



WELLS OPERATIC SOCIETY LIMITED

RULES

1. The Society shall be known as Wells Little Theatre and is hereinafter referred to as "The Company".

2. The objects of The Company are:-

a. to promote, maintain, improve and advance education particularly by the production of educational plays and encouragement of the arts including the arts of drama, ballet, music, singing, literature, sculpture and painting and

b. the provision and maintenance of such premises as may from time to time be necessary for the attainment of the aforesaid objects, and

c. the provision and maintenance of facilities for the refreshment of members, their guests and other classes of persons entitled by these rules to be supplied at the Committee's discretion with refreshment

3. Membership

There shall be the following classes of membership of The Company one of which shall be open to persons under the age of fourteen years

a) Full 'Ordinary' Members - such members will be entitled to all the social facilities and privileges of The Company and such members will be those directly engaged in theatrical activities. Such members shall be at least eighteen years of age.

b) Associate Members - who shall be entitled to the same privileges as Full Members but who may be less than eighteen years of age and as such are not entitled to purchase or be supplied with intoxicating liquor on The Company's premises.

c) Life Members see rule 16

d) Temporary Members

Any adult person participating in productions at the Little Theatre must be a member as defined in sub

paragraphs a) to d) above. No person should be permitted to purchase or consume intoxicating liquor upon the premises of The Company whilst under the age of eighteen years.

4. Every candidate for election to membership of The Society shall complete an application in a form approved for that purpose from time to time by the Management Committee and such form shall be countersigned by a proposer and a seconder both of whom shall have been Full Members of the Company for at least twelve months.

5. Admission of members shall be by election of the Committee. A candidate for election who receives the votes of the majority of the Committee shall be declared elected.

6. If a proposer or seconder shall before the candidate comes up for election have ceased to be a member another proposer or seconder as the case may be may, at any time not later than two days before the day when the candidate comes up for election, be substituted. If a proposer or seconder desires to withdraw his name he may do so, subject to any regulations that the Committee may, at any time, prescribe and another proposer or seconder may be substituted at the Committee's discretion.

7. If both the proposer and the seconder shall have ceased to be members, or shall desire to withdraw, another proposer and another seconder may, subject to the same conditions as in the last rule mentioned, be substituted.

8. The particulars of the candidate shall be posted prominently in one of the principal rooms of The Company for a period of not less than two days preceding the day when the candidate comes up for election.

9. Any omission from or inaccuracy in the particulars inserted in the application form may at the Committee's discretion invalidate the proposal and any election made in consequence of it.

10. All candidates for election shall, provided that at the date of the election they appear to be eligible for membership, come up for election in the order in which the Committee has received their proposals.

11. Immediately upon the election of a candidate notice thereof shall be given to him and he shall be furnished with a copy of The Company's rules and the request to

remit to The Company within one month from the date of such request the amount of his first subscription. Upon payment of his first subscription he shall become a member of The Company and shall be entitled to all the benefits and privileges of membership and be bound by the rules.

12. If such subscription be not paid within one month from the date of such request as aforesaid the election of such candidate shall be void unless he shall satisfy the Committee that the delay in payment was due to sufficient cause.

13. The annual subscription shall be fixed by the Annual General Meeting and subscriptions shall (except for the first subscription of a new member) be due and payable on the 1st of January in any year.

14. All entrance fees and subscriptions shall be paid to The Company.

15. If any member shall fail to pay their annual subscription by the 31st of January following he/she shall cease to be a member of The Company. If at any time thereafter a satisfactory explanation is given to the Committee, he/she may at the discretion of the Committee and upon payment of arrears be re-admitted to membership without payment of any entrance fee.

16. The committee may choose to award the special privileges of Life Membership to a member of the society. The presentation of this award shall be at a suitable membership event, i.e. the AGM, Dinner Dance or other special social gathering. The individual shall thereafter be entitled to all the privileges of membership without paying the annual subscription or any special fee, the details of which will be made known to them at the presentation of the award. A two-thirds majority of those present at the committee meeting shall be necessary to insure election.

