Effective planning and organisation of a student theatre festival

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CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION ................................................................. 1
1.1 BACKGROUND AND MOTIVATION .................................... 1
1.2 RESEARCH PROBLEM AND AIMS .................................. 5
1.2.1 Research problem .................................................... 5
1.2.2 Aim ....................................................................... 5
1.2.3 Sub aim ................................................................... 6
1.2.4 Sub aim ................................................................... 6
1.2.5 Sub aim ................................................................... 6
1.3 CENTRAL THEORETICAL STATEMENT ......................... 6
1.4 MATERIAL ................................................................. 6
1.5 STUDY METHODS .......................................................... 7
1.5.1 Study methods and design .......................................... 7
1.5.2 Data gathering .......................................................... 8
1.5.3 Validity and trustworthiness ...................................... 9
1.6 DATA ANALYSIS .......................................................... 9
1.7 BRIEF CHAPTER OUTLINE ......................................... 10
1.8 ETHICS ................................................................... 11
1.9 CONCLUSION ............................................................. 12

CHAPTER 2
SURVEY OF SCHOLARSHIP ............................................... 13
2.1 THE NATURE AND FUNCTION OF AN ARTS FESTIVAL ...... 13
2.1.1 Culture ................................................................. 13
2.1.2 Community ............................................................ 18
2.1.3 The nature and function of arts festivals in general ....... 24
2.1.4 The nature and function of a student theatre festival .... 29
2.2 ADVANTAGES OF ARTS FESTIVALS ............................. 34
2.2.1 Advantages for the artists .......................................... 35
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.2.1.1</td>
<td>Opportunities and exposure</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.1.2</td>
<td>Financial advantages</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.1.3</td>
<td>New and old ideas</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.1.4</td>
<td>Training / learning</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.1.5</td>
<td>Exchanging ideas</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.2</td>
<td>Advantages for festival organisers</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.3</td>
<td>Advantages for the community</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.3.1</td>
<td>Advantages for the festivalgoers</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.3.2</td>
<td>Advantages for the area and its people</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.3.3</td>
<td>Outreach projects</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>CHALLENGES OF ARTS FESTIVALS</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.1</td>
<td>Challenges for the artists</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.1.1</td>
<td>Financial and related challenges</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.1.2</td>
<td>Other challenges</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.2</td>
<td>Challenges for festival organisers and their staff</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.2.1</td>
<td>Financial challenges</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.2.2</td>
<td>Marketing and publicity</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.2.3</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.2.4</td>
<td>Selection</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.2.5</td>
<td>Administration and communication</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.3</td>
<td>Challenges for the community</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>VISION AND MISSION OF KRÊKVARS</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>PRE-FESTIVAL PLANNING</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.1</td>
<td>Time</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.2</td>
<td>Organisational staff</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.3</td>
<td>Entry forms</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.4</td>
<td>Contact details of the festival organiser</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CHAPTER 3**

**CASE STUDY: KRÊKVARS 2001 AND 2002**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>VISION AND MISSION OF KRÊKVARS</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>PRE-FESTIVAL PLANNING</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.1</td>
<td>Time</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.2</td>
<td>Organisational staff</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.3</td>
<td>Entry forms</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.4</td>
<td>Contact details of the festival organiser</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 3.3.12.3 Comparison and conclusions

