

## **Futures Committee Report**

In any non profit organisation there is more often than not a natural reluctance to contemplate change. This is often in direct proportion to the extent of and value of the real assets held by the organisation. And sometimes reflects the years it has been in existence.

It is indicative of a very real concern about the potential risks (in terms of financial viability and consequent liability), the unknown degree of personal effort its pursuit would entail, and a fear of the unknown. It is buoyed up by the degree of enthusiasm with which the commonplace activities of the society are currently pursued.

In our organisation there is no end of ideas about possible future directions. Bolstered by an active, creative and engaged membership ideas for possible future activities are surfacing all the time. Many have been tried before; but the timing or the enthusiasm or the necessary skills were not available and they came to nought. Others lacked the critical mass of supporters to even get off the ground in the first place.

This committee started out with the intention of mapping out a few lines of exploration about possible future directions with a brief and cursory review of feasibility. But we have concluded that there is little enthusiasm or support for such an in depth investigation at this time.

We have therefore modified our sights in the hope that this might eventually trigger some more proactive engagement with this topic in the not too distant future.

We would like to present you with some of the better ideas we have come across and we also make a recommendation about how we think the issue could be tackled.

### **Ideas about the property and the facilities**

- Raise the roof over the stage and audience
- Build an addition to house new dressing rooms and a green room on the East side
- Rent out the facilities a lot more to help pay for building maintenance and upkeep
- Lease a heated warehouse to use for set building, storage & rehearsal space and free up the property for rental uses
- Sell the present property on Rosstown Road (possibly for multifamily residential use?) & relocate more centrally
- Get serious about fund raising and a new building fund
- Install a computerised ticketing system

### **Ideas about the programs**

- Have a summer season
- Have a Fringe series
- Have a Music Theatre group
- Put on more One Act plays
- Have a specific educational program in cooperation with schools and college

### **Ideas about club activities**

- Organise an outreach program (for new members and audience building)
- Encourage more play writing
- Involve more young people in an ongoing way
- Have theatre visits to see plays and critique afterwards
- Have less business and more theatrical activities on club nights
- Hire a part time administrator to look after the books, rentals, programs etc.
- Change the budgeting system to make shows carry their share of facilities costs
- End our dependence on gambling as a source of income

### **Recommendations**

- a.) Publish these lists of ideas and invite members to add other ideas
- b.) Select (e.g. by referendum) the most popular ideas for further investigation
- c.) Allocate funding and appoint a small group to investigate these ideas in terms of feasibility, potential costs, risks and foreseeable benefits
- d.) Engage the membership in discussion about the findings from this small group with a view to exploring whether a consensus is achievable.

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