

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Arts and Heritage Committee – 17 September 2001

REPORT ON: Dundee Rep Community Department Special Projects Grant

REPORT BY: Director of Arts and Heritage

REPORT NO: 612-2001

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To seek approval to award a grant to Dundee Rep Community Department towards the cost of developing drama initiatives in the community.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the Committee authorises the payment of the grant of £7000.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The grant of £7000 can be met from the Arts and Heritage Department's 2001/2002 revenue budget.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Dundee Rep Community Department makes a significant contribution to the Local Agenda theme "opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation are readily available for all".

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Particular consideration is given to applications which prioritise or maximise community involvement, generating interaction within specific groups, communities and organisations.

6.0 MAIN TEXT

6.1 Dundee Rep Community Programme will develop Drama in the Communities by touring a Dundonian Short Version of Measure for Measure to Community Venues. The celebrated Scottish Playwright Peter Arnott and local writer Ron Whyte have been brought together to create a new version of Shakespeare's Measure for Measure. This version has two distinct languages in it, seventeenth century English and Dundonian. The end result will be a full main stage production involving the professional actors of the Ensemble Company and the Community Company's Adult Group.

The Dundonian scenes have been brought together to make a forty minute performance piece which is bawdy, robust and accessible. The plan is to tour the short piece entitled 'Bloody Spears' to community centres. The touring production would have the high production values associated with Rep productions and would allow people to access a major mainstage production in their own neighbourhood centre. The piece would visit five venues over two weeks.

6.2 The project will also create a professionally produced Video to promote the use of Participatory Community Drama in Schools. Dundee Rep Community Company has delivered a number of projects with the Education Department over the past year. Each of those projects was recorded on video. The proposal is to employ a professional video worker to both edit those videos and to interview teachers, educationalists, drama workers and pupils involved in order to create a short video evaluating what has gone on and looking at potential developments in the future.

6.3 There is an intention to Develop the Youth Festival in order to provide an opportunity to Youth Drama Groups to perform together. The Youth Theatre Festival has successfully established itself over the past two years giving first time participants access to drama, at the same time the outreach project has worked with a number of youth groups who have created their own performances. The proposal is to bring in a performance element to the 2002 festival, enabling three or four groups to perform to the young people attending the festival.

6.4 Trained Drama Workers will be involved in a Project which uses Drama to explore Mental Health Services Users' attitudes towards the closing of Liff Hospital to put together a project which sees mental health service user groups work intensively on a performance piece based on their thoughts about the closure of the residential psychiatric unit and will be performed at the Hospital. There will also be an exhibition titled Life at Liff, which will take place at McManus Galleries from April to June 2002.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Support Services, Director of Finance and Director of Corporate Planning have been consulted on this report and are in agreement with its contents.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None.

Director of Arts and Heritage _____ Date _____