

REPORT TO: ARTS & HERITAGE COMMITTEE - 16 APRIL 2001

**REPORT ON: DUNDEE REPERTORY THEATRE COMMUNITY DRAMA DEPARTMENT
- REVENUE SUPPORT 2001-2002**

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ARTS AND HERITAGE

REPORT NO: 201-2001

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To submit to the Committee a request for renewal of revenue funding to Dundee Repertory Theatre Community Drama Department for the year 2001-2002.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the Committee approves the level of grant funding amounting to £17,912 as set out in the Report.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The funding requested, as shown in the Budget at Appendix 1, is £17,912.

3.2 This expenditure will be met from the Arts and Heritage Revenue Budget 2001-2002.

3.3 The terms and conditions of grant will be contained within a Funding Agreement 2001-2002, between Dundee City Council and Dundee Repertory Theatre Community Drama Department.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The renewal of revenue funding to Dundee Repertory Theatre Community Drama Department will ensure the continued provision of a popular cultural service, that local needs are met locally, and that opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation are readily available to all.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Dundee Repertory Theatre Community Drama Department's mission statement is "to provide open access, without fees or auditions, to participatory drama and community arts, 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 and interaction." The Community Department delivers its programme within the community and directly engages those who may not normally participate in mainstream arts provision.

5.2 The Funding Agreement 2001-2002 will contain requirements that Dundee Repertory Community Drama Department practise equal opportunities policies in respect of its dealings with its public and staff.

6.0 MAIN TEXT

6.1 The Community Drama Department of Dundee Repertory Theatre has met and exceeded its business targets for 2000-2001. Its programme sustains an Adult Group, Women's Singing Group and Senior Youth Group who meet on a year round basis. The Youth Group was divided into two groups because of the number of attendees and the Junior Youth Group is fully subscribed, with a growing waiting list. Major on-stage productions were also undertaken. Workshop attendance totals were 6,200 and audiences for performances were 4,200.

6.2 The major performance events of the year were:-

- "The Cut", performed on Dundee Rep main stage as a Main House platform production.
- "Eh, That'll Be Right", performed at the Caird Hall, a large-scale participation show in which the Adult Drama Group and Women's Singing Group worked with outreach groups. The show had a cast of 103 and featured original songs.
- "Out There", performed on Dundee Rep main stage. This was the culmination of a year long project involving the local Writers Group and featured three original short plays.
- "Greener Grass", devised and performed by the Senior Youth Group. Members of the group performed the work and, working with Ariel Youth Theatre, toured to Rimnicu Vilcea in Romania. This international co-production has given rise to the opportunity for further international work leading towards the possibility of developing an international youth theatre festival.
- "Looking After Norman". The community company's small scale touring theatre group Street Level, developed this piece for younger children (5-8 years) and, with the support of the Education Department, toured to local primary schools, as well as performing on the Rep main stage.
- "Widows", was a major production performing on the Rep main stage with a cast of 40 and 1,270 audience attendances.

6.3 Community Drama's programme plans for 2001-2002 feature on-going public workshops, a summer school for Junior Youth, and the Senior Youth Group performing at the "Big Festival" in London. The Adult Group, with the support of members of Dundee Rep's professional ensemble company, will produce and perform "Measure for Measure", which will also go to community venues. The two youth groups will develop a project called "Perceive" which looks at their perceptions of their own and other cultures. In addition, drama workers will work in schools on appropriate behaviour and personal and social skills. The project will be used to pass on drama skills to teachers.

6.4 The Scottish Arts Council has increased its grant to the Community Drama Department in 2001-2002 by £13,600 (35%) to enable the continued provision of outreach work when time limited Lottery project funding ends in June 2001. In 2000-2001 the Community Drama Department sustained 10.8 full-time equivalent jobs in the city.

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 _____

COMMUNITY DRAMA DEPARTMENT**APPENDIX 1**

	Projected Out-turn 2000-2001	Projected Budget 2001-2002
Expenditure		
Staff costs, operating costs, general overheads	116,780	136,837
Income		
Box Office, sponsorship/donations, miscellaneous, fees/courses	22,369	20,500
Grants		
Scottish Arts Council	38,471	39,626
SAC Outreach		13,600
SAC Special Grant		3,000
Dundee City Council	17,476	17,912
DCC Special Grant	7,000	7,000
MISG (Dramatherapy)	27,000	27,000
Tayside Health Board	2,000	2,060
Total Income	114,316	130,698
Surplus Deficit for year	(2,464)	(6,139)
Surplus CFWD	11,882	9,418
Year End Result	9,418	3,279