

Montgomeryshire Youth Theatre

charity no. 516040

Trustees' Report and Accounts, 01/09/06 ~ 31/08/07

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## Introduction

During the twelve months covered by this report, the Trustees have held four fully quorate meetings, together with sub-committee meetings to discuss specific issues. There has been a thorough and on-going monitoring of the work of the organisation, based on the detailed reports provided by the Director at every meeting. The year has seen a full programme of varied activities, which are detailed in the body of this report.

## Finance and Fundraising

Our accounts show a healthy balance, but there is no room for complacency, and close checks are kept on expenditure by means of budget forecasting, presented regularly at meetings of the Trustees. We have been fortunate in attracting a further grant of £5000 from the Llysdinam Trust; this grant provides valuable core funding to support the running of the organisation, as well as specific projects. We have again received grants from Powys County Council. The annual grant from the youth service has now been moved to the County's arts budget. We are hopeful that this funding will continue, but the deep financial cuts in the County's overall budget do raise some concerns about the future of such funding, and of the CESF fund, which we have, again, received for specific projects. Despite further meetings with County officers, attempting to gain equal footing with the support which is given through Theatr Powys to Mid Powys Youth Theatre, there has been no progress on this front.

We again record our thanks to Welshpool High School, without whose in-kind support in the provision of premises it would be impossible to operate the organisation. Thanks, too, to Welshpool Town Council for their annual grant, which is much appreciated.

Fees to workshop leaders and other professionals who work with the group have not been increased this year, but must be reviewed in the coming months. We have maintained membership fees at the same rate as in previous years, with concessions for families on low incomes.

## Staffing

As in previous years, all who work with the youth theatre have the professional training to do so, and work on short-term, self-employed contracts. We are fortunate to have the services of workshop leaders and specialists in various areas of the performing arts, and as they stay with us there is stability and continuity for the groups. This also enables detailed forward planning and collaboration between workshop leaders and the director, at regular meetings. All tutors and others who work with the groups have CRB checks.

## Membership

The high level of membership and attendance has been maintained. While a small number of applicants have had to remain on the waiting list we have been able to offer places to most who wish to take them up. The senior group remains consistently over-subscribed: it is likely that those members who will be in school year 9 in the coming year will have to wait a while before they can be brought into the senior group, as numbers are likely to remain too high to accommodate them. We hope to provide some extra targetted activity for them while they are waiting. Over all groups, there is a weekly attendance of approximately 70 young people, most of whom never miss a session.

## Workshops, Projects, Productions

Junior group (school years 5 and 6): We have been fortunate to retain the services of Penny Jones, who has now taken over responsibility for planning and delivering the workshops at this level. During the winter term the director worked alongside her for support, but this involvement became lighter as the year progressed. There is volunteer assistance given by a member of the senior group, Daragh Quinn, which is invaluable. Workshops were held during all three terms, the summer one being shorter. At the end of each term, the group showed elements of the work they had done to an invited audience of parents.

Intermediate group (school years 7 and 8): This group has been led by Sarah Owen for the past three years. They have met over three terms, with a slightly shorter set of workshops in the summer. The work in the early part of the year led to a double-bill performance, with the senior group (see below).

Senior group (school years 9/10 to 13): The group is led by Ginny Graham. Workshops and rehearsals were held during the three terms, the summer sessions being intensive skills-based. The focus of earlier work was towards the major, double-bill production. During the summer term, the group also worked with the poet Chris Kinsey, workshoping her ideas for a radio play, which is in the course of creation.

Circus skills workshop: A one-day workshop was held during the summer term for juniors and intermediates. Sixteen members attended. The workshop was successful, many skills learned and displayed to an invited audience, and highly enjoyable. This had originally been planned as a two-day workshop, but the take-up was lower than expected so only one day was held to incorporate both groups. It is clear that the summer term is not the best one for weekend events, which will be taken on board for future events.

Main production: With the title *Dispossessed*, this double-bill production was mounted by the seniors and intermediates. Two powerful plays, both devised, dealing with both timeless and contemporary events, with music composed by Iris Gordijn. This was both an artistic and box-office success. Given three performances, it was stage-managed by a senior member. The total cast for the two plays numbered 50+.

