



9 September 2014

Dear societies

Firstly, well done to everyone who was nominated and won at the Guild Awards at the start of the month. Everyone should feel pleased and proud of what they accomplished in 2014/15 and the show was a great celebration of the season past. The Guild website has been updated with the award nominations and winners, as well as the scores from the 2013/14 season for you to review at your leisure. My thanks go to everyone who worked behind the scenes to get the show on, I personally thought it went very well and there was a good Celebration of the past as well as some upcoming attractions.

For those who were not able to attend the AGM, we had a good meeting and some interesting discussion generated at the Open Forum part. The minutes will be sent out to you in the next few weeks, however I have attached the amended constitution of the Guild. Dates for the next Open Forums will be determined at the next Guild Executive. I'd like to thank Simon Field for his service to the Guild Exec over the last few years. I'd like to welcome David Peters and welcome back Deborah Sandles as members of Executive. We are still short of a secretary, so if you are interested please let me know.

Now that the Awards and the AGM are out of the way, it's back to what we are here for – putting on a show, and the season proper kicks off next week with LIDOS and Supertown, written by James Sidgwick and Robert Saunders of LIDOS so please come down and support this excellent show – a preview of it is available from the flashmob they did at the Trinity Shopping Centre before the awards, which has been posted to You Tube at <http://youtu.be/1BrzodAPKbo>

At the AGM, the new workshop access procedure I outlined in my last email was heavily discussed and I said it wasn't imminent and we would inform you of when it would happen and what the procedure would be. An email from the council has been issued about the raising of the security levels within council buildings that has meant the timing has been stepped up.

For now, the procedure is that the code will be only given to theatre staff, and societies will have to sign in to gain access, however one person will be able to sign in however many members will need access to the workshop, they just have to say how many, and if they can sign out as well, that would be appreciated. It was noted at the open forum that there may not be a duty manager or caretaker around to give access, however the contact numbers on the office door next to room 1 mean they can be contacted at any time. This may not work as well as we would hope and it may be we revert to the old system once the security level reduces. Please remember that the theatre staff are just doing their jobs and direct any issues you have to myself and I will be working with the theatre staff to iron out any teething troubles.

I've been asked by the theatre to remind members that where possible, societies in rehearsal should not stand on chairs, or if they do either to take your shoes off, or to ensure that footprints are wiped off at the end of the rehearsal. The theatre is a conference venue and this contributes a great deal to the income of the venue, and it's not nice for paying guests to find footprints on seats, and the theatre spent a great deal over the summer having the facilities deep cleaned.

Finally, on a more positive note the Guild has been approached by the programming team at Leeds City Council in respect of the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Carriageworks and they would like the Guild to be at the heart of the celebrations in November 2015. The current thought is that they want us to put on a show where all the societies come together to be part of it. Those of you who have been members of the Guild for many years will remember the old days of the Guild Show. The Programming Team want to be involved in the development of the show, however if you have any ideas of what we could put on, or if you would like to put your name down to be involved, please let me know and the Guild Exec will talk to Leeds City Council and go with the best idea. This may cause some localised disruption for societies with their own productions, however this is a fabulous opportunity for people to get involved and perhaps we can revive the ethos of the Guild Show for a new era.

David Wheatley
Chair of the Leeds Civic Arts Guild