

On behalf of the London Regional Committee can I invite you to the NODA London Regional virtual AGM and Awards presentation.

These are very difficult times for everyone. The current public health emergency has brought sadness and tragedy to so many. Lives have been lost, lives have been totally disrupted and none of us know when any sort of normal life will resume. Of course, set against that, the troubles that the amateur theatre world have suffered are perhaps of little importance; but we have all felt it deeply. The loss of companionship, of the sense of a shared venture, of the excitement and of the tremendous sense of achievement in producing live theatre, have left big holes in all our lives.

It is, of course, because of the current public health emergency that our theatre festival has had to be cancelled as a physical event. However, we wanted to bring you, as much as possible, a sense of the traditional AGM and the excitement of the awards presentations.

The AGM brochure has been published on the London section of the NODA website and the link can be found on the Festival page. Please read the brochure, particularly the AGM papers. If you have any comments on or objections to the AGM business please email me before 12<sup>th</sup> June. The brochure gives details of the Region's accounts for 2019, the list of District Reps who are standing again for the coming year and news of the change of Councillor for London. I am delighted that my colleague and current treasurer – Pam Armstrong – is stepping up to replace me as Councillor when I regretfully step away in September. I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting you in my short term as Councillor and wish you every success in the future.

Can I take this opportunity to thank, on your behalf, the Regional committee, Officers and Reps. They do a huge amount to ensure NODA in the London region runs smoothly and well deserve your thanks.

Of course, we know that the main reason people attend the Festival is for the Regional awards. The list of District Winners has been published on the website and congratulations to them. To be the best in your District is indeed an honour. My congratulations also to the nominees for the Society Self-Nominated Awards. To read the citations your societies sent in, makes us all realise how valued you are by your society.

So to the Regional awards. These will be posted on the NODA London Facebook page on 14<sup>th</sup> June as we would do if we were gathered together as usual. We felt Facebook was the best medium for reaching as many people across the region as possible – almost live – but we will, of course, publish the full list of winners on the website and in Curtain Up! our regional newsletter, after 14<sup>th</sup> June.

Congratulations in advance to all the regional winners.

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