

Minutes written by Brigitte Paulus January 7, 2006

Meeting took place on 1/7/06 at the West End Dance and Yoga Studio (WEYDS)
Class started at 9:30—the meeting started at 10:45

In attendance were:

Kyle Bouchard
Cory Bucknam
Jamie Driggers-Millington
MJ Emerson
Meg Hall
Ellen Joyce
Matt Meeds
Byron Nilsen
Brigitte Paulus
Amanda Schultz
Thomas Smallwood

It was made clear that Company Meeting was different from the Board Meetings. Vivid Motion Inc. Board Members are Brigitte Paulus, Ellen Joyce, Tallon Atkinson, and Amanda Schultz. The Board has final say on all financial and artistic decisions. Company Members are people who dance with Vivid Motion in an ongoing fashion and Company Meetings are intended to facilitate those members in volunteering with the non-dance aspects of the company, as well as keep the lines of communication open between the Board and the members.

All Items on the Agenda were discussed. (*Agenda items in italics*)

- *Give Breakout/descriptions of jobs that need to be done to run a show*
 - *Ask for volunteer teams to do some of those jobs for spring show*

Brigitte stated that she had found job descriptions online from the Rockville Music Theater, changed them to reflect Vivid Motion and briefly went over them. She stated that the document is not finished or approved by the Board. She will put the unfinished document onto the Vivid Motion web site for members to look at.

At the February meeting the request for volunteers for spring show production tasks will go out again, after people have had a chance to view the job descriptions. Jobs specifically needed are Costumer, Publicity Chief, and Wardrobe Staff.

Brigitte also stated that jobs could be done in teams.

- *Ask someone to find out about dance shows and major events going on in June*
Thomas agreed to do this and email it to both Brigitte and Ellen by January 21, 2006.

- *Request choreography proposals for spring show*
 - *Hand out proposal form*
 - *First time choreographers need a Mentor*

Proposals were brought to the meeting. Members were told that first time choreographers needed to choose a Mentor. No further details were given.

Thomas asked if it was possible to set a piece on dancers without performing in the show. Brigitte told him the answer was yes, and she further noted that a choreographer could appoint a dance captain.

The Theme of the Spring Show was stated to be Around the World in 80 Minutes. This will be pieces that reflect cultures of the world (including the United States) whether through the music, costuming or dance style of the piece.

Some dancers took proposal forms home with them.

Brigitte stated she would make the proposal form available as a word document online.

Thomas asked about extra rehearsals if a choreographer wanted them. Brigitte stated that a choreographer is welcome to arrange additional rehearsals, but they must bear any cost incurred and be responsible for setting it up.

o *Projects that need to be done for company*

Brigitte put forth and explained the following projects that need to be done for the company.

▪ *Data entry to mailing lists (patron email, patron postcards, dancer email)*

Typing the names from the NB mailing list request into an existing Excel spreadsheet. Thomas agreed to do this. No deadline was set.

▪ *Costume organize and catalog*

Cory agreed to organize getting costumes from storage and making a day(s) for people to get together to do this. She will use her space. She cannot start till February. The deadline for this is the May Meeting. Cory agreed to let the costumer for the Spring Show have access to the costumes.

▪ *Advertising contact sheet for NB*

Using the programs from the past 3 years put together a list of business, contact names and ad sizes they purchased previously into a word document. Byron agreed to do this. The deadline is the March Meeting

▪ *Scrap book (for future grant proposals)*

Jamie agreed to do this. She will go to Brigitte's house to retrieve materials. No deadline was set.

▪ *Calendar of recurring events/festivals in Portland area that we could become part of*

▪ *Contact information for those events*

Amanda agreed to make a document for this. She will look at places within an hour of Portland. No deadline was set.

- *Information regarding costs associated with different venues and contact info for those venues collected into one document*

Byron will coordinate with Meg to make this document. Brigitte will send a list of venues to check. Byron and Meg will locate more options and put together a word document. The deadline is the March Meeting.

- *Scan pictures from SS04 at min. 300 dpi resolution*

No one could do this. Brigitte stated that Tallon said he could.

- *Ask about connections for rehearsal space*

Brigitte told dancers that the Board is pursuing ALR and Shipyard corporate sponsorship in the form of a studio space.

She asked the members to ask around and see if there was a space that someone would let the company use for free or very cheap (\$50 a month). The space should be appropriate for dance rehearsals, heated, and a space that the company could keep keys for and use in an unrestricted (within reason) manner.

Byron stated that he would approach Bally Fitness to see about their sponsorship for NB06 rehearsal space. He was told there is a document on the website with the specifics of the company's sponsor packages. Free rehearsal space is the top level of sponsorship.

