

**AGM SPEECH GIVEN BY DANIEL MORE AND RICHARD
HILLIER AGM**

25TH NOV 2009

GOOD EVENING LADIES AND GENTLEMEN AND WELCOME TO THIS YEARS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF STAGE THEATRE SOCIETY.

FIRSTLY I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPURTUNITY TO THANKYOU ALL FOR ATTENDING THIS EVENING. I WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN BY INFORMING YOU ALL OF THE PROCEDURE FOR TONIGHTS A.G.M. HOPEFULLY OF WHICH WILL BE BETTER THAN LAST YEAR!

YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED THAT THIS TIME ROUND WE HAVE LAID OUT THE IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS THAT GOVERN HOW STAGE THEATRE SOCIETY RUNS FOR YOU TO PERUSE AT YOU LEISURE. THE CONSTITUTION WILL BE SIGNED BY WHOEVER OUR NEW CHAIR AND SECRETARY MAY BE AT THE END OF THE EVENING AND MADE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE.

WE WILL START THE EVENING WITH A SPEECH FROM RICHARD AND I - IT WILL BE SPLIT INTO TWO SECTIONS. THE FIRST PART CELEBRATING THE PAST YEARS SUCCESSES AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE CURRENT COMMITTEE WHO HAVE HELPED US ACHIEVE THE VERY STRONG POSITION WE ARE IN TODAY.

WE WILL THEN INVITE OUR CURRENT CHAIRPERSON KEVIN FISHER UP TO SAY A FEW WORDS IN THE CHAIRPERSONS REPORT.

WE WILL THEN ASK THE CURRENT COMMITTEE TO STEP DOWN AS WE DISCUSS THE VISION WE HAVE FOR STAGE THEATRE SOCIETY IN THE UP AND COMING YEAR.

WE WILL THEN BE ASKING FOR YOU TO PLACE YOUR VOTE ON WHOM YOU THINK THE NEW COMMITTEE SHOULD BE IN ORDER FOR US TO OBTAIN THESE GOALS. THEN FOLLOWING A SHORT 15 MINUTE COMFORT BREAK WE WILL THEN BE ANNOUNCING THE NEW COMMITTEE FOR STAGE THEATRE SOCIETY IN 2009/10.

IT IS NICE TO SEE SO MANY FAMILIAR FACES HERE AT OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TODAY. SO MANY FRIENDS, SO MANY LOYAL HELPERS! FAMILIAR FACES AND FRIENDSHIP IS THE TOPIC OF CHOICE I HAVE TAKEN TO START THIS SPEECH TONIGHT.

I FEEL THAT I MUST START BY READING TO YOU PART OF A LETTER THAT I RECEIVED FROM A CAST MEMBER FROM HAIRSPRAY. (LEAH BAKER LETTER)

FOR THOSE OF US WHO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED SINCE STS BEGAN I AM SURE YOU CAN REMEMBER THAT NIGHT WHEN WE ASKED PARENTS TO FORM A COMMITTEE... A COMMITTEE OF PARENTS THAT IS NOW VERY CLOSE AND WORKS VERY WELL AS A TEAM (WELL MOST OF THE TIME) TO KEEP STAGE THEATRE SOCIETY RUNNING STRONG.

HERE ARE A FEW PICTURES OF OUR CURRENT COMMITTEE.

WHEN STAGE THEATRE SOCIETY STARTED BACK IN 2005 RICHARD AND I WOULD NEVER OF THOUGHT THAT WE COULD PROGRESS AS FAR AS WE HAVE! I THINK IT GOES TO SHOW WHAT A LITTLE WORK, GREAT FRIENDSHIPS AND PASSION FOR THE GROUP TO SUCCEED CAN DO!

AS WE HAVE PROGRESSED OVER THE YEARS AND PRODUCED SOME BRILLIANT SHOWS - THE PEOPLE HELPING HAVE BEEN BOUGHT CLOSER TOGETHER BOTH INSIDE AND OUT OF STAGE THEATRE SOCIETY. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT STS HAS NOW NOT ONLY BECOME A DRAMA GROUP FOR YOUTH BUT A BORDERLINE SOCIAL CLUB FOR BOTH CAST AND PARENTS ALIKE.

IT MAY BE SAD TO SAY BUT I REALLY LOOK FORWARD TO SUNDAYS... NOT FOR THE SITTING THERE FILLING OUT AND CHECKING FORMS, OR MY ROLE AS A BANK CASHIER... BUT FOR THE SOCIAL FRIENDSHIP ASPECT OF THE GROUP. SEEING WHAT PEOPLE HAVE BEEN UP TO DURING THE WEEK... GETTING INVITED TO EVENTS THAT PEOPLE ARE HOSTING... AGAIN IT GOES BACK TO THESE FAMILIAR FRIENDLY FACES.

