

# THE MALTA DRAMA CENTRE

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## MALTA DRAMA CENTRE ANNUAL REPORT 2007 – 2008

For the year 2007 – 2008, the Malta Drama Centre received 397 students and had 22 tutors on its list, including three foreigners from Britain, Germany and Russia respectively.

The Centre continued to build successfully as a state institution for the Performing Arts. Included in its programme, the Drama Centre now has classical ballet (RAD), contemporary dance, musical theatre and flamenco.

Foreign certification is now a regular feature and the Drama Centre is obtaining excellent results in examinations held in collaboration with RAD (London), LAMDA (UK) and the Alleanca Flamenco (South Africa). The Centre is also considering collaboration with Moscow State University (Culture Department) to issue joint certification in the Vaganova Ballet method.

All students, from ages 5 – 40+ have been involved in studio productions and the Community Theatre Section has continued to research, devise and present “issue drama”, an interactive form of theatre which is of great value with vulnerable social groups.

The Community Theatre programme has also included a tripartite project between Malta, Austria and Greece, where themes like clandestine immigration, “mental ghettos” and ecological problems have been researched and structured into dramatic production. For this purpose, two groups from Austria and Greece visited Malta in March 2008 to present a programme directed by an Austrian (female) director.

Another female director arrived from Thessaloniki in early May 2008 to direct a dramatic collage based on selections from ancient Greek tragedies.

Senior students took part in the International Classical Drama Festival held in spring in Syracuse, where the Drama Centre presented a trilingual version of The Bacchae. This project was assisted financially by the Malta Tourism Authority and the Institute for Tourism Studies.



## **OTHER OVERSEAS PROJECTS**

The Director of the Centre was invited to co-ordinate in Rome a drama project involving Italy, Austria, Germany, Lithuania and Turkey. Based on narratives by immigrants in transition or settled in Europe, the project funded by the EU, developed into a film which the Malta Drama Centre produced in collaboration with Education Channel 22, involving current senior students and ex-students.

The studio film was translated into four languages and UNHCR (Turkey) selected it as a key feature for International Refugee Day on June 20.

## **EUROPEAN INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE**

To celebrate the European Year (2008) for Intercultural Dialogue, the Malta Drama centre has teamed up with Studio Theatre West of London to present a multi-ethnic version of Romeo and Juliet by Shakespeare at the open air theatre in the grounds of Maria Regina Junior Lyceum. The British was responsible for the acting and the Drama Centre committed itself to provide all the infrastructural and technical aspects of the project, including audio and lighting requirements as well as the manufacture of stage furniture.

This initiative was partly funded by the Parliamentary Secretariat for Youth and Sport (Ministry of Education), the European Union Programmes Agency, Nexos Lighting & Vision and Merlin Library.

## **FORTHCOMING**

The Malta Drama Centre is devising a programme of theory and practical theatre studies which will lead students to obtain a Certificate in Performing Arts (Cert. PA) from the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art.

The Centre has entered its first student in July 2008 and prospects for a steady interest by the older students are now a real possibility.

Other openings which have presented themselves in 2007 – 2008 include several appearances by our students in entertainment programmes on television and cultural evenings organized by Local Councils.

## **FUNDING**

Although the Malta Drama Centre is doing its utmost to create additional funding from a variety of sources, it has to be noted that, regrettably, the Capital Grant by the Education Division was not forthcoming for 2007 – 2008.

The Centre is offering no less than 14 different courses and is involved in several high profile overseas and local projects and it would be detrimental to future development if funds are decreased.

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Mario Azzopardi Dip.Ed., M.Phil. (Theatre)

*Coordinator*

**Malta Drama Centre**

July 2008