

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leisure, Arts and Communities Committee - 24 March 2008

REPORT ON: Dundee Repertory Theatre Creative Learning Team - Revenue Support 2008-2009

REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Communities

REPORT NO: 190-2008

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, (previously Education and Community Team) 2008-2009.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Committee approves the level of grant funding amounting to £19,959 as set out in the report.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The funding recommended is £19,959 which sum is provided for in the Leisure and Communities Department's Revenue budget for 2008-2009, 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 2008-2009 between Dundee City Council and Dundee Repertory Theatre, Creative Learning Team.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

4.1 Dundee Repertory Theatre's Education and Community Team changed its name in 2007 to Creative Learning Team. Its work is prioritised as before to:

- Children (0-13) 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.

4.2 Review of the Year 2007-2008

In 2007/08 the Creative Learning Team has delivered 1315 workshops to 23,789 participants. The programme supports Community Outreach Workshops, Education Workshops in schools, Further and Higher Education, Dramatherapy and Creative Drama sessions, Youth Theatre, Life Long Learning programme, a CPD programme for youth workers and teachers and a variety of other projects such as taster sessions, national and international projects, theatre tours, work experience and training for community artists.

- The Rep Youth Theatre (ages 14-18) collaborated with the professional acting company, The Rep Ensemble and a team of professional artists. The project received high critical acclaim in the Scotsman and the Herald and was awarded an Arts Council rating of Excellent. The production allowed young people to learn directly from the professionals in acting, directing, composing, lighting, sound, stage management and costume design.
- The Youth Theatre Company also performed in Discontented Winter at the Rep and at the Big Youth Theatre Festival - an international festival in London.
- The Rep Young Adults (age 18-25) performed on the Rep main stage also allowing two young people from Dundee the opportunity to write the script for them.
- The Adult Drama Group and the Women's Singing Group performed twice on the main stage this year - once in the buildings 25 Anniversary Gala and once in their own production Rep Creative Voices.
- Members of the Rep Young Adults and Rep Youth Theatre Company performed in Headlong Theatre's production of Faustus during their visit to the Rep in November 2007. This gave them the opportunity work alongside professionals and devise their own section of drama which slotted into the professional production.
- A Play in a Week allowed 11-13 year olds the opportunity to perform on the main stage.

Community

- The establishment of a new Community Drama Officer role has allowed them to develop their outreach programme. Numerous groups have been run in Menzieshill, Whitfield, Stobswell, Mill O' Mains, St Mary's Douglas, Fintry, Lochee, Kirkton and Mid Craigie allowing them to develop their links with community centres, youth venues and other places the community meet.
- A long held ambition to set up a sustainable satellite Youth Theatre was achieved thanks for funding from the Lethendy Trust, Cultural Pathfinds and the Centre.

Dramatherapy

- Not only has the client group and profile built this year but they were also thrilled to be invited to host the citywide SEE ME Mental health Celebration event allowing over 160 people who access mental health services to come to the Rep and celebrate their recovery at the Rep. They were also invited to speak and give workshops at the regional conference on Mental Health.

Exchange

- The production they created with a group of young people for the National Theatre of Scotland's Exchange Programme was singled out for high praise and they were invited to perform again at the National Festival of Youth Theatre. Unfortunately due to lack of funding they were unable to take up this opportunity but the young people appreciated the recognition.

SPARK

- Their flagship education project funded by Provident Financial was a huge success. 5 primary schools (Rowantree Ardler, Charleston, Dens Load, Lochee) who were identified as having little or no access to arts provision and situated in regeneration priority areas were once again given the opportunity to see the Christmas show at a reduced price and work with Directors, Artists and a Composer to create performances which they played at the Rep.

PLAYHOUSE

- This project allowed them to work with 9 local primary schools on 6 new plays commissioned by Dundee Rep and their partner theatres across the UK. The plays were performed at the Rep allowing many friends and family who had never accessed the building to do so and the teachers received a comprehensive CPD programme.

