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Isalathiso



Wes-Kaap Onderwysdepartement

Western Cape Education Department

ISEBE leMfundo leNtshona Koloni

To Whom It May Concern

AREPP: THEATRE FOR LIFE

The Western Cape Education Department (WCED) has, for at least the past ten years, enjoyed a very positive and fruitful working relationship with arepp, during which time literally hundreds of schools and hundreds of thousands of learners have benefited from arepp's high-powered, focussed, appropriately-messaged and high-impact shows.

Most recently, these included: 'No Monkey Business' for the Foundation and Intermediate Phase (Gr 1-6), 'About Us' for Senior Phase (Gr 7-9), and 'Look Before You Leap' for the FET Phase (Gr 10-12).

Each of the arepp shows is lively, theatrical and very energetic, and specifically designed to appeal to the targeted age group. The shows incorporate the current music, the sayings and the 'attitude' of that age group, and speak to the audience with their own voice, telling their own stories. The intent is to address the broader issues of sexuality, relationships and gender, while at the same time stressing the ideas of positive self image, self worth and, very importantly, the right to choice. The shows encourage self-knowledge and self awareness, and contextualise and simplify the issues by putting them into the audiences' social context. The shows impart the skills necessary to handle life situations, the knowledge to identify them, and the means to seek support and assistance in handling them. The aim is to leave the audience with the skills, information, and confidence to make their own choices.

Prior to each year's Western Cape program, arepp has consistently invited members of the WCED to preview its current shows, and to constructively engage with them with a view to improvement. A particular concern of arepp's has been appropriate messaging. This has never been a problem, and the WCED representatives have consistently been suitably impressed with the calibre of the shows from every perspective - including performers, high degree of organisation, appropriate costing and age-appropriate messaging!

After each school show and learner Q&A session, arepp holds discussions with the educators to ensure that issues raised by the learners in response to the shows, are addressed - where these represent deeper psychosocial issues that could not be appropriately responded to by the actors/facilitators. This assists educators considerably in meeting the needs of learners generally, and in dealing with specific cases requiring intervention.

MELD ASSEBLIEF VERWYSINGSNOMMERS IN ALLE KORRESPONDENSIE / PLEASE QUOTE REFERENCE NUMBERS IN ALL CORRESPONDENCE /
NCEDA UBHALE IINOMBOLO ZESALATHISO KUYO YONKE IMBALELWANO

GRAND CENTRAL TOWERS, LAER-PARLEMENTSTRAAT, PRIVAATSAK X9114, KAAPSTAD 8000
GRAND CENTRAL TOWERS, LOWER PARLIAMENT STREET, PRIVATE BAG X9114, CAPE TOWN 8000

WEB: <http://wced.wcape.gov.za>

In some years arepp has even gone a step further, and presented to the WCED a synthesis of the types of 'issues' most frequently raised, and of questions asked, with a view to a wider, institutional response. This has been greatly appreciated by this Department.

The WCED receives numerous requests for support for theatre and drama based HIV/AIDS and sexuality education. There is not another organisation that comes anywhere close to arepp in terms of its organisational efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and impact. Your support for this worthy and effective organisation would be well-placed.

Yours sincerely

Signed:

PC FENTON

pp. **HEAD: EDUCATION**

13 May 2005