



Sedos Committee 2011/12 candidates and manifestos

(in alphabetical order)



JACQUI ADAMS

I'm Jacqui Adams and I have been involved with Sedos since last summer, and have helped provide set for Taking Steps; organised all the audio/visual aspects of The Tragedy of the Prince of Denmark; assistant directed Hapgood (as well as organising the child licensing for my son, who had a role in the play); and directed the weekend workshop of Gross Indecency.

I think I am an able and enthusiastic member of Sedos. I am just as happy carrying out a backstage, technical role, as I am being a part of the directing team, or onstage. One thing I am most proud of, is my ability to pull people together from other theatre companies - or who are even from no theatre company - and engender a sense of camaraderie, with no-one feeling 'new' or a lesser part of the team. I think I work with people pretty well - finding solutions and compromises rather than creating problems or tension, and trying always to remember the sacrifices everyone is making to put on a good show.

I am equally proud of Sedos' ability to bring together actors from far and wide, and to cast always on merit, rather than familiarity, and to encourage new members to take an active role backstage as well as in front of the audience, always providing lots of support, advice and encouragement. I have felt, since the very first Sedos production I saw, that the quality of our shows makes people who see them want to get involved. People see the standard we set, and they want to be part of it, and that's an amazing thing to have as a theatre company.

I would be thrilled to be part of the team that helps make that happen - and I'd be very happy with any role on the committee - watching and learning how it all works and helping where I can.



STEPHEN BEENY

I have been a member of Sedos since 2006 and have performed in nine productions (most recently in Kiss of the Spider Woman, Hair, Parade and Wild Party) as well as being a member of the marketing sub-committee, where I have taken the lead in two productions (Hair and Hapgood). I currently oversee all the social media websites for Sedos - Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Flickr - as well as managing and updating the main website, which I revamped last year. Just call me Mr. Website!

I hope you vote for me as I am passionate about the society and its continued success, but also about growing the awareness of the Sedos brand. Communication to our members, audiences and new friends is vital if we are to remain London's premier amateur society and it also allows us to build a community of people that are aware of the Sedos name, even if they don't actively take part, and this is something I hope to grow and expand on if I am elected onto the Sedos committee.

During the day I am the editor of GaydarNation and GaydarRadio.com, but before that I worked for Sky Movies and as a professional DSM alongside such camp talents as Kate O'Mara and Ruth Maddock. I have performed with other theatre societies in London, but welcome the professionalism of Sedos!



MATT GOULD

Standing for Secretary

I have been a member of the committee for three years now, and continue to believe that I am able to make a significant contribution to the running of the society. As well as MDing a number of shows (including Grand Hotel, Rent, Parade and Hair), last year I added another string to my bow by directing Hapgood and I'm very excited about having the opportunity to follow that up with Arcadia later this year! Having now directed, musical directed and produced shows for Sedos, I think that I have got a pretty good understanding of how the society works!!

I thoroughly enjoy being involved with Sedos, and believe that with my skills, experience and enthusiasm, I have a great deal that I can continue to bring to the committee and the society. As well as producing for Sedos, I have also produced a number of other shows for my own production company (including Merrily We Roll Along, Into The Woods, Cabaret and Jesus Christ Superstar) and fully understand the production dynamic (it's a real discipline when it's your own personal money on the line!). I have worked with other societies and have a good knowledge of how they operate – including their strengths and weaknesses, which I believe assists my ability to aid the future development and growth of Sedos, particularly now that we have secured the Bridewell as our long term home and have regular rehearsal facilities.

I believe strongly in excellence – to me the future of the society is driven by ensuring that the quality of productions is maintained – which is about choosing the right shows and the right teams to encourage new talent on-stage and behind the stage, but always ensuring that the financial side of affairs is looked after. Ultimately, the society is only as good as its members – and attracting the best talent is vital – but so also is ensuring that we maintain a strong society ethos. I believe that as a Committee Member I can influence this continued progression of the society and help build on the Society's current success and would hope to receive your support in continuing with these aims.

I am also standing as Secretary as the current incumbent who has done a sterling job is stepping down and I would be happy to take on the additional responsibilities, for which I have a certain familiarity and ability bearing in mind my day-job.