### 3.3.13 Income statistics

#### 3.3.13.1 Income statistics

#### 3.3.13.2 Comparison and conclusions

### 3.4 POST-FESTIVAL

#### 3.4.1 Clean up and strike

#### 3.4.2 Costumes and décor

#### 3.4.3 Paying out of fees

#### 3.4.4 Feedback

#### 3.4.5 Suggestions

### 3.5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

---

### CHAPTER 4

**GUIDELINES FOR PLANNING AND ORGANISING A STUDENT THEATRE FESTIVAL**

#### 4.1 PRE-FESTIVAL PLANNING

#### 4.1.1 Time

##### 4.1.1.1 Planning time

#### 4.1.1.2 Dates

#### 4.1.1.3 Time of day

#### 4.1.2 Organisational staff

#### 4.1.3 Legal aspects

##### 4.1.3.1 Entry forms

##### 4.1.3.1.1 Limitations

##### 4.1.3.1.2 Dates

##### 4.1.3.1.3 Contact details

##### 4.1.3.1.4 Venues

##### 4.1.3.1.5 Facilities

##### 4.1.3.1.6 Décor

##### 4.1.3.1.7 Fees

##### 4.1.3.1.8 Contact details of the participants

---

*University of Pretoria etd – Le Grange, R (2003)*
4.1.3.1.9 Scheduling information ........................................... 165
4.1.3.1.10 Contract ...................................................................... 165
4.1.3.1.11 Submitting the entry form ........................................ 165
4.1.3.2 Contracts / Lease agreements ........................................ 166
4.1.3.2.1 Smoke ..................................................................... 166
4.1.3.2.2 Pyrotechnics .............................................................. 166
4.1.3.2.3 Facilities ................................................................. 167
4.1.3.2.4 Payments ................................................................. 167
4.1.3.2.5 Moving into and out of the theatres ......................... 167
4.1.3.2.6 Complimentary tickets ............................................ 168
4.1.3.2.7 The use of equipment ............................................... 168
4.1.3.2.8 Cancellations .......................................................... 168
4.1.3.2.9 Rules / Laws of the theatre, department and country .. 169
4.1.3.2.10 Penalties ................................................................. 169
4.1.3.2.11 Chain of command and legal actions ...................... 169
4.1.4 Contact details of the festival organiser ......................... 170
4.1.5 Selection ..................................................................... 171
4.1.6 Number of productions .................................................. 172
4.1.7 Cancellations ................................................................. 174
4.1.8 Entry fees .................................................................... 174
4.1.9 Ticket prices ................................................................. 175
4.1.10 Scheduling ................................................................. 177
4.1.11 Sponsorships ............................................................... 179
4.1.12 Marketing and publicity ............................................... 180
4.1.13 Programmes ............................................................... 182
4.1.14 Costumes, props and décor .......................................... 183
4.1.15 Technical teams .......................................................... 183
4.1.16 Lighting design and rigging ......................................... 184
4.1.17 Sound recordings ........................................................ 185
4.1.18 Technical rehearsals ................................................... 186
4.1.19 Meetings and correspondence .................................... 187
4.1.20 Storage of décor ............................................................... 188
4.1.21 Refreshments ................................................................. 189
4.2 THE ACTUAL TIME OF THE FESTIVAL ......................... 190
4.2.1 Opening ........................................................................... 190
4.2.2 Technical teams .............................................................. 191
4.2.3 Feedback and reviews .................................................. 191
4.2.4 Refreshments and open microphone ......................... 192
4.2.5 Cleaning up in and around venues ......................... 193
4.3 POST-FESTIVAL ................................................................. 194
4.3.1 Clean up and strike ....................................................... 194
4.3.2 Costumes and décor ...................................................... 194
4.3.3 Paying out of fees ......................................................... 195
4.3.4 Feedback ..................................................................... 196
4.4 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS .................... 197

CHAPTER 5
CONCLUSION ........................................................................ 198

BIBLIOGRAPHY ..................................................................... 204

LIST OF TABLES

Table 3a: Masker Theatre Attendance 2001 ................................. 139
Table 3b: Lier Theatre Attendance 2001 ..................................... 140
Table 3c: Masker Theatre Attendance 2002 .................................. 143
Table 3d: Lier Theatre Attendance 2002 ..................................... 144
Table 3e: Chapel Theatre Attendance 2002 ................................. 145
LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX A
QUESTIONNAIRE FOR FESTIVAL ORGANISERS .................................. 211

APPENDIX B
QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ARTISTS .................................................. 212

APPENDIX C
CHECKLIST FOR FESTIVAL ORGANISERS .................................. 215
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
Theatre goer
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 geleenheid.

Vir hierdie studie is drie navorsingsmetodologië gebruik. Hierdie metodologië was wetenskapsoorsig, gestrukureerde en semi-gestrukureerde 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 Krëkvars kunstefeeste. Na afloop van die eerste fees, is dit geevalueer 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 geevalueer 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 uitdaginge 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)