



PLAYGOERS SOCIETY of Dartington Hall

CONSTITUTION

As approved at the Annual General Meeting on 19th October 1986 and as amended at the Annual General Meetings on 7th November 1991, 10th February 1994, 11th February 1997, 17th February 1998, 13th February 2001, 25th April 2010 and 27th February 2022.

Reference Original 10/86 - BRL/5

**Amendments -11/91 BRL/JEB, 2/94 BRL/JEB, 2/97 BRL/JEB,
2/98 BRL & 2/01 BRL, 2/10 JS/SG, 2/22 DG/PG,
2/22 PC/DG, 2/22 LM/DG.**

1. Name

The name of the organisation shall be 'The Playgoers Society of Dartington Hall'.

2. Objects

The object of the Society shall be to advance the education of the public in the dramatic arts, in particular by the provision on the Dartington Hall Estate and elsewhere of regular theatrical entertainment of educational, cultural and artistic value.

In furtherance of the above objects, but not further or otherwise, the Society shall have the following powers :-

- a) to encourage the study of drama and to arrange lectures, classes, play readings and other activities for this purpose,
- b) to raise funds and to invite and receive contributions from any person or persons whatsoever, by way of subscription, donation or otherwise, provided that the Society shall not undertake any permanent trading activities in raising funds for its charitable objects,
- c) to do all such other lawful things as shall further the objects of the Society.

3. Membership

- a) Any person shall be eligible for membership of the Playgoers Society by notifying the Committee of his/her wish to join.

- b) Members shall be entitled to:
 - (i) advance notice, where possible, of performances and events arranged under the Society's auspices,
 - (ii) such concessions as the Committee can offer from time to time,
 - (iii) any amenities that may be available under Paragraph 2a.
- c) Only members of the Society may take part or assist in its productions, except in special circumstances on the recommendation of the director of a particular production and with the approval of an Officer of the Society.
- d) No member of the Society may receive, without the prior approval of the Committee, financial remuneration for work or time spent in connection with the activities of the Society.
- e) The Committee shall have the right, for good and sufficient reason, to terminate membership provided that the resolution excluding a member or applicant from membership is passed by at least three-quarters of those present and voting at a Committee meeting of which due notice has been given of the intention to propose such an exclusion. Should the member concerned be serving on the Committee, he/she shall not vote on that resolution.
- f) The Committee may nominate, for approval of members at an Annual General Meeting, any person as a Life Member of the Society.

4. Subscriptions

- a) The financial year shall begin on 1st January.
- b) The annual subscription shall be fixed by the members at each Annual General Meeting. This then shall relate to the subsequent year commencing 1st January next.
- c) On payment of the subscription, each member shall receive a receipt for that subscription.
- d) Membership shall be deemed to have lapsed if a renewal subscription has not been paid by the following 30th June.

5. General Meetings

- a) The Society shall hold an Annual General Meeting not later than 30th April in order to:
 - (i) receive reports on the activities of the year ending 31st December previous,
 - (ii) receive the Accounts for the year ending 31st December previous,
 - (iii) decide the subscription for the year commencing 1st January next,
 - (iv) If the Committee has nominated a President, put forward that nomination for approval,

- (v) elect Officers and Committee for the ensuing year,
 - (vi) consider resolutions of which due notice has been given,
 - (vii) receive and discuss suggestions for the Society's future activities,
 - (viii) undertake any other business at the discretion of the Chair.
- b) A member who desires to move a resolution at the Annual General Meeting shall submit it in writing to the Honorary Secretary not later than fourteen days before the meeting.
 - c) The Society may hold an Extraordinary or Special General meeting at any time:-
 - either (i) when the Committee considers it necessary
 - or (ii) at the request of not less than twenty members or one-third of the membership, whichever is the less, whose request shall be addressed in writing to the Honorary Secretary specifying the business for which they wish the meeting to be convened.
 - d) The Chair of any General Meeting shall be the current Chair of the Committee of the Society elected at the previous Annual General Meeting, or if there be no such person, or if the Chairman is unable to attend, then a person elected by a simple majority of those present and entitled to vote at the General Meeting.
 - e) The Chair at any General Meeting shall, with the consent of the majority of those present, have discretion to admit any resolution of which due notice has not been given except as provided in Paragraphs 12 and 13.
 - f) Notice in writing of at least twenty-one days shall be given of an Annual General Meeting and at least fourteen days of an Extraordinary or Special General Meeting. Agendas of all General Meetings shall be issued not less than seven days in advance.
 - g) The quorum at any General Meeting shall be twenty members or one-third of the membership whichever is the less, except in circumstances as defined in Paragraph 13.

