

**MINUTES OF THE MARATHON COMMUNITY THEATER  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS – November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008.**

**The meeting was called to order by Claudia McEwen at 6:00pm.** Present were Paul Buckley, Loretta Geotis, Pat Robenolt, Tom O’Neil, Suzanne Terpos, Kay March-Adorno, Kathryn Rummery, Marianne Benvenuti, Arnie Steinmetz, Rita Irwin, C.J. Geotis, Paula Pettorini, Mike Edwards, Gail Burnett, Alicia Merel, and Lauren Spinelli. Sylvia Rickett arrived shortly. Fred Hundhammer was absent excused, and Nancee Rainaud was absent.

**Approval of the Agenda:** Motion to approve as amended, seconded and passed. The amendment was to move VP of production report to early in the meeting

**Minutes:** Motion to approve, with the addition of information from the Finance Committee (below), seconded and passed.

**Staff Report:**

**1 BOX OFFICE REPORT**

- a) Body count for October was 1897.

**2 CINEMA**

**3 OTHER STUFF**

- a) The program is printed. Thank you, Paula Pettorini, Helen Gogan and Ginny for collating very quickly and efficiently.
- b) The comedy workshop with Michael and Susan Parker was very successful. Thank you, Riet and Arnie, for hosting our guests, the Parkers. There were 25 attendees at the workshop.
- c) Season ticket sales to date are 310. Donations to date are \$7,300.
- d) We have had a tremendous amount of press coverage for *The Amorous Ambassador* and a good amount of coverage for the Parkers.
- e) Please spread the word that people will need tickets for the Christmas/Holiday Concert even though it is a free event. We are doing assigned seating. A press release will be going out soon, posters, etc.
- f) I have the cds with photos of couples that Larry Benvenuti took at OWO. If anyone wants a copy of their photo, please see me. Larry also had a 2 cd set of photos from the show available for \$15.

- g) The new TV spots are airing, I've heard. (Key TV Channel 5)
- h) I am lined up for BUZZ TV in Key West on January 6 with Julie Rehbock to promote the season and the January art show.
- i) Final check from TDC was received. Confirmation on the new contract has been received.
- j) Volunteer School was very successful. I had six students and three or four additional contacts that were unable to attend. The entire run of *The Amorous Ambassador* is almost scheduled.
- k) The gallery chairs are being painted.
- l) If you turn it on, please turn it off. If you unlock it, please lock it, if you open it, please close it, if you take it out, please put it back, etc. If you are the last one in the playhouse, please check in the cinema to see if Bob or someone is still over there so you know who is responsible for setting the alarm.
- m) Loretta will send email to directors, producers, board members, etc. about not placing furniture etc. on top of the seats in the theatre because it is damaging the name plaques and seats.
- n) Reminder: \*Directors/Producers – The schedule book is full almost every day with rehearsals, etc. Please don't forget to consult with the GM and VP of Production in your rehearsal schedules, cast information, meetings, use of rooms etc. Check in with me to make sure we are not duplicating scheduled time slots. And, please be considerate of those who are rehearsing and in meetings, regarding noise and interruptions. Thank you.

*As always, if any board member has any questions or concerns – please feel free to contact me directly in the business office at 743-0408 or via email at [gm@marathontheater.org](mailto:gm@marathontheater.org). Loretta Geotis, MCT General Manager.*

### **Committee Reports:**

**Finance:** Lauren handed out financial statements, and requested an addition to the October minutes. (The additions are: 1. The OWO income amount in the November statement was not closed at the time of this report. It will be at least \$9,700. This will more than offset the \$9,365 Deficit in the Playhouse Profit/Loss column. 2. The body Count in both the cinema and very significantly, in the playhouse suggests that we are continuing to show “we are on a roll”! 3. The Committee agreed to pay one additional mortgage payment toward the principal. 4. Please call Lauren if you have any questions, AFTER reading the financial statements.). Motion was made by Marianne Benvenuti to pay the extra \$500 toward the mortgage this month. Seconded by Arnie Steinmetz, and passed. Royalties have been placed in the accounting system as Accounts Payable this

year thus appearing as a large A/P number on the financial statement. Lauren also requested that the financial report be added to the minutes in the future.

**VP Production:** Alicia reported that the Comedy Workshop was productive overall and considered successful. TAA has had great press and audience comments.

There was lengthy discussion about Fred's proposal for Forever Plaid as a musical reading as a production for 2 weeks in February. The Playreading Committee voted to approve the proposal with considerations. Can we cast a musical in February? (Fred had said that there are enough people from the chorus for the cast and that they have shown interest. Complex harmonies might be possible since as a reading there is no need to memorize songs, especially with experienced singers. No one from Company or Magnolias would be available). The biggest consideration is financial: will there be enough people here to watch it? Will having a musical in Feb detract from the Company musical? (Fred had suggested that it be publicized to current season ticket holders). Kathryn opines that the shows are quite different; especially considering Plaid would be a reading. Rita mentioned concern about creating a precedent by adding a show to the season last minute (and requested that the minutes reflect that this is not, in any way, personal to Fred). Lauren also mentioned concern with the financial side. Gail was concerned with profit. Marianne makes a motion that we respectfully decline the offer for this season, with a friendly amendment of considering it for future seasons. Rita seconds. Discussion: Arnie speaks against the motion because we can't predict how the finances will go and because he doesn't see a conflict with the musical. The motion passed.

