendum put forward by SDUK was discussed by members present. SDUK were not in attendance, so the topic was not fully discussed. It was acknowledged that the members in attendance are all volunteers, offering their time for free and for the benefit of all. It was agreed that when dealing with volunteers there was a need for greater sensitivity. Members commented on the power of APPTLE as a collaborative entity and the importance of continuing that collaboration in a smart way, by working with people already doing work and not duplicating each other's work, which was one of the reasons APPTLE was formed.

It was noted that APPTLE does not have a formal structure and there is no requirement to attend meetings, but it was also noted that adding an addendum to the agenda and not attending the meeting is not the best way to discuss topics important to individual associations. It was agreed that the matter should not be discussed further at this meeting, due to a lack of representation from SDUK, but members felt that communication with SDUK should happen via email to gain clarification on the issues raised.

3.1 Restart Better

The possibility to come back to work in a more healthy way was discussed. The Danish method of work was raised, as was a 4-day working week. The individual associations have been working with their members to discuss good working practice and are collecting data, it was suggested that this data could be shared and it was agreed that this should be done with a sense of urgency, as we're starting to come back to work in small sections.

The idea was raised that everyone needs to be in the conversation in order to make the new workplace work for everyone.

The Promotion and PR group suggested that this conversation could happen live, perhaps as an Instagram live or a round table discussion over Zoom, so that members of the public could also join in.

ACTION POINTS: PR Group to discuss how best to facilitate this conversation.

4. Update from Working Groups

Education

Andy raised a request from RCSSD with regards to video selfies from industry professionals. More information is in the Slack and Bethany Dixon from RCSSD can be directly contacted for more information.

Union Working group

Meeting next week with BECTU, will report back then.

Sustainability

Time sensitive: A questionnaire has been put on to Slack for practitioners in the London area, it looks at the possibility of creating a Set Resource, much like a costume store, for scenery. SIPA has released their ten easy wins, check out the website at www.SiPA.Global.

CITEA: Costume sustainability discussion is happening this week; they will be able to feedback at the next meeting.

Representation within APPTLE

Photographers have been contacted, and are in discussion.

Housekeeping

Website has been updated, please check your individual associations for content corrections.

PR group has requested new members send in their Logos.

Next Meeting: Tuesday February 23rd hosted by the Movement Directors Association

More information is available via the Slack Channels.