Summer Project: During the summer holidays, six members of the senior group worked intensively for one week on a part-devised play, *And this is the Tale they Told* was given three performances, to good-sized and highly appreciative audiences in Hirnant and Welshpool.

## Resources

A new lighting rig was purchased, to replace the original system. This is used on tour, and to supplement theatre lighting when needed. It is also loaned free of charge to primary schools for their productions, and to community organisations who need it. The extensive wardrobe, which is supervised by Penny Jones, is also drawn on by some community groups, and by the Performing Arts Department of Welshpool High School

## Networking

The youth theatre has strong links in the community, and with other arts organisations such as Arts Connection. The Director is Chair of Powys Arts Forum. It enjoys good press coverage, and its informal links with performing arts organisations provides it with opportunities, such as the current planning for a performance in connection with the Twelfth Night Festivities at Llandinam, organised by TASC.

## Conclusion

At the start of its 25th year of operation, Montgomeryshire Youth Theatre is a healthy, thriving and popular organisation, highly valued by its members, their families, the artistic, educational, and wider community in which it operates. Its strength lies in the dedication and expertise of its staff, but most of all in the members themselves, who value their shared experiences, working with exemplary good humour, focus and concentration on the tasks they are set (and set themselves). Many have moved on to successful careers in many areas of the performing arts. Many more have benefitted less directly, but no less importantly, in their growth in self-confidence and self-presentation, and abiding interest in the arts, fostered during their work with the youth theatre. And we now have the next generation, some of the children of former members who are moving through the three levels of membership, in their parent's footsteps. The youth theatre embarks on its second quarter-century firm in the knowledge that it has many friends and supporters, and most of all that it is a major and beneficial influence on the lives of the young people it serves.

*Eileen Roberts, Chair, Montgomeryshire Youth Theatre*

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Trustees of Montgomeryshire Youth Theatre

Eileen Roberts, *Chair*

Lesley Cookson, *Treasurer*

Charlotte Durie, *Secretary*

Caroline Clegg

Jenny Wilcox

Jane Howells

Geraint Owen

Members' Representatives/Observers

Henry Pass

Rosie Laceby-Common

Co-optees

Clare Martin

Iris Gordijn

Eluned Gold

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# MONTGOMERYSHIRE YOUTH THEATRE

*registered charity no. 516040*

## Income and Expenditure 01/09/06 - 31/08/07

### Income

#### Opening balances:

|             |         |
|-------------|---------|
| current a/c | 3340.89 |
| deposit a/c | 7799.58 |

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11140.47

interest on deposit a/c 256.13

#### Grants:

|                        |         |
|------------------------|---------|
| Llysdinam Trust        | 5000.00 |
| Powys County Council   | 6384.00 |
| Welshpool Town Council | 500.00  |

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11884.00

#### Other income:

|                        |         |
|------------------------|---------|
| Members' subscriptions | 3338.00 |
| Box Office             | 1951.95 |
| Sales                  | 56.00   |
| Donations              | 65.00   |
| Raffle                 | 88.00   |
| Services rendered      | 54.13   |

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5553.08

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28833.68

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Expenditure

|                                |          |          |
|--------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Director's Administration      | 3206.30  |          |
| Artists Fees                   | 5454.00  |          |
|                                | <hr/>    | 8660.30  |
| Production Costs               |          | 367.64   |
| Other expenditure:             |          |          |
| Travel                         | 148.60   |          |
| Translation                    | 157.23   |          |
| General Administration         | 91.17    |          |
| Insurance                      | 270.12   |          |
| Audit Fee                      | 75.00    |          |
| Replacement lighting equipment | 882.14   |          |
| Transfers to Petty Cash        | 864.00   |          |
|                                | <hr/>    | 2488.26  |
|                                |          | <hr/>    |
|                                |          | 11516.20 |
| <u>Closing balances:</u>       |          |          |
| Current account                | 4286.77  |          |
| (less cheque not presented)    | 25.00    |          |
|                                | <hr/>    | 4261.77  |
| Deposit account                | 13055.71 |          |
|                                | <hr/>    | 17317.48 |
|                                |          | <hr/>    |
|                                |          | 28833.68 |
|                                |          | <hr/>    |