**White Heron Theatre Company**

**Annual Meeting of Board of Directors**

**November 8, 2021**

The Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors was held by Zoom on November 8, 2021. Board Chair Robert Doran called the meeting to order at 5:04PM. Present virtually were Directors Robin Hammer, Chris Bierly, Sheri Feigen, Mark Cunha, James Malone, Robert Doran, Leigh-Anne Champion and Lynne Bolton. Also present were Acting Managing Director Joshua Borenstein and Michael Kopko.

The first item of business was a review of the Minutes of the August 26, 2021 Board meeting. Hearing no objections or corrections, Mr. Doran called for a Motion to approve the Minutes. Mr. Bierly so moved and Mr. Malone seconded. The Minutes were approved unanimously.

Ms. Bolton gave her Artistic Director’s Report. She reported that the Nantucket Christmas Carol production was about to go into rehearsal and would be performed over Thanksgiving weekend and the following Christmas Stroll weekend. Ms. Bolton was hopeful that we would have at least 50% capacity for each of the productions except maybe Thanksgiving Day. Everything is going well production and sales wise at this point. Ms. Bolton also indicated that WHTC is going to re-release the 2020 Christopher Plummer-narrated version of this show over the days nearest Christmas through December 26.

We remain in touch with the Druid Theatre Company. Druid currently has a production of The Seagull on-line and has opened it up to WHTC members for $25.00.

Ms. Bolton commented on the current thinking for the 2022 season. We will likely produce *Sea Monsters of the Deep* in June. We purchased the set a year ago and have the prop pieces. We also are hopeful of being able to produce *Miss Mitchell* sometime later this summer. Miss Manners was the beneficiary of an NEA grant last summer and hopefully will be able to obtain another grant for 2022. This is a large show with nine (9) in the cast. We are working on housing for this group. We are still working on selecting a middle show for July. One idea is a redo of the 1999 Tony Award winning Best Play, Side Man. Frank Wood won the Tony and Edie Falco was nominated for Outstanding Actress in a Play. The idea would be to get the original cast together to do the show again. Individual schedules are being checked. Two other plays on the list are *4000 Miles* and *Glass Menagerie*. Noel Coward’s *Easy Virtue* and *Present Laughter, God of Carnage and Blues for an Alabama Sky* were also mentioned. Of all of these, *Side Man* is currently the first choice.

Ms. Bolton also noted that we will likely present our plays Sunday through Thursday nights and leave Friday and Saturday nights for special programming including Kevin Flynn’s comedy productions. We will also be collaborating with the Nantucket Film Festival, Sarah Lawrence College, and Erin Hildebrand. Ms. Bolton is still working on a third and maybe a fourth show. It all depends on whether *Miss Mitchell* will be ready by August.

Mr. Cunha gave the Governance report. He moved that the following slate of directors be elected for three-year terms expiring on December 31, 2024. These directors are Chris Bierly, Lynne Bolton and Robin Hammer. Ms. Champion seconded the Motion and the three individuals were elected unanimously.

Mr. Cunha next moved the that the following slate of officers be elected for one-year terms. The slate is: Robert Doran, Chair; Robin Hammer, Vice-Chair, James Malone, Clerk, and Martin Rhea, Treasurer. Ms. Champion seconded the Motion, and these four individuals were elected unanimously.

Finally, Mr. Cunha moved that Ms. Bolton be reelected as President of the Corporation, with a term expiring on December 31, 2022. Ms. Hammer seconded the Motion and Ms. Bolton was elected unanimously.

Next Mr. Cunha recommended that the Board reapprove each year the Corporation’s policies on Whistle Blowers, Gift Acceptance, Document Retention, and Conflict of Interest. On Motions made by Mr. Malone and seconded by Ms. Bolton each of these four policies were voted upon and enacted unanimously.

Mr. Cunha also reported to the Board that during the production of Peter and the Starcatcher it was alleged by one of the actors that there had been harassment by another actor. Several members of the cast were concerned about this matter and a formal complaint was lodged with Actor’s Equity which exercises governance over such matters. Mr. Cunha and Mr. Borenstein represented WHTC before Actor’s Equity in this matter and after numerous discussions involving correcting certain original factual errors by Actors’ Equity in its initial finding, the matter was settled amicably and confidentially among the actors and WHTC, with no precedential consequences to WHTC. Importantly, WHTC had an Anti-Harassment Policy in place before Rehearsals began for this show and all the actors in the show signed the policy before beginning rehearsals. Mr. Doran thanked Mr. Cunha and Mr. Borenstein for their help in resolving this matter favorably.

Mr. Borenstein next gave the Managing Director’s Report. He reported that things were going well and that the advance sales for A Nantucket Christmas Carol were going well, up over 100% from 2019. He also reported that WHTC was able to raise $37,000 from its Fall Appeal and that WHTC was about to begin its End of the Year Appeal. We are a little short of goal at this point but will be working hard towards the year end.

Mr. Borenstein also reported that WHTC has been awarded a set of supplemental grants in the amount of $76,000. One of these was from the Small Business Administration’s “Shuttered Venue Operating Grant Program.” We are also applying to the National Education Association for a grant to cover artistic salaries for 2022. This is a very competitive program. We should hear whether we are awarded such a grant sometime in January.

Mr. Borenstein reported that we have received another grant of $5,000 from the Tupancy-Harris Foundation, and that we have been asked by the Shubert Foundation to submit a grant application for 2022. Such a grant would be small but it would be a consequential step in WHTC’s progress as the Shubert Organization grants are among the best in the theatre business, recognizing that a theatre is doing very good work.

Mr. Borenstein also reported that we will apply again to the Massachusetts Cultural Council for equipment replacement needs. Several other grant applications are also in the works.

Finally, Mr. Borenstein mentioned that WHTC is in good shape liquidity wise with about $86,000 cash in our back account.

Ms. Bolton thanked Mr. Borenstein for his excellent work on the grants and for raising WHTC’s profile among the grant giving organizations. She specially mentioned his efforts with the Shubert Organization.

Ms. Borenstein next began the Education report for Ms. Feigen. Mr. Borenstein explained that WHTC’s goal for 2022 was to create a “sustainable education program.” Ms. Feigen, Ms. Bolton, Margaret Boasberg and Mr. Borenstein have been looking into this matter about what has been working and what has not been working. It was mentioned that the program thus far has been supported by only a few families, including the Bierly’s and the Feigen’s. This is not a good business model as devoted families like these may lose their incentive as their children grow older. It is important for WHTC that the Education Program break even over the year. Discussions will continue on this matter with an eye to getting to a more formal proposal by the February meeting of the Board. One matter being explored is hiring a Director of Education. A Progress Report on all these matters is expected at the February meeting.

It was agreed that this meeting of the Board would reconvene on Tuesday, November 16 at 1:00PM EST. Mr. Malone indicated that he would be absent at that time and asked that another Board member prepare the minutes for that portion of the Annual meeting.

There being no time remaining in the time originally allotted for this meeting, Mr. Doran asked for a Motion to Adjourn. Mr. Malone so moved and Ms. Hammer seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

James L. Malone, Clerk