



WELLINGTON IMPROVISATION TROUPE 19th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

Date: 29th June 2021
Time: 6:00-8:00pm
Venue: The Whiskey Lounge, The Establishment, Courtney Place
Quorum: 15 members
Chair: Brenton Hodgson, Coordinator
Secretariat: Isabelle Collins

1. **Welcome and acknowledgements**
2. **Apologies**
3. **Minutes of the previous AGM**
4. **Coordinator's Report** (Brenton Hodgson)
5. **Creative Director** (Ali Little and Tristram Domican)
6. **Annual Report – Treasurer** (Michael Webster)
7. **Committee Elections**
 - a. Structure of Committee and Positions
 - b. Coordinator
 - c. Creative Director(s)
 - d. Treasurer
 - e. Secretary
 - f. Up to 3 other positions as determined by the membership
8. **General Business**
 - i. Membership Fee
 - ii. WIT Strategy Discussion
 - iii. Other Business



WELLINGTON IMPROVISATION TROUPE 18th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

Date: Tuesday July 21st,
Time: 6:00-8:00pm
Venue: Te Auaha, 65 Dixon St, Te Aro, Wellington.
Quorum: 15 members
Chair: Brenton Hodgson, Coordinator
Secretariat: Tristram Domican

Meeting Start 6:34

1. **Welcome and acknowledgements**

Present:

Ali Little
Hayley Webster
Michael Webster
Lorraine Ward
Tristram Domican
Colin MacMillan
Hedy Manders
Gitta Majumber
Brenton Hodgson
Matt Carroll
Oliver Probert
Anrik Drenth
Shaila Mehta-Wilson
Todd Rangiwhehu
Thibault Van Der Mosten

2. **Apologies**

Isabelle Collins

3. **Coordinator's Report** (Brenton Hodgson)

Hello, greetings and welcome!

What a thrill ride the last 12 months have been. And mostly not in a good way. Overshadowing everything of course is the global pandemic which has impacted and continues to impact nearly every aspect of our lives. Some selected highlights and lowlights of the year...

- We got Fringe 2020 in just before the entire country and most of the world closed
- Poed and Battle of the WITs were great successes. Mike and Ali will tell you how successful shortly.

- We ran online classes which were sometimes fun, sometimes challenging but always a thing. These had people attend from as far away as Texas.
- Some of us attended online classes in the US, the UK and mainland Europe. It was a great networking opportunity. And these international classes are still available. Let us know if you'd like to know more.
- Had a term and a half of CEC level one and level two classes cancelled
- We were able to engage with an international improviser who was stranded in New Zealand. This was actually our first face-to-face interaction with pretty much anyone after lock down ended!

The next couple of years are probably going to operate under a Covid-19 cloud as well. This means there are real opportunities to get on stage for WIT as venues won't have quite the same pressure to support international acts as normal. We want to do what we can to consolidate and build on the work we did this year, so are in the early stages of planning a Christmas pantomime this year. I've wanted to do this for ages, and you know what? We're going for it. More details later.

Early planning has also started for Fringe 2021, though we've no idea what that is actually going to look like at this stage. I think it's fair to say that the international contingent will be small... Finally, if you have a hankering to be involved in a governance or leadership role at WIT, or think someone else here tonight should be, all positions on the committee are open again this year. Some of us have been in these roles for a while. If you'd like a turn, tonight is your night to shine.

Thanks team!

☺

Brenton

Motion - Anrik Drenth, Seconded Matt Carroll
To Accept the Coordinator's Report

Approved unanimously

4. **Annual Report – Treasurer** (Presented by Michael Webster)

Motion - Brenton Hodgson, Seconded Anrik Drenth
To Accept the Annual Report

Approved unanimously

5. **Creative Directors** (Ali Little/ Oliver Probert)

WIT managed to trundle along nicely for the most part, with some more charity Micetros, a couple of great Fringe shows, and regular training. The training for members has been on Tuesday nights and in the run up to shows, and for new improvisers through our long association with the Wellington Community Education Centre at Wellington High School.

Tuesday training benefited from trips to distant improv climes by the likes of Joel and Tristram (who could forget the famous garden shed drama?), and also from some lively guest teachers, such as Mel Bee for some music. It was lovely to have visiting trainer Jess for our first post-

lockdown session. I am keen to have guest teachers, but also to see more WIT members sharing their talents and leading Tuesday sessions.