The matter of what the qualifications are to direct was discussed again. Alicia, with help, came up with a list of who is currently qualified. Basic qualifications are in the bylaws: the directors' class should be taken, one should be an assistant director, one should direct a reading and also feel prepared and able to direct. Alicia wants this to be the beginning of a discussion about how do we increase the number of people who are qualified to direct, in order to avoid burning the short list of current directors out. Rita mentioned she spoke to Marylyn, who is thrilled to consider directing again in the future. Rita thinks we need to set people up to succeed. Maybe we should change the criteria – some people who meet established criteria have not directed well, and some people who are formerly unqualified might do very well with help. Kathryn mentioned how the list is very small and only in-house, while there are people in the community in general who also have experience directing. Rita says we tried this option twice, once with very good results and once with very bad results. MCT is not closed minded, but each organization does things their own way and people need to learn how they work before taking on such an important task for the organization.

**Playreading:** No report.

**Stage Committee:** No report.

**Building:** Paul reported that the emergency lights are tested and in working order.

**Program:** The program is in the process of being collated.

**Historical:** No report.

**Entertainment:** No report.

**Membership:** Loretta reported that we currently have approximately 165 members.

Quarterly General Membership meeting dates

December 3

**Nominating:** No report.

**Cinema:** No report.

**By-Laws:** No report.

**Human Resources:** This committee has been combined with the cinema committee.

**Props/Costumes:** No report.

**Other:** Some ideas were tossed around to bring in more locals for the first and last show, like a “locals night,” and “three for Thursday” where you would buy two tickets and get one free. Be thinking of ideas.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** (Complete NAMI proposal copied at the end of this document)

The NAMI proposal came up and bottom line after several suggestions is that Claudia is going to research the idea (in a legal sense) of selling the NAMI group a large number of tickets at our rate (\$6) and then letting the group sell them for whatever they want to and use the additional money as a donation to NAMI. Then they would bring all the ticket purchasers to the movie. The Cinema Committee will then discuss the details with Bob re: getting the movie and when etc.

**Executive:** No report.

**President’s Report:** No report.

**Good of the Order:** Adjourn!

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:02pm

Submitted by Sylvia Rickett, Secretary, with assistance from Loretta and Claudia for the second half of the meeting, when Sylvia left for rehearsal.

National Alliance  
on Mental Illness

P.O. Box 500134

Marathon, Florida 33050

*Mental Illness Can Happen to Anyone*

TO: Loretta Geotis, General Manager

Marathon Community Theater

FROM: Bev Gottschalk, President

NAMI-Middle Keys, Inc.

DATE: November 12, 2008

SUBJECT: PROPOSED BENEFIT NIGHT FOR MENTAL HEALTH

A true-story motion picture called *The Soloist* will soon be released by DreamWorks. Jamie Foxx, who won an Academy Award for his portrayal of Ray Charles in the movie *Ray*, plays the role of Nathaniel Ayers, a musical prodigy who developed schizophrenia while on full scholarship at the prestigious Julliard School of Music. He became a homeless person living on the streets of Los Angeles, playing Beethoven on a battered two-string violin. Robert Downey, Jr. plays the role of Steve Lopez, a columnist for the *Los Angeles Times* who befriended Ayers and wrote a series of columns about him which led to a \$50 million city housing initiative for Skid Row and \$125 million in federal housing support. NAMI's national StigmaBuster coordinator played a pivotal role in educating Lopez about the realities of mental illness.

We are requesting that *The Soloist* be booked for showing at the Marathon Theater and that your Board designate one or more nights of its run as a benefit for NAMI-Middle Keys. We are a nonprofit 501(c)(3) affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the nation's largest grass roots mental health organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals and families affected by mental illness. NAMI has over 1100 affiliates across the country who engage in advocacy, research, support and education.

We propose that some percentage of the ticket sales, or all proceeds over a specified amount be donated to NAMI to support our activities in the Middle Keys. We realize you are also a nonprofit struggling to raise funds, but we believe this joint effort could help both of our organizations. We will aggressively promote this benefit in all local newspapers and radio stations and also within our support base of more than 100 individuals who support our mission. As NAMI members, we hope this movie will succeed in raising public awareness and understanding about mental illness and homelessness by putting "a human face" on individuals who live on the streets.

If you need more information, I can be contacted at 305-743-2799 or 216-509-6968 (cell) or by

e-mail at [nami-middlekeys@comcast.net](mailto:nami-middlekeys@comcast.net). A preview of the movie is available online at [www.soloistmovie.com](http://www.soloistmovie.com). Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our proposal.