DOT WOOD STEPS DOWN FROM M6

Artistic producer of M6 Theatre, Dot Wood, has announced that she is to step down from what she describes as, ‘the most amazing job in the world’ after 30 years service.

M6 Theatre was founded in 1977. The company, based in Rochdale, specialises in producing theatre work with and for young people. Wood first started at M6 in 1982 as education officer, having previously worked in the multicultural primary schools of Manchester. Wood was awarded an MBE in 2006 for services to drama in the North West.

Chair of trustees Katharine Rhodes said: ‘Dot has been at the heart of M6 Theatre over many years as our creative force and guiding light. Her talent, vision and unswerving commitment to theatre for children and young people is well recognised – not only by those of us who have had the pleasure of working with her, but by the whole community of young people’s theatre.’

‘We at M6 are immensely sad at her leaving. However, a true testament to Dot’s extraordinary achievements is that she leaves a great team of people and a strong, resilient, forward-looking theatre company, with quality and integrity at its very roots.’

The search for a new artistic producer is underway for when Wood leaves in July. She said of her departure: ‘M6 has been a huge part of my life over the past 30 years. It’s been a wonderful journey and I’m extremely proud of what we’ve achieved over those three decades.’

‘There have been some tough mountains to climb at times, but the rewards have been a thousand-fold! Working with inspirational artists to create theatre which brings wonder, imagination and connections into young people’s lives, and being able to witness that impact, has always felt like the most amazing job in the world.’

www.m6theatre.co.uk

THEATRE AUDIENCES NOT PUT OFF BY THE OLYMPICS

A poll by Whatsonstage.com has suggested that, despite fears of low attendance numbers, theatre audiences will not be put off by this summer’s Olympic Games.

Of the 32,000 people polled, 66% believed that the Olympics Games would have a positive impact on numbers attending the theatre. 58% also said that they would attend the theatre during the Olympic and Paralympic Games, and a further 11% said the Olympics would encourage them to attend more than they usually do.

Many theatre organisations are still concerned about the impact this summer will have on visitor numbers. The Society of London Theatre (SOLT) is set to offer £10 tickets to performances of Mamma Mia and Phantom of the Opera as an incentive to keep commuters facing longer journeys happy during the Olympic Games busy period.

Ben Plowden from TfL said: ‘We know that public transport will be much busier than usual. That’s why we are teaming up with a range of London’s top attractions to ensure that people, on the busiest days, are spoilt for choice when deciding how to spend their evening.’

The offer will bode well with those polled by Whatsonstage.com, as 65% of those who said they would not be attending the theatre said cheap tickets may persuade them to attend.

www.whatsonstage.com; www.solt.co.uk