

AGM REPORT FOR CLUBNIGHTS AND MELTING POT

1. Clubnights have been a feature of Everyman Theatre since it was founded in 1942. It has always provided a backbone for the company with weekly meetings where members and non-members could create all ranges of theatre, discuss ideas, learn new skills and meet new friends and old. It is free of charge and is a means to attract new members. As you know, the Clubnight is on Wednesdays at 8:00 pm in the Everyman clubroom (September–May).

Melting Pot is the training and skills arm of Everyman. Monthly sessions are organised by a sub-committee and financed by Everyman. A range of training events/workshops taken by professionals, take place, usually on the first Wednesday in the month. These sessions are also free.

2. Clubnights for September 2023–May 2024 have seen a wide range of topics, experiences and performances. There has been tears and lots of laughter, much of it in creating interesting drama, hearing great poetry and stories, seeing performances script in-hand and on a few occasions fully performed. The Directors' Pitches for forthcoming productions are also very enjoyable and always well attended. This year we had 'Private Fears in Public Spaces' (Rob Gairey) in September. 'The Glass Menagerie' (Rob Phillips) in November and 'The Odd Couple' (Pam Wiener) in May. These presentations are always very popular and generally hands-on.

Some personal high points were a play 'Like Dreaming Backwards', directed by Kate Jones-Davies; the Halloween Evening organised by Arnold Phillips; the talented writing of Trystan Davies, eg 'Call Back'; a performance of 'The Women of Spoon River' directed by Brian Van Duyn; finally the continued development of skills by regular Clubnight Members willing to take risks and even step-up to take a Clubnight. This year's programme of events has already started but we're still looking to fill some empty spaces in the weeks beyond October. So why not come forward and suggest an idea for a Clubnight.

3. Melting Pot has used seven professional artists this year, ranging from some magical light shows to writing for and acting in radio. They were as follows:

4 th October 2023	Hummadruz Theatre	Stuart Bawler
1 st November 2023	Trusting in the Ensemble	Marilyn Le Conte
6 th December 2023	Improvisation Exercises and Games for Christmas	Kevin Lewis Sarah Argent
10 th January 2024	Performing Shakespeare	Paul Clements
21 st February 2024	Writing for Radio	Nigel Crowle
3 rd April 2024	'Bloody Wimmin' a play by Lucy Kirkwood	Andy Kempe
17 th April 2024	Performing for Radio	Marilyn Le Conte

As part of its Charity Status, Everyman Theatre also supports an annual Drama Teacher's Course at the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge. Since its support began in 2020, Everyman Theatre has not incurred any financial loss. This is primarily a course for secondary teachers of Drama but is also open to Everyman members. Earlier this year six members of Everyman attended the weekend

featuring Complicite, a world renowned theatre company. In 2025 we entertain Paper Birds a successful Drama Education company.

This is a residential weekend course for which there is a fee of £240 (includes fees, accommodation and meals).

4. To conclude, Clubnights are the lifeblood of Everyman. They keep the fires burning whilst productions are in rehearsal. There is a unique community atmosphere in its weekly sessions and it's heart warming to see the camaraderie and friendship in each session, as well as witnessing the progress participants can experience during the year.

My thanks to Rosy Greenwood, Lydia Bateman and Nuala Lomax for their continued help and support during the past year, as well as those Clubnighters who have attended and especially those who have stepped up to lead sessions.

Barry Slack

Clubnight Co-ordinator