

## DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

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

**REPORT ON:** Dundee Repertory Theatre, Main House - Revenue Support 2009-2010

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

**REPORT NO:** 182-2009

### 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 2009-2010.

### 2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee approves the level of grant funding amounting to £359,282 as set out in the report.

### 3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The funding recommended is £359,282 which sum is provided from the Leisure and Communities Department's Revenue Budget for 2009-2010 as shown in the budget at Appendix 1.

### 4.0 MAIN TEXT

- 4.1 In 2008-09 Dundee Rep Theatre continued to build its audiences, extend its community outreach programme and enhance its critical reputation both locally and nationally.

#### 4.2 Review of the year 2008-2009

**Yarn** devised by Ben Harrison and the company, directed by Ben Harrison. This co-production with award winning site specific theatre company, Grid Iron received positive reviews and enabled the theatre to develop their partnership with Dundee Heritage Trust.

**Les Parents Terribles** by Jean Cocteau, directed and designed by internationally renowned artist Stewart Laing was a stylish and classy revival of a neglected classic.

**Mother Courage and Her Children** by Bertolt Brecht, directed by Gerry Mulgrew. A large scale and well received production of one of the 20th Century's greatest plays. The production was supported by a major education programme.

**Sunshine on Leith** by Stephen Greenhorn and the Proclaimers - revival of last year's successful tour. Once again, it sold out at Dundee Rep before the show opened and was followed by a 3 month tour. In total it played to around 70,000 people and took the name of Dundee around the country, enhancing the reputation of the theatre and the city as well as generating major job opportunities for actors, musicians and technicians.

**Beauty and the Beast** by Laurence Boswell - hugely popular Christmas show which

played to 96% audiences and garnered excellent reviews (4 five star reviews in national press)

**Who's Afraid of Virigina Woolf** by Edward Albee - revival of 20th Century American classic receiving very positive reviews.

**The Little Mermaid** by Mike Kenny - one of the UK's leading writers for children and young people, this show represents an attempt to develop the families and children's audience. The project is supported by an extensive education plan and is allowing the theatre to develop their relationship with the Education Department.

### **Programming**

The company continued to programme a variety of visiting companies aimed at developing and uplifting its diverse local audience by providing dance, drama, comedy, music and work for young people, families and children.

### **Support for artists/artistic development/professional training**

This element has been a longstanding part of the Rep Ensemble's activity. Ongoing training opportunities for the actors in the company are part of their programme of work. They also invite associate artists and other actors with a connection to the Rep to participate as appropriate. These activities included in 07/08 and 08/09

- Voice workshops
- intensive and ongoing singing lessons
- movement classes
- puppetry and mask work
- International directors' master classes: Vladimir Bouchler (Russia) and Daniela Peleanu Hardie (Rumania)

### **Centre for Creative Development**

- Building on the success of the Rep acting apprentice scheme, they have been invited to pilot a Technical Apprenticeship scheme, funding by Creative and Cultural Skills and Scottish Arts Council (SAC).
- The Rep were also successful in an application to SAC to develop the theatre in terms of the embedding of skills development and training opportunities for staff as well as opening the theatre up to local schools and colleges.

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

The Company will continue to develop its strategic plan and 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.

### **Proposed Development Areas**

**Technical Theatre Apprentice Scheme** -in partnership with Creative and Cultural Skills establish a Technical Theatre Apprentice scheme providing on the job training, mentoring and assessment resulting in a level 3 accredited qualification similar to an SVQ National Award.

**Creative Development Strand** - incorporate a Creative Development strand within the Rep Creative Learning and explore opportunities this can create for the Rep's Organisational Development Strategy.

**Dundee Rep Ensemble** - re-establish the position of Associate Director and restore the Ensemble to 8 actors.

### **Dundee Rep Theatre - Planned Programme 2009/2010**

The planned programme of work continues the process of balancing the needs of a diverse audience whilst broadening the range of artists with whom they collaborate, as well as, crucially, providing the artists at the Rep with on-going challenges and opportunities to develop. In addition, 2009/2010 is the tenth anniversary of Dundee Rep Ensemble, and they intend including a number of projects and events in their programme to celebrate this significant anniversary. This will be dependant on fundraising.