17.

a. The Committee shall have power to elect temporary members on such terms as they may determine for any period not exceeding twelve months providing that there shall not be at any one time more than twenty temporary members. Every candidate for temporary membership shall be proposed by one member and seconded by another member in writing addressed to the secretary. The proposer shall furnish the Committee with such information regarding the candidate as the Committee may require.

The Committee shall proceed to the election at their first meeting held after the expiration of forty-eight hours from receipt by the secretary of such proposal and information. Temporary members shall not be called on to pay any entrance fee but shall pay such subscription being not less than a proportionate amount of the subscription payable by full members as the Committee may determine. Subject to the above mentioned restriction on the number of temporary members the Committee may also elect as temporary members without entrance fee or subscription the members of any other registered Club in its locality during such period not exceeding one month in any one year as the premises of that other club shall be temporarily closed.

b. The Committee may also provide for and make regulations governing the election of persons as short term temporary members of The Company for any specified day or days not exceeding two in number providing that not less than forty-eight hours shall elapse between the date of proposal and the specified day or days and provided also that this class of member shall not amount to a significant proportion of the total membership of The Company.

18. Associate social and temporary members shall not be qualified to be officers or members of the Committee or to vote as members.

19. There may be admitted to the registered premises of The Company persons other than members and their guests and subject to the following conditions that is to say that such persons come within one or more of the following descriptions:

- a) Persons attending public performances or musical productions
- b) Persons attending meetings, lectures, discussions or other similar activities organised by or on behalf of The Society

Intoxicating liquor may be supplied to them by or on behalf of The Company for consumption on the premises and not elsewhere.

20. Any member may resign his membership by giving to the secretary notice in writing to that effect. Every such notice shall unless otherwise expressed be deemed to take effect as from the 1st day of April next following the receipt thereof. Provided that any member giving

such notice after the 31st day of March in any year shall be liable to pay his subscription for the following year.

21. It shall be the duty of the Committee that if at any time they shall be of the opinion that the interest of The Company so require by letter to invite any member to withdraw from The Company within a time specified in such letter and in default of such withdrawal to submit the question of his expulsion to a Special General Meeting to be held within six months after the date of such letter. Not less than four weeks notice of the meeting shall be given to the members. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to inform the member in question of the time and place of the meeting and of the nature of the complaints against him in sufficient time to afford him a proper opportunity of offering an explanation. At such meeting the member shall be allowed to offer an explanation of his conduct verbally or in writing and if thereupon two thirds of the members present shall vote for his expulsion he shall thereupon cease to be a member of The Company provided that the voting at any Special General Meeting shall be by ballot if not less than five members present thereat shall so demand. It shall be in the power of the Committee to exclude such member from The Company's premises until such Special General Meeting be held.

22. Any person shall upon ceasing to be a member of The Company forfeit all right to and claim upon The Company and its property and fund.

23. The management of The Company (except as otherwise provided by these rules) shall be deputed to a Committee of not more than four members who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. In addition thereto the President of The Company shall be an ex officio member of the Committee but shall not be entitled to vote.

The Committee shall also include the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Publicity Officer, Patrons Secretary, Stage Representative and Little Theatre Administrator.

24. The Committee shall have power to appoint a member to fill any casual vacancy on the Committee until the next Annual General Meeting. Any member so appointed shall retire at the next Annual General Meeting but shall be eligible for election as a member of the Committee at such meeting.

25. There shall be not more than four Trustees of The Company. The first Trustees shall be appointed by the

Committee and the property of The Company (other than cash which shall be under the control of the secretary) shall be vested in them to be dealt with by them as the Committee shall from time to time direct by resolution (of which an entry in the minute book shall be conclusive evidence). The Trustees shall be indemnified against all risk and expense out of The Company's property. The Trustees shall hold office until death or resignation or until removed from office by a resolution of the Committee who may for any reason that may seem sufficient to a majority of them present and voting at any meeting remove any Trustee from the office of Trustee. Whereby reason of any such death, resignation or removal it shall appear necessary to the Committee that a new Trustee or Trustees shall be appointed or if the Committee shall deem it expedient to appoint an additional Trustee or additional Trustees the Committee shall by resolution nominate the person or persons to be appointed a new Trustee or Trustees.