I THINK ALL OF YOU WILL AGREE THAT THIS DOES NOT ONLY SHOW ON THE INSIDE OF STS.... OUTSIDE THIS TENDS TO SHOW EVEN MORE!

THE RECENT EXPLOSION IN THE USE OF FACEBOOK FURTHER UNDERPINS WHAT I AM SAYING... YOU WILL NOTICE IF YOU LOOK AROUND THE SITE THAT ALL THE MEMBERS OF STS SEEM TO CONTINUE THAT FRIENDSHIP OUTSIDE OF STS ON SUNDAYS.

THE OTHER NIGHT I FOUND MYSELF READING ONE OF THESE 20 QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR FRIENDS THINGS ON ONE OF OUR CAST MEMBERS PAGES... 17 OF THE ANSWERS HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH STAGE THEATRE SOCIETY AND MEETING PEOPLE THROUGH STS!

ME AND RICHARD RECENTLY ATTENDED ELLIE SHIELDS 16TH BIRTHDAY PARTY ... AND THE AMOUNT OF FAMILIAR STS FACES WAS BRILLIANT TO SEE YET AGAIN.

I WALKED ROUND BLUEWATER A COUPLE OF SATURDAYS BACK.... AND SAW 6 PEOPLE INVOLVED WITH STS AGAIN... FAMILIAR FACES.

OUR WEBSITE THAT WAS REVAMPED THIS YEAR... HAS SO FAR HAD 24000 VISITS! IN A YEAR... NEED I SAY MORE.

IN MY OPINION THIS MEANS THAT STAGE THEATRE SOCIETY IS DOING SOMETHING REALLY GOOD HERE.... KIDS AND ADULTS ALIKE ARE NOT ONLY COMING ALONG TO REHEARSALS... BUT THEY ARE MAKING LOTS OF FRIENDS AND FAMILIAR FACES ALONG THE WAY!

FOR MOST SHOWS THAT WE DO YOU GET TO KNOW THE FAMILIAR FACES THAT ARE GOING TO AUDITION FOR THEM. OUR RECENT PRODUCTION OF HAIRSPRAY SHOWED US THAT THESE FRIENDSHIPS ARE GOING STRONG.... PEOPLE THAT WERE NOT GOING TO DO THE NEXT SHOW WERE NAGGED BY ALL OF THEIR FRIENDS TO DO THE SHOW AND THEN THEY AUDITIONED.

ALL OF US HERE CAN TAKE PLEASURE IN BEING PART OF THIS. CREATING A GROUP IN WHICH FRIENDSHIP AND FAMILIER FACES FLOURISH AND WILL CONTINUE TO GET STRONGER AND STRONGER AS STAGE THEATRE SOCIETY PROGRESSES FURTHER.

OVER THE LAST YEAR WE HAVE SEEN MANY SUCESESSES IN STAGE THEATRE SOCIETY. WE HAVE DONE THREE BRILLIANT SHOWS FOR EXAMPLE.

PETER PAN BACK IN MARCH WAS A GREAT SHOW... EVERYONE ENJOYED BEING PART OF THE PRODUCTION WHEN IT TOOK TO THE HAZLITT STAGE AND ALTHOUGH BEING A LITTLE BIT PANTOFIED IT WAS GREAT FUN TO DO!

WE THEN MOVE ON TO THE SPECTACULAR PRODUCTION (AND SPECTACULAR LIGHT SHOW) THAT WAS FOOTLOOSE! NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRIED I COULD NOT LEARN THAT BLOODY END DANCE - BUT THAT SHOW WAS AN ELECTRIC PERFORMANCE THAT I CAN SAFLY SAY THAT MYSELF AND EVERYONE INVOLVED TRULY ENJOYED!

AFTER THAT SHOW STS TOOK ON A NEW CHALLENGE. WE DECIDED TO DITCH THE HAZLITT THEATRE FOR RAINHAM SCHOOL FOR GIRLS AND THE FIRST AMATEUR PRODUCTION IN THE SOUTH EAST OF HAIRSPRAY. THIS SHOW WAS A HUGE SUCCESS AND COULD ARGUABLY BE THE BEST SHOW WE HAVE DONE. THE VENUE WAS GREAT THE CAST WERE FANTASTIC (ILL OR NOT) AND THE SHOW WAS ENJOYED VERY MUCH SO BY EVERYONE WHO HELPED OUT! OF WHICH I THANK THEM DEARLY. THIS SHOW WAS A CHALLENGE THAT WE BLEW CLEAN OUT OF THE WATER! WELL DONE!