Brigitte stated that the cost to rent New Dance Studio and WEYDS is \$10 per hour. The cost for Casco Bay Movers studio (at their reduced rate) is \$20 per hour. The market rate for dancer studio space in Portland is \$20-\$30 per hour.

Brigitte also stated that Nutcracker is the show that pays the bills for the rest of the year. The Spring Show is expected to break even. All other performances and operational costs are paid for from the Nutcracker revenue. She expressed concern that she had heard dancers expressing wishes for the company to spend more money given the sold out performances of Nutcracker. Brigitte asked the members present when they heard things like that to mention that Nutcracker pays for the rest of the company's operations.

She also stated that the budgets for the shows are available to review if anyone wants to see them. They must ask as she will NOT put the budgets up on the website.

- *Future project ideas*

The following projects were given as an example of things Vivid Motion could do in the future. Brigitte stated that anyone wishing to do one of these (or any other) projects would need to put together a proposal to bring to the Board. The Board would then give that producer a budget to work with for show costs. If an event paid money, that money would be used to offset production costs. If an event does not pay money there are funds available from Nutcracker for that purpose.

- *Fall/Summer show at bigger venue (Portland High, USM?)*

Brigitte and Ellen both expressed concern for the timing of an entire show given the dates that NB and the spring show fall.

Someone suggested that we push the spring show to the end of summer and put another production in between Nutcracker and then.

Brigitte stated that she would like to see the company do a show with one act of 3-5 original works and the other act with a short “ballet” done in a style that would be fun to watch. She mentioned already existing short ballets such as Firebird or Gaité Parisian (Can-Can) as a possibility.

- *Old Port Festival*
- *Portland Dances*
- *Pride*
- *Velvet (Ripple Effect Benefit)*

Brigitte stated that these would be a good opportunity for someone to try their hand at producing as the festival staff handles part of the job. The Vivid Motion Producer would not have to deal with venue rental, publicity, or ticket sales.

- *Thornton Academy Dance Festival*

Brigitte stated that she is in email contact with Kathy Nolan from Thornton Academy regarding this

- *Small outlying town fairs and festivals*
- *Brain Storm more ideas for places/events to perform*

Matt suggested asking Tom Vail (the TD at Westbrook High School) about performing there. Tom is trying to put together a summer season.

Byron stated that he thought a middle of summer “it’s hot” burlesque show would be a good idea. He also mentioned UMO’s Pride Festival as a potential paying gig.

Byron mentioned that we could recycle old Vivid Motion pieces to use in performance opportunities.

Thomas asked about ownership of the choreography. Brigitte stated that the Board had not formally developed a policy for this, but that Vivid Motion would take their lead from Naya’s Trance and state that Vivid Motion could use any choreography done for a Vivid Motion production again unless the choreographer asked specifically that it not be used again.

A discussion with regards to Copyright and Intellectual property followed. MJ raised the concern that someone could take Nutcracker Burlesque from us and then prevent us from

doing it. Brigitte stated that to truly have a legally binding copyright and IP rights for our productions would be cost prohibitive. She also stated that any paperwork, “poor man’s” copyright or other efforts would effectively be a waste of time because if a larger entity than Vivid Motion wanted to take our ideas they would be able to. Cory stated that anyone attempting to bar us from performing Nutcracker would have a hard time because we have archival evidence for each year. Brigitte stated that she didn’t think it was worth pursuing legal options in terms of copyright or IP due to the nature of dance (the lack of way to collect on royalties) and the smallness of the company.

Ellen brought up the need for dancers to take classes to further their technique. She asked for ideas to get dancers into classes.

Byron suggested monthly workshops teaching different dance styles.

Thomas suggested holding master classes.

Brigitte stated that depending upon the attendance of the monthly class/meetings, she would consider teaching bi-monthly with the meeting remaining monthly.

Thomas suggested making a company class mandatory during the rehearsal period for a show. The class would happen before rehearsal started.

MJ suggested having such a class on both Saturday and Sunday due to the typical schedule conflicts.

Brigitte stated that if a dedicated studio space could be found weekly company classes could be offered free to members.

Matt brought up the idea of taking a survey of our audiences to find out more about them. He suggested an insert into the program of a show. He and MJ are going to work up a series of questions to present to the Board for consideration for inclusion in a program. MJ mentioned the idea of putting a survey on the website. That idea was tabled for discussion at a later time.

Meeting ended at 11:30

These minutes will be submitted for approval via email. Brigitte will post the approved version on vividmotion.org.

Minutes approved by:

Kyle Bouchard

Jamie Driggers-Millington

Meg Hall

Ellen Joyce

Byron Nilsen

Amanda Schultz

Thomas Smallwood