



EAST LANE
THEATRE

East Lane Theatre Club CIO Annual Report

For the Year ending 31st May 2021

Background:

East Lane Dramatic Society was established in 1936, performing in a local school and church hall. They leased some land and a tennis pavilion from Brent Council and developed their own premises to include a 75-seat theatre in 1989. Further developments provided new toilet facilities, costume and set storage. In due course, East Lane Dramatic Society became East Lane Theatre Club.

East Lane Theatre Club (ELTC) became a Charity in April 2019 and has continued to provide open membership to the people of Brent and surrounding areas to stimulate an interest in the theatre and to encourage and instruct members in all facets of dramatic art with a view to presenting productions to the public, or audiences restricted to Club members.

Trustees elected at ELTC AGM Sep 2020

Daniel Popkin, Jennifer Loomes-Vrdoljak, Desmond Gaynor, Barry Serjent, Mary McLennon, Linda Hampson.

Officers:

Chairman: Daniel Popkin
Secretary: Desmond Gaynor
Treasurer: Jenny Loomes
Artistic Director: now vacant

Productions: 0

Performances: 0

Seat Prices: £14

Membership fees: £30

Bar: Premises Licence

Charity Reg.No.: 1183134

Summary of the year From 31st May 2020 to 31st May 2021

This really has been an extra-ordinary year; Covid restrictions have stopped all the theatre's activities and face to face meetings. All business has been conducted online until mid September 2020.

The Club members stayed in contact with regular Zoom meetings, from simple chats to quiz nights and play readings.

A number of members rehearsed, then performed, a play written especially for Zoom, which was released to our members. Being our first online foray we did not feel it was of high enough quality to release generally.

Some special themed evenings were arranged, from our Zoom Christmas party, with silly hats, to an evening dedicated to theatre. We also read some plays in preparation for the future seasons.

From September 2020 limited face to face meetings were now possible, admittedly with only 6 people at 2m spacing, but with the new tier system in place, planning started on our 1st show **Lunch with Mrs Baskin**, postponed from April 2020 to a new slot in December 2020. The trustees had also decided to launch our first foray into the online video world, with a series of short monologues written by members.

Actors were chosen, directors and authors' pieces matched up and we were all ready to start filming for a release in January 2021, and then Covid hit again, the 2nd lockdown started and all face to face activity stopped. **Lunch with Mrs Baskin** was postponed again.

The theatre was used for a short piece to Dancing on Ice. ITV filmed a (very) small piece with Rufus Hound on our stage, other than membership fees, this donation was our only income.

To help minimise some costs Scenesetter, our newsletter, moved online and kept us all up to date with jokes and anecdotes. The trustees would like to thank everyone who contributed to these evenings and to Scenesetter ; it has really helped to maintain the Club spirit.

In April 2021 as things again started improving we recommenced our monologues with the idea of releasing them ahead of the start of the next season. The launch of our YouTube channel was scheduled for June 2021.

A large amount of time has been spent on planning to make the theatre and café area safer for patrons in these Covid times. The basics are spacing, cleaning, avoiding contact and ventilation.

Conclusion

Having due regard to the Commission's public benefit guidance, the trustees are confident that East Lane Theatre Club is being managed efficiently but owing to the

Covid restrictions our operations effectively ceased except for a small online presence to our members and the Club was unable to fulfil any of its obligations to the wider community

Daniel Popkin

Chairman

East Lane Theatre Club

Vale Farm Sports Complex

Middx

HA0 3HG

eastlanetheatre@gmail.co.uk