6. Voting

In both General Meetings and Committee Meetings, each member shall have one vote. The Chair shall not have a vote except where there is an equality of votes, in which case he/she shall have a casting vote.

7. Election of Officers

At the Annual General Meeting, The Society shall elect its Chair, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer for the ensuing year. The new Officers shall assume their offices at the conclusion of the meeting.

8. Honorary President

The Committee may at its discretion nominate any person (member or non -member) as Honorary President of the Society. This nomination shall be put forward at the Annual General Meeting of the Society for the approval of the members present. If approved, and the invitation subsequently accepted by the nominee, he/she shall hold office until the following AGM. Only in the event of the Committee's nomination being rejected by the Annual General Meeting shall any other nomination for this office be accepted from the floor of the meeting by the Chair. During his/her year of office the Honorary President is entitled to all the privileges of membership, save that of voting at meetings.

9. The Committee

- a) The administration of the Society's activities and finances shall be vested in a Committee which shall consist of the Chair, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer of the Society and no fewer than four and no more than eight members elected at the Annual General Meeting. The Honorary President shall be notified of all Committee Meetings and may attend them ex - officio but has no vote.
- b) Meetings of the Committee shall be held whenever deemed necessary, but not less than once per quarter. They shall be convened by the Honorary Secretary at the request of the Chair or any two members of the Committee.
- c) The quorum for a Committee Meeting shall be five members of the Committee, excluding the Honorary President.
- d) In the event of a vacancy on the Committee it shall have the power to co-opt another member of the Society to fill that vacancy.
- e) The Committee shall have the power to appoint subcommittees from members of the whole Society and shall define their terms of reference.
- f) The Committee should appoint four Trustees, in accordance with Charity Commission regulations.

10. Accounts

- a) The Accounts shall be kept by the Honorary Treasurer who shall submit a statement of the Society's finances, verified by an independent examiner, to the Committee and to the Society each year, in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commissioners. The independent examiner shall be proposed by the Chair and approved by the Committee in advance of the AGM.
- b) Cheques and other payments from the Society's current account shall be authorised by any two signatories. A total of three signatories shall be mandated: normally the Chair, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary. If any two of these cohabit or are members of the same family, only one is to be a signatory and another unrelated committee member shall be substituted.

- c) The transfer of monies between accounts held in the Society's name shall be authorised by any one of the signatories described in paragraph 10b, provided this is acceptable to the bank(s) in question.

11. Property

- a) The maintenance of any property of the Society shall be the responsibility of the Committee.
- b) Any freehold or leasehold property of the Society must be vested in three members of the Society as Trustees for the Society, as the Committee shall decide.
- c) The Trustees must deal with any such freehold or leasehold property as directed by resolution of the Committee and an entry in the Minute Book is conclusive evidence of a resolution.
- d) The Trustees are to be indemnified against risk and expense out of the Society's property and assets or if insufficient by the members of the Society.

12. Revision of the Constitution

Alterations to this Constitution shall receive the assent of three-fourths of the members present and voting at an Annual General, Extraordinary or Special General Meeting. A resolution for the alteration of the Constitution must be received by the Honorary Secretary of the Society at least twenty-one days before the meeting at which the resolution is to be brought forward. At least fourteen days notice of such a meeting must be given by the Honorary Secretary to the members and must include notice of the alteration proposed. Provided that no alteration shall be made to Paragraph 2 (objects), Paragraph 13 (dissolution) or this Paragraph (12), until the approval in writing of the Charity Commissioners or other authority having charitable jurisdiction shall have been obtained; and no alteration shall be made which would have the effect of causing the Society to cease to be a charity in law.

13. Dissolution of the Society

The Society may be dissolved by a resolution passed by a five-sixths majority of those present and voting at a Special General Meeting convened for the purpose of which twenty-one days notice shall have been given to the members. Such resolution may give instructions for the disposal of any assets held by or in the name of the Society provided that if any property remains after satisfaction of all debts and liabilities such property shall not be paid to or distributed amongst the members of the Society but shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution having objects similar to some or all of the objects of the Society as the Society may determine and if in so far as effect cannot be given to this provision then to some other charitable purpose.

ENDS