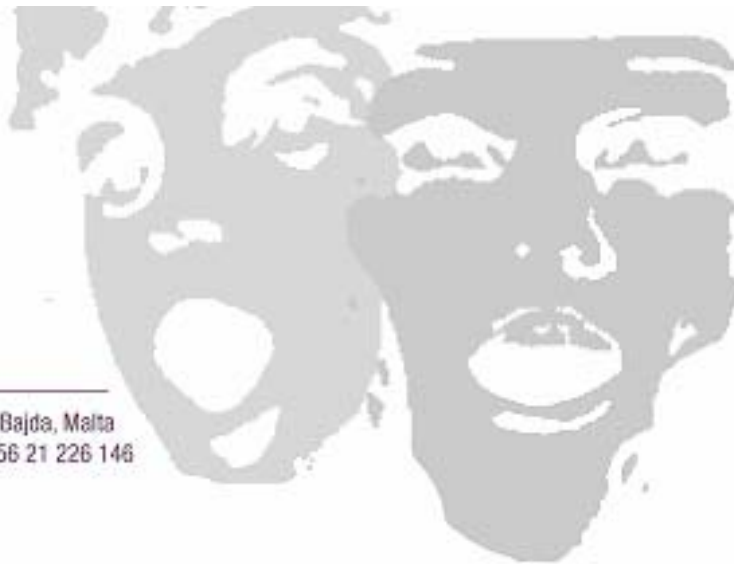


THE MALTA DRAMA CENTRE

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THE MALTA DRAMA CENTRE

Annual Report 2008-2009

For the year 2008-2009, the Malta Drama Centre had a complement of 421 students, sectioned as follows:

Classical Ballet	72
Juniors Drama	84
Seniors Drama	29
Musical Theatre	18
Beginners Course	36
Intermediates Drama	26
Contemporary Dance	48
Community Theatre	12
Flamenco (Juniors & Seniors)	87
Performing Arts Certificate (London)	9

The number of tutors amounted to 13 females and 6 males, plus a part-time wardrobe mistress, entrusted with the maintenance of the costume department and the manufacture of new costumes. The Centre also employed a full-time clerk and a part-time assistant.

The Drama Centre continued to strive for its new profile, as an institution catering for the performing arts and all courses offered at the Centre now lead to (optional) examinations held by British institutions and, in the case of Flamenco, by the Alianza Flamenca of South Africa, represented in Malta by Ms. Rosanna Mayo.

The foreign institutions offering accreditation to students of the Drama Centre include the London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art (LAMDA); the Association of the Teachers of Dance (ATD, UK); the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) and Alianza Flamenca.

Direttorat għal Servizzi Edukattivi – Dip. Tas-Servizzi għall-
Istudenti
Directorate For Educational Services – Student Services Dept.

THEATRE AS A REHEARSAL FOR LIFE



This was the first time that students from the Centre entered the ATD examinations and the P.A. Certificate in Theory and Practice of Drama (London).

The following students achieved a 92% Distinction results in June / July 2009 with LAMDA:

Juniors:	57 students
Intermediates:	10 students
Seniors:	10 students
Musical Theatre:	19 students
P.A. Certificate (London)	9 students

Additionally, 16 students passed the Flamenco exams and 36 were successful with their ATD certification. The number of Ballet students achieving success stood at 44.

It should be said that the Drama Centre is facing a serious lack of physical space. All studios are fully booked for drama and the performing arts and this is affecting new Ballet intakes. It is also difficult for the Centre to recruit a new Ballet tutor for all the applications being received. All qualified Ballet tutors have their own schools or are fully loaded with work for other schools.

Still, if the Centre is to accept the large number of applications from parents requesting entry for their children, a new primary class is required.

During the year 2008-09, the Malta Drama Centre was invited to participate in a number of overseas festivals and other drama encounters. Intermediate and Senior students were involved in festivals in Graz, Bressanone and Vienna, a venture comprising thirty students. Two other projects were undertaken, using social drama as an empowering medium for participatory theatre.

The first project (PASS) was undertaken by the Community Drama Section (see attached brochure) in association with a number of foreign bodies interested in the issue of clandestine immigration. After analysing a series of narratives by illegal immigrants who sought integration in European countries, the Drama Centre produced a script which was then televised with the assistance of Education Channel 22, translated by way of captions in the respective ethnic languages and screened in Turkey for World Refugee Day 2009.

The second project, funded by Grundtvig (EU) Lifelong Learning Programme took Maltese actors to Thessaloniki, in Greece, to explore the situation of health hazards provoked by the profuse installation of electro-magnetic antennas on Hortiatis Hill (second brochure attached). The participants from the Drama Centre worked intensively for one week with partners from Austria and Greece to produce a Forum Theatre performance directly involving the Hortiatis public.

This project was of particular relevance also to Malta, as calls to cut down on mobile phone antennas because of the potential danger of exposure to electro-magnetic sources. The European Parliament recently voted by an overwhelming majority to shake-up regulations governing mobile base stations and other sources of electro-magnetic frequencies.

This year the Malta Drama Centre negotiated for the first time a joint project with the Manoel Theatre. Sarah Kane's modern classic, *4.48 Psychosis*, was presented successfully with a group of Extended Programme actors, all graduates of the Centre. The venture is being repeated for the 2009-10 season, this time in a tripartite project involving the Manoel Theatre and the American Center. It is to be noted that the American Center this year has presented the Drama Centre with a selection of books related to American Drama and Literature.

A new website has been constructed professionally (www.maltadramacentre.org), showing all courses in detail as well as news and information, highlights of events, overseas commitments, reports, features and an extensive picture gallery. Visitors to the website now have the facility to make applications online. In its first three weeks after being launched, the site had more than 900 hits.

It has to be stressed that the Malta Drama Centre, because of its increasing popularity with the public as well as the increased number of courses on offer, is facing space difficulties and a plan to extend the premises is starting to be sorely felt.

Mario Azzopardi
Dip.Educ., M. Phil. (Theatre)
Principal

16th July 2009

Enc 1 : Pass Brochure
Enc 2 : Grundtvig Brochure