



## **Dance Ireland Annual General Meeting**

**September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 2.00pm**

**Online – Zoom**

### **Draft Minutes**

#### **Participants:**

**Directors:** Orfhlaith Ni Bhriain (Chairperson), John Malone (Retired), Mihaela Griveva, Laura Macken-Posavitz, Laura Murphy, Aoife Newton, Maria Nilsson Waller, Colm Ryan.

**Executive:** Sheila Creevey (Chief Executive), Eve Lalor (General Manager)

#### **Attendees**

Siobhan Ni Dhunnin, Bernadette Divilly, Fearghus O'Concubhair, Rachel Sheil, Oran Leong, Mia DiChiaro, Olwen Grindley, Ruairi O'Donovan, Moyra Darcy, Patricia Glynn, Michelle Cahill, Sarah Latty, Carla Fazio, Siun O'Kane, Joanna Banks, Sibeal Davitt, Justine Doswell, Niamh O'Flannagain, Laurie Schneider, Lucia Kickham, Kevin Coquelard, Lisa Tyrell, Robert Connor, Loretta Yurick, Marian Lennon, Kate Dunne, Jane Magan, Lisa Cliffe, Kristyn Fontanella, Catherine Donnolly, Judith Sibley, Marion Cronin, Maria Svensson, Mairead Vaughan, Nick Nickolau, Minte Wolde

#### **Apologies**

Lilly Deveney, Grainne McArdle, Emily Kilkenny-Roddy, Olwyn Lyons, Catherine Young, Ingrid Nachstern, Lindsay Ash-Brown, Mary Wycherley.

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Janette Keane informed participants that the meeting was being recorded for the purpose of minuting and asked participants to return their participation forms.

#### **Welcome**

The welcome was made by John Malone as outgoing Chair, he thanked the executive and the broader Dance Ireland staff for their continued work and dedication during a difficult period. He also thanked the board for their work during the year.

John thanked Paul Johnson for his work as CEO and welcomed the new CEO, Sheila Creevey. He also welcomed the new Chairperson Orfhlaith Ni Bhriain.

Orfhlaith Ni Bhriain chaired the meeting, welcomed Sheila as new CEO and thanked the Dance Ireland team and the board for their efforts during this unique time.

Orfhlaith also thank the membership for their dedication to the artform, their resilience and their engagement online throughout the Covid crisis.

### **Conflicts**

None

### **Minutes of AGM September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

No matters arising.

Proposed by Olwen Grindley and seconded by Lisa Tyrell; approved and an agreement to sign.

### **Financial Update**

The chairperson of the Finance Committee, Colm Ryan, introduced the Financial Statements.

He also made comments pertaining to the financial outlook for 2020, informing members that the Board did expect a financial shortfall for 2020 however the company did have substantial reserves and had applied for various governments grants.

The Chair thanked the executive for their continued financial diligence and prudence and Eve Lawlor for her work in preparing the accounts.

The 2019 Directors' Report and Financial Statements were approved; proposed by Michelle Cahill and seconded by Kristyn Fontanella.

### **2019 Annual Report**

The Chair commented that the values and strategic priorities of Dance Ireland have been honoured by the work and programmes implemented throughout the year.

CEO Sheila Creevey took members through the annual report, highlighting two key themes, Partnership working, as it ensures the investment received by Dance Ireland from the Arts Council and others goes much further than if the organisation were to work alone.

Sheila also commented on community engagement, being central to what many artists do and being an integral part of what Dance House facilitates.

The second key theme for Dance Ireland in 2019 was residency support with 73 awards made in the year, 11 bursaries, 45 residencies and 17 scholarships.

The Chair took a moment to thank John Malone for his leadership and contribution to Dance Ireland during his tenure in the Chair and as a Director of the organisation.

### **Covid-19 Update**

Delivered by Sheila where she outlined the actions the organisation has taken in response to the pandemic.

Three principle response:

Consistency and stability, Rebuild and recover, Reimagine, and evolve.

Eve, Louise, Jeanette, and Laura presented on each.

The Chair thanked the Dance Ireland team for their continued dedication and diligence.

This was echoed by a number of members.

### **Election to the Board of Directors**

Mihaela Griveva was proposed by John Malone for re-election to the board and seconded by Maria Nilsson Waller. Mihaela was duly re-elected.

### **Members' discussion / Any Other Business**

In response to Judith Sibley question on recreational or professional dance classes Sheila confirmed that Dance Ireland was only facilitating professional dance classes at this time. However, plans are in place to broaden the programme should government advice permit. Judith shared her concerns as an independent dance studio owner around the lack of clarity in government advice in relation to dance. Eve Lalor shared Dance Ireland's understanding of government advice but also cautioned to the ambiguity of that advice. The Chair also shared her experience in seeking clarity from the Department of Health, Department of Culture and the Department of Sports around dance classes and advised she had yet to receive consistent guidance. Orfhlaith did note that her insurance provider did advise that in pods of not more than 5 including the teacher one could host multiple pods as long as it was within indoor guidelines, with the same people every week and suggested members consult with their insurance provider.

The Chair and CEO concluded the Annual General Meeting with closing comments.

Signed:

Dated: