

Minutes of the meeting of the Toscaireacht

Date 14 December 2009

Time 1pm

Venue No 70 Merrion Sq

Present

Seóirse Bodley, Anthony Cronin, Theo Dorgan, Dermot Healy, Mannix Flynn, Brian Maguire, Hugh Maxton, Nick Miller, Macdara Woods.

In attendance

Mary Cloake (Director) to welcome new Toscaireacht, Toby Dennett (Registrar) and Katie Lowry (International Arts and Artists' Supports Officer)

Papers before the meeting

Agenda

Minutes from previous meeting

Nomination papers

1. Election of Chair

Brian Maguire was elected to chair the meeting

2. Apologies

No apologies were noted.

3. Previous Minutes and matters arising

Previous minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

It was requested that the Registrar forward the minutes of the last meeting to Mr Alan Stamford and that his attention should be drawn to item 6.

4. Update on proposed Saoi meeting

Seóirse Bodley provided an update on the proposed meeting of the Saoithe with the Taoiseach. He stated that 6 out of the 7 Saoithe had confirmed their willingness to attend. The office of the Taoiseach had indicated that a request for a meeting may be treated favorably. However, following the submission of a formal request it had not in fact been possible to secure an available date. It was accepted that the spate of flooding across the country would have impacted significantly on the time available to the Taoiseach. It was noted that Minister Cullen had been unavailable for meetings for health reasons for a significant number of the preceding weeks.

5. New Toscaireacht

- **Gender Balance**
- **Co-option of music member**

A member noted the inadequate representation of women on the new Toscaireacht and all agreed that the music member due to be co-opted should be a woman. It was felt that the issue should be included on the agenda for discussion at the upcoming General Assembly.

It was agreed to make a formal approach to music member Jane O'Leary.

6. New member nominations

Architecture / Choreography disciplines

After a lengthy discussion on the difficulties facing new nominations from the Architecture and Choreography disciplines it was agreed that for the next Toscaireacht meeting Theo Dorgan would draft a letter to the membership outlining the following:

- 1) That confusion can arise when members of the same architecture practice are proposed for nomination and that therefore potential nominators be advised to consider nominating one individual of a firm at a time, concentrating on pointing out works of the individual.
- 2) That members are entitled to vote for architects and choreographers that they are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the work of artists nominated in these disciplines.
- 3) That there will be separate ballot sheets for Architecture and Choreography nominations in order to ensure that artists in these disciplines are not disadvantaged by the quota system.

New Member Nomination letters

The nominations for new members were examined and the following nominations were approved:

- Chris Agee
- Elaine Agnew
- Oliver Comerford
- Gerard Cox
- Shane Cullen
- Chris Doris
- Ciaran Farrell
- Yvonne Farrell
- Barbara Freeman
- Carol Graham
- Francis Harvey
- Frances Hegarty
- Sean McCarthy
- Conor McPherson
- Tom Molloy
- Gina Moxley
- Grainne Mulvey
- Jay Murphy
- Mary Nunan
- Sean O'Reilly
- Tommy Peoples
- Liz Roche
- Mark Roper
- Stephen Rothschild
- Kevin Volans

Revised letters of nomination were requested to be re-submitted for the following nominations:

- Michael Coleman (3rd party quotes to be removed from Mary O'Donnell's letter)
- Olwen Fouéré (Alice Maher and Cindy Cummings' letters to be re-drafted, emphasising the nominee's original work as opposed to her performance of the works of others) It was also agreed that it would be more appropriate for this nomination to go forward under Choreography.

- Vona Groarke (Peter Fallon's letter to be re-submitted on personal letterhead)
- Patrick Jolley (3rd party quotes to be removed from Micheal O'Dea's and Imogen Stuarts' letters)
- Stephen Lawlor (References to organizational and administrative roles to be removed from Geraldine O'Reilly's letter)
- John Liddy (Desmond O'Grady to re-submit nomination letter including a personal, critical response)
- Catherine Phil McCarthy (Kerry Hardie and Thomas McCarthy's letters to be re-submitted with the correction that Catherine Phil McCarthy first work was shared with another author)
- Jackie Nickerson (Nominee's residency to be checked)
- Sheila O'Donnell (Reference to Brian Maguire to be removed from Theo Dorgan's letter)
- Joe Steve Ó Neachtain (3rd party quote to be removed from nominee's CV)

7. Date and location for General Assembly

The Registrar noted that it would be important to set a date and venue for the General Assembly. The Registrar informed the members that the John Hewitt Society had invited Aosdána to hold its General Assembly in Armagh. After some discussion it was agreed to return to the matter at the next Toscaireacht meeting.

8. Update on Fintan Connolly Aosdána film

It was agreed that Fintan Connolly the filmmaker of the Aosdána documentary would be invited to attend the next Toscaireacht meeting and present a 15 minute trailer of the film.

9. AOB

