

THE EDINBURGH MAKARS

CONSTITUTION

NAME OF SOCIETY

The Society shall be called “The Edinburgh Makars”

OBJECT OF THE SOCIETY

The object of the Society is educational in that it seeks to encourage and stimulate interest and enthusiasm for dramatic work of all kinds and to encourage public appreciation of drama in Edinburgh, in particular by the staging of plays, especially those unlikely to be presented by the professional theatre, and the Society may undertake activities intended to bring about the attainment of this object.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be open to anyone over the age of 18¹ on payment of the appropriate annual subscription. The Society shall have a membership of three classes, namely:

1. **Full Members**, who shall be those persons accepted by the Committee as able to contribute to the objects and activities of the Society.

Full Membership entitles a person:

- a) to act in or direct any production
- b) to be stage manager for any production
- c) to participate in play and casting readings
- d) to assist with set construction, backstage or front of house
- e) to be eligible to serve on the Committee
- f) to attend all social events
- g) to receive the Newsletter
- h) to vote at meetings of the Society

2. **Associate Members**, who shall be those persons accepted by the Committee as persons who wish to support the Society, but not actively participate in all the business of the Society.

Associate Membership entitles a person:

- a) to assist with set construction, backstage or front of house
- b) to participate in play and casting readings
- c) to attend all social events
- d) to receive the Newsletter

Associate Members are not eligible to vote at meetings of the Society.

An Associate Member is eligible to apply to become a Full Member.

¹ Those under 18 may be involved in the Society’s activities, subject to appropriate safeguards (the Society is a signatory to the Code of Conduct of the Scottish Community Drama Association).

3. **Honorary Members**, who shall be nominated by the Society from time to time in recognition of their contribution to the Society and who shall be entitled to all rights and privileges of Full Members (except serving on the committee) but shall not be required to pay an annual subscription.

OFFICIALS

At the Annual General Meeting of the Society, the members shall elect four of its Full Members to serve in the roles of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer (the Officials) who shall serve in those positions for the period from their election to the next Annual General Meeting. Each Official shall be eligible for re-election, but the serving President and Vice-President shall not be eligible for re-election to those roles on more than three consecutive occasions.

THE COMMITTEE

The Committee shall consist of the Officials and five other Full Members of the Society elected by the members at the Annual General Meeting (the five such members being referred to as Ordinary Committee Members) who shall serve in those positions for the period from their election to the next Annual General Meeting. Each Ordinary Committee Member shall be eligible for re-election, but shall not be eligible for re-election on more than three consecutive occasions. In addition, the Society shall appoint a Website & IT Support Officer and a Wardrobe Manager, both of whom shall be Committee members *ex officio*.

THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

An independent person to examine the Society's accounts shall be appointed by the members at the Annual General Meeting. The Independent Examiner shall be eligible for reappointment and need not be a member of the Society.

FINANCIAL YEAR

The financial year of the Society shall be from 1 May to 30 April each year.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Each year, there shall be held an Annual General Meeting of the Society on a date (in either May or June) and at a time and place decided by the Committee. A quorum of the members for the purpose of an Annual General Meeting shall be 15 Full Members (which may include in their number the Officials and the Ordinary Committee Members) and, in the event of there not being a quorum, a new date, time and place shall be decided by the Committee for the Annual General Meeting which shall be at a date preferably, but not necessarily, in either May or June and written notice of the new date, time and place shall be served on all members of the Society.

At the Annual General Meeting, the members of the Society shall:

- Receive reports from the Officials
- Receive and approve the examined accounts of the previous financial year
- Decide the level of the subscriptions for and conditions of membership
- Elect the Officials

- Elect the Ordinary Committee Members
- Appoint the Website & IT Support Officer and Wardrobe Manager
- Appoint the Independent Examiner
- Discuss any other competent business

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICIALS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Nominations for the posts of the Officials and the Ordinary Committee Members shall be submitted to the Secretary before or at the Annual General Meeting. No member may nominate themselves and no member shall nominate another member without that member's approval. Any member may be nominated for more than one role as an Official, but in the event of their being elected for one official role their nomination for any other official role shall be withdrawn.

In the event of there being more than one nomination for the role of any of the four official roles, there shall be a vote taken and the member with the most votes shall be elected.

In the event of there being more than five nominations for the role of Ordinary Committee Member a vote shall be taken and the five members with the most votes shall be elected.

The appointment/re-appointment of the two *ex officio* Committee members shall be confirmed at the Annual General Meeting.

OTHER MEETINGS

The Society shall hold such other general meetings as may be called by the Committee or at the request of not less than ten Full Members. A quorum shall be 15 Full Members.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Notice of every meeting of the Society shall be given to every member of the Society in writing not less than 14 days prior to the date of the proposed meeting and the notice shall specify the nature of the meeting, what is intended to be discussed and details of the time, date and place of the proposed meeting.

VOTING

At any meeting of the Society, only Full Members and Honorary Members shall be entitled to vote. Every Associate Member shall be given notice of every meeting and shall be entitled to attend and to speak on any subject under discussion, but shall not be entitled to vote.

POWERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee shall meet from time to time on such occasions as the Committee shall determine to discuss the business of the Society. A quorum shall be five members of the Committee in attendance. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt up to two additional members to the Committee should a vacancy or special need arise. Their membership would then last until the next Annual General Meeting, at which they would be subject to election in the usual way.

PRODUCTION AND CASTING OF PLAYS

The Committee shall appoint the director for each play and shall make the choice of play in consultation with the director and having regard to the wishes of the director.

The director shall have sole responsibility for casting the play from among Full and Honorary Members. In the event that there is any good and sufficient reason why the director is unable to cast a play wholly from the Full and Honorary Members, the director may be authorised by the Committee to offer one or more parts to parties not Full or Honorary Members. The director shall be entitled to make alterations in the cast during the rehearsals if, in the opinion of the director, such alterations would benefit the production.

The Committee shall appoint, for each production, a Front of House Manager and, in consultation with the director, a Stage Manager.

The Committee and the director are not bound to give reasons for not casting any member, but if the member feels aggrieved they shall state their grievance in writing to the Secretary who shall convene a meeting of the Committee to discuss the matter. The director and the aggrieved member shall be entitled to be heard at the meeting.

DISSOLUTION

The Society may be dissolved by a meeting of the members called for that purpose provided a two-thirds majority of those Full and Honorary Members present at such a meeting vote in favour of dissolving the Society. At such a meeting a quorum shall be 60% of the Full Members.

In the event of dissolution of the Society the funds and properties shall be given to any body with a similar object which shall have been accepted as having charitable status by the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).

CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

This constitution may be altered only at the Annual General Meeting or other general meeting called for that purpose, by a majority consisting of at least two-thirds of the Full and Honorary Members present and voting in favour of the alteration.

DECLARATION

This is the constitution of the Society (then The Makars, which merged with Davidson Mains Dramatic Club in 1996) as adopted at the Annual General Meeting held on 21 March 1947 and amended on 29 June 1971; 21 June 1976; 3 June 1982; 22 September 1992; 29 May 1996; 29 May 2000; 10 June 2002; 25 June 2008; and 20 June 2018.