



# THANET GANG SHOW CONSTITUTION

## **AIM OF THE GANG SHOW**

A Gang Show is a “*shop window*” for the Scout movement and has a tremendous potential for public relations. It must be the aim of all connected with a show to ensure it is of the highest possible standard.

The aim of the Gang Show is to provide young members with the opportunity of performing on a public stage and by so doing enabling them to enhance and develop skills and confidence. The show should be slick, vibrant, youthful and colourful.

## **GENERAL**

All members of the Gang whether on stage or behind the scenes must be active members of the Scout or Guide Associations. All members of 18 years or over must be approved by the committee and be police checked if they are coming into contact with the young people. This includes parents who may help in dressing rooms.

The show is split into two parts: Business Management and Production.

The producer is the senior person involved with the show and will make any final decisions.

## **Business Management**

The appointment of the Chairman of the business committee is nominated by the producer and approved at the Annual General Meeting. The Secretary and Treasurer are nominated and elected at the Annual General Meeting. Additional committee members will be similarly nominated and elected at the Annual General meeting. Other administrators and advisers may be appointed by the committee with the approval of the producer. The main responsibility of the Business Committee will be to ensure that the show does not run at a financial loss and the standards of the Scout Movement are maintained.

## **Production**

The producer may appoint an assistant producer plus a production team to assist with the music, choreography/movement, stage management and wardrobe. Each of these persons may form their own team to help with their specific responsibilities. It is up to the producer to invite any other persons that he/she feels can contribute to the production to join this team.

## **Thanet Gang Show**

Items specific to the Thanet Gang Show:

Anyone wishing to be in the show should accept that this is an organised Scout/Guide activity and as such members are expected to attend rehearsals. It is not acceptable to miss rehearsals to attend parties and other outside events except in exceptional circumstances. Anyone knowing that they are heavily committed on a Saturday evening (rehearsal evening) should not attempt to be in the show but offer their services off-stage when they are available.

Members of the cast will be expected to attend all rehearsals unless permission is given by the producer for an exemption. Examples of this are:

- a) District Scout Swimming Gala (either participating, leader of group, or activities assisting)
- b) Guide organised activity
- c) Personal family emergency

### **All Cast**

Missing rehearsals outside these exemptions, for whatever reason, will automatically exclude you from the show.

Rehearsals missed due to sickness should be notified to the secretary by the day of the rehearsal and not left until the following week.

**All** missed rehearsals unless notified before, or on the day, will be taken very seriously and may forfeit your place in the show.

Any disputes will be discussed by the current committee and their decision is final.

### **Who is eligible to be in the show?**

- Scouts
- Guides
- Senior Guides
- Explorers
- Rangers
- Networkers
- Young Leaders
- Leaders
- Members of District Activities Committee
- Members of Scout Active Support
- Cubs/Brownies in their **final** year (may only be in cub/brownie item **ONCE**)

Ages of members of the cast must comply with local district rules.

### **All attendees must sign in and out at all rehearsals.**

#### **Cast Representative**

The cast may, if they wish, appoint a cast representative to attend the business committee. The representative should be elected by the cast and should not hold this appointment for more than two years. The cast representative is not an elected member of the business committee and therefore does not have any voting rights. He/she is there only to observe, and to bring to the committee anything that the cast wish to be brought up.

#### **Youngsters in the show**

All Scouts and Guides wishing to be in the show must be prepared to learn words and movements. It is not acceptable for them to be still learning words two weeks before the show.

When not rehearsing, Scouts and Guides should sit quietly and either learn their words or chat among themselves. Rudeness to leaders will not be tolerated. They should not go outside the venue as this will not be tolerated by the leaders in charge of the rehearsal. When they finish the rehearsal they must wait inside to be collected. Anyone disobeying this rule will be asked to leave the show as there are not enough leaders to keep checking that these young people have been collected.

Parents will be expected to sign a form agreeing that their child will attend all rehearsals unless prior notice has been given.

#### **Explorers/Rangers/Senior Guides/Young Leaders**

As above applies. The collection rule does not apply to anyone over 18 years of age.

#### **Adults in the show**

The Gang Show is specifically a young person's activity and as such adults are there to support, and take more of a backup role. Adults will still have their own items but when performing numbers with the younger members of cast, i.e. Scouts/Guides, Explorers, Rangers/Senior Guides, Networkers, Young Leaders they should be prepared to step back and let the younger members take front stage.

### **Offstage**

Anyone wishing to be involved with the show but not able to commit to every Saturday night will be welcome to help in whatever field they feel comfortable with. The costume department is always looking for persons able to sew, cut-out or just label up things. Cloths need to be painted and scenery made. Offer your services and you will be put in touch with the right person. Distributing posters, helping in dressing rooms, everyone will be made welcome.

### **Backstage**

The backstage crew is an important element of the show, not only from the point of view of making certain scenery and props are in place but also the safe running of the backstage. For this reason appointment to backstage crew is entirely at the discretion of the Gang Show Stage Manager.

### **Scarves**

Thanet Gang Show has a tradition of presenting scarves to long serving members. As from 2009 in order to qualify for a seven year scarf it is still necessary to have seven consecutive years involvement with the show but not necessarily on stage.

- a) The seven year scarf can now be awarded to anyone who has been involved with the show for seven consecutive years who has been occupied on a regular weekly basis with either scenery building, costume making, music, choreography, painting backcloths or any other behind the scenes task that demands more than just turning up on show days. This will bring behind-the-scenes members of the gang into line with those on stage.
- b) Ten consecutive years on or offstage or a mixture of both without a break (known as the ten-year scarf)
- c) 21 consecutive years on or offstage or a mixture of both (known as the 21-year scarf, this scarf is edged with gold braid)

If a scarf has been awarded for seven years then a ten year scarf will not be given regardless of the number of years completed. The next scarf attainable is the 21 year one.

Any disputes will be discussed by the current committee and their decision is final.

Thanet Gang Show is based on the original shows produced by Eric Spicer (Tubby) and although times have changed it is still our object to be a GANG and work together to put on a show that the district can be proud of.

This constitution will be subject to amendment if required at the Annual General Meeting.