

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Arts Centre Board

Minutes of the meeting of the Arts Centre Board
held on 9 February 2006

Present: Professor S Bassnett (Chair); Dr A Ainsworth, Mr C Foy, Ms L Holmes, Mr N Matthews, Ms K Organ, Mr R Perkins, Mr A Rivett, Professor M Waterson

Apologies: Professor O Bennett, Mr B Woods-Scawen

In attendance: Mr J Baldwin, Mr N Darlison, Mr R Gray, Dr J Moss

9/05-06 Minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Arts Centre Board held on 30 November 2005 be approved.

10/05-06 Matters Arising

Censorship (Minute 4(b)/05-06 referred)

REPORTED:

That the Chair and Director of the Arts Centre would continue discussions on a possible event on censorship with the Faculty of Arts and the Chair of its Faculty Board.

11/05-06 Chair's Business

Thatcher the Musical

REPORTED:

- (a) That the world premiere of *Thatcher the Musical* had recently taken place in the Arts Centre;
- (b) That in the context of a rerun in the autumn the Arts Centre would consider the most appropriate ways of working with schools and colleges on the basis of the production.

RESOLVED:

- (c) That the Director of the Arts Centre write a brief article for Insite (University Intranet) highlighting the Arts Centre's role in the development on the production;
- (d) That the Director of the Arts Centre continue to work with the arts media and the Communications Office in developing the Arts Centre's national profile;

- (e) That the Director of Development and Alumni Relations maintain his awareness of new work developed at the Arts Centre.

12/05-06

Warwick Arts Centre Future Plan

CONSIDERED:

A first draft of the Future Plan 2006-09 for Warwick Arts Centre, paper ACB 5/05-06, introduced by the Director of the Arts Centre, noting that this was an initial strategic discussion.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the following key points be noted:
- (i) There were three key tasks:
 - to develop more control over an innovative, exciting programme
 - to broaden audiences
 - to ensure that staffing, revenue and capital policies underpin the first two tasks;
 - (ii) The finalised Future Plan would be a short document, supplemented by sub-documents, drawn up by the Director of the Arts Centre with key input from the Board and senior management;
 - (iii) This first draft would be developed and lengthened to include fuller detail;
 - (iv) A key issue for the Board was linking staffing, revenue and capital policies with programme and audience tasks, in part by developing a fund to enable the commissioning of new work to expand;
 - (v) The revitalisation of the physical fabric of the Arts Centre was an important issue, to enhance the visit experience for audience and performers;
 - (vi) The Registrar and the Director of the Arts Centre were developing a dialogue around the value to the University of the Arts Centre;
 - (vii) The Development and Alumni Relations office has a long-term plan to identify and build a constituency of Arts Centre supporters;
 - (viii) The refurbishment of the Butterworth Hall did not currently feature in the University's Financial Plan, nor in the Arts Centre's Financial Plan.
- (b) That the Director of the Arts Centre take forward comments and suggestions on the role of the Arts Centre as a training ground for future generations of arts managers and leader with Professor Bennett and Ms Organ;

- (c) That the Director of the Arts Centre take forward comments and suggestions on alternative methods of financing the Arts Centre's ambitions for refurbishment and a commissioning fund with Mr Foy, it being noted that these issues will take a number of months to work through.
- (d) That the Director of the Arts Centre take forward comments and suggestions on a number of other issues with appropriate members of the Board;
- (e) That the Director of the Arts Centre aim to prepare a revised draft of the Future Plan for the next meeting of the Board.

13/05-06

Film at Warwick Arts Centre

REPORTED:

That since the last meeting of the Board the Arts Centre had been invited to join the UK Digital Screen Network, and that the new digital equipment would be installed by the end of the summer.

CONSIDERED:

'The Future of Warwick Arts Centre's Cinema', paper ACB 6/05-06, a discussion paper prepared by the Director of the Arts Centre and supplemented by an oral report from him.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Board consider Film further at a future meeting;
- (b) That the following key points be noted:
 - (i) The development of Film at the Arts Centre will not be an easy process, given the possible context of reduced subsidies and falling ticket sales, while digitisation presents expended opportunities, for example in programming and educational activities;
 - (ii) For many visitors the cinema may be their only experience of the Arts Centre, and that further links could be developed with the rest of the building and programme;
 - (iii) That a key development may be the enhancement of the cinema-going experience through added-value events such as director or actor talks and discussions;
 - (iv) That the timings of showings may need to be reviewed.

14/05-06 Visual Identity

REPORTED (by the Director of the Arts Centre):

That following a formal competitive tender process Parenthesis Design and Marketing Communications had been commissioned to produce a new visual identity for the Arts Centre.

CONSIDERED:

The new visual identity proposed by Parenthesis Design and Marketing Communications for the Arts Centre, presented by Ms L Holmes.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the new visual identity proposed by Parenthesis Design and Marketing Communications for the Arts Centre be approved.
- (b) That consideration be given to making space in brochures and other promotional materials available for the inclusion of original art, for example a picture or poem, and associated sponsorship opportunities.

15/05-06 Next Meetings

REPORTED:

- (a) That future meetings of the Board are scheduled for:
 - 4.30pm on Thursday 20 April 2006
 - 4.30pm on Thursday 22 June 2006
 - 4.30pm on Thursday 5 October 2006 (tbc)
 - 4.30pm on Thursday 7 December 2006 (tbc)
- (b) That a number of members of the Arts Centre management team would be invited to meet members of the Board at the next meeting.

JDM, 20.02.06

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