Education and Culture Committee

Creative Scotland’s spending decisions and outcomes

Submission from Lesley McDade

I have just spent a long weekend in Edinburgh at the Edinburgh Festival and also participate in the Festival of Politics and am aware of the Book Festival too.

I consider that given the length of duration of the Festival that it would be a good opportunity for the BBC and/or other TV channels to capture a significant proportion of the shows to be shown throughout the year.

I currently tend not to watch daytime TV or anything substantially before 9.00 in the evening because there is generally not too much that I am particularly interested in and what is available is quite often repeats especially daytime TV.

A more interesting and varied schedule would be of interest to me and the Edinburgh Festival appears to me to be an excellent opportunity for new material concerning a wide variety of talent.

For instance, I particularly enjoyed "Shakespeare for Breakfast" who did a completely off the wall view of Hamlet. I tend to go to this show when I visit the festival.

Talking to friends there was mention of a show that featured a male burlesque - I would have liked to have seen that show. I can only afford to go to so many shows, but I do pay my licence fee. So it would be of merit to me to see the show on TV at a later date. Flamenco, ballet, circus, comedy, art, theatre - it is a completely untapped source of material for the BBC and other channels.

Furthermore, I live in Highland, I could not afford to go to the Belladrum Festival near where I lived, but this festival was covered by the Alba channel in Gaelic - so I actually got to see 4 musical events including the Kaiser Chiefs and the Stranglers.

Therefore if the Highland TV channel Alba can secure funding to cover a musical event, there should be no reason why the BBC budget secured by the TV licence fee cannot also do so, as well as other channels specific for the people of Scotland. Moreover, I go round to see my Dad one day a week - he is unlikely to travel to Edinburgh for the festival, or go to Belladrum and as an older person is subjected to constant repeats of his favourite shows. It may therefore be a specific issue affecting older people that there is no new or up-to-date material available on daytime tv which can effect choice of viewing for them.

Specific coverage of the Edinburgh Festival would enable new and well established talent from across the world to have a platform of some benefit to their portfolio as entertainers.

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