

Irish Equity AGM

March 25th 2018

Liberty Hall Theatre

Chair: Padraig Murray President

Apologies: Eimear Morrissey, Gene Rooney, Siobhan Hearty, Justin Ayler, Rynagh O Grady,

Deceased Members

The meeting commenced with a minute's silence for deceased members Don Cockburn (Newsreader), Gerry Sullivan (Actor), Scott Fredericks (Actor), Biddy White Lennon (Actor) Peadar Lamb (Actor). The meeting also noted the passing of Robert Lane and Doreen Keogh

Minutes of 2017 AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM were agreed and adopted on a proposal from Ann Russell that was seconded by Annette Kelly.

Matters Arising

There was a reference from the floor to the Presentation by John Gleeson and the difficulties people had getting exclusion orders retained, having duality of engagement accepted and dealing with multiple revenue offices and the general difficulty with getting revenue to understand the expense that arise from the profession. It was also noted that the Revenue on line system is not disability friendly. It was suggested that the union should consider putting it to revenue that buyouts should be taxed over the lifetime of the buyout and not at payment stage. There was a general consensus that revenue do not understand the workings of the acting profession.

Address

The President's address by Padraig Murray was read and noted, giving particular reference to the potential impact of Brexit on the Arts in Ireland.

Annual Report 2017/2018

The Organisers report covering the year since the 2017 AGM was presented by Karan O Loughlin.

Matters Arising

The following matters arising were noted:

1. The cessation of the production of Red Rock and the fact that Virgin Media did not have any responsibility to produce drama in Ireland.
2. The need for publicly funded bodies to pay the Equity minimum rates (at least).
3. The question as to whether SIPTU could be involved with the provision of housing for actors.
4. The Production of "The Dublin Murders" was confirmed as being produced on the PACT agreement as an Ireland / UK co-production.

Presentations

The meeting received 2 presentations;

1. Karan O Loughlin presented on bullying and harassment in the arts that looked at international comparisons with this problem.
2. Sarah Kiernan from the Board of Women in Film and Television and activist with Amplify Women presented on the work these organisations are doing for better equality for women in film and television.

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 Austin Grehan.

That the Executive of Irish Equity will commit to pursuing at all levels, including at Oireachtas level, the social and political supports envisaged by the 1980 UNESCO Recommendation on the status of the Artist so as to achieve a sustainable careers and quality of life for Irish Equity members in the Republic of Ireland.

Submitted on behalf of the Executive of Irish Equity

Motion 2

This motion was submitted on behalf of the Executive Committee of Irish Equity adopted on a proposal from Pdraig Murray and seconded by Melissa Nolan.

That the Executive of Irish Equity would explore the options available for providing practical facilities and supports for Equity members in the pursuit of their career.

Submitted on behalf of the Executive of Irish Equity.

A declaration was made by the meeting on a proposal by Glynis Casson that was seconded by Austin Grehan and unanimously agreed by the meeting as follows:- That Irish Equity deplore the closure of Film Base and call on the industry to do everything in its power to keep this valuable facility open.

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. It was agreed that the remaining vacancy would be filled by cooption. The meeting agreed that the nomination of trustees should be dealt with by the incoming Executive and that an appeals committee could be formed on an as needs basis with the oversight of the Executive. There 3 members agreed as volunteers to be called upon if required.

- Nuala Kelly
- David O Meara
- Oddie Braddell

Any Other Business

There was a general discussion about organising other performers such as entertainers and that concluded the business of the meeting.

Padraig Murray

March 25th 2018