2 of the SPARK schools took up the opportunity to take part in the project and fund it from their own resources proving that the SPARK is helping to embed the arts into the school curriculum.

In addition one school who took part performed the project to the Ofsted Inspectors who asked if it was possible for their project to be highlighted on the HMLe website as an example of best practice.

Holiday Projects

- Holiday Projects were held for a variety of ages and proved very successful. Productions this year happened on the Rep main stage.

Wild Things

- In partnership with The Space, Dundee Contemporary Arts, Scottish Dance Theatre and Dundee City Council Camperdown Country Park Wildlife Centre, they delivered 8 weeks of community sessions and 2 weeks of an intensive summer school for the young people of Dundee.

National Youth Theatre Festivals

- They took 25 young people to the Big Youth Theatre Festival in London. They performed their show in front of hundreds of other young people, took part in workshops run by the very best theatre artists from across the UK and camped with 1,000 other young people from across the world for 4 days, building confidence, team work skills and communication abilities.

Links

- They continued to develop their links with community centres, schools and other venues and to raise the profile of Dundee Rep Creative Learning on a local, national and international level.

4.3 Major Plans for 2008-2009

Big Youth Theatre Festival

They hope once again to take young people to the Big Youth Theatre Festival; a four day event in which they have the opportunity to participate in workshops from some of the leading practitioners from across the country, perform in front of their peers and other Youth Theatres and meet people from around the world.

Productions

Productions will be created by the Youth Theatre (ages 14-18), Rep Young Adults (age 18-25) and Adult Drama Group (25 plus). The productions will be professionally supported and will allow the participants to develop in confidence and learn new skills.

Wild Things

In partnership with The Space, Dundee Contemporary Arts, Scottish Dance Theatre and Dundee City Council Camperdown Country Park Wildlife Centre they will deliver the Wild Things project in communities across Dundee.

Menzieshill Satellite Youth Theatre

They will continue to run and develop this group encouraging more children from the local area to take part and develop confidence, communication and team work skills.

SPARK

They will develop the project once again and build on the successes of the project in 2007/2008. They will work with all 5 schools and over 600 children.

PLAYHOUSE

They will take part in the PLAYHOUSE project once again involving their Youth Theatre as well as schools, giving young people outside of formal education the opportunity to perform this new commissioned plays. They will extend the Continued

Professional Development programme giving teachers the opportunity to work directly with writers.

Community

They will build on this year's successes and aim to work with more community participants in a variety of areas.

Dramatherapy

The successful service will continue work with clients with mental health issues and they will work with the Social Work department to develop new and innovative ways of disseminating best practice.

They will also continue to run and develop their Creative Drama sessions.

Perform at the Rep

They will offer local secondary schools and youth groups the opportunity to perform at the Rep in a supported programme of performance sharing.

Holiday Projects

They will continue to offer Holiday projects and look at ways of helping these to service the need of their very long Youth Theatre waiting lists.

- 4.4 Dundee Rep's Creative Learning Team sustained 7 full time job equivalent in Dundee during 2007/08 and they are projected to achieve 39% of their income from non public sources in 2008/09.

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
4 MARCH 2008

Appendix 1

Dundee Rep Theatre
Creative Learning Team

	Projected Out-turn 2007-2008	Projected Budget 2008-2009
<u>Expenditure</u>	£	
Staff costs, production costs, marketing costs, general overheads	215,283	229,321
<u>Income</u>		
Box Office, Fees, sponsorship, donations miscellaneous, project associated funding	71,897	88,713
<u>Grants</u>		
Scottish Arts Council Revenue Grant	90,000	90,900
Scottish Arts Council Education Grant	5,000	0
Dundee City Council Revenue	19,713	19,959
Mental Illness Specific Grants	30,179	30,179
Sub Total	144,892	141,038
Total Income	216,789	229,751
Surplus/(Deficit)	1,506	430
Surplus brought forward	815	2,321
Surplus carried forward	2,321	2,751