

BRUNTON THEATRE TRUST

Background and Vision and Artistic Policy

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Brunton Theatre opened in the mid 1970's. It has established itself as a key middle scale venue within Scotland and is viewed as East Lothian's flagship performing arts venue.
- 1.2 The programme of work presented at the theatre encompasses drama, dance, music, theatre for children and young people, film and comedy nights. In addition, the Brunton Theatre produces its own panto each year. There is also an education and outreach programme that links the performances at the theatre with participatory activities for local schools and communities. The theatre is also used as a venue for school showcases and community performing arts groups.
- 1.3 The Brunton Theatre is rooted in the local community and supports an active amateur performing arts scene. Local amateur groups regularly perform at the Brunton Theatre with assistance and advice from the theatre's technical team.
- 1.4 The Brunton Theatre Trust was established in 1994.
- 1.5 The Brunton Theatre Trust is a registered Scottish Charity and receives an annual sum from East Lothian Council in order to present the annual programme of work at the theatre.
- 1.6 In 1996 the Trust was awarded a grant of £1.2 million from the National Lottery Arts Fund. This was supplemented by a grant of £328,000 from the European Regional Development Fund and a grant of £400,000 from East Lothian Council. This funding was secured to enable the Trust to refurbish the Brunton Theatre and bring its facilities in line with other similar theatres.
- 1.6 The refurbishment was completed in 1997.

2.0 VISION

- 2.1 The vision for the Brunton Theatre is:

To provide the highest quality drama, dance, music, theatre for children and young people, film and comedy nights for the enjoyment and enrichment of the communities that the theatre serves. This is undertaken through offering a high quality programme of arts events for audiences to attend at the Theatre and to provide opportunities for involvement and participation in the arts through education and outreach activities for all sections of the community.

2.2 ARTISTIC POLICY

- 2.3 The Brunton Theatre presents a varied season at the theatre throughout the year and has developed partnerships with other producing companies on a long and short term residency basis to enable a varied programme to be presented.

- 2.4 The Theatre has the flexibility to book and commission work from a range of performing arts companies.
- 2.5 The Brunton Theatre programme seeks to be entertaining and accessible to its audiences and to offer a programme that will reinforce the theatre's position as a centre of excellence.
- 2.6 In addition, the programme presented at the Theatre takes account of the national arts perspective and enables the Theatre to maintain its role as one of Scotland's key middle scale venues.
- 2.7 Visiting producing Companies, invited to present their work at the Theatre are chosen because of the quality of their work and their ability to provide relevant education and outreach programmes for the schools and community.
- 2.8 A thriving youth theatre and dance programme supports 450 young people to participate in an annual programme of activities and performances.
- 3.0 THE FUTURE
- 3.1 Brunton Theatre Trust is in discussion with East Lothian Council regarding future plans.
- 3.2 This Brunton Theatre Trust aims to build upon the successful management and operation of the Brunton Theatre.