

## **DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Leisure, Arts and Communities Committee - 25 April 2011

**REPORT ON:** Dundee Repertory Theatre Creative Learning Team - Revenue Support 2011-2012

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

**REPORT NO:** 96-2011

### **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 2011-2012

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 2.1 remits the Director of Leisure & Communities, on behalf of Dundee City Council, to enter into a one year Service Level Agreement with Dundee Repertory Theatre - Creative Learning Team, subject to on-going monitoring and evaluation as to its efficiency, economy and effectiveness
- 2.2 remits the Director of Leisure and Communities to keep these arrangements under review and amend as appropriate.
- 2.3 approves the Grant Funding amounting to £20,208 for the period 1 April 2011 - 31 March 2012.

### **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 2011-2012, 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 2010-2011 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 out with the theatre. The aim is 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. The work is prioritised at:
- Children (5-13) 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.

In 2010/11 the Creative Learning Team has delivered 1036 workshops to 24,892 participants. The programme supports Community Outreach workshops and Education workshops in Schools, Further and Higher Education, Dramatherapy and Creative Drama sessions, Youth Theatre, a Life Long Learning programme, a CPD programme for youth workers and teachers. A variety of other projects such as taster sessions, national projects, theatre tours, work experience, training for community artists and the creation of theatre for excellence for children and young people.

#### 4.2 Major Achievements in 2010/2011

- In June the Rep Community Company featuring the Women's Singing Group performed **The Bridge** written by Kevin Dyer on the Rep's main stage.
- Two 'Create in a Week' projects allowed 14-16 year olds the opportunity to perform **The Mystery Case** on the Rep's main stage.
- The Rep Community Ambassadors and Rep Ensemble Actors toured **Talking Heads** to Ardler, Douglas, Kirkton, Menzieshill and Whitfield Community Centres.
- Every member of the Creative Learning Team in house groups from 8-10 year olds to the adults performed on the Rep's main stage.
- The Creative Identities project continued their work with vulnerable young people aged 10-19 years and developed the engagement and cross-art partnership with the DCA .

#### Community

- The satellite Youth Theatre's are now thriving with long standing groups running in Menzieshill and Whitfield Community Centres funded by the Lethendy Trust. In July, Whitfield Youth Theatre performed in their own venue to family and friends.
- The Creative Learning team have established two groups for adults with learning difficulties one at Ellen Mhor (meeting weekly at the Rep) and one at the Wellgate Day Centre.
- **The 4AAAs**, a group run by Grey Lodge for young people with barriers to learning, now have weekly sessions at the Rep.
- A new group has been set up in the Ashram Centre funded by Mentor Scotland and will work with a group of young people on alcohol awareness within a cultural diverse community.
- The team will also work with a group of clients (some of whom are wheelchair users) from the Whitetop Centre.

#### Education Skills & Training

The Creative Learning Team's ambition is to develop a centre of excellence in the creative education of young people. The Learn Project was crucial to the development of this and although the funding came to an end in May 2010 the Rep has ensured the continued development of this area of work. A Learn project post has been mainstreamed into that of Skills & Training Co-Coordinator.

Staffs throughout the Rep have undergone CPD training to build on their skills when working with young people thus enabling more staff to deliver high quality knowledge transfer to young people. The department has also led many CPD sessions for teachers in topics such as Scottish Contemporary Theatre and has delivered master classes enabling teachers to get first hand knowledge from those working in the industry. The team have also worked to develop the technical skills of young people in areas such as lighting, sound and stage management.

The successful Enterprise project of 2009 was developed further and Enterprise 2010 was a two day project involving 50 young people from across the whole city working in the theatre for 2 days in 10 departments to learn new skills.

The work experience carousel has continued and 2010 saw 6 interns working at the

Rep. for 6 months to develop their skills and knowledge in areas such as Marketing, Visitor Services and Creative Learning.

### **Dramatherapy**

The client group and profile have both built this year, what has especially been developed is the introduction of **Care Pathways** for clients and making stronger links with the wider Mental Health Teams.

### **Playhouse - New writing for Primary Schools**

This year, the Playhouse project included a more comprehensive CPD element, providing teacher-directors with more technical knowledge and support in directing their students for the main stage performance. With additional funding they were also able to offer two of the Schools the opportunity to reflect on their experience participating in this project through art workshops with a local artist. The work produced in these sessions was displayed in the Box Office area during the festival and provided a very positive and colourful welcome to parents and members of the community who were new to the theatre.

### **Perform at the Rep**

This exciting project gave 120 young people from 6 schools across Dundee and Aberdeenshire the opportunity to present their work on the Rep. main stage to an invited audience of friends, family members, members of their school communities and educationalists. This project was also fully supported by the Rep's technical staff, giving the young people the opportunity to have their pieces realised in a professional setting. Teachers and participants both commented on the benefit of sharing their work with students from other schools and seeing how different ideas all stemmed from the same stimulus.

### **Enterprise at the Rep**

After overwhelmingly positive feedback from both participants and staff member's a like **Enterprise 2010** was extended to a 2 day project. This project offered S5 secondary school pupils from across Dundee the opportunity to apply for a job in the theatre, and allowed 50 successful applicants to work alongside theatre professionals for two days, culminating in a presentation on the main stage for family and friends, members of the school communities and educationalists.

### **First Stage – Playwriting in Schools**

This exciting and innovative new project gave 53 young people from Menzieshill High School, Harris Academy and St Paul's RC Academy the opportunity to develop and enhance their creative and critical literacy skills through the craft of playwriting. Supported and mentored by the Rep's Writer in Residence, award-winning playwright Douglas Maxwell, participants created their own bite-sized scripts which were showcased on the main stage directed and performed by the Rep's Ensemble company.

