

24th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Friday 21 February 2025 5.30pm
NoFit State Circus, Four Elms Road, Cardiff

MINUTES

1. Welcome from the Chair

Hoodi welcomed everybody to the meeting. This AGM was being held later than usual because the company had been touring back in December 2024.

The company had had a tough year. At a time when the arts sector was shrinking, with companies closing because of lack of funding, the team at NFSC had met challenges head on.

The company had signed a new funding agreement with Arts Council Wales and had, in addition, achieved continuing funding from Arts Council England. In the context of an arts sector where funding was being cut, this was a massive achievement.

Hoodi thanked everybody for all their hard work and commitment during an action packed and productive year for the company. The focus going forward was to get the new big top show funded and developed.

2. Present

Angela Tillcock	Paul Ralley (Treasurer)
Devika Sunand	Melissa Roberts
Mohammed Keiter	Kate Verney
Hoodi Ansari (Chair)	Peter Wells
Brianne Coleman	Suzy Knot
Thomas Crocker-Wilton	Emrys Barnes
Jacky Crosher	Seren Gwylfai
Beth Darragh	Janos Foldi
Lizzy Ferguson	Peter Gregory
Jo Taylor	Matt Davies
Lee Fisher	Simon Wall
Frederic Millon	Evie Davies
Adrian Peters (Vice Chair)	Alison Woods
Abbas Radaideh	Tom Rack

3. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Kim Tilbrook, Martin Jones, Liz McLean and Sara Maggs.

4. Minutes of the AGM held on 15 December 2023 (for year 2022/23)

Hoodi presented the minutes of the last AGM, held on 15 December 2023. The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

Proposed by Alison Woods

Seconded by Mel Roberts

Agreed by All members

5. Presentation of Annual Report and Audited Accounts 2023/24

Members had been sent a link to the Company's Audited Accounts for 2023/24. These accounts had been approved by the trustees and the company's external auditors and had been filed with Companies House.

At the point of signing off the Accounts, both Paul and the Auditors were happy that the company was a 'going concern' and that it would remain operating for the next 12 months. This was a testament to the hard work of the company's staff and its excellent governance.

Paul Ralley, NFSC's Treasurer, took members through the key figures in the 2023/24 Accounts:

The company had a total income of £2,009,153 during the year. The accounts showed an income of £534,875 in donations and legacies; most of this came from two core funders - Arts Council Wales and Arts Council England. Income from touring, ticket sales and other earned income accounted for £1,474,278.

The total expenditure for the year was £2,088,991 which had resulted in a deficit of £79,838 on the year. Paul reminded members that this deficit/surplus figure changed each year.

Members were asked to approve the Audited Accounts 2023/24.

Proposed by Paul Ralley

Seconded by Hoodi Ansari

Agreed by All members

6. Appointment of Auditors for 2024/25

Hoodi reported that because of the increase in auditing fees from the company's current Accountants, MHA, Trustees proposed that a retendering exercise was undertaken in order to appoint new Auditors to achieve better value for money for the company.

Proposed by Mel Roberts

Seconded by Lee Fisher

Agreed by All members

7. Presentation of Company Activity 2023/2024

7.1 Performance Programme – Tom Rack

Sabotage - since April 2022 there had been 301 performances of Sabotage and there was a final year of touring to go. The show would tour to venues in the UK and Europe and it would end in August 2026 with a final stand in Cardiff. In terms of statistics, a quarter of a million people had seen the show, and it had created £3/4 million in turnover. The show had toured to eleven different countries and 24 artists had performed in the show.

Carbon footprint - the touring company had worked hard to reduce its carbon footprint by 50% by using battery powered systems to support its generators on sites. There would be more work on this going forward across the coming years. Bamboo was a carbon light show and ran completely off grid when it toured.

Bamboo - the R&D stage for Bamboo had begun in 2022 in Bangor when the main tent was being used for Sabotage. In March 2024 we made the show in the big top in Bristol. The show has an environmental message, in both the materials used in the show and through its solar powered sound system. Across its first year, the show had 73 performances and attracted an audience of 25,000. Bamboo would be touring between May – September 2025 and re-rehearsals would be starting shortly.

New big tent show - the company would shortly be starting the R&D stage for the next big tent show including initial auditions and castings. Half of the funding to make the show had been raised, and there was a year to raise the remaining funding. The artistic theme of the show would be based on a post truth world in a dystopian society.

7.2 Community Programme – Jo Taylor

Jo reported that the company had run a range of projects across the past year, focusing on working with people from many different communities in Adamsdown, Splott and Tremorfa. The company approached this work as community development, meeting communities where they were and developing work in partnership with people and community organisations.

ACW had funded the work through a Connect & Flourish grant. NFSC worked with artists and community organisations to set up a formal partnership called the Square Mile. The purpose of this partnership was to co-create cultural work with the local communities. WCVA had provided a grant to support the recruitment of local volunteers who supported the community programme.

Free activities for children and young people to access in every school holiday had been part of the programme. More organisations were joining the Square Mile Partnership. An element of the programme focused on

celebrating Welsh culture and the Welsh language, with the support of Menter Caerdydd. The company were working on a creative piece to take to this year's Tafwyl Festival.

250-300 people attended Golau Parc Light, the festival of fire and light held at Brewery Park. For the second year, the company worked with Citrus Arts on a fire sculpture. The feedback from participants was that doing things outdoors makes a big difference to local people and has helped them to reclaim important outdoor spaces in their communities. Bamboo was performed at Gwledd Parc Fest in August 2004 – communities loved the experience. The Clifton Street Festival was a key event, again working with other partners. At Four Elms the community creative space has been used for activities. The fee paying classes have had priority spaces for members of the local community. Across the whole programme 20,000 people engaged with the work.

7.3 External Forces

Alison commented that in the last year the world in which the company operated had become more unpredictable and unstable. It was now a world where the unexpected had become the normal.

The company had faced real financial challenges, with increasing costs, and standstill funding. In the arts sector, new funding sources were really difficult to find and competition for funding was fierce.

For the first time the company was facing cultural threats and cultural challenges. The impact of the climate crisis was real. The company was working to reduce its carbon footprint. One initiative was the solar panels which were being installed on the Four Elms building.

The company must positively celebrate diversity and stand together after the attacks on those in the Global Majority community and the LGBTQ+ community. The company was continuing the build friendships around the world, working with artists and companies in Zambia.

NoFit State needed to stand together and work with other artists and other organisations. The company's cultural ethos was the most important thing to fight for.

8. Election of Trustees and Officers

Hoodi reported that Lis McLean's three year term of office had ended, and she would not be standing for re-election as a Trustee. Hoodi thanked Lis for all her commitment as a Trustee.

Re-election of Trustee Officers

Hoodi Ansari was willing to stand again as Chair.

Proposed by Alison Woods
Seconded by Paul Ralley
Agreed by All members

Adrian Peters was willing to stand again as Vice Chair.

Proposed by Hoodi Ansari
seconded by Lee Fisher
Agreed by All members

Paul Ralley was willing to stand again as Treasurer.

Proposed by Hoodi Ansari
Seconded by Melissa Roberyts
Agreed by All members

9. Any other business

There was no other business to discuss.

10. Date of next AGM

The next AGM would be held within the next twelve months and would revert to its usual time slot of November/December in 2025.