

BLAENAU GWENT YOUNG STARS
MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY

CONSTITUTION

Amended 2017

As agreed and passed by the board of Directors 17/052017, The following rules cancel and supersede all previous rules appertaining to the above named society.

1. The society shall be registered at Companies House as Blaenau Gwent Young Stars Ltd.
The company will operate using model articles of association as prescribed by the companies act 2006.

The company shall also be known as Blaenau Gwent Young Stars Musical Theatre Company.
2. The objectives of the society are:
 - a) That the society is democratic in its decision making.
 - b) That the society aims to introduce young people aged 4 to 29 to the world of Musical Theatre and drama through staging a number of productions throughout the year.
 - c) The society aims to be a stepping stone for young people to progress their skills in drama and musical theatre.
 - d) To support local community and charitable organisations.
 - e) The society will be made up of three sections:
 - Primary Section: aged 4 to 8.
 - Junior Section: aged 9 to 14
 - Senior Section: aged 14 to 29
 - f) Transfers between sections when age limits are reached will take place twice per year during January and July, with an optional transition period at 13 years between Juniors and Seniors.
3. A copy of the society constitution and child protection policy will be given to every member of the society on enrolment. It will be signed for by a parent or guardian and witnessed by a board of directors member.
4. As stated in the objectives, the society is for young people between the ages of 4 and 29, children must have reached the age of 9 by the day of enrolment into the Junior Section. However a member who has their 29th birthday during rehearsals or production will be permitted to perform until the performance has been staged. Junior members must have reached 14 by the first rehearsal for the senior show, however this is at the discretion of the board of directors
5. Any adult over the agreed age to perform on stage will only be involved in the management, backstage, advisory or fund-raising capacity, unless in special circumstances, at which point the decision rests solely with the board of directors.

6. The societies membership is open to all within the age group of the society. Applications for membership are via the relevant application form/s and subject to approval by the board of directors. Each new member will serve a probationary period of three months. All members are subject to the following conditions of membership, which are:-

- a) Weekly attendance at rehearsals.
- b) Good Conduct at all times.
- c) Weekly payment of subscriptions.
- d) Wearing of society uniform to all rehearsals and any other event as required from time to time.
- e) Full uniform must be worn up until June 1st and then there is the option to wear black full length leggings for girls and black shorts for boys up until September 30th.
- f) Commitment if successful in gaining a lead role, anyone with a lead role who fails to commit fully to the role will be liable to lose their part, this is at the discretion of the production team and board of directors.
- g) Members who fail to attend on a regular basis will only be allowed re-entry at the discretion of the board of directors
- h) The society supports a number of local, charitable and promotional events during the year, all members are expected to take part in these events.

The board of directors have the right to terminate membership if any of the above conditions are not met

7. Each member will pay a weekly subscription, which will be reviewed periodically by the board of directors, any missed payments will be made up on the member's return. Subscriptions shall still be paid even if a member is absent for any reason, including holidays. The only occasions when subscriptions will not be charged is by agreement of the board of directors, or if the Production Team or board of directors cancels rehearsals. All subscriptions should be received by the last rehearsal prior to the production. The board of directors have the right to refuse entry should subscriptions fall into arrears.

8. If a member leaves for any reason, money paid in will not be refundable unless an advanced payment has been made.

9. All current members are required to re-enrol on an annual basis during September they will be required to fill out the appropriate forms, which should be returned before the first rehearsal. If a member has left they will only be allowed to re-enrol following a written application to and agreement of the board of directors.

The re-enrolment application must state the reasons for leaving and wishing to re-enrol. Re-enrolment will also only be possible if places are available after enrolling from the waiting list.

10. New members will be required to complete and return the relevant application forms. **All applications are to be approved by the board of directors before attending any rehearsals.**

11. The board of directors holds the right to refuse entry.

12. If a member wishes to take leave of absence for any reason, it must be done so by agreement with the board of directors & by filling in the appropriate forms, otherwise the board of directors could assume that the member has left altogether and their places could be filled.

13. Ideally the maximum number of members in each section shall total 40 at any one time, although this is at the discretion of the board of directors. This will be considered before an enrolment night is set. Following re-enrolment of current members any available places will first be filled by enrolling from the waiting list, then on a first come first served basis. Any remaining applicants will be placed on a waiting list if they so wish.

Former members who have left and are subject to the terms of rule 9. are not permitted to put their name on the waiting list.

The Primary Section is separate to this, with a limit of 30 children on the books. Any available places will first be filled from the waiting list and then on a first come first served basis. Any remaining applicants will be placed on a waiting list if they so wish.

14. **Selection team.**

This team may be made up of:-

- Producer
- Musical Director
- Choreographer
- Chairman
- Stage Manager
- Wardrobe Mistress

The role of this team is to choose the most appropriate show for each section of the group to perform throughout the year.

15. **Production team**

The directors may also appoint a production team, this team may be made up of:-

- Producer / Director
- Musical Director
- Choreographer
- Accompanist

Payment for the above posts will be made at the discretion of the board of directors. As these posts are specialist jobs they will be appointed by the board of directors. Any other specialist roles deemed necessary will be approved and appointed by the board of directors.

16.

a) Purchases of any description on behalf of the society shall not be made without prior authorisation of the chairman and treasurer.

b) Out of pocket expenses will only be paid if it has been agreed by the board of directors and subject to valid receipts.

17. There will have to be a quorum of 6 members of the board of directors in attendance before a meeting can take place.

18. **Appointment of directors**
Directors may be appointed by.
- a) Invitation by the current board of directors
 - b) An expression of interest from an individual.
- NB**
A new director may only be appointed by unanimous agreement of the current full board of directors and not just the quorum. And will also be subject to approval by Companies House.
19. **Constitution.**
The constitution will be reviewed periodically by the board of directors. Any proposed amendments will be by agreement of the board of directors.
Any proposed amendments to be made to the societies constitution must be in writing to the board of directors
20. If the society disbands, all its remaining assets will be given to local charitable organisations.
21. It is parents responsibility to ensure that their children arrive and are collected from the rehearsal or concert venue safely.
- 20a. **Criminal Records Bureau.**
Persons wishing to become an director of the society or assist the society in any way as a volunteer may at any time, be subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check.
The decision to carry out any such check will be,
- a. Subject to current legislation.
 - b. Subject to the requirements of the societies Child Protection Policy.
 - c. At the discretion of the board of directors
22. Only board of directors members and production team are allowed to attend rehearsals, and must be in compliance with clause (20a), unless they have been engaged to assist in some way, eg; Choreographer, Vocal Coach, Prompter etc.
23. The board of directors have the final word in all matters concerning the Productions being staged.
24. The board of directors have the final word on who helps out behind the scenes, and have the right to refuse if a problem occurs.
25. All senior and junior sections will be required to audition for major roles for productions within their own group, any member not auditioning will be given minor or chorus roles at the discretion of the producer, (excluding Revues). A team of four people will sit on the panel, comprising of the Producer and 3 others. The 3 others must not be related to members auditioning. Parts will be given to the person who the panel believe performed the best at the time of auditioning, and their decisions will be supported fully by the board of directors
26. The Society will be affiliated to the National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA).