

# Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 13 November 2018

## Capital Theatres

### Company Performance Report 2017/18

Item number	8.4
Report number	
Executive/routine	Executive
Wards	All
Council Commitments	<a href="#">C46</a>

#### Executive Summary

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This is the fifth annual performance report prepared as a requirement of the Services and Funding Agreement process adopted in 2013/14.

Festival City Theatres Trust has now been renamed and branded as Capital Theatres (CT), and is responsible for the programming and management of both the King's and Festival Theatres, and the Studio at the Festival Theatre. CT has had another successful year, with positive growth in programming and income.

CT are currently progressing a King's Theatre Capital Redevelopment Project. A separate project update report has been prepared for Committee.

## Capital Theatres

### Company Performance Report 2017/18

#### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 It is recommended that Committee note the positive performance of CT during 2017/18.
- 1.2 To refer this report to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee.

#### 2. Background

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- 2.1 This is the fifth annual performance report prepared as a requirement of the Services and Funding Agreement process adopted in 2013/14.

#### 3. Main report

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- 3.1 CT, previously Festival City Theatres Trust, reports on its performance to Council Monitoring Officers as required by the Services and Funding Agreement on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis.
- 3.2 The Services and Funding Agreement for 2017/18 was aligned to Council Commitments and had 22 Targets aligned to six key performance headings reflecting the citywide Culture Plan objectives. These were:
  - 3.2.1 ensuring that everyone has access to world class cultural provision;
  - 3.2.2 encouraging the highest standards of creativity and excellence in all aspects of cultural activity;
  - 3.2.3 supporting greater partnership working in the cultural and creative sectors and maximise resources available to help them thrive all year round;
  - 3.2.4 articulating the positive impact to culture in Edinburgh and promoting Edinburgh's cultural success locally, nationally and internationally;
  - 3.2.5 developing and supporting the infrastructure which sustains Edinburgh's cultural and creative sectors; and
  - 3.2.6 investing in artist and practitioner development, and supporting and sustaining the local artistic community.

- 3.3 To deliver a more memorable and user friendly company name for the development, promotion and management of the Festival and King's Theatres and the Festival Theatre's Studio venue, the board addressed and agreed the change from Festival City Theatres Trust to CT.
- 3.4 The programme continues to reflect work by international and national theatre and dance companies, alongside performances and participation activities by local non-professional groups across the three venues.
- 3.5 2017/18 programme examples included:
  - 3.5.1 the musical comedy The Addams Family;
  - 3.5.2 the continued success of the panto, in this instance, Cinderella;
  - 3.5.3 another strong season for the city's amateur companies including Edinburgh Music Theatre and the Bohemians Lyric Opera Company;
  - 3.5.4 five secondary schools were brought together to collaborate on the devised renewed take on A Midsummer Night's Dream, called Shakedown;
  - 3.5.5 a new theatre experience was delivered in the shape of WHIST which took individual audience members on a virtual reality journey into the unconscious mind;
  - 3.5.6 a strong dance programme included Richard Alston's new work premiere Carnival; and the only Scottish dates of the new Cuban dance company Acosta Danza;
  - 3.5.7 a vivid and hilarious devised performance piece, The Great Lafayette, celebrating Festival Theatre's history as the oldest continuous theatre site in Scotland was staged in-house and in care homes;
  - 3.5.8 the eighteen young members of the Attic Collective concluded their year of year of training and development supported by Capital Theatres;
  - 3.5.9 the Learning and Participation programme continues, and delivered 329 events with participant numbers up by 28%;
  - 3.5.10 126 accessible performances were delivered including 25 relaxed, 25 dementia friendly, 27 BSL interpreted performances, 32 audio described, and 17 captioned; and
  - 3.5.11 The Forget Me Not programme (a project to make the theatres dementia-friendly) delivered 118 events.
- 3.6 Ticket income increased by 4% to £10.3m, online ticket sales increased by 1% to 53% of all sales and c.60% of audiences are Edinburgh residents.
- 3.7 The theatres programme also received very positive reviews and press coverage and a link to the online CT's Annual Review is provided at point 10 in this report.

## **4. Measures of success**

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- 4.1 CT contribute to the delivery of the Council's Business Plan.
- 4.2 The Services and Funding Agreement ensures performance reporting requirements are monitored and met.
- 4.3 Success is also measured against Culture Plan objectives:
  - 4.3.1 ensure that everyone has access to world class cultural provision;
  - 4.3.2 encourage the highest standards of creativity and excellence in all aspects of cultural activity;
  - 4.3.3 support greater partnership working in the cultural and creative sectors and maximise resources available to help them thrive all year round;
  - 4.3.4 articulate the positive impact of culture in Edinburgh and promote Edinburgh's cultural success locally, nationally and internationally;
  - 4.3.5 develop and support the infrastructure which sustains Edinburgh's cultural and creative sectors; and
  - 4.3.6 invest in artist and practitioner development, and supporting and sustaining the local artistic community.

## **5. Financial impact**

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- 5.1 The Council awarded a grant of £616,937 to Capital Theatres in 2017/18.
- 5.2 Capital Theatres ticket income increased by 4% to a total of £10.3m.

## **6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact**

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- 6.1 This report is required under the Council's governance arrangements for Council Companies. There are no risk, policy or compliance implications arising from this report.

## **7. Equalities impact**

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- 7.1 CT actively promotes access to services for different equalities groups; provides data on the level of use of services by equalities groups; provides evidence of quality analysis relating to equality groups.

## 8. Sustainability impact

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8.1 There are no sustainability implications arising from this report.

## 9. Consultation and engagement

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9.1 None

## 10. Background reading/external references

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10.1 Capital Theatres website: [Capital Theatres](#)

10.2 Capital Theatres Annual review 2017/18: [Capital Theatres Annual Review 2017/18](#)

10.3 Previous Committee Reports:

[Culture and Sport Committee Item 7.5 on 19 August 2014 Culture and Sport Committee | The City of Edinburgh Council](#)

[Culture and Sport Committee Item 7.6 on 16 December 2014 Culture and Sport Committee | The City of Edinburgh Council](#)

[Culture and Sport Committee Item 7.2 on 18 August 2015 Culture and Sport Committee | The City of Edinburgh Council](#)

[Culture and Sport Committee Item 7.2 on 23 August 2016 Culture and Sport Committee | The City of Edinburgh Council](#)

[Culture and Communities Committee Item 9.4 on 14 November 2017 Culture and Communities Committee | The City of Edinburgh Council](#)

### **Paul Lawrence**

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## 11. Appendices

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