

THE PLAYHOUSE, BACKWELL
CONSTITUTION AND RULES

1. NAME

The Group shall be called THE PLAYHOUSE, BACKWELL.

2. OBJECTS

The objects of the Group shall be to advance the education of the public in the arts and in particular the arts of drama and literature, and to maintain the Playhouse, Backwell as a Theatre for the benefit of the public.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Group shall be open to any person expressing a wish to support the objects of the Group upon payment of a minimum annual or temporary subscription which shall be fixed from time to time by the Management Committee.

4. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Group shall be managed by a committee of not more than TWELVE members. Members of the committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting in any year and, subject to termination of office by resignation or otherwise, shall remain in office until the third Annual General Meeting next following their election. The committee shall have power to fill any vacancy which may occur, but any member so appointed to the committee shall remain in office only until the next following Annual General Meeting. A retiring member of the committee shall be eligible for re-election. FIVE members of the committee shall form a quorum.

The committee shall also have power to co-opt members, if necessary.

No member of the committee shall be employed by the Group.

5. OFFICERS

The Management Committee shall appoint from amongst themselves the following officers: CHAIRMAN; VICE CHAIRMAN; HON. SECRETARY; HON. TREASURER. No member shall hold the office of Chairman for a period exceeding three consecutive years.

6. ASSETS

The income and property of the Group whencesoever derived shall be applied solely in advancing the objects of the Group and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred either directly or indirectly to any member or members of the Group except in the payment of reasonable out-of-pocket expenses properly incurred by members of the Management Committee in advancing the objects of the Group.

7. BANK ACCOUNTS

The Group shall maintain one or more bank accounts in the name of the Group. All cheques shall be signed by two members of the Management Committee except that, where the amount of any cheque does not exceed such sum as the Management Committee shall from time to time determine, such cheque may be signed by the Hon. Treasurer alone.

8. ACCOUNTS

The ACCOUNTING YEAR of the Group shall run from 1st September in each year to the next following 31st August. The Management Committee shall cause proper accounts of the Group for each Accounting Year to be kept by the Hon. Treasurer and such accounts shall be audited by an AUDITOR. The Auditor for any Accounting Year shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting in that year.

9. TRUSTEES

The property of the Group shall be vested in Trustees and they shall hold office until death or resignation, unless removed from office by a resolution of the Management Committee. They shall deal with the property of the Group as directed by resolution of the Management Committee and shall be indemnified out of the Group's property against risk and expense arising out of their position as Trustees.

Trustees for the time being shall be ex-officio members of the Management Committee.

10. UNPAID SUBSCRIPTIONS

Any member whose annual subscription shall remain unpaid longer than SIX MONTHS after the date on which it falls due shall cease to be a member of the Group without further notice.

11. EXPULSION OF MEMBERS

The Management Committee shall have power to request any member to resign or to terminate any membership without explanation but for the purpose of this Rule the vote of not less than TWO THIRDS of the Management Committee present at a meeting specifically called for such purpose shall be necessary.

12. ALTERATION OF THE RULES

The Management Committee shall have power to alter these Rules, but no such alteration shall take effect until the same has been confirmed at an Annual General Meeting, or at a special general meeting convened for the purpose. However, the objects of the Group shall not be amended and no amendment shall be made to the Rules which would cause the Group to cease to be a charity in law.

13. BYELAWS

The Management Committee shall have power to make byelaws for regulating the conduct and affairs of the Group providing the same are not inconsistent with these Rules. Such byelaws shall be posted in some conspicuous part of the premises occupied by the Group and shall be binding on all its members.

14. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A general meeting of the Group shall be held in November in every year to transact the following business:

- (a) to receive and, if approved, to adopt an audited statement of the Group's accounts for the Accounting Year ended on the previous 31st August;
- (b) to consider and, if approved, sanction any duly-made alteration to these Rules;
- (c) to elect members of the Management Committee;
- (d) to appoint an Auditor for the current Accounting Year;
- (e) to deal with any special matter which the Management Committee desire to bring before the members and to receive suggestions from the members for consideration by the Management Committee.

Notice convening the general meeting shall be sent to all members not less than TEN DAYS before the meeting, and shall specify the matters to be dealt with.

15. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

A special general meeting may be convened at any time by the Management Committee and shall be convened within TWENTY ONE days from the receipt of a requisition in writing signed by not less than TEN members specifying the object of the meeting.

Notice convening a special general meeting shall be sent to all members not less than SEVEN days before the meeting and shall specify the matters to be dealt with.

16. DISSOLUTION

In the event of the dissolution of the Group any assets of the Group remaining shall not be divided amongst the members but shall be paid to another charitable organisation with objects similar to those of the Group.