

Society Feedback 2019/20

How successful has Fresher integration been this year?

Overall, the general consensus is that within the society the Freshers became very well integrated through both social events and within the shows themselves. The amount of opportunities to welcome freshers and integrate them within the whole society was well praised. The Freshers show, 'Made in Dagenham', obviously played a large part in involving freshers, for example one person said "I personally feel well integrated with all years of the society, but particularly close with other freshers and leavers." In addition to this there was praise for the 'Made in Dagenham' production team as a whole, someone said "I think the prod team worked hard to build relationships with the freshers." As well as this integration of freshers, there was a lot to be said about the retention of freshers this year with one person saying "We kept mad freshers yo" and someone else saying something much more explicit. This is something much more positive compared to last year. As a society it said that the freshers felt more welcomed to carry on with the society and get involved with other shows alongside the Freshers show, "I feel like the high fresher retention rate speaks for itself with lots of the freshers continuing in the society by coming to socials, being in cast and prod teams and even on committee!" The only query with regards fresher integration was the problem with pre-existing friendship groups within the wider society which is understandable and going to happen within any society, but it was said that it did make it harder for some freshers to feel completely welcomed.

TL/DR: Fresher integration was great, the intake was amazing. Query regarding, pre-existing friendship groups.

How well do you feel the society approached Pitches?

The feedback regarding pitches was mixed, however with most of the feedback coming in as critiques. One person made the point that "there could have been more notice about when pitches were taking place." The general consensus with regards to this point was that people were not given enough warning, thus not giving them the chance to get involved in a production team if they wanted. The feedback given also highlighted the difficulty surrounding the independent pitch. One piece of feedback stated "I think we should look back and learn from both parties involved." It is clear from the feedback that as a committee, we should leave any other issues at the door, and not mention any comments "irrelevant to the pitches." They also believed that the independent slot should be "better explained by committee." making sure everyone involved understands what is needed and the deadlines.

TL/DR: Not enough warning given about pitches taking place and issues from outside of the society being brought in to play making it difficult and personal.

How professional do you feel the audition processes have been?

This year the audition feedback was extremely positive, people were very pleased with how auditions have been handled this year. One person said "it would be a 10 however when the producers come in during auditions it can seem quite intimidating." The feedback was extremely positive especially with regards the fair casting agreement, "with the introduction of the fair casting agreement this year i feel

like the society has taken it very professionally and fairly.” This positive feedback, especially with regards to the casting, especially in comparison to previous years. The less positive feedback was vague, and very little too, however people did want more specificity to do with the event with regards what is needed and necessary.

TL/DR: The introduction of the fair casting agreement was amazing, it was great to see the audition be so professional. More specificity needed with regards what the audition will entail and what material is needed.

How accessible do you feel the committee have been?

Overall, the feedback was mixed in this department. People believed that by the end of the year the committee were clearly well known within the society. One person however did say that they “didn’t meet welfare for a long while which feels a bit backwards.” Alongside this people felt that personal prejudices and extracurricular issues were brought within the realms of the committee, making it harder for issues to be dealt with. This was quite a widespread issue throughout this portion of the feedback, there were concerns about “the internal issues and bullying within committee” itself. Other than this, the response was quite positive, people were very happy with the dates, times and location of committee meetings being posted, although would have liked them a bit further in advance. Finally, one person stated they felt “always one member of the committee that was approachable to each member of the society.”

TL/DR: A mixed bag, always one member was approachable at any time, however certain personal issues did come into play within the committee itself.

How accessible do you feel committee minutes and agendas have been?

This portion of the feedback was a lot less positive, one person said “better than last year but still not great.” Despite this a number of people thought that committee minutes were extremely behind and delayed. One person said “I mean people rarely care but having them up would have been nice (lol).” The general consensus was that the principle of having them up and accessible is prevalent however people were disappointed with the lack of urgency to get them up and done. On a more positive note someone said “when they were uploaded they were much easier to find” in comparison to previous years.

TL/DR: Committee minutes weren’t very accessible or rarely posted, but when they were it was easier to find than it has been in the past.

How would you rate the Showstoppers website in general?

Overall people were a bit disappointed with the website, people thought that the website was quite slowly updated. People still find it very easy to navigate and the access to past shows was good. Some quotes include:

“Show feedback hasn’t been updated for the last three shows.”

“The documents need to be updated more regularly including pitch feedback and show feedback.”

In addition to these comments, there was keen interest for there to be more show/rehearsal pictures added to the website in a gallery, maybe including show trailers.

TL/DR: Website is behind on current society shows and events, feedback and documents weren't updated regularly.

How helpful have you found our workshops to be?

The feedback was overwhelmingly positive with regards to the society's workshops. The overall feedback was directed towards the sheer amount of time and effort put in by both the development officers. People really enjoyed how fun and exciting they were. There was particular praise with regards to "the balance between improving skill sets and games to reduce exam stress." There was no negative feedback given with regards to the workshops in the past year.

TL/DR: Workshops were incredible and the effort and lengths Hannah and Imy went to to get them going and people involved was amazing.

How much have you enjoyed the social events this year?

Once again, the response to the socials was extremely positive and can be summed up easily in one short statement from one person "well fun." Everyone highly praised the socials, people in particular really like the variation of alcoholic and non-alcoholic social events. One person in particular said "Love the house/ bar crawls", the variation of socials was really highly regarded. On the other hand, the one criticism of them that did pop up a few times was that "they could have been more frequent" however it was understood that fitting them in and around rehearsals can be quite a task. On the back of that, one person did say "I'm really looking forward to meeting the freshers next year", showing the importance of socials with regards fresher integration.

TL/DR: Social events were fun and inclusive, with the mix of alcoholic and non-alcoholic events. There was a desire for more socials throughout the year.

How much have you enjoyed cabaret this past year?

Nothing but positive feedback about the Cabarets last year. It can be all summed up in one perfect statement "It's really nice to see everyone just singing and having fun without the stress that sometimes comes with being in a show!" as well as it having "a really happy atmosphere." Alongside the more general feedback, there was a lot of high praise for the hosts of the cabaret, development officers, Hannah Maskell and Imy Brighty-Potts, "Hannah and Imy were excellent together and just very enjoyable to watch."

TL/DR: Cabaret's were amazing, once again Hannah and Imy put so much effort into them making them very fun and enjoyable for all involved.

General Comments:

- “All the fb videos to advertise the shows have been fab! Bunfight performance was advertising the society and ILYB cast doing a sneak preview at The Bridge! So maybe doing more things like that, like a performance on the red brick to advertise a show?”
- “The society has done really well in shows and rehearsals and the new committee have smashed it out of the park through this hard period”
- “Promote the society more using social media etc more”
- “The shows!”
- “Bitchiness? Inevitable though I guess”
- “Being fair and keeping personal opinions to themselves instead of influencing others and letting it get in the way of the rehearsal process- can’t stress this enough.”

Some of my personal favourite comments:

- “I remember when the marlands was the place to be, there was no bullshit, no fucking westquay”
- “I hear lopsoc do orgies.....”
- “I answered between 5 and 7 so I don’t have to tell you shit”
- “Lol who the fuck cares”
- “All my bitches with the virus shout hey ya, when I’m done, on your back imma spray yah”
- “love u guys xx”