

## AGM REPORT FOR CLUBNIGHTS AND MELTING POT

### WEDNESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2025

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 way of attracting 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. However, this year, it was agreed by the Board that due to the financial position the Company found itself in following the Summer Festival of 2024, it was decided to cease Melting Pot sessions after January. In this way £500 was saved. It is hoped to resume Melting Pot in the coming season.

2. Clubnights for September 2024–May 2025 have seen a wide range of topics, experiences and performances. There have 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 in September, we had Simon Fuddy with a very scholarly pitch for 'Amadeus'. At the end of November Pam Wiener delivered her pitch for 'The Odd Couple' (female version). Finally, Marilyn Le Conte and Peter Harding-Roberts presented a lively pitch for 'Under Milk Wood.' These presentations are always very popular and generally hands-on.

Some personal highlights were 'Voices from the Black Country' presented by Eric Hadley; the talented writing of Trystan Davies, with a piece about Dylan Thomas' women; a fun session with Nuala Lomax and 'Shakespeare with a Twist'; a performance of 'Skirmishes' by Catherine Hayes, with Tracy Ogden-Davies, Regina Levkovich and Lydia Bateman; and an absorbing version of 'The Vagina Monologues' directed by Brian Van Duyn with Kate Jone-Davies, Alison Shephard, Rosy Greenwood, Jessica Gittins, Sian Kirby and Nuala Lomax. This year's programme of events has already started with a 'Welcome Back' party and a fun session of exercises and games on 'Character Creation' with Cressida Ford. We are still looking to fill some empty spaces in the weeks beyond October. So why not step up and suggest an idea for a Clubnight.

3. Melting Pot has used four professional artists this year: Paul Clements, Marilyn Le Conte, Helen Woods and Richard Berry. It is to be hoped that we return with some more workshops in the coming season.

4 As part of its community brief, Everyman Theatre also supports an annual Drama Teacher's Course in 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 The Paper Birds, a UK renowned theatre and education company. In 2026 we entertain Box House Theatre Company, a successful Drama Education company.

This is a residential weekend course for which there is a fee of £250 ( includes fees, accommodation and meals).

5. To conclude, Clubnights are the lifeblood of Everyman. They are a constant feature of Everyman's annual programme of events. 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. Attendance is an average of 15- 20 per session. This year we have already attracted a few new faces

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