

WELCOME SLIDE

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS SLIDE

Good evening everyone welcome to stage theatre societies annual general meeting of 2010. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for coming but I am not going to... and to quickly run through tonight's agenda.

TONIGHTS AGENDA SLIDE

First we will start with some CURRENT COMMITTEE INTRODUCTIONS telling us about what they do for STS

Helen will then give us her speech as current chair for STS.

Richard will then try to give us a speech on what we have achieved in the last year.

We will then ASK THE CURRENT COMMITTEE TO STEP DOWN from their posts.

We have then organized for some of the current members of STS to give us a speech on what STS means to them.

I will then come back to you to do a speech ON WHERE WE ARE GOING NEXT YEAR.

We then have our NOMINATION AND SECONDING of the committee for 2010

And then some well earned FOOD / DRINKS

So without further ado I will go round the room and if each person involved with stage theatre society could stand up, do a twirl and tell us what their involvement in the society is.

SO WHEN YOU'RE PHOTO COMES UP ON THE SCREEN YOU KNOW IT'S YOUR TURN...

CLICK THROUGH COMMITTEE SLIDES HERE

So swiftly moving on I will now let Richard run through and celebrate the successes and ignore the failures that Stage Theatre Society have had over the previous year.

RICHARD TAKES SPEECH HERE - STS SLIDE

Thank you Daniel for that wonderful introduction, it falls upon me to give you a guided whistle stop tour of the highlights of STS in 2010. Proving that self-indulgence is better than no indulgence at all.

Tracking back to last years AGM and bringing you back up to date, our first event would have been the 2009 committee Christmas doo I am sure that some of you remember that that this was to be a purple theme but someone didn't get that memo

PHOTO OF JULIE IN RED US IN PURPLE

It was also agreed that we would all go commando... and thank the Lord Almighty that some people didn't get that memo

SLIDE PHOTO OF KNICKERS

Moving on swiftly we then had the kids Christmas party at the Woodlands Centre.

SLIDE COUPLE OF PICTURES OF THAT

A good night was had by all so thank you to everyone involved in organizing that.

STS SLIDE

We then moved on to our unexpected snow day in January which saw Daniel turn into a cross between Ralph Finnes, the arctic explorer, and Kevin McCloud from Grand Designs, with his band of merry men to embark on building the biggest and strongest igloo known to Gillingham.

PHOTOS OF IGLOO

Whilst the rest of us had snow fights, played the wii, rock band, watched films and generally tomfoolery, Ralph and his team with military precision spent the six hours constructing this mound of snow (from blueprints) into the monstrosity that it was.... shipping in snow from the car park and nearby residential areas to complete it.

MORE PHOTOS OF IGLOO SLIDE

SLIDE FOR SEUSSICAL POSTER

So our first show for this year was Seussical at the Hazlitt theatre in March. A show which brings the creations of Dr. Seuss to life on the stage, with all of his beloved creatures, Horton the Elephant, Maizie the Bird, Cat in the Hat... all well known and much loved. I'm still trying to find the book with his chicken character. The cast loved being part of the performance, as we can see from this photo.

PHOTO OF RANDOM PEOPLE SLIDE

SLIDE OF OTHER SEUSSICAL PHOTOS

I would like to say thank you to everyone that was involved in this show. I should have thanked them at the time, but hey ho, better late than never.

BILLY ELLIOT POSTER SLIDE

After Seussical, we moved on to Billy Elliot, which came complete with Dan and I going to the West End for a workshop... This was fantastic; we got to meet the director, choreographers, musical director, some old and new 'Billy's', and have a chat with the author himself, Mr. Lee Hall.

PHOTOS OF BILLY ELLIOT WORKSHOP

A superb weekend apart from our trouble with the double beds in the hotel rooms. After protesting to the clerk that we were indeed not a couple and didn't make a mistake by booking a twin room, they moved us to another room, with this time a bigger double bed. A further trip to the clerk and we were finally offered a twin room - the idea did pass our minds to push the beds together in the morning just to see what they'd think!

The actual performance of Billy Elliot was second to none

SLIDE OF PHOTOS OF BILLY ELLIOT

with packed out houses for each performance, and standing ovations. For me personally, my favourite show I have ever worked on. It was a joy to work with such a committed and talented cast, an amazingly dedicated production team, and a great committee backing us up each and every single step of the way. Every aspect of that show just seemed to come together effortlessly.

It was also our first show we had filmed by Push The Button and what a superb job Emily did for us on that. A truly great show.