ALONG SIDE ALL OF THE SHOWS WE DO, LETS NOT FORGET THE EVENTS THAT GO EVEN FURTHER TO GLUE TOGETHER THE FRIENDSHIPS AT STAGE THEATRE SOCIETY.

THIS YEAR SAW STAGE THEATRE SOCIETY TAKE TO THE SKIES AND HEAD FOR FLORIDA FOR WHAT WAS QUITE FRANKLY THE BEST TWO WEEKS I HAVE EVER HAD! WE TOOK 8 OF OUR CAST AND 6 OF OUR CREW TO THE BIGGEST VILLA I HAVE EVER SEEN AND SPENT TWO WEEKS GOING ON MORE RIDES THAT I COULD IMAGINE... THE ONLY BIT I DIDN'T ENJOY WAS BEING PUSHED IN THE POOL.... ALTHOUGH PUSHING RICHARD INTO THE POOL AFTER CANCELLED THAT OUT.

THIS YEAR STAGE THEATRE SOCIETY ALSO DONE ITS FIRST 'SECRET EVENT' - I THINK THAT THIS TRIP BOUGHT TO LIGHT HOW MUCH TRUST THE PARENTS PUT IN US WITH THE PERMISSION SLIP.... IT READ THAT WE ARE TAKING YOUR KIDS AWAY FOR A NIGHT TO A SECRET LOCATION.... NOT ONE PERSON ASKED US WHERE! ANYWAY WE TOOK 53 PEOPLE TO A SECRET UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR BUNKER FOR A EVENING OF

FUN AND GAMES. I THINK I CAN SAFELY SAY THAT EVERYONE THAT WENT TO THIS EVENT ENJOYED IT VERY MUCH SO... AND EVERYONE THAT FOUND OUT ABOUT WHAT THEY MISSED AFTERWARDS WILL BE COMING TO OUR NEXT 'SECRET EVENT'

WE ALSO BOUGHT TOGETHER A HUGE GROUP OF STS FAMILIAR FACES FOR OUR FIRST EVER STS SILENT DISCO... AND OH WHAT A STRANGE NIGHT THAT WAS! WE WILL CERTAINLY BE LOOKING AT DOING ANOTHER ONE OF THESE.

OVER THE SUMMER WE HAD A FOOD FIGHT ON THE BEACH (STARTED BY THE PARENTS I MIGHT TAKE THIS OPPURTUNITY TO ADD) AT OUR STS ANNUAL SUMMER BEACH PARTY. AGAIN A HUGE GATHERING OF THOSE FAMILIAR FACES THAT WAS ENJOYED BY ALL! - I THINK WE CAN ALL SAY THAT THIS WAS THE HIGHLIGHT OF THAT DAY...

ALONG SIDE THESE EVENTS WE ALSO HAD AND HAVE ANOTHER COMING UP SHORTLY THAT IS OUR COMMITTEE CHRISTMAS MEAL (YOU REMEMBER THE ONE WHEN WE SAW QUITE A FEW PEOPLES UNDERWEAR INTENTIONAL OR NOT), ANOTHER SUCESSFUL VALENTINES BALL, MORE PARTIES, A CHRISTMAS STAFF PANTO WHEN I LOOKED VERY GOOD IN A DRESS (WAIT UNTIL THIS YEAR) A QUIZ NIGHT, ASDA BAG PACKING WEEKS AND MORE.

I WOULD LIKE TO END THIS PART OF THE SPEECH BY SAYING THANKYOU TO EVERYONE THAT HAS HELPED US ACHIEVE WHAT WE HAVE THIS YEAR. NONE OF THESE SUCCESSES I HAVE SPOKE OF WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE CONSTANT HARD WORK AND AMAZING DEDICATION OF OUR CURRENT PARENT COMMITTEE.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK ALL OF THOSE FAMILIAR FACES THAT I ALWAYS LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING EVERY SUNDAY AND ESPECIALLY TO OUR CHAIRPERSON FOR THIS YEAR KEVIN FISHER FOR THE WORK THAT HE HAS PUT IN AS LAST YEARS CHAIR. THANKYOU!

KEVIN TO TAKE STAND HERE

RICHARD TAKES TO STAND HERE

FIRSTLY ALLOW ME AGAIN TO THANKYOU ALL FOR ATTENDING TONIGHT AND IT IS WITH A MIXED FEELING THAT I ASK THE CURRENT COMMITTEE TO STAND DOWN FROM THEIR POSITIONS. A MIXED FEELING BECAUSE ALTHOUGH I AM SORRY TO ASK SUCH A DEDICATED COMMITTEE TO STEP DOWN, IT IS ALSO THE SIGN OF A NEW VENTURE AND A NEW TERM FOR STS.

