

**Minutes of the Los Alamos Little Theatre  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Feb. 8, 2011**

**Present:** Pat Beck, Eric Bjorklund, Gracie Cainelli, Todd Graves, Kaki Kelly, Jim Sicilian, Roxanne Tapia, Warren Houghteling

**Absent:** John Gustafson, Bobbie Simpson

**Visitors:** Bob Benjamin, Fran Stovall (?)

Minutes

Approval of the minutes for the January meeting was tabled. It was noted, however, that the January minutes should reflect a desire for four servers and two serving stations under the lessons learned for the New Year's Eve event.

Treasurer's Report

Bobbie was not present so there was no formal Treasurer's Report presentation. Gracie noted that we may not be efficient with TP purchases, since we are swapping out rolls when they are only half gone.

Mail

No report.

House Report

Water heaters (have been checked? Are still an issue?)

The door at the rear of the prop room that leads to furniture storage is hard to close.

Lobby painting continues. Curtain should be contained in its cover when work is happening in the lobby.

Jim Sicilian and Richard Klamann are continuing with installation of the privacy curtain for actor access to the handicapped bathroom.

Nathan Lewis has been approached about taking on the furnace filter maintenance responsibility.

County (John Zerr) has been given a full set of keys to facilitate building access for its purposes.

Concerns

Nothing recorded.

## **New Business**

### Proposal Process

Jim asked to clarify the process for proposals the Board was using. It was clarified that proposals were being accepted until March 1 and that the Board would not undertake approvals until all proposals had been received and evaluated. The proposals also have to identify key personnel – such as director and producer – and include a proposed time slot.

### Proposal Presentations

The Board received three proposal presentations at the meeting: 8x10 (3); [sic]; and A Thousand Clowns.

### 8x10 (3)

Pat Beck and Roxanne Tapia propose to be lead producers, but they will not know the slate of short plays planned until they round up interested directors etc. They suggested the September slot, consistent with previous 8x10 productions at LALT (this would be the third). They also propose engaging other producers to help organize the play/director selections. They point out that this show format is a good way to get new directors and new actors engaged.

### [sic]

Gwen Lewis presented her proposal for [sic], which she would direct, David Schiferl would produce, and Paul Lewis would stage manage. Larry Cox for set construction and Richard Waslilewski for set painting.

### A Thousand Clowns

Proposed by Richard Klamann, director, and Gracie Cainelli, producer. March is the preferred date.

### Stage Paint and Flats

Fran Stovall queried about paint for the theater, particularly non-latex, water-soluble paint. She found a place to order some. Once ordered, it will need to be stored and labeled so people understand it is special purpose paint.

Fran also noted that the muslin most recently purchased does not shrink as expected (creating a taut surface). Gracie has taken on ordering appropriate muslin (natural, unbleached, 108”).

Several other discussion points were introduced with this topic:

- \* Need to communicate to all that furniture upholstery is not to be painted.
- \* Costume area has a couple of safety issues: 1) Hats piled on trucks, which create a fire hazard and 2) the need to not stack any material closer to the ceiling than 16 inches.
- \* Sue Tonelli proposed that LALT create an area for storing drapes and curtains used in

furnishing sets.

## **Old Business**

### Director's Workshop

Board is still looking into scheduling a Director's Workshop, attendance at which might be a requirement for new, prospective directors, including possibly those who try the 8x10. Board members agreed there was no need to try to rush to hold the workshop. Kaki also said she would send an e-mail to the LALT distribution calling attention to Benchwarmers, Vortex Festival, and other opportunities to experience short works.

### LALT Scholarship

Peggy Durbin has agreed to review scholarship applications and recommend a selection to the Board. The Board also agreed to raise the amount from \$750 to \$1,000.

### Festival Notion

The play Manhattan Glass, by Joey Chavez, was to be read Feb. 12 in Santa Fe. This is one of several that were being considered as components of a "festival" to be held in Los Alamos sometime in the summer.

Bob Benjamin offered that LALT might undertake "The Love Song of J.R. Oppenheimer." Jim Sicilian suggested including "Einstein: A Stage Portrait" performed by Tom Schuch. Whether LALT could afford either production is a question. The Board tabled this topic.

### House Manager

The final Friday performance of "Go Back for Murder" involved some last-minute seating changes that caused some commotion. Several lessons learned from this: 1) Decide ahead of time what the seating arrangement will look like and don't change it on the fly; 2) accept that you may have to turn people away if the number exceeds your seating arrangement; and 3) establish a House Manager to monitor such issues.

## **Next Meeting**

Tuesday, Mar. 1, 2010