**Annual General Meeting 2025 – Stellwerk, Bern**
**11.12.2025**

**Teller:** Sebastian Coleman

**Present:** Matea Todorovski, Alexander P. Sigrist, Hulda Jónsdóttir, Agnes Derory, David Kezaala

**Excused:**

Members:
Sebastian Coleman
Gael Stucki
Anna-Lena Ganz
Simon D. Hicks
Tamara Richner

1. **Introduction**
    a. Ground rules: Clear turn taking with a raised hand
    b. Distribution of roles
        i. Moderator – Hulda
        ii. Teller – Sebastian Coleman

2. **General remarks about the last year**
    Since last year AGM, we've had projects both big and small, and more members joining the group, notably after Puffs. To celebrate the 15 year Anniversary we had both a party and a large project. Despite the successes, it has been clear that behind the scenes the future is less certain. This engagement has not translated into proposals for new projects or new members participating in either the committee or backstage.

3. **Minutes of the last AGM (10.09.2022)**
    Finish the sentence of: "financial ability to" (see AGM 2024 minutes section 7.A.1).

4. **Past projects**
    a. **Up the Tree (Improv Group) – November 2024**
        The improv group that formed last year held their first performance at the PROGR. The show fully sold out and was a success among the audience that was fully engaging with the fun games and diverse comedy skits. The group have since decided to secede from The Caretakers for independence.
    b. **Puffs – December 2024**
        A parody piece of a certain school of magic and magic. It took place at the Studio Bühne Bern and was very well attended, thanks to the large cast and the large draw of the premise. A great success with lot of new actors attended but few have returned for subsequent projects.

c. **CaretakersxChatGPT – March 2023**

CaretakersxChatGPT was a one-night performance where scripts generated by ChatGPT were sent to a teleprompter for the actors. Early rehearsals were mainly trial and error in terms of format and setup. Very well received among the audience as the actors adapted to the comedic, prompted scripts with a lot of energy. With how simple it was to set up the final version of the show (a simple set of two TVs and some chairs), there is always the possibility of remounting it.

c. **After Sunset – March 2025**

A one woman show written and performed by former committee member Angela Alzina with Sebastian Coleman providing voice over. Held at the VISAVIS, Angela gave a wonderful, emotional performance to the audience who wished they could see it again.

d. **15-Year Anniversary Party – August 2025**

The Anniversary party was held by the Matte in the Matte Gin Brenerei. A good number of attendants and most participated in the fancy dress theme of Through the Decades. There was a prize for best costume which David won. A lot of fun was had thanks to the diverse attractions: costume party, karaoke, a pub quiz and a photo booth filled with props. Catering and bar staff were great. Both are recommended for future events.

e. **15-year Anniversary Show: The End Is Nigh (Working Title) – October 2025**

One-Act Play Evening: 6 shows of 6 plays each. Returning members of the caretakers: 6. Whilst the attendance at the performances were lower than expected the audience enjoyed every piece performed. There may have been some confusion in the marketing as there were reports of people believing each show presented only one play. This may have led to some deciding not to attend as they thought they would not see their preferred actor.

f. **Reading group/pool**

A gathering that has turned into a very nice recurring social event and an event to attract new members who are looking for an easy event they can join. Sadly, there are currently no plans to continue it next year.

**5. Current projects**

No current projects.

**6. Future Projects**

Without concrete future projects, the discussion will move to the future of The Caretakers (see 9. Future of The Caretakers)

**7. Finances**

a. **Overview**

The low revenue from low attendance for The End is Nigh was disappointing. Along with the Anniversary party, there could be the impression of a large net loss, however the cushion and most Puff's costs not being processed until 2025 means that this is not to be interpreted as consistent mismanagement of funds. The smaller projects of CaretakersxChatGPT and After sunset were quite profitable. As always, the priority is to have sufficient funding for projects as opposed to financial gain.

The financial report was not prepared by David Kezaala. As a result, we are holding off voting until the end of next year.

**8. Elections**

a. Two committee members, Agnes and Alex, have planned to step down in the summer of 2026. The constitution states that the board must consist of a minimum of 5 members. While that can be amended, 3 roles: President, Treasurer and Secretary are legally required for the group to be a legal entity. Hulda has volunteered to step in as Secretary until the summer of 2026.
b. Vote for the current committee 5/5 votes for, non against 5 aye, 0 nay. (Unanimous)
c. Sebastian and Gaël are invited to the next committee meeting, 23.01.2026, to see if they want to join in an official capacity

**9. Future of the Caretakers**

There is a downturn in participation. It is not just a matter of committee members. It is getting harder to gain audiences and our audience base has aged up. The novelty of a night out for English theatre has probably worn off. It has also become harder to recruit backstage members. There has been a disconnect with the university as we are less connected with students. There may be a generational issue and less interest. There is the possibility to do plays that general audiences (i.e: schools) would be interested in or maintain our creativity since there could be domino effects from large-scale performances, however, this was not the case for Puffs. A large show that had new actors that had not been seen before in the Caretakers space but have not been seen since. On the issue of schools, there were conflicts with the board of directors concerning productions.

Points were made and to guide towards solutions:

- Relatively recent members such as Sebastian joined the caretakers out of interest to participate in a small project which led to joining the more projects and the social circle of the Caretakers.
- Perhaps there is a recent issue with identity as original members had a direct tie to one another via the university and classes which is why there was no reason to establish a formal group and regulations for membership.
- There is a different drive for newer members, we do not always feel the mission the initial members had.
- Collaborations between Upstage and Caretakers could be a solution as together we would be a full-sized committee however The Caretakers do not need to be a large-scale group. Smaller, regular meetups would help rebuild community.
- Hibernate (in terms of projects and plays) while we strengthen the identity of the group

The group decided to neither disband nor take official hiatus. Instead of productions, the committee must figure out what the caretakers are going to be from summer of 2026 onwards.

VOTE: Have the Caretakers take a break from production work to community building work. For: Unanimous.

The decision on how to move forward will be made on the 23rd of January. The board will have to inform Simon on the decision so that the funds from the Swiss-British Society in Bern can be donated to the group or another project.

On behalf of The Caretakers,
David Kezaala