

The Repertory Players Production Report 2015

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen

13 productions were staged by the Repertory Players in 2015 and the theatres were used by no fewer than 23 other parties who hired the theatres for anything between 1 day and a week at a time. We managed to fill main stage for a total of about 34 weeks out of the year, while Theatre Upstairs was less utilised, with only 16 weeks being used. We are striving to improve the theatres' occupancy in 2016 as this goes a long way in keeping the theatre complex going, particularly in light of the fact that we can't put on as many of our own shows as we have in the past.

From a financial perspective, the highest grossing production was Oliver!, followed by Dirty Dancing. Both productions had large casts – in Oliver! a great proportion of which were under the age of 18, while Dirty Dancing attracted the late teens and young adults. We hope that this has given another generation a taste of what theatre is all about and that we will see more of them in future productions. In Theatre Upstairs, the most successful production was An Inspector Calls. The production was hugely successful with the schools audience as it is O Level set book for 2015-2017.

Come Together – A Beatles Cabaret and Music, Movies and Memories were not the successes we had hoped but they both contributed to cash flow through ticket sales and increased revenue in the bar, and for getting new folk involved in the theatre.

Reps hosted the National One Act Play Festival in 2015. We accommodated productions from Kadoma, Masvingo and Repteens. Repteens once again scooped the majority of the awards, winning 9 of the 14 trophies. Congratulations to all involved.

Special thanks go to PJ Smyth for his contribution to the backstage area of Reps in 2015.

The Reps productions were as follows:

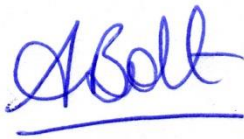
Nothing Usual
Harare's Got Talent - 8
Dirty Dancing
AFDIS Awards Show
Oliver!
Come Together – A Beatles Cabaret
Master Harold and The Boys (TU)
One Act Play Festival (TU)
An Inspector Calls (TU)
Movies, Music, Memories
Aladdin

I would like to thank the my committee, the directors, actors, singers, dancers, musicians, stage managers, stage crews, sound crews, lighting personnel, props people, 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. I would also like to thank our various sponsors who assisted in 2015 – their contributions went a long way in keeping our productions going.

It was great to see new faces on the stage and backstage and I do hope that we will see you in our productions in 2016 and beyond, especially the younger people. You are our future – the rest of us are getting on a bit and we need the youth to carry on the tradition of keeping theatre “live”!

We have a hard road ahead of us in 2016 as the economy worsens, but if we can produce quality entertainment that makes people think, makes them happy, lifts their spirits and makes a visit to the theatre that necessary treat, then we must do so and I believe we can! We have some exciting projects on the go for 2016 and I look forward to each and every Reps member contributing in one way or another – just buying a seat is a great start!

Thank you



Sue Bolt
Chairman – Production Committee

18 March 2016