

Fellow Ratties,

Well, what a strange first year in office! We started with rehearsals for “The Ladykillers”, a well-received show directed by Carol Davies and assisted by Cheryl O'Brien. We had good houses for this and, as stated, it was enjoyed by all who attended. Next up, we were invited by the Really Useful Company to perform “Joseph and his Technicolor Dreamcoat”, directed by myself, choreographed by Tracey Coleman, MD Ben Pinnow and ‘a to the d’, Louise Spinola-Scott. This brought in many new members to the society and, with packed houses for every performance, we even had to invite people to our dress rehearsal. After this was to be “Witness for the Prosecution”, directed by Tim Tyson and assisted by Melanie McLeod. Unfortunately, this and the rest of the year’s programme was then interrupted by our recent pandemic.

This brings us right up to date.

As you may be aware, due to Covid-19 restrictions, and on the advice and recommendation of the Hall Council, no group AGMs will take place this year. Due to this, as a committee, we have decided that all officers and committee members are to stay in place for at least another term. I would like to thank all the committee members for all their hard work in the past year and the support they have given me. Gemma Durham in her new office of Treasurer, has done a tremendous job, as has Alex Brent in bringing RATS kicking and screaming into the adolescence of the Millennium by streamlining certain processes which will, in the future, help us to progress as a company.

This is where the hard part comes. Even though we are unable to produce any shows and bring in any income, we still need some monies to help running the company. In that respect we hope that all members will continue to pay their membership fees for the ensuing year, as a charitable donation to the society. This will help us to keep our heads above the financial depths and uncertainties of our current climate.

Finally, thank you as members for the support and faith you have shown in me helping to lead this society. These are worrying times for theatre, both professional and amateur, and we are looking forward to when we will be able to meet again. Hopefully sooner rather than later.

I know many people have felt lost without theatre and the arts at the moment, but remember, we are all in this together as the RATS family.

Stay safe and have a healthy year ahead.

Dan Collier-Roberts

Chairman