

Association of Irish Stage Technicians

Newsletter Issue 4

February 2007



An association to promote the Health, Safety and Welfare of crew in the Arts, Entertainments and Events Industry

- By continuing to offer professional training to improve the skills of our members.
- By keeping informed of changes in practice, policy and legislation and being available to our members to offer information and advice.
- By advocating the interests of our members regarding Health, Safety and Welfare with various organisations and government bodies.
- By continuing to build our database of design, production and technical practitioners in the Arts, Entertainment and Events industry and in this way grow the AIST into a large and confident community
- By supplying information on our website and in our newsletter. Also acting as a hub for members to share information and expertise.

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW

- 1 We have just received an Arts Council Grant of €10,000 which is a fantastic vote of confidence in the AIST.**
- 2 The proposed new "Stage Pass" course will soon be with FETAC for approval.**
- 3 As of Jan 1st 2007 the agreed period covered by the nominal €10 membership fee has expired. All membership is therefore due for renewal. (see page 2)**

PLANS AND BUDGET 2007

In October of last year we submitted plans and a proposed budget to the Arts Council in our application for our first grant as a Resource and Service Organisation. In summary, we proposed a total budget of €80,507. This income we suggested would be: €18,360 from membership fees, course fees and other sources such as advertising; €27,740 Benefit in Kind. This figure is made up of voluntary work hours and the provision of rooms and theatres for meetings and training courses; and €33,807 Grant from the Arts Council.

The Arts Council were extremely supportive of the aims of the AIST and were keen to promote Health & Safety throughout the various disciplines and activities that they support.

At the end of January we were offered a grant of €10,000 which we have just accepted. This has led to an inevitable rethink of our plans and we now propose a budget that breaks down like this.

Total Budget:	€44,600
Income from membership fees and other sources	€12,900
Benefit in Kind	€21,700
Arts Council Grant	€10,000

Within this budget we hope to achieve the following:

- Continue to develop Stage Pass and have it ready for HSA approval before they begin to enforce the less relevant *SafePass* on the membership.
- Continue to run ABTT courses although we will run three rather than six in 2007 (see page 2)
- Continue to run Manual Handling and Risk Assessment courses. We feel it is important that these courses be available at affordable rates to ensure that Companies, Venues and Freelancers are able to comply with their legal obligations.
- Continue the general business of the Association. We have found that some members have been greatly helped by the advice we have been able to offer over

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THE AIST TRAINING PROGRAMME

As a result of our Arts Council Grant offer we have decided that we can run 3 out of the 6 ABTT courses we previously proposed. Dates will be arranged once funding is in place. We plan to run

- **Practical Rigging 1**
- **Access and Support Towers**
- **Taking out a tour**



We also intend to run Manual Handling and Risk Assessment courses as before.

For any further information go to www.irishstagetechnicians.com

We also need **feedback** from the membership. Please let us know what courses you would like to see offered either by emailing us on info@irishstagetechnicians.com or posting in the forum on the website Ω

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

As of 1st January 2007 everyone's membership is due for renewal at the agreed new rate of €50 per year.

WHY SHOULD I BOTHER?

There are a few reasons why we hope you will bother.

Firstly, we hope you agree there is a need for an association like this and it won't exist without your membership.

Secondly, without a large membership we won't be taken seriously by bodies like the Arts Council, the HSA, the Insurance Companies and the many other organisations that we have been working with on your behalf.

Thirdly, we can't do anything without the resources that your fee provides.

Fourthly, members will get significantly better rates on AIST training courses.

Fifthly, it is proposed to limit parts of the website to members only. Mainly - situations vacant, forums and downloads.

Sixthly, information on events and training will only be passed on to members.

To renew go to the website click membership and Renew Now. If you have difficulties on the paypal page you may need to allow cookies to process your order. to do this in internet explorer click.....

..Tools
..Internet options
..Privacy
..Sites Then type in **paypal.com** and click
..Allow

You might want to undo this again when you have finished.

Please email us if you have any questions.Ω

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the last year. The simple act of creating a community where people can ask for advice or help is a huge step to improving health and safety standards. It is our ideal goal that no member ever feels endangered, isolated or pressured into taking unnecessary risks.

- Continue to share information through the Website and Newsletter. Unfortunately our original plans to redesign the website and develop an online newsletter have been shelved for now. The website is working well, however, (after some glitches) and we would encourage people to use it.
- Begin work on our Industry Codes of Practice. This will be a long term project. We propose to start it by holding a seminar inviting some leading practitioners to take part and work together to come up with standards that are relevant to our industry and in line with the latest Irish legislation.
- The Arts council strongly advised us against taking on the responsibility of an office and any staff at this early stage. This would, of course, be an enormous cost so until the AIST has more resources it will not have a permanent base. But that would obviously be a long term goal. For the moment, we will employ a freelance administrator to help us with our various projects Ω

THE AIST COMMITTEE

Chairman - Nick Anton, Tech Manager Dunamais Arts Centre; Treasurer - Mark Gallione, Freelancer;
Secretary - Moyra D'Arcy, Freelancer; Board members - Michael Doyle, Tech Manager Civic Theatre; Eamon Fox, Tech Manager An Draiocht; Tara Furlong, Stage Manager; Paddy Mc Laughlin, Freelancer; Kevin Smith, Freelancer;
Marie Tierney, Production Manager;