MATT HUDSON

I am Matt if you don't know me hi! I joined Sedos just over a year ago! So far I have acted in a workshop, performed in a musical, Lighting designed and Technical produced some Spidery antics! This year I am Producing Assassins and I am so excited as it is going to be stunning, and I am directing Fewer Emergencies in November. How did I get here? Well... I bagged myself a BA (stands for Bugger All) in Drama and worked professionally as a stage manager for a while so I somewhat know what I am doing. I am a complete all rounder; director, designer, performer, operator, skivvy, ladder holderer and recently Luton van driver... you name it I've done it. I have loved working with Sedos for its professionalism and good practice which can be rare to find. That's why I want to be on the committee, to ensure we are always striving to deliver incredible theatre. I want to support and build on production values and keep standards high whilst pushing the boundaries of what audiences experience in all aspects of performance but especially aesthetically. With a more secure base at the Bridewell now I think it's a really exciting few years ahead for the company. Making good quality theatre with bells on is worth giving up sleep for else we wouldn't be here!



TRACIE LAURINAITIS

Standing for Secretary

Acting, lighting, sound, accents, event planning, producing, writing, devising, and marketing are a few of the areas that I have been involved in as a member of the London amateur theatre community for the past 18 months. Although I've been involved a short time compared to some, I have really tried to throw myself into many different roles (no pun intended) in order to try and build a well-rounded experience and understand as many aspects of theatre as I can from all sides in order to give it my all in whatever role I am participating.

Sedos has been a big part of my experience, and I have so enjoyed being a part of productions as well as making some life-long friends in the process. I find Sedos inspiring because of the balance of the level of quality of productions as well as the unbeatable camaraderie, dedication, and friendliness of the company. I find myself more and more inclined to want to get involved from a committee perspective, and I also would like to develop my committee responsibilities with a company of such calibre. I also work with other theatre companies and think that there are a lot of best practices and possible ways to collaborate to be explored.

With a lot of experience in event planning, organising, training, and marketing, I'd love to be able to add value in any of those areas, but I'm also open to getting my jazz hands dirty in other needs or projects as well! I'm passionate about theatre and about Sedos and hope to be able to make a difference for you!



DEBORAH LEAN

I joined Sedos in 2009 for Parade and have remained steadily involved ever since. As well as performing in Parade, I also performed in the weekend workshop of The Laramie Project. I have been involved in costuming five Sedos shows over the last year and am likely to be involved in another three this year. After joining the committee last year I took responsibility for organising the costume store, Front-of-House volunteers for our shows at the Bridewell and many Health and Safety aspects of Ocean house. I am no good with power tools or heavy lifting but would love to be re elected to the committee for 2011-2012 so I can continue the work I have started.



MATT PRINCE

Having just completed my first year on the committee I am extremely proud to be a part of the team that works behind, behind the scenes – getting the group up and running. I have tried to give an input into the decisions being made from someone who has worked as a director, stage manager, front of house and in the box office. Looking at what is best for the society from all these areas and where support for these functions is needed. Throughout the show selection process I have tried to look at what is best for the membership, a balance for the society and what will attract our audience; whilst trying to challenge some of the perceptions that may surround the Sedos brand. I am unashamedly in favour of bringing a balance of shows from the gritty and dramatic to the more upbeat and fun; I feel with every society there needs to be light and shade in their programme; as well as a balance for all the members – encouraging shows that have parts which can be auditioned for by a range of actors. I hope that I can continue to pursue this if elected next year. I currently look after the box office duties (trying to follow on from Alex's impressive tenure) and am keen to attract more people into the behind the scenes areas of the society and investigate how we can incentivise this. I hope that I will be there in coming year – with the move to more shows at the Bridewell, it is an exciting time, but the planning for the following season needs to be well balanced, considered and transparent. I will aim to deliver this. Thanks and best wishes, Matthew x



CRAIG TOPP

Standing for Treasurer

I have been involved in Sedos since 2006, when I moved to London, and have been involved in 16 shows, including Sweeney Todd, RENT, Hair and the '07, '08 & '10 Edinburgh Fringe productions. Prior to this I worked with the Edinburgh University Theatre Company. I have predominantly worked on

Sound Design/Operation, but also have experience of Lighting, and have served as Stage/Tech Manager for a number of shows – yes, I'm a 'techie'!

For the last two years on the Committee I have taken on the role of Treasurer, and I am responsible for setting & policing production budgets, producing accounts for each production and for the society as a whole and managing the society's finances. Additionally, I have produced new budgeting and box office reporting templates, instigated regular, structured ticket sales updates for each production and implemented a new, faster, payment processing system. I am also on the Ocean House subcommittee.

