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Ian

From: Muriel Ann Macleod [muriel@geas.demon.co.uk]
Sent: 17 November 2004 13:22
To: info
Subject: Re:Highlands and Islands Theatre Network Statement [Scanned]
Importance: High

Dear Sir/Madam,

Find attached the Highlands and Islands Statement to the Cultural Commission which was submitted to you by email on ian@culturalcommission.org.uk on the 27th of September which was your submission deadline (I had telephoned your office prior to sending the email to check details and have had no bounce back from that address). I also sent a copy by post at that time. Having spoken to one of your staff this week you seem not to have received anything from us.

I am very disappointed that our views are not included in your interim report I went to some lengths to undertake this consultation with all 20 of our member companies. If you are doing further consultations please can you let us contribute.

Having only seen someone else's copy of the interim report could you please send me one to the address below.

I have also posted a copy of the Statement by registered mail.

Best regards,

Muriel Ann Macleod
Highlands and Islands Theatre Network Development Officer
5 Churchill Dr
Stornoway
Isle of Lewis
HS1 2NP
T:01851704641
Mob:07748087371

17/11/2004

Statement by The Highlands & Islands Theatre Network to the Cultural Commission - 24th September 2004

The Highlands & Islands Theatre Network (HITN) was set up as an informal grouping in 1995 and has the agreed aim, to:

- promote the professional theatre sector in the Highlands and Islands at regional, national and international levels.

It has over 20 member companies, ranging from some long established, some new, which deliver a range of activities including:

- new work including writing, touring product, educational work, dance, community plays, multi media projects, formal educational courses, special needs, international work, theatre in education and large scale celebrations.

The HITN is becoming a formal organisation (Company limited by guarantee with charitable status) to provide an identifiable mechanism for contact and communication, advocacy and advice in order to develop a sustainable sector, which takes into account the sparse population and geographical challenges faced by the HITN members.

Current Status –

- **Arts in Motion** - Evanton, Ross. Arts in Motion are an independent multi-arts and media company specialising in public and performance work.
- **Theatre Hebrides** – Isle of Lewis, commissioning and producing new theatre from Western Isles issues, both historical and contemporary, & workshop programmes.
- **Grey Coast Theatre Company** – Caithness, touring theatre and community Projects, formal education courses.
- **Out of Darkness** – Elgin, special needs
- **Right Lines** - Alves Right Lines is a writer led company that is committed to producing accessible, quality entertainment in the Highlands and internationally.
- **Dog Star** – Beaulieu, New writing, Touring theatre
- **Adventurers Unlimited** – Fearn, work pan-Highland and elsewhere. Education, youth activities, tourism, training. Sustainable unsupported by arts funders.
- **theatrecollective@highland** – Inverness, commissioned new ensemble work, company collaborations and touring on Highland themes
- **Tosg** – Skye, Gaelic language theatre
- **Mull Theatre** – new writing and range of touring theatre,
- **Ballet West** – Argyll based
- **Plan B** – Conon Bridge, Contemporary dance
- **Dannsa** – Conon Bridge, traditional dance forms touring and teaching

- **Roadrunner**- Childrens Theatre
- **Goode for a Giggle** – Culbokie, Murder Mystery entertainments
- **Tartan Chameleon** – Cawdor, Touring theatre, International artists
- **Charioteer Theatre Company** - Forres- A public service to culture with the aim to promote theatre and restore the classics.
- **Skeklers** - Shetland
- **Tabula Rasa**
- **DogDaze** - Moray. Under the auspices of the Arts Development Team in Moray Council. Theatre for children and young people.

Current Support

Local Authorities

The Highland Council does not support the development and production of indigenous professional theatre in any meaningful way.

CNES will fund indigenous professional theatre projects.

Moray Council Community Service supports the work of Out of Darkness Arts Development has been able to give small sums to some companies (matched by MBSE).

Highlands & Islands Enterprise Company Network –

HIE buy in with SAC to the Highland Producers Fund. Maximum grant currently available for any one touring theatre project is £30,000.

(current maximum grant available to central belt theatre touring Company through SAC projects Fund is £60,000 per project)

HIE Touring Fund, available also to some non Highland based Companies

Western Isles Enterprise will fund professional theatre projects originated in their area provided they connect effectively with the communities.

Rights and Entitlements

The Highlands and Islands Theatre Community has the right to:

- develop their artforms in their own communities
- produce that work in the Highlands and Islands and beyond
- provide opportunities for indigenous young people to train and gain work experience within the Highlands and Islands
- consistent employment for theatre artists of all ages
- *an ongoing partnership with the new National Theatre for Scotland (NTS) in order to assist the NTS deliver its aims*
- be represented in the discussions within the framework developing events for the Scottish Year of Highland Culture in 2007
- an obligation by local authorities to consult with the HITN regarding the development of performing arts policies
- be recognised for *its ability to* raise the profile of local areas, generate income and inward investment
- gain *recognition* for the sector as an industry by local authorities and development agencies
- be recognised, for the *geographical, cultural and linguistic* diversity its member companies provide, representing better value *artistically, financially and socially* than a single, centrally based Highland company with a pan Highland remit.
- advocate for a consistent arts policy within *the LEC Network*.
- be considered part of a sustainable arts and culture policy for the region that includes and recognises the independent sector for the valuable asset that it is and to correspondingly accord it an appropriate level of funding support.

Muriel Ann Macleod
Highlands and Islands Theatre Network Development Officer
5 Churchill Dr, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, HS1 2PN, T: 01851700475