

**Report To:** Leisure & Arts Services Committee – 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2002  
**Report On:** Dundee Repertory Theatre Main House – Revenue Support 2002 – 2003  
**Report By:** Director of Leisure and Arts  
**Report No.** 274-2002

**1. Purpose of the Report**

1.1 To submit to the Committee a request for renewal of revenue funding to Dundee Repertory Theatre, Main House, 2002-2003.

**2. Recommendation**

2.1 That the Committee approves the level of grant funding amounting to £258,493.00 as set out in the Report.

**3. Financial Implications**

3.1 The funding recommended, as shown in the Budget at Appendix 1, is £258,493.00.

3.2 This expenditure will be met from the Leisure and Arts Department's revenue budget, 2002-2003.

3.3 The terms and conditions of grant will be contained within a Funding Agreement 2002-2003, between Dundee City Council and Dundee Repertory Theatre, Main House.

**4. Local Agenda 21 Implications**

4.1 The renewal of revenue funding to Dundee Repertory Theatre Main House 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. Equal Opportunities Implications**

5.1 The mission statement of Dundee Repertory Theatre is "to provide the highest possible arts service to Dundee and to be central to the cultural life of Dundee by investing in opportunities for those communities who may not normally benefit from mainstream arts provision." The building provides full disabled access to all public areas. Access is further facilitated by the operation of a range of discount and concessionary ticket offers.

5.2 The Funding Agreement 2002-2003 will contain requirements that Dundee Repertory Theatre Main House practice equal opportunities policies in respect of its public and staff.

**6. Main Text**

6.1 The year 2001-2002 was the third year of Dundee Repertory Theatre's high profile project called "New Ways of Working", intended to build on the artistic and financial successes of the organisation by investing in the quality, range and scale of work produced, and by upgrading the theatre's facilities, to take its place as part of Dundee's cultural quarter. Originally funded only for the first three years, the theatre has now been awarded confirmed continued funding for 2002-2003, to enable the on-going development of the theatre's work.

6.2 During 2001-2002 the resident company:-

- Produced 6 new large scale productions including world premiers of Forbes Masson's musical "Mince?", Stuart Paterson's "Puss in Boots", the first Scottish production of Shakespeare's "Winter's Tale" for over 50 years, Chekhov's "The Seagull" directed and designed by visiting artists from Lithuania, "A'body's Aberdeen", and a Dundonian version of "Measure for Measure" produced with the Community Company.
- Revived its highly successful production of "Cabaret" to tour Inverness and be part of the Summer Festival
- Toured "The Seagull" to Glasgow, Aberdeen and Inverness.
- Presented two platform productions.
- Continued Saturday morning sessions of story-telling for children.
- Presented the six week Summer Festival in June and July, making a high profile contribution to Dundee's strategy for attracting more visitors and tourists.
- Won three nominations for the UK Theatre Awards.
- Secured a 92% increase in its core funding from the Scottish Arts Council to enable the continuation of the resident company.

The theatre continues to offer a range of work for the various audiences in Dundee including late night comedy, jazz and guitar festivals, jazz club in the foyer, contemporary dance and visits by Scotland's leading touring companies.

6.3 The theatre will continue its policy of commissioning new works which contribute to the stock of new Scottish plays. For 2002-2003 new plays are being commissioned from Marcella Evaristi, Anne Downie and Forbes Masson.

6.4 Dundee Repertory Theatre will also seek to contribute further to the city's economy via the encouragement of tourism. The marketing post of Tourism and Groups Officer, which is unique in the UK, works on designing links with Dundee's other tourist and visitor attractions, packages with local hotels, promoting the Summer Festival nationally, and commissioning a website with on-line sales feature, to facilitate information and bookings among the overseas market.

6.5 The annual audience figure has increased to 84,000 against the previous year's figure of 70,000 and the organisation has earned £630,000 in box office sales and touring fees (net of VAT). The café-bar operation has increased turnover by 20%. Of the Summer Festival attendees, 33% were tourists, total audiences increased by 5%, and ticket income increased by 20%. The Main House continues to sustain 70 full-time equivalent posts in the local economy.

6.6 Major plans for 2002-2003 include:

- The third Summer Season, comprising large scale productions, in June and July.
- The continued expansion of the theatre repertoire together with Platform Productions and Telling Tales sessions.
- New works commissioned from leading Scottish playwrights.
- The revival and presentation of existing productions in Scotland's other major theatres, through touring.
- Ongoing skills workshops in voice, movement, music and language.
- The continuation of the theatre apprenticeship scheme.
- The development of the tourist/visitor audience base including further packages with local tourist facilities and attractions.

**7. Consultation**

The Chief Executive, Director of Support Services, Director of Finance, Director of Corporate Planning, Director of Personnel and Management Services have been consulted on this report.

**8. Background Papers**

None

**SIGNATURE**

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**Director of Leisure and Arts**

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**Date**

**Dundee Repertory Theatre Main House****Appendix 1****Projected Out-turn  
2001 – 2002**      **Projected Budget  
2002 – 2003****Expenditure:**

Administration Wages	117,144	131,801
Marketing/Sales/FOH Wages	154,117	153,968
Performers/Directors/Design	354,669	378,966
Production Staff	270,736	289,978
Production Costs	52,572	53,895
Touring Costs	36,112	32,121
Royalties and Commissions	51,351	28,828
Visiting Company Fees	149,749	55,178
Marketing Costs	104,803	108,500
General Overheads	196,665	206,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,487,918</b>	<b>1,440,035</b>

**Income:**

New Writing	12,484	-
ERDF	2,515	-
Lottery Grant	129,806	-
Lottery Projects Reserve	41,274	-
SAC Revenue	286,459	571,459
SAC Project	29,396	25,000
DCC Revenue	253,424	258,493

**Trading Income:**

Box Office – Rep Plays	267,242	260,616
Box Office – Visiting Companies	171,526	65,265
Touring Income	71,000	68,000
Catering Net Profit	37,584	40,075
Programmes Net Profit	9,689	7,500
Confectionery Net Profit	5,000	5,250
Miscellaneous	17,000	17,850
Central Services Recharges	23,019	23,710
Sponsorship	29,500	23,000
Trusts Confirmed	101,000	20,000
Trusts/Sponsorship Target	-	54,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,487,918</b>	<b>1,440,218</b>

**Balance B/Forward**      -      -**Balance C/Forward**      -      **183**