Outside of Sedos I work in Acquisition Finance for Lloyds Banking Group, which hopefully indicates that I'm reasonably sensible, and have a good understanding of commercial and financial risks (we're not all like we're being portrayed in the media at the moment...).

I have thoroughly enjoyed my involvement with Sedos thus far, and I am standing for Treasurer again as I feel that there remains a great deal that I can bring to the Committee.



CHRIS de PURY

Standing for Chair

I joined SEDOS in 1996 - appeared in West Side Story (Chino), On the Town (unhappy bloke in sailor suit), Hot Mikado (KoKo), Little Shop of Horrors (Seymour), Les Liaisons Dangereuses (Valmont) and Company (Harry). Directed War Plays (2002), Witness for the Prosecution (2003) and Bash (2006), occasional participant in perennial debates at committee meetings. Member of Centenary Committee. Primary liaison

with Wiltons, Union and Bridewell for venues and French's, Nick Hern, Musicscope and Weinbergers for rights. Assists in fund raising for the society. Currently responsible for policing production budgets and examining possible potential homes for the society.

Founded HS /Hazardous productions in 1998 including financing and mounting several productions in London and two tours to Edinburgh festival, member of Tower (appeared in many plays and musicals there). Occasional adviser to other theatre companies including Tower, Wiltons, former Bridewell, Unicorn and Almeida.

As a partner at a city law firm my job background hopefully presumes that I have a degree of financial and commercial sense. I have been acting and directing in and around central London for the best part of 20 years. Last but not least I know a few people in the City useful to the continued success of the company.



DAWN HARRISON WALLACE

I have been actively involved in Sedos for 23 years - both on stage and off - most recently co-directing Kiss of the Spider Woman. As a member of the centenary committee I was very involved in the 2005 re-launch of the society and worked with fellow committee members to establish our 2005 vision and strategy that kick started all the hard work put in by members old and new to get us to where we are today. I subsequently served on the committee in 2006 & 2007 and after a 3 year break to focus on the day job and other projects I once more have the energy and capacity to serve on the committee.

Over the last few years the society has grown incredibly and we seem to be going from strength to strength - and although in name we are still an amateur society our ambitious programme of events and the associated turnover means we are more akin to a small business. Given this, if elected, I would like to once again bring some elements of my day job as a Management Consultant to the role and work with both committee and members to clearly define the medium to long term vision; associated goals; and ways of working of the society.....to ensure that we have realistic plans in place to secure the future of SEDOS for many years to come.



WILL HARRISON WALLACE

I joined SEDOS in 1989 and have acted in productions every year since then - last year's video cameo in Prince of Denmark being the last! Served on the committee since (I think) 1992, Treasurer for several years and Chairman from 2005-10. I have been involved with sponsorship and City contacts over the years.

A change in career to focus on professional acting has made involvement both on and off the stage much more difficult - however I am keen to lend experience in whatever capacity I can. I have a very keen interest in the future development of the society and whilst my involvement in the day to day running of its affairs will inevitably be somewhat curtailed I am willing, anxious and able to remain - for the time being - a 'senior' voice and 'grey-haired' head of the committee!



EDWARD WALSH

Dear Members - Although I am a relative newcomer to Sedos (I joined for Hair last summer), I have thrown myself into the society and played an active part – backstage rather onstage (some have heaved a sigh of relief there!). I was Stage Manager for 'Hapgood' and assisted Front of House for 'Putting it Together' – plus I play a continuous supporting role in The Seahorse!

Reasons to vote for me - Despite being new to SEDOS, I have thoroughly enjoyed being part of London's Premier Amateur Society and would relish the challenge that being part of the committee would bring. I have many years experience in Musical Theatre and Drama and would like to bring this experience to you in ensuring the great work and diverse shows which SEDOS produce continues. SEDOS have helped to provide an amazing year in my life – with another member we have set up a charity production company and as such would like to give something back to the members for all their support shown to us in such a short period of time

As well as setting up Von W Productions, By Day I am a Clinical Medical Manager working primarily in Breast & Non Small Cell Lung Cancer and by night I seem to live in Ocean House (joke) – I adore Irish Dancing (clichéd I know) and Directing/ Participating in Shows for London Charities. Therefore I hope you will - 'Vote for Elle' no 'Vote for Ed' xxx