I THANK YOU AGAIN FOR ALL OF YOUR EFFORTS AND HARDWORK THAT YOU HAVE GIVEN TO THE YOUTH COMMUNITY OF MEDWAY, HERE AT STS. YOU ARE NOW ALL FORMALLY REQUIRED TO LEAVE YOUR POSITION ON THE STS COMMITTEE.

RICHARD'S SPEECH - MOVING FORWARD...

Thank you Dan....

Well, it comes to me to talk about the 'Moving On' section. I decided, rather than try to write my own jokes, like at the last two AGM's I would research some quips about moving on. I found a couple that I quite liked;

'Even if you fall on your face, you're still moving forward' - Should have remembered that when we decided to split STS into three groups!!

I also stumbled across this little gem to do with 'Moving On'...

A guy has a friend who just moved his business. He decided to get a nice bouquet of flowers for his friend as a gift. He called the flower shop, they took his order, and he thought everything was great.

Two weeks later, this guy gets an invitation to come to his friend's open house, celebrating the new location. This fellow goes to the open house and it is packed. Instead of trying to find his friend immediately, the guy looks to see how his gift of flowers turned out. After searching all over for his gift, he finally comes upon it. He thinks they look marvellous. He goes to read the card and he becomes infuriated, because it read "Rest In Peace." This guy was terribly upset that the flower company sent his friend the wrong card, and he was going to let them know about it.

The next day comes, and this guy calls the flower shop. He yells at the clerk telling him how he can't believe they messed up such a simple order.

The clerk feels terrible and apologises profusely. He then tries to see what exactly happened to this guys flowers and seeing where they ended up, he tells the guy, "Sir, you might be upset that your friend got flowers saying 'Rest In Peace,' but just think, somewhere, there is a funeral and beside the casket there are some lovely flowers with a card that reads 'Congratulations On Your New Location.'"

Ok, so what has STS got in store for the coming year, and more importantly for its members?

We have Parties, Another Top Secret Over-night Haunted Event, Parties, West End Theatre Trips, Parties, the return to Florida for 2010, Parties, Go Ape, Parties, Visit to GMTV, and there was something else, oh yeah, Parties...

We also have the shows we are doing... which will pretty much be 3 productions. I thought I'd give you some stats about the work load involved across the year...

- 180 Licenses will need to be applied for.
- If each person had 4 items of clothing, then that's 720 items of clothing to organise.
- If each member had 2 personal props, we need to find 330 props.
- 21600 pages of script need to be taught.
- The average show has 8 chorus numbers with 55 people in it... and is roughly 138 bars long... that's a whopping 242,880 notes to teach... And steps to choreograph!
- It's 216 pages of Agendas...
- It's 648 pages of Minutes...
- It's listening to Dan and I ramble on during A.O.B. 12 times!!!

Let's stop looking at it that way, otherwise we won't have a committee to help with 2010!!! Although, this does lead me nicely to another joke I found... one that made me laugh, but of course, I completely disagree with its statement!

'Committee - a group of people who keep minutes, but waste hours.'

And moving on... quite quickly as well!

We also have the return to Florida for 2010... which will give Dan more excuses to pose!!

And me to be fair...

And Simon...

Sorry, that's not fair... And Simon...

(Pause)

Moving on to what it is that we are about... the shows... or rather... the kick arse shows we produce!

We have just started work on the Dr. Seuss musical, aptly named, 'Seussical'. This will be brought to the Hazlitt Theatre in March.

We have also secured the rights to a new release... of which we are keeping the title of this production a secret... what I can say is that Dan and I are so excited that we can't really explain it, we haven't got the words, it's a feeling that we can't control!! This show will be brought to you in June at The Hazlitt also...

(Pause)

And then we start work on Disney's Beauty and the Beast...

None of this would be doable without the constant support and dedication from you... which is why it pains me to ask you to all step down from your current roles. I just hope, of course, that it is only temporary whilst we elect our next committee for 2009/2010.

I would like to add my thanks onto those that Dan made, and I have one final joke on thanks to part with... you lucky people!

"How can I ever thank you?" gushed a woman to Clarence Darrow, after he had solved her legal troubles.

"My dear woman," Darrow replied, "ever since the invention of money there has been only one answer to that question."

This is where I also feel it important that I remind you that we are a voluntary organisation.

Thank you.