PHOTOS OF BILLY ELLIOT VIEWING

Now most Premier's are aired at Leister Square, and not to be out done by the big Hollywood films, we decided to go one better, and book the i-Max for our premier of Billy Elliot. Unfortunately, the i-Max was a little out of our price range, so we settled for the field behind Bredhurst Village Hall. And accidentally forgot to tell anyone that we'd be going. So, armed with a gazebo, projector, and a generator, we headed up in full force to watch the show, with the local residents looking on at a group of people who seemed to be just gazing in to a gazebo!! And actually, had a great night. Something we are keen to repeat; so bring you popcorn, chairs, and mosquito spray for the next viewing.

During Billy, we also arranged a day at London.

SLIDE OF PHOTOS OF BILLY ELLIOT TRIP

We ventured to the Natural History and Science Museums, London Dungeons, and climaxing in an evening showing of Billy Elliot. This was a great trip, and thank to everyone who helped to organize such a superb trip. The highlight for me was watching Dan fall on his butt on that spinny thing in Science Museums, and the kids daring each other to ask strangers where the Natural History Museum was whilst standing outside the entrance to it.

We're now at our Summer Workshop which saw the kids take on their biggest project to date, the 'GLEEK' workshop

PHOTOS OF GLEEK WORKSHOP

This was written, directed, musically directed, choreographed, stage managed, lit, and every thing else by the kids themselves. To say they had us running scared is a bit of an understatement, as we saw how stupidly amazing it was fastly becoming. There was only one thing for it, and Dan and I decided we would sabotage the show. Unfortunately for me, the Committee Police were on stand-by and kicked me out of the rehearsal hall with my tail between my legs. It was a great performance, and one they should be immensely proud of as they raised just shy of £1000.

And, it that wasn't enough, they had other obstacles to contend with - what with all the kids having a holiday at one time or another, and of course, the STS Florida Residential 2010.

SLIDE OF PHOTOS OF FLORIDA

Towards the end of August, 16 of us embarked on our second residential to the Orange County for more fun and frolics. I can hand on heart say that this was our best trip ever, and we all loved every moment of it. Including trying to find the Drive-in movie that didn't exist, their own Shamu show, Gemma winning American Idol, and our random 'go looking for animals' evenings. We had a blast on the trip, even if the girls felt they couldn't poo on the holiday, and developed this photo to show how they were thinking.

SLIDE OF PHOTOS OF NO DUMPING

The residentials are really becoming an institution for STS, and I personally would like to progress these further in the future.

STS SLIDE

We then moved on to rehearsals for Aladdin, a show that is going extremely well, and proving to be of the same standard we have grown to expect from our shows. This show also saw the introduction of Workshops, and it is thanks to many many friends of STS that we have been able to provide some free workshops for our kids

SLIDE OF PHOTOS OF ALADDIN WORKSHOP

The workshops have included Film, Photography, Belly Dancing, Props, and Make-up. They have been incredibly well received and we look forward to continuing this idea in the future, and producing many more free workshops.

We have also been on 2 Bowling trips this period, both of which I should have won if it wasn't for Dan being such a bad sport and a whizz on the computer and changing more score. Fact. Also, having the kids sabotage my game and putting me off of my stroke, of which I did not instigate, of course. And of course, we went to Lazer Quest, again, another game I should have won if it wasn't for the kids picking on me, and ganging up on me - including some from my own team.

And finally, we had our Halloween Ball.

SLIDE OF HALLOWEEN BALL PHOTOS

Dan, Simon, and I might have got the theme slightly wrong as we dressed up as an assortment of birds,

PHOTOS SLIDE OF BIRDS

but fun was had by all. And when I came to open up and help the Julie's set-up, I was amazed by the physical plans, and blueprints that were in their possession.

STS SLIDE

And here we are. Our AGM for the next 2011 committee. And what a full-packed and eventful year we have had. I have no-doubt missed some key events out from my speech, including Cast Parties, and the such, but there just isn't enough time in the AGM to go through everything. A huge thank you to everyone for their help and efforts over this year, and for making it as successful as it is.

And with somewhat trepidation, I ask the current committee to stand down. Done. Phew. So, Dan and I are now on our own, and can do pretty much what we like - although, we pretty much do that anyway. In fact, there's an old saying that we seem to live by - 'It's easier to ask for forgiveness than permission'.

Ok, it's now with great delight that I introduce some on the current cast and crew to do a short speech. We gave them the title 'What STS Means To Me', and we tried to get a mixed overview of STS, with Jamie giving us a male opinion, Ellie giving us a long-standing members opinion, Robert giving us the opinions of the Crew, Charlotte giving us the opinions of the little ones, and firstly and fore mostly, Maria giving us the opinions of the new people. I would also like to mention at this point that we have not heard these speeches, so they will be as much news to me as they are to you.

Anyway, without further ado, please welcome Maria Dorey to the front.

