

## DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:** Leisure, Arts and Communities Committee - 24 March 2008

**REPORT ON:** Dundee Repertory Theatre, Main House - Revenue Support 2008-2009

**REPORT BY:** Director of Leisure and Communities

**REPORT NO:** 191-2008

### 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To submit to the Committee a request for renewal of revenue funding to Dundee Repertory Theatre, Main House for 2008/2009.

### 2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee approves the level of grant funding amounting to £354,846 as set out in the report.

### 3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The funding recommended is £354,846 which sum is provided from the Leisure and Communities Department's Revenue Budget for 2008/2009, as shown in the budget at Appendix 1.

### 4.0 MAIN TEXT

- 4.1 In 2007-2008 Dundee Rep continued to build its audiences, extend its community outreach work and enhance its critical reputation both locally and further afield. The company's award winning production of Sunshine on Leith played to over 44,000 people across Scotland, including an audience of around 10,000 at the Rep Theatre.

#### 4.2 Review of the year 2007-2008

##### **Sunshine on Leith by Stephen Greenhorn**

Winner of Best Musical and Best Supporting Actress for Rep Ensemble stalwart, Anne-Louise Ross, at the UK-wide TMA Awards held in London in November 2007, the production toured to major theatres in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen, playing to 34,000 people across these cities. Plans for a future remount and national tour are currently under discussion.

##### **Jack & The Beanstalk by Robert Paterson**

This year's Christmas show played to 20,000 people and proved very popular with audiences and received good reviews in the national press.

##### **Peer Gynt by Henrik Ibsen (in a new version by Colin Teevan)**

A major, new large-scale co-production with the National Theatre of Scotland, with the full Rep Ensemble supplemented by guest actors, a live on-stage band and students from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Dance. This was Dominic Hill's final production during his tenure as Artistic Director and it received an unprecedented clean sweep of 5 - star reviews from all of the leading national newspaper critics.

### **The Children by Edward Bond**

A rarely performed work by one of the UK's most important dramatists of the past 40 years, Edward Bond, this was a ground-breaking collaboration between the Rep Ensemble and the Rep's Youth Theatre Company, which is run by the Rep Creative Learning Team, who held the budget for this production. This show played over a short run of 3 performances in January 2008 as a double bill with Meggido, a piece devised by members of the Youth Theatre, under the supervision and guidance of the Rep's Community Drama team, in response to the themes and issues tackled in Bond's work.

### **Education and Community Work**

The company continued to develop its highly regarded education and community work, continuing with the second year of the 3 - year SPARK project, working in partnership with 6 Dundee Primary schools to create relationships between the schools and the theatre.

A new project, PLAYHOUSE, involved teachers and pupils from primary schools across Dundee putting together short productions of specially commissioned plays by leading children's theatre writers and gained high approval ratings from Scottish Education Department inspectors and has led to an increased interest from schools in using the Rep's Creative Learning department's resources as part of teaching strategies to develop their pupils' self-confidence, communication and social skills.

### **Programming**

The company continued to develop work aimed at children, young people and their families, with a number of visiting company performances across a broad range of popular and classic drama, music and comedy. It also continued to programme a year round season of dance, with both the Rep's own contemporary dance company Scottish Dance Theatre and visiting contemporary dance companies providing access for Dundee audiences to newly-commissioned work by leading choreographers during the year.

### **Training**

The company continued to support young actors by employing two new apprentice actors who will be with the company for a year to continue their training. We also continued to provide placements and work experience for local students and those from further afield.

### **Touring**

The only tour undertaken this year, the biggest in the Rep's history, was Sunshine on Leith, which played to total audiences of 34,000 in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen (see above).

## **4.3 Major Plans for 2008-2009**

The company will continue to develop its strategic plan vision to be:

- A theatre whose work is a model of excellence, synonymous with quality across all its activities.
- A theatre rooted in making work for and with a diverse local audience whilst strengthening its national reputation, complemented by a range of activities on an international scale.
- A national cultural asset which the people of Dundee feel ownership over and in which they can take enormous pride.

### **April/May 2008**

Yarm, devised by Ben Harrison and the company, directed by Ben Harrison. A co-production with award winning site specific theatre company, Grid Iron. The show will be performed in largely hidden spaces at Verdant Works.

**June 2008**

Les Parents Terribles by Jean Cocteau, directed and designed by internationally-renowned artist Stewart Laing.

**September 2008**

Large-scale production of a classic play

**October/November 2008**

Scottish Classic

**December 2008**

Christmas Show

**March 2009**

New Scottish Play

The company will also continue to programme a variety of visiting companies providing dance, drama, comedy, music and work for young people and will continue to support training apprenticeships for young actors.

**Proposed Development areas - subject to funding outcomes**

a) **Dundee Rep Ensemble** - Restore the Ensemble to 8 permanent actors, develop the range of visiting directors and other artists working with the company and reinvigorate playtime and training for actors.

b) **Exploit successful work** - Develop successful projects (Sunshine on Leith and Peer Gynt) for future exploitation.

c) **Centre for Creative Development** - Develop the plan to become a Centre for Creative Development, with a fundraising plan, and explore the best fit of the Rep's component strands "Under One Roof".

- 4.4 Dundee Repertory Theatre Main House sustained 66 full time equivalent jobs in Dundee during 2007/08 and they are projected to achieve 33% of their income from non public Services in 2008/09.

**5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.

There are no major issues.

**6.0 CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Head of Finance have been consulted on this report and are in agreement with its contents.

**7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 None.

**STEWART MURDOCH**  
**DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND COMMUNITIES**  
**4 MARCH 2008**

**DUNDEE REPERTORY THEATRE  
DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL**

**Appendix 1**

	<b>Projected Outcome 2007/2008</b>	<b>Projected Budget 2008/2009</b>
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>		
Administration Wages	168,007	195,869
Marketing/Sales/FOH Wages	197,112	211,018
Performers/Directors/Design	567,388	326,882
Production Staff	442,266	439,677
Allowance for Pension Contributions	12,147	12,000
Production Costs	155,195	115,750
Touring Costs	50,094	-
Royalties & Commissions	47,888	44,179
Visiting Company Fees	109,588	199,000
Marketing Costs	164,530	109,500
General Overheads	268,723	259,738
Building Maintenance Reserve	7,500	-
Depreciation	28,350	29,117
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>2,218,787</b>	<b>1,942,730</b>
<b><u>Earned Income</u></b>		
Box Office - Rep plays	302,571	247,449
Box office - Visiting	127,588	245,000
Friends	4,805	5,000
Touring Income/co-production fees	354,633	12,531
Net Catering Profit	12,068	11,060
Programme Net Profit	4,200	5,500
Confectionery Net Profit	11,500	9,500
Miscellaneous Income	23,138	18,000
Central Services Recharges	36,000	34,320
Sponsorship	-	15,000
Trusts	31,400	30,000
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>907,903</b>	<b>633,360</b>
<b><u>Grants</u></b>		
SAC Revenue - Main House Allocation	914,772	938,357
DCC Annual	350,465	354,846
ERDF	73,892	17,244
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>1,339,129</b>	<b>1,310,447</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>2,247,032</b>	<b>1,943,807</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>28,245</b>	<b>1,077</b>
Surplus brought forward	4,378	8,486
Surplus carried forward	<b>32,623</b>	<b>9,563</b>