AGM: Presidents Report February 2023

The Year in Review

2022 has been another big year.

Firstly, I would like to thank the Diamond Valley Singers committee. Their work and support have meant that we have been able to put on two stage shows this year as well as conduct a Folk Singing group at DCUC in the last half of the year. My personal thanks go to Ian Lowe, Angela Hennel, Naomi Robertson, Steve Wilkie, Charlie Lewis, Sophia Bubner, Keryn Patman, Amada Middleditch, Hannah Wade and our newest member Hannah Sleeth.

Secondly, I would like to thank DVS members. Your support is what makes our world go round. So, whether you have been a recent member or a long term one, we want to say a sincere thank you for your involvement with Diamond Valley Singers.

Our first meeting in March this year saw the committee coming together and defining our priorities. Our first priority was to get Shrek Jr up and running in March.

Our Youth Production, *Shrek Jr* was Directed by Lexi Patman and the Musical Director was Amanda Middleditch. It was a great success with an audience of 1012 over the 7 performances. A cast and crew of over 60 bought this fun show to the stage, and the audience enjoyed meeting the cast at the end of the matinees.

The Broadway Musical production was Beauty and the Beast. It had one of the biggest casts we have ever seen for our July show. Over 90 cast and crew and orchestra presented the 8-performance season to an audience of 1100. A great creative achievement and thanks go to our Director, Tam Smith, Assistant Director Charli Lewis and our Musical director Bec Muratore. The Production Manager was Angela Hennel.

I would like to give you an overview of what the committee has been working on this year. There has been some heavy lifting done by our committee members to stabilise the Diamond Valley Singers and to look to the future:

1. Looking at future key resources needed: The Production Manager is a key role in getting any show on stage. They work with the Director and Musical Director as well as co ordinating all the key stakeholders in a Youth or Broadway production. We still need to look out for people who would like to gain a full scope of theatrical experience and work with DVS in this role

Two other key resources for the future of DVS is the ability to attract Directors and Musical Directors to DVS. A policy has now been put in place to encourage Directors and Musical Directors to make a pitch to the committee for consideration of their potential show.

1. 2023 Grant Applications: We will be applying for Grants again this year from the Commonwealth Government. We now have an offer of help from one of our members who has professional grant writing skills. This is a great help to the committee.
2. As a committee, we have also revised our “giving to others” policy so that it becomes quicker and easier for the committee to respond to appropriate needs or requests.
3. The committee (through Steve Wilkie) also organised a skip and site clean up at our shed site in Panton Hill and purchased a “Bluetooth” compatible speaker/ PA system for rehearsals at Diamond Creek Uniting Church.

As we lead into 2023, our Broadway Production for this year in July will be “Spamalot”, Directed by Tam Smith. Assistant Director: Charli Lewis. The Musical Director is Olivia King and the Production Manager is Angela Hennel. This is a big show for Diamond Valley Singers, and we are very lucky to have this wonderful creative team on board to put this 8 performance season in July.

Finally, I would like to say some “personal thanks” to those who have made this year stand out:

-Mark Clarke and Steve Wilkie, for their work on the set design and build for “Beauty and the Beast”.

-Nick Moore and Rhonda Cadman along with Scott Patton for their work on the sets and design for “Seussical Jr.”

-Angela Hennel for her solid administrative support to DVS and the role of Production Manager.

-Also, Keryn Patman who has come on board as Assistant Production Manager which as in point one above, is a key role to getting any show off the ground.

-Our directors: Tam Smith, Charli Lewis and Lexi Patman and Tommy Murphy. Our musical Directors: Bec Muratore and Sam Thomas.

- Ian Lowe has also done a great job in bringing a Folk Songs group together to meet and enjoy a time to sing on a Wednesday night. Thanks, Ian, for your enthusiasm and talent that you share so willingly with the group.

I would also like to acknowledge the continuing support of Alan and Janette Flint. For DVS to be able to use the Panton Hill facility to make all our sets is such a gift. Without this support, DVS would not be able to continue our ability to give to charities ….. which make our Community Theatre so unique.

 

 Malcolm Wilton

 President, Diamond Valley Singers