

lan

From: ronnie burns [kybotheatrecompany@yahoo.co.uk]
Sent: 18 September 2004 14:44
To: info
Subject: [Scanned]

Hi

Thank you for your letter.

I had a look at the web site and was quite interested in what you were investigating.

I have a professional theatre writer/ director for the past fifteen years and this letter was the first I had heard of your commission. How long has it been in existence? And what is your exact timetable?

It sounds as if you are genuinely interested in making a change and I hope that your consultation does not end in nothing the way South Lanarkshire Council's so called 'Arts Strategy' did two years ago.

The main problem in East Kilbride's arts community is the self perpetuating council bureaucracy that supposedly provides cultural support but in fact costs over £500,000 per year and does absolutely nothing to encourage arts participation or production in the town. All the Arts groups in East Kilbride existed before South Lanarkshire Council and all that the existence of an Arts Centre in the community does is enable the Council to try to make a profit from artists who already worked in other locations. The arts tutors are put under pressure to make the classes pay, the venue's are extortionate to hire and the only people who are not under pressure to bring in money are the countless layers of management. Local groups are therefore discouraged to use the venues and are now looking elsewhere to rehearse and perform.

Anything new that is produced in the town is only ever the result of a vicious administrative and fierce public battle for funding.

There is no Arts Development (although there are ten officers!). Imagination is stifled and creativity is suffocated by a bland, useless and unapproachable culture of administration over art. The public and the arts community are helpless. What can we do?

Please contact me if you are interested in the opinion of a true cultural activist.

Raymond Burke
86 Kelso Drive
East Kilbride
G74 4DB
(01355) 231534