



Kevin Spence (KS) opened the Open Forum by letting everyone know what we are working on:-

1. Launching the Young Technician's award (18-25) – free week to experience professional theatre at RSC + cash incentive, if it goes well we will spread wider from RSC.
2. Launched the Young Ambassador Scheme (16-25) So far following the get together at the Crescent Theatre, 2 lads are going on a free RSC workshop.
3. CAST had produced a safe guarding video which was shown to the Open Forum audience.
4. KS had been on the February RSC course which he thought had been good value for money
5. Possibility of setting up conversations between Professional and Amateur theatres. Jackie Blackwood (JB) will talk to Ian Wainwright of RSC to try to set up workshops.
6. Exploring other agencies who represent writers and KS will put an article in the next Newsletter. Interestingly 34% of Nick Hern's business comes from LTG Theatres.

Jo Matthews (JM) thanked KS for setting up these initiatives and acknowledged the hard work which KS had put in. All of which will do the LTG a lot of good. If you are considering sitting on the committee then think about your own initiatives.

Questions from the floor; Philip Welsh, Northampton Playhouse:- “Do other little theatres experience the same difficulty that we do in dealing with PRS and what advice would you offer in persuading them to listen and communicate effectively?” – Speak to them directly. Possibly a Grey Paper issue? (Corn Exchange). Pay a licence for films based on revenue & seats, but issues on ambient music in foyer (Talisman). PPR and PPL should be paid together as one payment. The National Committee to visit offices of PPR/PPL (near Highbury) and get some action.

Nick (Sinodun) – encourage more theatres to come to conferences and see what they are missing – Mike Smith (MS) said a survey has gone out regarding attending conferences and we will review the replies at our May/June meeting. Patricia Clough thought it was because of cost. JM said we need to find out how many reps get all, some or nothing from their theatres towards the cost. Gemma (ST Albans)- she is on the theatre committee and they have paid her expenses. We are thinking of inviting a “name” to come to the National conference to draw people in.

Wendy Smith (Durham) asked if new member theatres were joining just to obtain access to the legislation rather than feeling they belong to an organisation where they can network. Maybe we should run some technical workshops where people can just drop in if of interest.

Marie French (Progress) – Put the conference forms on web site for easier access. Some people find access to the back pages of the web site difficult. Adam (Maskers) put details in the Newsletter – deadline may be tight depending on when the Newsletter is published. Anne Gilmour (AG) to look at the web site access. Gemma (St Albans) put details of the Conference on the face book page for a short time and advertise up coming conferences (save the date) on the Web site.

Debbie Hibberd (Rugby) suggested excerpts from the Open Forum be sent for LTG reps to go onto their theatre notice boards. Also perhaps organise a microphone to be passed around at the Open Forum as it is difficult to hear people's questions.



Personal Evacuation procedures – Ilkly Playhouse have a good one and do training in house on the issues. Rugby have a “lock-down procedure” in case of Terror attack.

AG said they were running a workshop on “Employing people” at the Southern conference this autumn.

National Committee want to have a workshop on running your building. There is a workshop tomorrow morning on Funding for new building works which Jo had organised and hoped everyone would attend.

RSC workshop – Gail Bishop (Miller Centre) said the RSC only gave 6 weeks notice of the event a longer time would be appreciated (12-18 weeks) All up to RSC who tend to leave things to last minute.

Gail Bishop (Miller Centre) also mentioned that she had an Anti-bullying for adults policy which Caroline Chapman (CC) passed to Eddie Redfern (ER) to look at. At the moment not sure how far ER (who is away) has got with this.

John Jackson (Blackfriars) clarified to Ian Thompson that service charge on purchasing a ticket was allowed but charging for using a credit /debit card was not allowed. JM suggested that you could ask people to add a £1 or £2 onto the ticket price to go towards a restoration fund say.

Marie French (Progress) – would find it useful to share an admin worker with another theatre as they did not need a full time person. Julie Grimshaw (Sinodun) said come and talk to me as they were looking for someone likewise.

Debbie Hibberd (Rugby) suggested they may be interested in hosting the 2021 Central Conference. JB to get in touch with Debbie.

Open Forum closed.