

## **Arts & Entertainments Board Report**

*A note by Adam Khamis, Arts & Entertainments Board Chair*

### **Summary**

The Arts & Entertainments Board (AEB) has made many exciting developments this term, with the launch of a partnership with College and a record number of memberships sold. The end of term saw a large number of very successful events that showcased the diverse talents of the students at Imperial, with many of the clubs working together in new collaborations, demonstrating the strong links within the board.

### **Financial Report**

Most clubs are in a strong financial condition and there is little danger of them falling into debt. Clubs are making good progress into accessing their grant, though this is continuing to be monitored. Events held at end of autumn term were generally financially successful the clubs. We have not had to utilise CSC contingency for the year at this stage.

We expect our clubs to be impacted markedly by the raising of VAT rates to 20%, more so than for other management groups. Much of the common expenditure of our clubs is zero-rated for VAT (such as sheet music), or is spent outside of the scope of VAT (e.g. for self-employed instructors). This means that our clubs may have to raise membership fees, or reduce their scope for carrying out core activities, in order to cover for the shortfall in funding. More likely is that we will see a corresponding reduction in year-on-year capital reserves.

Cinema was over £4663.53 in debt at the start of the year and has been working very hard to raise funds. With regular events seeing students queuing from the UCH down to the ground floor of the union, they have made around 60% of that debt back.

Musical Theatre Tour operates on a tight budget, relying on a single event to make a profit. Due to increasing cost they are currently in debt, although a significant proportion of their debt is due to an unused cheque. They have also recently learned that the school that has provided the cast with accommodation for the last 33 years is no longer able to offer residential lettings. This has left them with the difficulty of finding cheap accommodation for 80 people.

### **Constitution Changes**

Guitar Society (Formally known as Classical Guitar Society) – The club has extended its activities to include flamenco and acoustic guitar to attract a wider group of students to the club. Therefore the clubs name was shortened to 'Guitar Society' to encourage a more diverse group of members and alternative activities and events.

Clubs and Societies Board  
24<sup>th</sup> January 2010

Gospel Choir – The constitution, which was not updated in a number of years, was changed to conform to the current standards. The committee was expanded to include a Musical Director, Assistant Musical Director Sopranos, Assistant Musical Director Altos, Assistant Musical Director Tenors, Publicity Officer and a Creative Director.

### **New Clubs**

A Cappella was accepted by the New Clubs Committee in October 2010 and since then has gone from strength to strength attracting 35 members, of which 21 were not originally members of the established Techtonics group. In the first 2 months A Cappella have organised multiple vocal workshops and took 30 members on a trip to see the a professional a cappella group, the Swingle Singers. They have also quickly integrated into the AEB as they participated in a joint concert with Chamber Choir.

The primary aim of the society is to provide a forum for members to sing within an a cappella group and to learn associated skills related to modern a cappella performance - such as vocal percussion, music arrangement and choreography.

Additional activities will include musical concerts within and outside Imperial, busking at prominent street locations (e.g. Portobello Market), vocal workshops to external groups, master classes from professional a cappella singers, recording of musical CDs and participation in musical competition.

### **Club Membership**

Currently 1066 memberships for AEB societies have been sold. This is the largest number of students that have participated in the arts in the last 5 years and a 25% increase on the target membership.

The majority of clubs have reached or exceeded their target with Cinema achieving the largest proportion of its membership target of any club this year and ranking the 5<sup>th</sup> largest club at imperial.

Currently there are two clubs that have membership below 20. However, members of Musical Theatre Tour don't join until June when the tour takes place and a buddy scheme has been implemented to help Percussion gain more members.

### **Contingency Awards**

ICU Cinema – Mobile Air Conditioning Unit – £129.97

The claim was passed last year at AEB, however the AEB contingency budget was used earlier in the year therefore it was brought to CSB where it was passed again. The equipment in the cinema booth get's very hot during a screening and the current air conditioning unit was broken. A replacement was requested on the grounds of Health and Safety.

Clubs and Societies Board  
24<sup>th</sup> January 2010

## **ArtsImperial**

On the 9<sup>th</sup> December the ArtsImperial Board (formally known as the Music and Visual Arts Committee) formed a partnership between College departments which provide those facilities for the practice and performance of arts and Imperial College Union clubs, societies and interested groups, with the purpose of overseeing the development of the arts at Imperial and promoting artistic endeavours to the wider College community.

The board consists of both staff members and students who represent the music, visual and performing arts societies. This includes all of the clubs on the AEB (excluding cinema), PhotoSoc (Media), Dance (ACC), Dance Company (RCC), Belly Dancing (RCC), Funkology (RCC), FashionSoc (RCC), Drama (ICSMSU), Arts & Photo (ICSMSU), Music (ICSMSU) and Light Opera (ICSMSU).

We have been developing a new centralised branding for ArtsImperial that will be used to advertise societies and their events. A preliminary design for an email newsletter was approved by the board last term and should be ready by mid-February. The aim of the newsletter was to combine the advertisement of both college and union events into a weekly digest allowing us to reach a wider audience, and further increase participation in the arts. Future plans include an upgrade of the current 'What's On' leaflet produced by the Blyth Centre and the ArtsImperial website.

## **Issues/Facilities/Storage**

- The issues that the clubs face are mainly related to room bookings and storage space.
- The lock for the Great Hall music store has been fixed and now can only be accessed using swipe card entry only.
- The availability of pianos for rehearsal has proved to be an issue as it was not possible to book the piano in Mechanical Engineering due to noise from construction work, despite the room remaining empty and without noise disruptions at the time Gospel Choir required it.
- Earlier in the term room 219 in Sherfield was tidied by a group of enthusiastic volunteers, and currently has plans to be fitted with lockers for secure storage of instruments.
- Gospel Choir would like to purchase a drum kit in partnership with Afro-Caribbean society, but storage remains a problem. A location for the drums may be made available next to the cinema booth in the near future.
- A member of Jazz and Rock has disputed a fine that was enforced by the club. The matter was taken directly to the DPCS.

Clubs and Societies Board  
24<sup>th</sup> January 2010

## **Events**

### **ArtsFest**                      21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> February

ArtsFest 2011 is a weeklong, campus wide arts festival that involves between 20 and 30 clubs from multiple execs. Unfortunately ArtsFest were not able to secure sponsorship, and therefore the committee is more constrained than in previous years. As many of the events are in their early stages of development, the week still requires a lot more organisation, which may be made more difficult by the resignation of the secretary.

### **ARTiFACT**                      21<sup>st</sup> February

The preparation for a collaborative event between the Royal College of Art and Imperial College Union is making good progress. Students from each institution will be paired with their perfect match through a speed dating session during ArtsFest, and the best couples will go on to exhibit their work in the Blyth Gallery later in the year. This is a great opportunity for us to form strong links with the RCA and hopefully will develop into an annual event.