

Ramsgate Operatic Society

Chairman's Report.....59th A.G.M

Dear Members, Honorary Members and friends. I have great pleasure in welcoming you to the 59th Annual General Meeting of the Ramsgate Operatic Society.

As Chairman, it falls to me to give you a report on the activities, and workings of the Society during 2020.

My fellow Trustees for 2020 were Mary Pickett (Treasurer), Ken Pickett (Secretary), Terry Bunton, Bob Drywood, Barry Todd, Michaela Trindall and Paul Trindall. I would like to thank them all for their hard work and co operation throughout the year.

If we were holding this meeting in our usual hall, I would be asking you all to join me in a short silent prayer, in memory of the countless lives that have been lost to the dreadful Covid 19 virus during the past year. Instead, may I ask that you just take a moment of reflection before I go on.

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The year started on a very upbeat note. We were already into production on a wonderful show, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. We had brought together a truly outstanding cast, we had engaged two very talented Co Directors, both with tremendous commitment to Joseph, and in short, we knew we had a winner on our hands.

By March, the virus was starting to gain pace, and we found ourselves unable to continue in rehearsal. We realised that the original show dates in May were not going to be viable, and we transferred show week to September. The Theatre Royal and the Rights Holders were all very helpful, the production team and cast were all still on board...there would just be a short delay.

Of course that became quite a long delay. Again we asked, and were granted further dates by both theatre and licensees. The show would be transferred to April 2021.....Well, here we are in February 2021, and we are

still in our holding pattern, awaiting information as to when and if we can resume.

The Trustees have not just been sitting about. We have been making arrangements for additional extravaganzas while we wait to hear further information on Joseph.

Terry Bunton has a review for the touring group "Ros on the Road" already cast, and raring to go as soon as we can. There is another book show already licensed, awaiting dates, and there has been talk of an Anniversary Concert, although that is still just a thought at the moment.

2020 will go down in history, as the year where nothing happened, where we were locked in, time stood still, and people's lives were changed for ever. I will always think of it as the year where, even in the midst of a global pandemic, ROS survived, and somehow managed to retain the loyalty of an extraordinary group of people. I learned a lot about resilience and my fellow man in 2020. I very sincerely hope that you will all remain a part of our ROS community, and help to take The Society to even greater heights.

I am now stepping down as Chairman of The Society, and you will have a new Committee to lead you forward. At the time of writing, I have no idea who will be elected, but I sincerely hope that some of you have decided to step up and join the Trustees Team for 2021. There is still time to do that, the form is attached. The Trustees are always looking for talented people who are truly interested in Community Theatre, to come and contribute to the running of The Society. As for myself, I am hoping now to enjoy a bit of rest and recreation, before treading the boards with you all again.

It just leaves me to thank you all. Our committee as mentioned above, our Directors for Joseph, Edward Greenhalgh and Nathan Karro, our Rehearsal Pianist Tony Matthews, our External Examiner Dudley Gore, and of course you.. our wonderful Members, Honorary members and dear friends.

Thank you all for your support over the last couple of years.....

It's been a Blast !

Sharon Liff

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