Working with other improv groups has become more important than ever. WIT hosted open jams, and invited other groups to play The Battle of WITs. Going the other way, WIT people have played on the BATS stage regularly in team show Late Night Knife Fight, run by the group Locomotion. WIT people are members and sometimes leaders of other improv groups and troupes. All the training that is available around the town can be a bit of a challenge, eg at one point last year there were five different organisations offering level one type training in Wellington. But overall it's great that so much improv is performed and such a variety of training is available in our town.

Overall it was quite a normal sort of improv year, right up to the The Battle of WITs Fringe show in mid March - when events took a strange step sideways for everyone. During lockdown WIT kept Tuesday sessions going on web platform Zoom, which provided so many delightful opportunities for technical difficulties. We also lent WIT's Pro Zoom subscription to WIT members for some other creative outlets, for example for Lyndon Hood's Sunday Shakespeare project, and a couple of strange sessions involving sock puppets for improv meetup Wimprov.

WIT was programmed to perform Attack of the Killer B-Movie and Late Night Puppets during the first Auckland Improv Festival in April, and had planned to pitch a show or two for the NZ Improv Festival as well. Obviously those are cancelled, but we expect that there will be events that WIT can work towards for next year.

Which, with so many other improv groups around the world still in lockdown and the permanent closure of some properly famous improv theatres, makes us pretty lucky.

Shows over the last year:

Micetro in support of Kidney Kids August 25, 2019
Micetro in Support of RDNZ September 29, 2019
Halloween Killer B-Movie October 27, 2019
Improv Goulash November 24, 2019
POED - NZ Fringe Feb 2020
Battle of WITS NZ Fringe Mar 2020
Micetro in support of WCM/Foodbank July 2020

Also Joy of Improv, and combined Joy of Improv/Improv for the Stage end-of-course graduation shows. And a couple of Jams held as part of Tuesday night sessions.

Motion - Tristram Domican, Seconded Matt Carroll
To Accept the Creative Directors Report

Approved unanimously

6. **Committee Elections**

a. **Coordinator**

Nominations:

Brenton Hodgson

Nominated by Hayley Webster, Oliver Probert

Brenton Hodgson approved as Coordinator (Majority Vote)

b. Creative Director(s)

Nominations:

Ali Little

-> Nominated by Brenton Hodgson, Michael Webster

Matt Carroll Nominated

- Declines Nomination

Shaila Mehta-Wilson Nominated

- Declines Nomination

Tristram Domican

-> Nominated by Brenton Hodgson, Anrik Drenth

Ali Little and Tristram Domican are approved as Creative Directors (Majority Vote)

c. Treasurer

Nominations:

Michael Webster

->Nominated by Brenton Hodgson, Matt Carroll

Michael Webster accepts with caveat that secondary commitments may mean that he will not be able to perform this role at capacity

Michael Webster approved as Coordinator (Majority Vote)

d. Secretary

Nominations:

Matt Carroll, Shaila Mehta-Wilson, Anrik Drenth, Gitta Majumber, Lorraine Ward
Nominated – All Decline Nomination

Motion: Brenton Hodgson, Seconded Anrik Drenth

That Tristram Domican be approved as Secretary until that a member could be approached by the committee and offered a role on the committee, in accordance with rule 8.8 of the WIT constitution

Majority Approved

General Business

AGM – “Virtual” Committee

- With the Post-Covid climate we need to accommodate for the need for physical/Social distancing and non-face to face meetings it is proposed that active WIT members can participate in the AGM with voting rights virtually VIA Zoom or another virtual communicating platform approved and set up by the current WIT Committee.
 - Issues around the definition of “Active WIT Member”
 - Suggested Definition is WIT Member who as participated in 3 or more official WIT meetings (Tuesday Training, Workshops, Shows)
 - Issues around the electability of ‘virtual’ attendees (particularly those who are currently living outside the current Wellington region)
 - May require changes within the constitution.

WIT Committee investigate to the opportunity of allowing active WIT members to attend virtually with voting right, and will come up with a proposition that will be put forth to WIT members, and with feedback, and implement.

Vision as troupe

- Questions around visions of troupe, currently there are several roles that WIT preforms in terms with his constitution and WIT’s status as a charity: As Community Based Theatre, a tiered training programme, semi-professional performance troupe, and a casual improvisation group. Negotiating these roles is complicated.

Minutes of the previous AGM (held 18th June 2019)

Motion – Hedy Manders, Seconded Brenton Hodgson
To approve the Minutes of the previous AGM
Motion Passed - Unanimously Approved

Meeting closed: 7:48