

Minutes of the Performing Arts Committee
Coloma Community Center, Grass Valley Room
January 26, 1998

MEMBERS PRESENT: Marie Bain, Dee Dee Sharp-Nelson

MEMBERS ABSENT: M. Josette Borland, Daphne Gawthrop, Barbara Wroblicky

STAFF PRESENT: None

VISITORS PRESENT: Bob and Lillian Baxter, RUNAWAY THEATER PRODUCTIONS, Eagle Theater, Executive Director, Robert Mees, Best of Broadway, Sandra Roberts and Nancy Andersen

1. Meeting called to order by Chair, Dee Dee Sharp-Nelson at 5:10 p.m.

2. Minutes of last meeting read and approved.

3. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

3a. **Introduction of New Members:** Sharp-Nelson welcomed guests and new members, gave background of committee, and shared some of her own biographical data. Sandra Roberts (singer, supporter of arts, Best of Broadway, Loss and Safety Management, local law firm) and Nancy Anderson (teacher, performer, director of current Pal Joey, teacher of SMAC, Power of Art in the Classroom, large background in multi-disciplined performing, SMAC participant) were introduced, spoke, and a motion was passed to approve them as new committee members. Other names were discussed as potential members but were not in attendance.

3b. **Future Activities, Goals and Objectives:** Goals and objectives discussed. Discussion focused on supporting the Performing Arts and what "support" meant: money, help, directory, etc.

Bob and Lillian Baxter, producers of the Old Town Sacramento Eagle Theater, RUNAWAY PRODUCTIONS, suggested we look into a Performing Arts Directory, the committee made a motion. Nancy Anderson will look into it. Perhaps the directory could tie into the Cultural Directory with its own special section eliminating what one member called "re-creating the wheel." Chairperson Sharp-Nelson suggested it was a good way of using an already accepted and excellent method of notifying individuals of the performing resources in Sacramento County. Costs might be less with the "tie-in" section in the Cultural Resources Directory.

Nancy Andersen and Runaway Theater will look into other means of support and getting a section in the Bee, by the theater weekly playbill appearing on Sundays, giving a listing of AUDITIONS for the upcoming months in the Performing Arts.

One of the Runaway Productions Groups is calling Channel 31, where he has friends, to see if there is a possibility of getting a weekly spot on Good Morning Sacramento, discussing up-coming theater auditions/productions and possibly showing videos of rehearsals, performances, etc.

Sandra Roberts gave a report on her multi-cultural choral groups work at three malls during the holiday season. She reported Florin, Arden, and Sunrise Malls has Christmas music, Kwanza, Hannukah, and other artists participating in costume around the malls. Mrs. Roberts was thanked for her outstanding contribution and stated she would like to continue doing outreach in the multi-cultural arena at the malls in 1998.

Meetings will continue to be every last Monday of the month, at a permanent location, Grass Valley Room, Coloma Community Center, 4623 T Street, Sacramento, CA, 5:00-7:30 p.m. Every effort will be made to have short, productive meetings with positive input, ideas, and suggestions from the members and community at large. Volunteers were requested for the Performing Arts Committee.

New Chairperson, Dee Dee Sharp-Nelson, will make an attempt to have at least one performing arts group to give a history, present performances, and possibly show a scene, sing a song, do a dance, or show a video of one of their performances. February's meeting will host the The Sacramento Ballet, and The Eagle Theater's caretaker, Cliff Hagel, who will discuss the History of the Eagle Theater and its relationship to Old Town Sacramento Historical Society, Business Community, etc.

3c. Presentations:

Executive Director, Robert Mees, of Best of Broadway was introduced and he did a presentation on the BEST OF BROADWAY series. He gave out invitations and invited Performing Arts and SMAC to attend the Angel event in February at the Radisson for \$35.00. He showed a video of Best of Broadway, did a history, and how they had grown in 25 years. The committee thanked Mr. Mees for his efforts on behalf of Performing Arts, and he was requested to extend our thanks to David McDonald and staff for their excellent, consistent contributions to Sacramento.

Bob and Lillian Baxter, RUNAWAY PRODUCTIONS, Eagle Theater, Old Town Sacramento, and their actors were introduced. They gave a history of their company (10 years plus), and they have been playing to full houses on the week-ends (capacity of 150 seats). Scene from Runaway Productions presently playing musical, Seven Brides for Seven Brothers, fully costumed and sung!!!

- 4. OLD BUSINESS:** Old goals and objectives: All performers get paid every time. Question: Shouldn't performers at least be given a chance to perform and given the choice even if PAC can't pay them? Answer: yes.

Motion and vote that a concerted effort would be made to pay performers whenever possible, an exploration of funding needed to be accomplished, and perhaps, a list of donors, etc. (businesses, grants) made so that the money would be available with permission from SMAC and Michelle Walker, however, performers would be allowed to perform, if they chose, without payment. NOTE: Focus on payment first, and choice second, appeared to be the consensus of the committee's feeling at present.

Staffing for the Performing Arts committee would be addressed to SMAC and a staff persons name presented to the committee next meeting.

Further committee members would be in attendance in February.

A discussion of committee meeting attendance and commitment to participate in some phase of the program was addressed.

ADJOURNMENT: Committee members were encouraged to recruit new members. Chairperson Sharp-Nelson mentioned that the next meeting would have a performing arts educational component. Agendas would be followed up, where possible, with a "reminder" of a meeting via the telephone. Everyone was wished a Happy Chinese New Year, and hoped the Year of the Tiger would be productive and positive for all Performing Artists in Sacramento. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.