#### **Planned Programme**

##### **April - June 2009**

**Peer Gynt** (Contemporary Classic) by Colin Teevin, directed by Dominic Hill. A co-production with National Theatre of Scotland/Barbican. After the success of peer Gynt in 2008, the theatre will revive the award-winning show, playing the Rep as well as the Barbican Theatre in London, Lyceum Edinburgh, Eden Court Inverness, Theatre Royal Glasgow and His Majesty's Aberdeen.

##### **June 2009**

**Balgay Hill** (new Scottish play) by Simon Macallum, directed by James Brining. This new play explores and identifies homegrown supreme talent in Dundee in the 80's and the present day. Focussing on Dundee born Billy Mackenzie, the play aims to engage younger and a less stereotyped traditional theatre audience.

##### **September 2009**

**The Cherry Orchard** (classic drama) by Anton Chekhov in a version by Stuart Paterson, directed by Vladimir Bouchler. The Rep begins the tenth anniversary season with a classic company play. Vladimir Bouchler has undertaken workshops with the company and his affinity for Chekhov should make for a fascinating encounter with one of the greatest plays.

##### **November 2009    December 2009    February 2010**

Scottish Classic    Christmas Show    New play

#### **Additional Activity**

**Quelques Fleurs** by Liz Lochhead, directed by Robert Paterson. Platform performance featuring the 2009 graduate actors

#### **Throughout the Year**

Dundee Rep Ensemble 10th Anniversary celebrations - a series of projects and events to celebrate the Ensemble's 10th season.

- 4.4 Dundee Repertory Theatre Main House sustained 66 full time equivalent jobs in Dundee during 2008/2009 and they are projected to achieve 30% of their income from non public Services 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 REPERTORY THEATRE  
DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL**

**Appendix 1**

	<b>Projected Outcome 2008/2009</b>	<b>Projected Budget 2009/2010</b>
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>		
Administration Wages	187,486	209,673
Marketing/Sales	144,993	148,614
Front of House/Domestics	72,685	74,502
Production Wages	428,323	398,909
AssoDirector/Ensemble	264,548	247,432
Pension Contribution	14,000	18,000
Guest Actors/Mus/Performers		96,700
Rep Production Creatives	110,009	52,000
Rep Production costs	102,441	157,600
New Writing and Commissions	10,000	-
Royalties	27,042	30,000
Sunshine on Leith	111,315	
Visiting Productions	170,000	170,000
Marketing Costs	119,000	119,000
Website Design	20,000	5,000
General Overheads	270,751	281,200
Depreciation	30,000	30,000
Building Costs	50,000	50,000
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>2,102,593</b>	<b>2,058,630</b>
<b><u>Earned Income</u></b>		
Box Office - Rep plays	271,082	301,000
Box office - Visiting	215,000	225,000
Friends	5,000	5,000
Sunshine on Leith	119,000	0
Co - Productionst	23,041	32,000
Cafe/Restaurant	5,000	8,000
Programmes - profit	5,500	5,500
Confectionary - profit	9,500	9,500
Misc. Income	6,000	6,000
Sponsorship	10,000	15,000
Trusts and Foundations	20,000	20,000
<b>Total Earned Income</b>	<b>689,123</b>	<b>627,000</b>
<b><u>Grants</u></b>		
SAC Revenue	1,025,150	1,025,150
DCC Annual	354,846	359,282
Community & Education Grants	65,699	65,699
ERDF	16,061	
SAC Creative Apprenticeship		19,000
<b>Total Grants</b>	<b>1,396,057</b>	<b>1,469,131</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>2,085,180</b>	<b>2,096,131</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(17,413)</b>	<b>(37,501)</b>
Bank Interest received	18,000	25,000
Central Recharge Scottish Dance Theatre	34,320	36,500