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Effective planning and organisation of a student theatre festival

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this research project was to determine and describe the challenges and advantages presented to artists taking part in student theatre festivals as well as the challenges and advantages presented to the organisers of such festivals. A further aim of the study was to determine, address and describe the functions of a student theatre festival within the community in which it takes place and then to describe how such a festival could be most effectively organised and planned.

The study is original, since very little research has been done on this topic in the past. When collecting data for the project, no documents were found describing such study projects. The findings of this study are also important, since guidelines are given aiding festival organisers and future festival organisers in the effective planning and organising of such an event.

The research was conducted using three research methodologies. These were a survey of scholarship, structured and semi-structured interviews and action research. The information gathered by the first two methodologies is described in chapter 2. Information gathered by the action research methodology is described in chapter 3, which is a case study of the 2001 and 2002 Krêkvars arts festivals. After the first festival had ended, it was evaluated in terms of which methods of planning were successful and which were not. The second festival was then planned, adapting the unsuccessful methods and emphasising the successful ones. Thereafter the festival was evaluated again, formulating suggestions for the effective planning and organisation of a student theatre festival.

From this research project, it can be concluded that student theatre festivals present many advantages and challenges for those involved. It is therefore

necessary for the organisers to be well prepared for the task at hand and to do sufficient planning in order to most effectively organise such an event.

Key terms

Art

Artist

Arts festival

Community

Culture

Drama

Drama department

Entrant

Festival organiser

Festivalgoer

Participant

Student

Theatre

Theatre festival

Theatregoer

EKSERP

Die doel van hierdie navorsingsprojek was om die uitdagings en voordele van kunstenaars en feesorganiseerders, spesifiek diegene betrokke by studente teaterfeeste, vas te stel en te bespreek. 'n Verdere doel van die studie was om die funksie wat so 'n fees kan speel in die gemeenskap waarbinne dit plaasvind vas te stel, te beskryf en aan te spreek, asook te beskryf wat die mees effektiewe beplannings- en organiseringsmetodes is om so 'n fees te organiseer.

Die studie is oorspronklik, aangesien daar in die verlede weinig navorsing oor die onderwerp gedoen is. Toe materiaal vir die studie versamel is, was daar geen dokumente beskikbaar wat 'n soortgelyke studie beskryf nie. Die bevindinge van hierdie studie is verder belangrik, aangesien riglyne voorgestel word wat feesorganiseerders en toekomstige feesorganiseerders kan lei in die effektiewe beplanning en organisasie van so 'n geleentheid.

Vir hierdie studie is drie navorsingsmetodologië gebruik. Hierdie metodologië was wetenskapsoorsig, gestruktureerde en semi-gestruktureerde onderhoude, asook aksienavorsing. Die inligting wat deur die eerste twee genoemde metodologië ingewin is, is in hoofstuk 2 beskryf. Inligting wat deur die laasgenoemde metodologie ingewin is, is in hoofstuk 3 beskryf. Hierdie hoofstuk is 'n studie van die 2001 en 2002 Krêkvars kunstefeeste. Na afloop van die eerste fees, is dit geëvalueer om vas te stel watter organiserings- en beplanningsmetodes suksesvol was en watter nie. Daarna is die tweede fees beplan. Die onsuksesvolle metodes is aangepas en die effektiewe metodes is beklemtoon. Na afloop van hierdie fees is dit weer geëvalueer en voorstelle is geformuleer vir die effektiewe beplanning en organisasie van 'n studente teaterfees.

Na aanleiding van hierdie navorsingsprojek kan afgelei word dat studente teaterfeeste verskeie voordele en uitdagings bied aan diegene wat daarby betrokke is. Daarom is dit noodsaaklik vir die organiseerders om goed voorbereid te wees op die taak en om voldoende beplanning te doen, ten einde die mees suksesvolle fees te organiseer.

I, René le Grange, hereby declare that the research presented in this document is original and has never before been submitted in its entirety at any other tertiary institution for degree purposes. All the sources that were used have been mentioned and credited in the body of the text and bibliography. No information from any literary source has been used without referring to the original text from where it was taken.

Signature

Date

(René le Grange)