

Last month we heard from several theatre producers, all of whom were unhappy about the government's imposition of 18 per cent VAT on local productions. This month we print the views of some establishment figures on the same subject. And in some cases, their views may come as something of a surprise.

The chairman of The Manoel Theatre drama sub-committee **Alfred Buttigieg** concurred. He told Showtime ' I would like to make three points: One: I'm afraid that as a result of VAT in the near future fewer good quality productions will be submitted to be considered for the Manoel Theatre drama calendar, even by established companies. Two: Audiences have become more sophisticated and they demand their money's worth, making production costs much higher. Three: The fact that each production in Malta runs only for two or three evenings on average doesn't help to minimise costs'.

A tax too far? By Showtime, The Times, 6-5-2005