

The Repertory Players Production Report 2014

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen

2014 saw fewer shows taking to the boards at Reps, in comparison to previous years. However, we still managed to make some money out of the shows which is a good thing as we are, after all, a theatre!

The year started with Zane Lucas' production of Private Lives. We tried something different – open the show on main stage on New Year's Eve and then move it into the Theatre Upstairs for the remainder of the run. This seemed to work and is worth looking at for other productions.

As was the case in 2013, the numbers showed that musicals were what the people want. The highest grossing production of the year was Sleeping Beauty, our annual pantomime, closely followed by Les Mis – The Concert. Our joint venture production of My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish and I'm in Therapy, produced in conjunction with AfroAsia Management sold well, but as it was a rather costly production, did not bring in the amount of money expected by the management company.

In 2014, for the first time in some years, Reps took part in the National Invitation One Act Play Festival. We entered one play, directed by Kyla Render and performed by the Repteens, "Easy Stages". At the festival held at the Campbell Theatre in Kadoma, the Repteens made Reps very proud by winning 6 of the 11 awards in the festival. These included Best Director and Best Technical. Our heartiest congratulations to the Repteens – this bodes well for the future of Reps! We will be hosting the 2015 festival at Reps so look forward to the support of our members at the end of August when the festival runs.

We booked the main stage for 31 weeks out of 52 and Theatre Upstairs for 19 weeks. A total of 33 productions were staged in that time frame. Not all of these could be considered theatrical performances as we had seminars and training sessions and film festivals all in Theatre Upstairs. It is all good though as every hire counts!

I must at this point extend my thanks to PJ Smyth, our Stage Director, for managing to crew every production in both of our theatres, irrespective of whether they were a three week run, a three day run or a three hour run!! Every show, hires or own shows, had a Reps stage manager and a Reps crew and for that PJ, I thank you.

I would also like to thank the my committee, directors, actors, singers, dancers, musicians, stage managers, stage crews, sound crews, lighting personnel, props ladies, workshops staff, wardrobe staff and mistresses, front of house and box office personnel and the Reps office, for their contribution to theatre at Reps this year.

Without you all, none of this could happen and I would have nothing to talk about! I hope to see more of the new talent we saw in Les Mis and the panto in productions in 2015 and beyond. And to those who have been around a few years – let's keep on keeping on folks! Thank you all for your hard work and commitment to this lunatic life we call amateur theatre!

The Reps productions were as follows:

Private Lives (MS and TU)

Harare's Got Talent 6

Night and Day

Afdis Awards of Excellence

My Mothers Italian, My Father's Jewish and I'm in Therapy (JV)

Shakespeare Film Festival (TU)

The Importance of Being Ernest (TU)

Les Mis – The Concert

Easy Stages (TU)

Sleeping Beauty

As is always my cry, we need YOU! Be it on stage or backstage, Reps needs you to Get in On the Act!

Onward and upward!

Thank you



Sue Bolt
Chairman – Production Committee

17 March 2015