

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leisure, Arts and Communities Committee - 22 March 2010

REPORT ON: Dundee Repertory Theatre, Main House - Revenue Support 2010-2011

REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Communities

REPORT NO: 97-2010

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 2010-2011.

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, 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 approved the grant funding amounting to £359,282 per the period 1 April 2010 - 31 March 2011.

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 2010-2011 as shown in the budget at Appendix 1.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

4.1 In 2009-10 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 2009-2010

April 2009

The Little Mermaid by Mike Kenny, directed by Sarah Brigham

This version of Hans Anderson's classic story builds on the work for children, young people and family's outwith the traditional Christmas show. The production was supported by an extensive education programme of participation workshops and projects working with DCC Education Department in schools leading up to the productions opening. During the production workshops were held in the theatres front of house areas after each matinee performance where children created drawings and paintings inspired by the performance they had just seen.

April-June 2009

Peer Gynt by Colin Teevin, directed by Dominic Hill. A co-production with National Theatre of Scotland/Barbican.

After the success of Peer Gynt in 2008, we revived this award-winning show, playing the Rep as well as the Barbican, Lyceum Edinburgh, Eden Court Inverness, Theatre Royal Glasgow and His Majesty's Aberdeen.

June 2009

Balgay Hill by Simon Macallum, directed by Janes Brining

This new play explored identity, home and supreme talent in Dundee in the 80's and the present day. Focussing on Dundee-born Bill MacKenzie, the play engaged with a younger and less than typical traditional theatre audience. This was an ambitious and challenging production which attracted a large local audience and generated a lot of local interest.

September 2009

The Cherry Orchard by Anton Chekov, a version by Stuart Paterson, directed by Vladimir Bouchler.

Vladimir Bouchler had previously taken workshops with the Ensemble and because of this and his affinity for Chekov he was invited to direct this production of one of the greatest of plays. His educational and cultural differences pushed and challenged the actors beyond their comfort zones. The audience reaction to his interpretation of the play was fantastic and the overall experience for the Ensemble was hugely beneficial.

November 2009

The Elephant Man by Bernard Pomerance, directed by Jemima Levick.

This was Jemima Levick's first production as an Associate Director and her interpretation of this extraordinary true story of courage, heroism and inner beauty was presented with immense theatricality and flair which was praised by an enthusiastic audience and critics alike.

December 2009

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, a version by Neil Duffield, directed by James Brining.

Continuing on the Rep's success and established reputation for producing the very best in traditional Christmas family entertainment this spectacular production was seen by 22,000 people and broke box office records receiving 5 star reviews in the local and national press.

March 2010

Equus by Peter Shaffer, directed by Jemima Levick

Throughout the Year

To celebrate Dundee Rep Ensemble 10th Anniversary the Rep presented a series of projects and events to celebrate the 10th season. These will continue into the first half of 2010.

Programming

The Rep 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 our programme of work. We also invite associate artists and other actors with a connection to the Rep to participate as appropriate. These activities included in 08/09 and 09/10

- Voice workshops
- Intensive and ongoing singing lessons

- Movement classes
- Puppetry and mask work
- Playtime for Actors

Centre for Creative Development

- Building on the success of the Rep acting apprentice scheme, we have piloted a Technical Apprenticeship scheme, funded by Creative and Cultural Skills and SAC and we hope to develop this further

We were also successful in an application to SAC to develop the Rep in terms of the embedding of skills development and training opportunities for staff at the theatre as well as opening the theatre up to local schools and colleges.

4.3 Major Plans for 2010-2011

Dundee Rep Theatre will seek new opportunities to support and further develop:

1. Engagement and Creativity
 - **Workshop Theatre** – research the feasibility of a second space, dedicated to training, teaching and skills development; with the capacity to programme small-scale performances of children's work, new writing, youth theatre and creative learning performances.
 - **Centre for Creative Development** – develop further training opportunities for actors, staff, teachers, freelance artists seeking to integrate further learning approaches into our practice. This will mean the pursuit of partnerships across sectors particularly University of Dundee, Creative and Cultural Skills, Dundee College and RSAMD
2. Develop further national and international opportunities for Dundee Rep Ensemble
3. Organisational Development – review the organisations vision, mission, objectives and strategies

Planned Programme 2010/2011

The programme of work continues the process of balancing the needs of a diverse audience whilst broadening the range of artists with whom the Rep collaborate, as well as, crucially, providing the artists at the Rep with further on-going challenges and opportunities to develop and engaging the best theatre workers with the aim of creating work of international quality. The repertoire remains diverse and includes a classic musical, two family shows, a new Scottish play, a large scale classic and a revival of one of the Rep's most popular shows.

