

## **DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Leisure, Arts and Communities Committee - 23 March 2009

**REPORT ON:** Dundee Repertory Theatre Creative Learning Team - Revenue Support 2009-2010

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

**REPORT NO:** 181-2009

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To submit to the Committee a request for renewal of Revenue funding for Dundee Repertory Theatre - Creative Learning Team 2009/2010.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 That the Committee approves the level of grant funding amounting to £20,208 as set out in the report.

### **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 The funding recommended is £20,208, which sum is provided for in the Leisure and Communities Department's Revenue budget for 2009-2010, as shown in the budget at Appendix 1.

3.2 The terms and conditions of the grant will be contained within a Service Level Agreement 2009-2010 between Dundee City Council and Dundee Repertory Theatre, Creative Learning Team.

### **4.0 MAIN TEXT**

4.1 Dundee Rep's Creative Learning Team's Mission Statement is to enrich the lives of local people by creating a range of opportunities for participation, personal development and creativity, using theatre and drama, both within and outwith the theatre. They aim to develop self confidence and the transference of skills and to use the theatre's resources and expertise to create a forum for wider community involvement. The Team delivers its programme directly in the community and at the Rep and directly engages those who may not normally participate in mainstream arts provision. They prioritise work with:

- Children (0-13) and the people who work with them
- Young people (13-25) and the people who work with them
- Vulnerable adults and the people who work with them
- Adults and Children experiencing mental health difficulties and the people who work with them.
- Socially excluded, culturally diverse and minority groups who would not normally access the theatre.

#### **4.2 Review of the Year 2008-2009 Productions:**

- The Rep Youth Theatre (ages 14-18) performed a site specific production SIN at the Botanical Gardens, Dundee and Epping Forest London. The production allowed young people to learn directly from the professionals in acting, directing,

composing, lighting, sound, stage management and costume design.

- The Youth Theatre Company also performed and took part in workshops at the Big Youth Theatre Festival - an international festival in London.
- The Adult Drama Group and the Women's Singing Group joined creative forces to perform Lysistrata which was adapted into Scots by local writer Ellie McDonald and featured a 30 strong women's choir.
- Every member of the in-house groups from the 5-7 year olds to the adults performed on the main stage.
- 3 Play in a Week projects allowed 11-13 year-olds and 14-16 year-olds the opportunity to perform on the main stage.

### **Community**

- The satellite Youth Theatre network is now thriving with long standing groups running in Menzieshill Community Centre, Whitfield Community Centre and Mid Craigie thanks to funding from The Lethendy Trust and the Centres themselves.
- All three of these groups performed on the Rep main stage to family and friends.
- The Theatre has now established two groups for adults with learning disabilities, one at Ellen Mohr and one at the Wellgate Day Centre.

### **Dramatherapy**

- The client group and profile have both once again built this year
- It took part in the citywide Mental Health Week Festival and continues to engage in local, regional and national networks.

### **SPARK**

- The flagship education project funded by Provident Financial was once again a huge success. 5 primary schools (Rowantree, Ardler, Charleston, Dens Road and Lochee) who were identified as having little or no access to arts provision and situated in regeneration priority areas, were once again given the opportunity to see the Christmas show and work with Directors, Artists and a Composer to create performances which they played at the Rep. The project has been so successful Provident Financial have agreed to fund another year in 5 new schools.

### **PLAYHOUSE**

- This project allowed the team to work with 2 local primary schools on 6 new plays commissioned by Dundee Rep and their partner theatres across the UK. The plays were performed at the Rep allowing many friends and family who had never accessed the building to do so and the Teachers received a comprehensive CPD programme. The project continues this year with 5 schools already signed up.

### **PERFORM AT THE REP**

- This project allowed engagement with secondary schools on a deeper and more intensive level. 6 secondary schools worked with the Rep in CPD and training and performed on the Rep main stage.

### **Holiday Projects**

- Once again Holiday Projects were held for a variety of ages and proved very successful.

### **Wild Things**

- In partnership with The Space, DCA, SDT, and the Camperdown Park Wildlife Centre, this successful project again delivered a series of community sessions and an intensive summer school for the young people of Dundee.

### **Links**

- The Creative Learning Team continued to develop links with community centres, schools and other venues and to raise the profile of Dundee Rep Creative

Learning on a local, national and international level.

#### 4.3 **Major Plans for 2009-2010**

##### **Productions**

The Team is to commission a new piece of writing for their Youth Theatre to perform on the Rep Main Stage. Once again participants will be given the opportunity to co-direct, co-compose, co-design etc. Productions will also be created by the 5 - 7's, 8 - 10's, 11 - 13's and adult groups. The productions will be professionally supported and will allow the participants to develop in confidence and learn new skills.

##### **Creative Identities**

Funded by the cashback for Creative Industries fund from Scottish Government the Team will lead on an exciting project which will work with vulnerable young people age 10 - 19 and aim to engage them in the creative arts.

##### **LEARN**

Thanks for funding from SAC, the Team will develop an innovative learning and skills model to develop the expertise of all staff across the building to disseminate their skills and thus make the building even more accessible to the wider community.

##### **Satellite Youth Theatres**

The Team will continue to run and develop groups encouraging more children from the local area to take part and develop confidence, communication and team work skills.

##### **SPARK**

The Team will develop the project once again and build on the successes of the project this year.

##### **Community**

The Team will build on this year's successes and aim to work with more community participants in a variety of areas.

##### **Dramatherapy**

The successful service will continue to work with clients with mental health issues and will work with colleagues in the Social Work Department to develop new and innovative ways of disseminating best practice.

They will also continue to run and develop our Creative Drama sessions.

##### **Perform at the Rep**

The Team will offer local secondary schools and youth groups the opportunity to perform at the Rep in a supported programme of performance sharing.

##### **Holiday Projects**

The Team will continue to offer Holiday projects and look at ways of helping these to service the need of their very long Youth Theatre waiting lists.

- 4.4 Dundee Rep's Creative Learning Team sustained 7 full time job equivalent in Dundee during 2008/2009 and is projected to achieve 36.5% of their income from non public sources in 2009/2010.

#### 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  
10 MARCH 2009**

**Dundee Rep Theatre  
Creative Learning Team**

	<b>Projected Out-turn 2008-2009</b>	<b>Projected Budget 2009-2010</b>
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>		
Staff costs, production costs, marketing costs, general overheads	221,753	330,071
<b><u>Income</u></b>		
Box Office, Fees, sponsorship, donations miscellaneous, project associated funding	81,132	189,058
<b><u>Grants</u></b>		
Scottish Arts Council Revenue Grant	90,000	90,000
Dundee City Council Revenue	20,299	20,603
Mental Illness Specific Grants	30,410	30,410
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>140,709</b>	<b>141,013</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>221,841</b>	<b>330,071</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) carried forward</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>0</b>