Irish Equity AGM

April 9th 2017

Liberty Hall Theatre

**Chair**: Padraig Murray President

**Apologies:** Alan Howley, Pat Butler, Clare Blennerhasset, Linda Gough. Carolyn Donnelly, Philip O Sullivan, Oddie Bradell, Eimear Morrissey.

**Deceased Members**

The meeting commenced with a minute’s silence for deceased members Bobby Carrickford, Anita Reeves, Vera Morgan, Barry Cassin, Anne O'Driscoll, Fergus Linehan (Society of Irish Playwrights/ SIPTU) and Deirdre Friel Kelly. Laurence paid tribute to Barry Cassen.

**Minutes of 2016 AGM**

The minutes of the previous AGM were adopted on a proposal from Jessica Fried and seconded by Gene Rooney.

**Matters Arising**

On matters arising it was agreed that a place on the Executive would be set aside for a cast member from Red Rock and this place was taken up by Andrea Irvine. It was noted that Robert Carrickford’s name would be amended for the minutes as there was an incorrect spelling.

**Address**

The President address by Padraig Murray was read and noted.

**Report**

The Organisers report from Karan O Loughlin was read and in the Q&A session that followed the following was noted:

The importance of sustaining AARO going forward and that the exclusion of the Guilds from the coverage of the legislation was putting pressure on AARO and it was noted that we should keep trying to address this as it was felt that some initiative had been lost by the decline of AARO particularly around the UNESCO status of the artist recommendations.

There was also a discussion on the importance of Copyright, the benevolent monies and the need for a continued focus on the changing the competition law.

**Motions**

***Motion 1***

*This motion was submitted on behalf of the Executive Committee of Irish Equity adopted on a proposal from Gerry O Brien and seconded by Joe McKinney*.

That this Executive, through the Arts and Culture Sector and through the combined resources of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, lobby government to ratify the Beijing treaty. The Beijing treaty will not only enhance legal access to content, but also keep the entertainment industry sustainable and improve the livelihood of the performers that we represent.

**Motion 2**

*This motion was submitted on behalf of the Executive Committee of Irish Equity adopted on a proposal from Gerry O Brien and seconded by Ann Russell*

That the Executive of Irish Equity ensure that all legislative protections under statute such as working time, equality, the Copyright and Related Act 2000 and any other protections for performers are implemented in full where any public funding is provided to private production companies, semi state or public enterprise from any tax incentive schemes, any license fee or future broadcasting charge.

**Motion 3**

Having regard to the fact that Irish Actors are opposed to any activity that can be classified as “Pay to Play” - the Executive of Irish Equity commit to pursue, as a matter of policy, a campaign to lobby the Government for the enactment of legislation to ensure the elimination of “Pay to Play” activities in the Republic of Ireland.

This motion was submitted on behalf of the Executive Committee of Irish Equity. While it was generally agreed that where getting a part or an audition was contingent on paying for a workshop was a real conflict of interest, experiences differed greatly in this regard.

After some discussion, on a proposal from Karan O Loughlin that was seconded by Austin Graham it was agreed to remit this issue back to the Executive for monitoring can clearer definition on direction.

**Elections**

Padraig Murray and Gerry O Brien were returned unopposed as President and Vice President respectively.

The members of the Executive who went forward were returned unopposed. Eimear Morrissey and Laurence Foster were returned unopposed as Trustees.

The meeting then received a presentation from John Gleeson, Head of Media with Grant Thornton on Taxation of actors in Ireland and abroad.

This was followed by an in dept question and answer session. The President of Equity thanked John Gleeson for his presentation and presented him with a small gift from the Executive.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

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Padraig Murray March 25th 2018