In addition, the Rep will continue to expand and develop their relationship with Rep Creative Learning, and our developmental activity in the fields of learning, skills development and new writing.

April 2010

The Elves and the Shoemakers (family show) by Mike Kenny, directed by Jemima Levick, designed by Francis O'Connor

Building on the success of last year's *The Little Mermaid*, this show is aimed at schools and families prior to and during the Easter holidays. Irene MacDougall and John Buick, two of the Rep's most experienced performers will feature in this show which will also have puppetry and live music. We will work closely with the Quality Improvement service at Dundee City Council to integrate learning opportunities for teachers and students which resonate with the new Curriculum for Excellence as part

of this project. The show demonstrates our commitment to developing quality work for family audience's outwith the Christmas period and also close partner working between Dundee Rep Ensemble, Rep Creative Learning and Dundee City Council.

May- June 2010

Sweeney Todd (Classic Musical) by Stephen Sondheim, directed by James Brining, designed by Colin Richmond, Musical Director Hilary Brooks

Building on the success of a range of musicals at the Rep in recent years including Cabaret, Gypsy, Flora the Red Menace and Sunshine on Leith (TMA Best musical 2007), Sweeney Todd represents another progression for the Rep and our audience. Sondheim's masterpiece is 30 years old and raises the bar for the Ensemble Company which will be prepared for the production with a range of singing lessons and also be supplemented by visiting actors and musicians to create a vivid, contemporary and exciting version of one of the greatest examples of musical theatre.

September 2010

Sunshine on Leith (Scottish Musical) by Stephen Greenhorn, directed by James Brining

A revival of this highly successful musical which Dundee Rep first produced in 2007.

November 2010

Scottish Classic directed by Jemima Levick

December 2010

Christmas Show directed by James Brining

February 2011

New Scottish play, directed by Jemima Levick

Additional Activity throughout the Year

- The Rep will explore the possibilities of platform performances with the Ensemble company
- Dundee Rep Ensemble support activities – we will run a series of projects and events to support the audience's interpretation of the work

New Writing

The Rep will initiate a series of writing development projects for young and emerging writers supported by the Ensemble and working with Rep Creative Learning

Support for artists/artistic development/professional training

Ongoing training opportunities for the actors in the company will include the following activities:

- Voice workshops
- Intensive and ongoing singing lessons
- Puppetry workshop
- Boal masterclass
- Frantic Assembly masterclass
- Fight classes

- 4.4 Dundee Repertory Theatre Main House sustained 68 full time equivalent jobs in Dundee during 2009/2010 and they are projected to achieve 83% 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
1 MARCH 2010

**DUNDEE REPERTORY THEATRE - MAIN HOUSE
DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL**

Appendix 1

| | Projected Outcome 2009/2010 | Projected Budget 2010/2011 |
|----------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Expenditure | | |
| Staff Costs | 1,108,519 | 1,137,337 |
| Production Costs | 544,640 | 587,130 |
| Marketing Costs | 124,000 | 129,900 |
| Overheads | 285,200 | 273,200 |
| Total Expenditure | 2,062,359 | 2,127,567 |
| Income | | |
| Main House Income | 628,197 | 680,000 |
| Front of House Income | 14,000 | 27,333 |
| General Income | 30,000 | 30,000 |
| Miscellaneous Income | 6,000 | 10,000 |
| Sub Total Income | 51,197 | 747,333 |
| Grants | | |
| Scottish Arts Council | 1,025,150 | 1,025,150 |
| DCC Annual Revenue Support | 359,282 | 359,282 |
| Sub Total Grants | 1,384,432 | 1,359,432 |
| Total Income | 2,062,629 | 2,131,765 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) | 270 | 4,198 |