**The Repertory Players Production Report 2012**

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen

So 2012 is done and dusted and from a production perspective it was an interesting year. The Repertory Players staged a total of 20 productions, of which 8 were staged in the Theatre Upstairs.

From the 1st of January 2012, Zane E Lucas was given a 12 month contract as the Reps Director of Productions. He undertook to direct 5 shows in the year, the first of which saw the return of farce as the New Year production. Zane chose “Boeing Boeing”, a very funny farce by Marc Camoletti.

Zane then went on to direct Chapter Two by Neil Simon and Leading Ladies, a sparkling comedy by Ken Ludwig. His Theatre Upstairs production was Eclipsed, a play written by Danai Gurira, an ex-Repteen, now very well known in international theatre circles. The play was very successful at HIFA and went on to have a successful run in the Theatre Upstairs thereafter.

It was while he was directing Hairspray, his musical for the year, when Zane fell ill and unable to continue, handed the production over to Sue Bolt.

It is unfortunate that we have been unable to find a sponsor for 2013 and as a result, we have been unable to renew Zane’s contract as Director of Productions. We do however hope to use his talents by having him direct some productions in our theatres in 2013.

As well as Zane’s productions, Stan Higgins staged his annual revue called Shout! This was well received by the audience, proving once again that the theatre going public want to see musicals.

Following on the musical genre, we staged The A-Z of Rock. For rock music fans, this was a great show, and most impressively, the band members were all under the age of 16, apart from Chris Van who held them all together.

Jon Dennison directed Julius Ceasar, the O Level set book for 2012. He struggled to cast the show, but succeeded in putting together a production which helped all the students who saw it understand Shakespeare a little better.

The Repteens main stage production The Hysterical History of the Trojan War was a tongue in cheek look at the story of the siege of Troy. The Repteens put together a fine production and they are to be congratulated on this.

2012 saw a number of musical reviews being put together with very little rehearsal time, simply to fill in a gap where a hirer has let us down and we didn’t want a dark theatre. For these productions, I have to thank Stan Higgins most sincerely as it is he who suggests, devises, casts and gets these shows on the stage. Thank you to everyone who was involved with these productions - the contribution to cash flow from Move It, The Way We Were and Harare’s Got Talent 4 was most gratefully received.

The end of year pantomime, Peter Pan was extremely successful and was very well received by the audiences. The flying was certainly one of the highlights of the production and thanks must go to the designers, riggers and flyers for a job very well done.

In 2012 we were delighted to receive a grant from The Beit Trust to refurbish the Theatre Upstairs. New seating has been installed which makes for a more comfortable experience when watching a show! A new sound system has also been purchased for Theatre Upstairs out of this grant and we hope to complete the lighting refurbishment in early 2013.

Kevin Hanssen used the Theatre Upstairs in the early part of the year to stage 3 rounds of Sunday Night Live, a showcase for the Theatre School participants and anyone else who felt they had something to contribute. The were moderately successful from a financial perspective and they gave an opportunity to new thespians to strut their stuff.

After HIFA, the use of Theatre Upstairs increased. In June, Gloria Prentice returned to Zimbabwe on holiday from Australia and while here, she directed Alan Ayckbourn’s Table Manners, the first play in the trilogy entitled The Norman Conquests. The play was very successful and it is hoped that we will be able to find a sponsor to bring Gloria and John back out again in 2014 when she will direct all three plays in the trilogy.

We were pleased to have several hires in Theatre Upstairs, one of which, When Angels Weep, was awarded the NAMA for Best Theatrical Production.

Repteens once again took to the stage, this time in Theatre Upstairs with their production of Holka Polka, a very mixed up fairy tale! It was a very clever, well put together production which deserved better audiences than they got. I must commend Larry Greeff on his total commitment to this production and his efforts to get more bums in seats.

In total, we staged 20 Reps productions on both stages, including one joint venture production and hired out the theatres for 19 different productions. As a result of all this activity, in 2012, a surplus of $74 332.00 was made by productions as compared to a surplus of $52 870.00 achieved in 2011. This allowed productions to make a greater contribution to covering overheads.

The Reps productions were as follows:

Boeing Boeing

Harare’s Got Talent IV

Shout!

Chapter 2

The Hysterical History of the Trojan War

Move It

Leading Ladies

The A-Z of Rock

Ipi ‘n Tombi (JV with Convent/St George’s College)

The Way We Were

Julius Ceasar

Hairspray

Sunday Night Live (Jan, Feb, March) (TU)

Eclipsed (TU)

Table Manners (TU)

My Week with Marilyn (TU)

Six Shades of Awkward (TU)

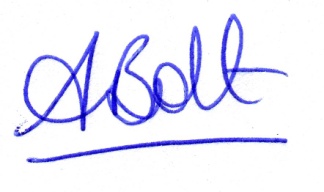
Holka Polka (TU)

One of the major tasks of the Production Committee during 2012 was to plan for 2013 and 2014. We have made good progress on both these tasks, with 2013 having a few weeks available and have already taken bookings for the 2014 calendar. We do need more people though – actors, directors and very importantly crews to help us to achieve our objectives.

My thanks go to 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 the productions over the last year.

Onward and upward!

Thank you



Sue Bolt  
Chairman – Production Committee

14 APRIL 2013