### **RYW2010**

An exciting and dynamic new initiative, Dundee Rep's first annual youth festival took place in mid November, and allowed young people to 'take over' the building for the weekend. Led by the Rep. Young Ambassadors (a group of young people aged 12-17 who meet on a regular basis and discuss ways to promote and encourage their peers to engage in theatre) the young people planned and executed their own festival, supported by RCL and Marketing staff, and participated in activities such as singing, Ensemble Hot seating, stage fighting, jewellery making and stand up comedy workshops among others. Events such as band night and open mic night were also organised. This festival was strongly supported by Creative Identities, and encouraged a number of newcomers and hard to reach young people into the theatre.

### **Holiday Projects**

Two **Create in a Week** projects gave 14 to 16 & 16 to 18 year olds the opportunity to work on a script from Monday to Friday with a performance on the Rep. main stage.

### **Creative Identities**

Continued to build on the work previously done working with looked after and vulnerable young people. The project offered bespoke projects and programmes of work including drama, dance, moving image, creative writing, screen-printing, photography, jewellery making together with visits to see live theatre and film.

### **Links**

The Creative Learning Team continued to develop their links with Community Centres, Schools and other venues to raise the profile of Dundee Rep. Creative Learning on a local and national level.

## **4.3 Major Plans for 2011-2012**

The Community Company are working towards a performance on the main stage in June. This will give a public platform to the different adult participatory groups.

In April the team will launch **Playhouse** and a Learning Disability performance and CPD which will take place on the Rep main stage.

June sees the 2011 **Perform @ the Rep** project which will involve community drama groups and the schools involved in the project.

Early July their 14 to 16 & 16 to 18s youth theatre will perform on the Rep. main stage.

Summer School's will take place in July with 50 participants having the opportunity to be involved in drama, dance, singing, Puppet making, drumming, creative writing, circus skills, story telling and costume making.

### **Skills, Training and Education**

- The team will continue to develop the theatre into a creative campus and cultural hub that will service the arts education needs of the city and region.
- **Playhouse** will be extended to include CPD and support for participating Schools and community groups/satellite youth theatres.
- Development of further links with the Ensemble and staff around the building to deliver education work will be undertaken.
- Development of a strong online presence, utilising social networking sites such as Facebook and YouTube, and educational resources such as Glow, LT Scotland and the Creative Portal will be undertaken.
- Expansion of the **Young Ambassadors Scheme** and the development of further RYW activity will happen. This will include activities and events targeting a young audience in the lead up to a festival, such as open mic nights and Flashmobs which will be heavily led by the Young Ambassadors and the Youth Week Planning Team.
- Further development of the **First Stage** project, to allow more young people to increase their creative and critical literacy skills through engaging in playwriting is planned.
- **Perform @ the Rep** will increase the amount of connections and collaboration between schools and the RCL team, encouraging participants to view the performance night as more of an 'occasion'
- There will be an increase in the volume and depth of education work surrounding ensemble productions and encouragement of schools to engage further with the Rep' production staff on the work involved in putting a production together.
- CPD provision will be increased to include an annual menu of opportunities for teachers, and to encourage teachers and youth workers from all across Scotland to attend.

### **Satellite Youth Theatres**

The Creative Learning Team will continue to run and develop these groups encouraging more young people from the local area to take part and develop

confidence, communication and teamwork skills.

### **Community Diversity**

The Creative Learning Team will continue to build on their successes and aim to work with more community participants in a variety of areas. The aim is to establish on-going links and opportunities to broaden the cultural diversity work of the theatre.

### **Dramatherapy**

The successful service will continue to work with clients with mental health issues and they will work with their colleagues in the Social Work Department to develop new and innovative ways of disseminating our best practice. They will also continue to run and develop their Creative Learning drama sessions.

### **Perform at the Rep**

The Creative Learning Team will offer local Secondary Schools and youth groups the opportunity to perform at the Rep. in a supported programme of performance sharing.

### **Summer Workshops**

50 participants will have the opportunity to be involved in many varied workshops over a week.

- 4.4 Dundee Rep's Creative Learning Team sustained 7 full time job equivalents in Dundee during 2009/2010 and is projected to achieve 86% of their income from non City Council sources in 2010/2011.

## **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), Assistant Chief Executive and Director 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**  
**11 APRIL 2011**

**DUNDEE REP THEATRE - CREATIVE LEARNING TEAM****APPENDIX 1**

	<b>Projected Out-turn 2010-2011 £</b>	<b>Projected Budget 2011-2012 £</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Staff costs	160,957	111,272
Education	13,821	8,038
Community	4,200	3,670
Dramatherapy	3,889	3,889
Participate	41,956	30,278
General	6,010	11,600
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>230,833</b>	<b>168,747</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Education	19,224	6,850
Community	11,203	12,500
Box Office/Fees	23,591	24,602
Sponsorship	5,000	5,000
Sub total income	<b>59,018</b>	<b>48,952</b>
<b>Grants</b>		
Dundee City Council	20,208	20,208
Creative Scotland	119,905	69,125
Dramatherapy	30,410	30,410
Other grants	1,240	
<b>Sub Total Grants</b>	<b>171,763</b>	<b>119,743</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>230,781</b>	<b>168,695</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(52)</b>	<b>(52)</b>

Note - The Rep's Main House core costs fund the Creative Learning Departments deficit