26. The Committee shall meet at least once in every month to examine the accounts and arrange the affairs of The Company. Five members of the Committee shall form a quorum. Minutes shall be taken of all the proceedings of the Committee and shall be open to the inspection of any member of The Company applying to the secretary therefor.

27. The purchase of intoxicating liquor for supply by The Company shall be in the absolute discretion of a sub Committee of not less than four members being members of the Committee appointed by the Committee for that purpose. In the event of any members ceasing to be a member of the Committee he shall automatically cease to be a member of the sub Committee and another member of the Committee shall be appointed in his place. The Committee may also from time to time appoint from among their member such other sub Committees as they may deem necessary or expedient and may depute or refer to them such as the powers and duties of the Committee as the Committee may determine. All sub Committees shall periodically report their proceedings to the Committee and shall conduct their business in accordance with the directions of the Committee. All sub Committees with the exception of the sub Committee appointed to purchase intoxicating liquor for supply by The Company shall have the power to co-opt such members of The Company, as they may from time to time deem necessary.

28. The Committee may from time to time make repeal and amend any such regulations (not inconsistent with these rules) as they shall think expedient for the management and well being of The Company. All regulations made by

the Committee under this rule shall be binding upon the members until repealed by the Committee or set aside by a resolution of a General Meeting of The Company.

29. The Committee shall have power to appoint pay and dismiss a manager and such other servants as they may deem necessary and may elect any servant an honorary member of The Company during his tenure of office or for such shorter time as they think fit.

30. If at any time The Company in General Meeting shall pass a resolution authorising the Committee to borrow money the Committee shall thereupon be empowered to borrow for the purpose of The Company such amount of money either one time or from time to time and at such rate of interest and in such form and manner and upon such security as shall be specified in such resolution and thereupon the Trustees shall at the discretion of the Committee make all such dispositions of The Company's property or any part thereof and enter into such agreements in relation thereto that the Committee may deem proper for giving security for such loans and interest. All member of The Company whether voting on such resolution or not and all persons becoming members of The Company after the passing of such resolution shall be deemed to have assented to the same as if they had voted in favour of such resolution.

31. The Annual General Meeting of The Company shall be held in the month of May in every year upon a date and a time to be fixed by the Committee for the following purpose:

a. To receive from the Committee a report, balance sheet and statement of accounts and an estimate of the receipts and expenditure for the current financial year.

b. To elect a President, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Patrons Secretary, Publicity Officer, Stage Representative and The Little Theatre Administrator for the ensuing year. The Chairman shall be elected to serve a four year term and shall not be re-elected for a period of twelve months from the expiry of that term or until the next Annual General Meeting, whichever shall be the later.

c. To elect a Committee and appoint auditors for the ensuing year.

d. To decide on any resolution which may be duly submitted to the meeting as hereinafter provided.

32. Any member desirous of moving any resolution at the Annual General Meeting shall give notice thereof in writing to the secretary not less than three weeks before the date of such meeting.

33. The Committee may at any time and for any special purpose call a Special General Meeting and shall do so forthwith upon the requisition in writing of any twenty members stating the purposes for which the meeting is required.

34. Fourteen days at least before the Annual General Meeting or any Special General Meeting a notice of such meeting and of the business to be transacted thereat shall be posted on The Company's premises and a printed copy thereof shall be sent to every member and no business other than that of which notice has been so given shall be brought forward at such meeting. The report, balance sheet, statement of accounts and estimate shall be placed in the principal room in The Company's premises fourteen days at least before the Annual General Meeting.

35. At all General Meetings of The Company the President and in his absence a member selected by the Committee shall take the chair. Every ordinary or life member present shall be entitled to one vote upon every motion except as set out in rule 3 and in case of an equality of votes the chairman shall have a second or casting vote. The Committee shall be empowered if they think fit to make regulations for enabling members to vote by way of poll and members unable to be present to vote by proxy or in writing.

