

26-5-83

Dear Parminder —

Thank you very much
for your patience re the
application / budget.

Phoned with corrections to wildly
inaccurate Expenditure total.
(Only I could make a liar of an adding machine)

Correct Total 21,505-02, making
deficit £ 16,349 - 02.

Herewith further information re
W.I.W.A.

Looking forward to Committee
participation.

Thanks again —

Calvin

SISTREN

THEATRE COLLECTIVE

ARRANGEMENTS FOR TOUR BY SISTREN

SISTREN GROUP comprises 18 or 19 persons including 2 musicians, artistic director, design and production persons and stage manager.

The group needs to be accommodated together in one location to enable it to rehearse, meet, and prepare work together. Dormitory accommodation is suitable and inexpensive.

Food arrangements should also be centralized before a major performance (evening). SISTREN prefer a light snack, and a meal afterwards even though it may be late.

A minibus is needed to transport the group to and from venues where workshops/ or major performances are held.

Set/Props/Drums preferably transported in an open back pick up or mini-van. There is usually not enough room in one minibus for all the group plus set/drum etc. Three members of SISTREN are drivers.

Workshops are most effective with a group of up to 30 persons who are prepared to participate actively in drama workshops.

Workshops with Community Leaders and Community Workers are effective since these people can profit from exposure to SISTREN techniques and carry the techniques to their own groups after SISTREN have left.

SISTREN can inform groups beforehand of the theme of the workshops and ask the groups to do preliminary "preparatory" workshops on their own before working with SISTREN.

SISTREN can split their group into two, thereby conducting two workshops at two different locations at the same time.

If a major show is scheduled for the evening (eg. 8 pm) in a new venue SISTREN need to rehearse in the new venue during that afternoon. No workshops should be scheduled for that morning.

The technical team needs access to the theatre-venue the day before a show, to hang lights, backdrop, etc.

Preferably one workshop lasting a half day to be scheduled per day. This allows SISTREN and workshop-participants to meet/discuss/carry out impromptu activities together for the other half day.

Two workshops per day can be done if a rest/preparation period is scheduled in between, eg:

- workshop 9 to 12, morning
- preparation and rest, afternoon
- workshop 6 to 9, evening

At the end of tour try to schedule 2 or 3 free days when SISTREN and participants can carry out follow up activities, which may result from tour.

MAJOR PRODUCTIONS should preferably be in a theatre or theatre type stage. Box office and front of house to be organised by hosts. Preferably in a venue with basic theatre lighting facilities which permit:-

- to light different part of stage separately
- to light stage dimly or brightly
- to light in different colours, eg. red/blue glow (especially



UK TOURS '83 COMMITTEE

71 Pound Lane, London NW10 Tel 451 4827

SISTREN UNITED KINGDOM TOUR 1983 COMMITTEE

PROPOSAL - TO THE GREATER LONDON COUNCIL (GLC)

1. Objectives

The Sistren United Kingdom Tour 1983 Committee (SUKTC) in association with the London International Festival of Theatre 1983 (LIFT 1983) proposed to bring the very find and original Jamaican women's group, The Sistren Theatre Collective (Sistren) to the United Kingdom for a period of eight (8) weeks, from early August through to late September 1983. During this period the members of Sistren - twenty persons in all - will (a) perform in two London theatres and conduct workshops within the framework of LIFT from 6th August - 21st August 1983 (b) do performances and conduct workshops in a number of theatres, community cnetres and schools within the Greater London area and (c) do similar work in the provincial centres of Birmingham, Nottingham, Wolverhampton and Manchester. Both (b) and (c) above will be organised by SUKTC. Following their work for LIFT the members of Sistren will have a break (21st - 26th August) they will then go to the provinces (27th August - 10th September) finally they will return to London (11th - 28th September).

SUKTC has the task of organising and raising funds to cover Sistrens visit for the whole of the period from 21st August - 29th September 1983. It is expected that they will return to Jamaica on the latter date. Sistren's work with SUKTC will have the aim of bringing their extremely important form of theatrical expression and education directly to the community. It aims to reach many who may not be part of the traditional theatre-going-public and especially through their workshops greater participation will be generated than is traditionally the case with visiting theatre groups.

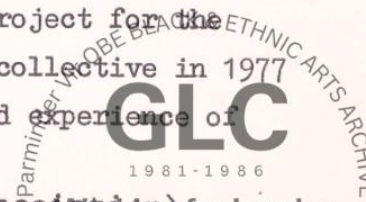
2. On the Sistren Theatre Collective

The Sistren Theatre Collective is a group of twenty (20) Jamaican working class women and their musicians. The group was not constructed from above. Its founding members - who were then on a Jamaican Government project for the unemployed - took the first steps towards constituting the collective in 1977 with the object of making popular theatre out of harsh lived experience of

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1981-1986

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Jamaican working women, including themselves and their sisters long dead. They were and remain committed to reflecting truthfully upon the social, economic and political conditions which have prevailed in the island. Since its founding Sistren has earned an international reputation for the originality and immediacy of the forms of theatre it presents. A recent issue of the Jamaica Journal, a publication of the Institute of Jamaica, called the collective:

"One memorable group [which] came out of the late seventies".

The Jamaica Journal said, further:

".... in a short time and against incredible odds [Sistren] created a special kind of Jamaican theatre history".

When, in 1982, the Collective celebrated its fifth anniversary it received high praise from in the pages of the Jamaican press (the Gleaner and the Star). Prior to that Sistren had extended its reputation to the whole Caribbean region and to those outside the region interested in Caribbean arts when the group represented Jamaica at CARIFESTA 1981, the Caribbean Arts Festival held in that year in the island of Barbados. They were certainly highly praised in the Barbados Advocate and by all who saw them whether in Barbados or in Grenada and St Vincent which Sistren also visited at the time. One mark of the impression they left behind in Grenada is reflected in the fact that the Grenadan High Commissioner in London is prepared to be a patron for the proposed visit to the United Kingdom. Sistren have also visited North America where they were seen in the Canadian cities of Toronto and Ottawa. Their impact is celebrated in the coverage given to them in the Canadian Theatre magazine Fuse and their favourable reviews elsewhere in the Canadian press.

Benefit

It is the view of the members of the Sistren United Kingdom Tour 1983 Committee that the proposed Sistren tour of the United Kingdom will benefit both the regular theatre-going-public but also the ethnic minority communities in Greater London and other provincial centres in which they will be seen.