Richard then introduces each of the kid's speeches

Richard then introduces Daniel for looking to the future.

Looking to the future

STS - BUT NOT AS WE KNOW IT!

Thank you Richard, and more importantly thanks to the kids here that have taken their time to come along and tell you what STS means to them... I really appreciate that!

So normally I have the easy part of the AGM speech, to tell you about the successes that we have had over the past year at Stage Theatre Society. This year I have had more of a challenge on my hands.

PHOTO OF ME LOOKING CONFUSED

A challenge because, without blowing a trumpet we are already very good at our main objective... shows. I think everyone in this room, at rehearsals and in our audiences would agree with me in saying that over the years Stage Theatre Societies shows have gone from strength to strength.

FEW PHOTOS OF SHOWS

In running the shows we now have almost a template of what makes a good show, we have people that work behind the scenes that know exactly what is expected of them... everything from costumes to selling programs, people know their job and deliver it very well.

FEW PHOTOS OF PEOPLE DOING THEIR JOBS

SLIDE OF - SIMON DOING NOTHING

I am sure that you would agree with me that putting that dedication into the mix along with a fantastic cast, we now have that recipe perfected for putting on shows that people remember time and time again.

THANKYOU SLIDE

It is with this in mind I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the effort that they put in to ensure these shows are at the high standard people have come to expect from us.

So with this in mind where do we go with the society over the next year....

2011 SLIDE

Richard and I would still like to keep the shows running at the high standard but feel there are other areas of Stage Theatre Society that we could improve upon.

Before we wrote this speech Richard and I got together and talked about all of the things that we feel have a bad impact on the way STS runs. It is these items that we would like to really heavily focus on this year.

We feel that these progression targets for STS can be broken down into three sections or aims...

SLIDE SHOWING THE 3 AIMS

The first being finance, the second being streamlining and simplifying how things happen at STS, and the third being the social aspect of the society.

Although a large proportion of these aims we currently do well... we can certainly raise the bar, as I am sure you will all agree on some points.

Ok so breaking them down... the first issue that we feel affects the operation of Stage Theatre Society is finance.... Or lack of finance some could argue.

POUND SIGN / STS YACHT

Simply put over the next 18 months we would like to see Stage Theatre Society become financially sound. In the times of country wide cut backs we need to be making sure that cut backs are not passed on to what we do. I would hate to have to be in a position where we reduce our offering to kids at the society because it comes down to a lack of money.

By pushing forward with finance for STS we would be able to offer so much more to the members of the society and the local youth in and around our community.

MEETING TABLE WITH POUND SIGN ON TABLE

This year we will be tasking a group of people with looking for any available external funding that we can get our hands on. The acquisition of charitable status should aid greatly with this task.

SLIDE OF SOME COMPANY LOGOS

Next on the list we want to sign a sponsoring company to help us financially with the group. So get your thinking hats on and start to approach people about this.

Something that someone pointed out to me a couple of weeks ago is that we do not seem to do any internal fund raising apart from our shows. All of our activities run at a loss due to subsidization or break even. This year with the aim of generating more income for the group we are looking for getting kids and adults alike involved with many more fund raising activities... So again starting from now... realistic ideas on a postcard would be welcomed about how we can achieve this task.

We would also like to point out the fact that 9 times out of 10 our shows are in fact self-sufficient.

RINGFENCED MONEY SLIDE

It is with this in mind that we are going to introduce a ring-fenced account for all fundraising activities. A separate pot that we can raise funds in that will only be spent directly back on the members at STS with an aim to better enjoyment at the group. The money raised could put on and reduce the cost of many events such as parties, laser quest etc.

LARGE TICK SLIDE

I would assume that everyone agrees with all of the above covering our first aim. We feel that if we could achieve these items, Stage Theatre Society would go from strength to strength, pull in even more members, make even more friends and contacts and be able to progress on in the future.

Our next bugbear at the society is over complication and lack of communication.

COMMUNICATION / LOTS OF PAPERWORK BIG X THROUGH IT

Both Richard and I feel that there are improvements that could be made across the board that would enhance how things happen at STS.

From next week we are going to start to look at enhancing communication.

TEAM 5 BRIEFING

We are to introduce a 5-minute briefing for everyone who helps out on a Sunday to keep people in the know about what the group is doing and for people to air any issues that may have arisen. It will also be a time to flag up any thing that needs to be done that day at rehearsals.

NOTICE BOARD SLIDE

We are going to take a leaf out of other peoples books and introduce a notice board at the rehearsal hall every Sunday. This will have on it a photo of the week (more than likely an embarrassing one - which shouldn't be too difficult to find) details of rehearsal times, letters that are being given out, a comment cards box

for ideas from parents, helpers or cast members and details of up and coming events.