36. A quorum at all General Meeting shall be twenty members.

37. No amendment (other than a motion for adjournment) shall be moved to any resolution proposed at any Annual or Special General Meeting unless written notice thereof shall have been sent to the secretary not less than seven days previous to the meeting. Whenever any such notice shall be given the same shall be forthwith posted in The Company's premises.

38. The financial year of The Society shall end on the 31st day of March in each year to which day the accounts of The Company shall be balanced.

39. At every Annual General Meeting auditors for the ensuing year shall be elected.

40. The Company's premises shall be open to members daily between such hours as the Committee shall from time to time determine but the Committee may close it for such time as they may deem necessary for cleaning and repairs or staff holidays.

41. The permitted hours for the supply of intoxicating liquor shall be the general licensing hours adopted by the Licensing District of Wells, except that on Sundays intoxicating liquor may be supplied only between the hours of 12 a.m. to 2.30p.m. and 8 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. The Committee may also delegate and authorise the secretary to apply for Special Orders of Exemption in respect of the premises in such circumstances as permitted by law.

42. Every member shall be allowed to introduce visitors subject to such regulations as shall be made from time to time by the Committee and every visitor shall be considered the guest of and be accompanied by the member introducing him. Such guest or visitor may subject to such regulations as aforesaid be entitled to be supplied by or on behalf of The Company with intoxicating liquor provided that such guests or visitors shall pay for such intoxicating liquor before leaving The Company's premises and provided also that no person shall be introduced as a visitor into The Company's premises who shall have been expelled from membership or whose conduct or presence in The Company's premises shall be considered by the Committee objectionable or prejudicial to the interests of The Company. The name and address of each such guest or visitor together with the name of the introducing member shall be entered in a visitors book which shall be kept on The Company's premises and open to inspection on request. It shall be the responsibility of the member introducing the guest or visitor to enter the aforesaid particulars in the visitors' book.

No member shall introduce more than two guests or visitors at any one time.

43. The charges to be made for refreshment and the like shall be fixed by the Committee. Every member shall before leaving The Company's premises pay any such charges incurred by him whether on his own account or for a guest or visitor.

44. No member shall except for professional services rendered at the request of the Committee on any pretext or in any manner receive any profit salary or emolument from the funds or transactions of Company.

45. No persons shall at any time be entitled to receive at the expense of The Company or of any member thereof any commission, percentage or similar payment on or with reference to purchases of intoxicating liquor by The Company; nor shall any person directly or indirectly derive any pecuniary benefit from the supply of intoxicating liquor by or on behalf of The Company to members or guests apart from any benefit accruing to The Company as a whole and apart also from any benefit which a person derives indirectly by reason of the supply giving rise to or contributing to a general gain from the carrying on of The Company.

46. No member shall give the address of The Society in any advertisement or use The Company's premises for business purposes.

47. Every member of The Company shall from time to time communicate to the secretary his address and all notices posted to such address shall be considered as having been duly given on the day following the date of posting.

48. The Committee shall be the sole authority for the interpretation of these rules and of the regulations made from time to time by the Committee; and the decision of the Committee upon any question of interpretation or upon any matter affecting The Company and not provided for by these rules or by the regulations shall be final and binding on the members.

49. These rules may be added to, repealed or amended by resolution at any Annual or Special General Meeting provided that no such resolution shall be deemed to have been passed unless it is carried by a majority of at least two-thirds of the members voting thereon.

50. If at any General Meeting a resolution for the dissolution of The Company shall be passed by a majority of the members present and at a Special General Meeting held not less than six weeks thereafter of which not less than four weeks written notice shall have been given to each member and at which not less than one half of the members shall be present that resolution shall be confirmed by a resolution passed by a majority of two-thirds of the members voting thereon, the Committee shall thereupon or at such future date as shall be specified in

such resolution proceed to realise the property of The Company and, after the discharge of all liabilities, shall distribute the same as required by law and on completion of such distribution The Company shall be dissolved.

May 2011.
G Eyers