These are all things that we are asked on a regular basis; so having a board with it all on should help us to solve this problem and reduce the enquiries put to us.

GOING GREEN SLIDE

We are going to be going 'green'..... simply put we are from now on going to be issuing letters given to cast straight to the website to reduce the need to print things out. Membership packs will also be seeing an overhaul to simplify and standardize the process of how we receive documentation back from people.

STS WEBSITE SLIDE

It is with the above in mind that we are going to be looking at heavily promoting people looking at the website. The parent page on the website will be from now on our principle communication channel. We will also be encouraging anyone who is not already, to join up to the societies Facebook page.

LATEST NEWS! SLIDE

We are going to be re igniting the idea of the bimonthly newsletter. This proved to be a success in the past as it told parents and members about lots of bits surrounding the society quickly and in small chunks. Although please note... this will be a green newsletter.

STS SLIDE

We feel that the face of STS needs to be looked at. We have agreed with Julie Clayton to refresh all of the STS id cards so that people know who we are, we are going to be looking at ensuring we have all people that help out registered fully with us and that all crb checks we feel are needed are up to date. We will also be addressing uniform t-shirts for helpers.

RAINBOW COLOUR SLIDE OF ALL NEW TSHIRT COLOURS

I will take this opportunity now to also make people aware that the yellow STS top is to have a rainbow of color's added to its pallet. Over the next few weeks we will be inviting people to purchase (if they wish) STS uniform t-shirts in different colors. Richard and I have decided that the uniform needs to be more appealing to wear and will again work towards enhancing enjoyment at the groups events.... I will point out I

have ordered the bright pink t-shirt... and don't fear Martin... they do the pink one in your size too!

MARTIN IN PINK HAT SLIDE

FIRE! SLIDE

Signing in as of next week is going to be essential for all members of the group. Simply put ... if you enter that building ... you sign in.... if you leave... you sign out. The register is there for the safety of all so we need to make sure that this is used.

BIN IT SLIDE

Another issue that is regularly brought to our attention and in need of improvement is litter.. We are going to be heavily clamping down on this ... and the plastic water cups. We will not be allowing food and drink baring bottled water into the hall from now on.

STS SLIDE

The structure at STS for rehearsals is something we always work on trying to improve. However the structure behind the scenes is something that we are from now on also going to be improving upon. By doing this and making sure that people are monitoring breaks etc. we can reduce the litter at the centre to zero, and we can make sure people sign in and out. All of these

things will work towards making STS a better place for all.

COMMITTEE MEETING SLIDE

The final thing the society will be addressing will be committee meetings, we are looking to have them more structured. We are going to be removing the section of any other business completely, and introducing action points from the meeting prior.

THE MEMBERS PICTURE FROM WEBSITE ALL HAND IN HAND

We feel that if we were all to work together in making sure everyone is doing their bit, we can enhance communication, keep the centre a tidy centre, sort out problems as they arise and make everyone happy.

STS SLIDE

The third and final aim that Richard and I feel needs to be looked at is enhancing the social aspect of the society.

SOCIAL AGENDA ON THE WEBSITE NOW!

I am sure that all of you will agree, we release a huge list of events across the year (mostly only available to older kids and too expensive) and then don't even get them all done. It is with this in mind that we are releasing the social agenda for next year and its available on our website now.

STS SLIDE

We have decided to delegate more of the events out to ensure that they actually happen! We have also decided to make more of them accessible to kids of all ages right across the society and to do more events that are of cheaper cost.

We are looking over the next eighteen months to enhance the social aspect of the group and look to pull in even more people to take part in our events.

We will be setting up a dedicated sub committee like the production team, this committee will be led by the societies events manager and will be tasked with ensuring that events are well advertised to members, well organized, funded and actually happen.

Richard and I feel that delegating more of these events out will ensure that more happen. The Halloween ball we had no involvement in and it was fantastic, the likes of laser quest and bowling are organized outside of our remit and again are great events.... So we know that we have a good team out there to look after events... we just need to bring them together.

STS PARENTS SLIDE!

We would also be asking this group to include more parents in the events and to actively reach out to them to get them more involved in the work we do here at Stage Theatre Society.

RICHARD AND I THUMBS UP

So in a nutshell those are our aims for the group over the next 18 months. Both Richard and I feel that if we were to act on all of these points and ensure they happen, Stage Theatre Society will go from strength to strength and bring it full circle to be able to match the level of the shows that we produce.

I feel that the committee, crew, production team and parent helpers will play a very important role in seeing these changes into STS and will be able to reap the benefits of bringing such changes in to the group.

STAGE THEATRE SOCIETY LOGO

Thankyou for listening.